

Informal Note by UNCTAD secretariat

Key information points on United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (2017 UN Oceans Conference)

1. Main theme of the conference: **"our oceans, our future: partnering for Sustainable Development"**.
2. Objective of the conference are: **"to identify ways and means to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 by building on existing successful partnerships and stimulating the emergence of new, innovative and concrete partnerships "**.
3. Sweden and Fiji: Co-conveners and co-Presidents of the Conference. Ambassador Peter Thomas (Fiji) is also the President of the United Nations General Assembly.
4. The Conference will take place in the United Nations headquarters, on **5th to 9th of June 2017**.
5. Two Co-facilitators have been appointed to oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on a "Call for Action" (Ambassadors of Portugal and Singapore).
6. **Preparations:**
 - a. Mr. Wu, Secretary General of the Conference and Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under Secretary General for Legal Affairs (OLA) are acting as special advisors on oceans and legal matters;
 - b. A Prep com will be hold in New York **15-16 of February**;
 - c. Co-conveners will seek ensure success on the delivery on the conference objectives;

- d. A Co-conveners' **Advisory Group** working with the UN SG and the President of the GA has been created.
 - i. Under the Advisory Group, there are 7 Informal Preparatory Working Groups (IPWG) advising the Co-conveners. UNCTAD and FAO are the Co-conveners and coordinators of IPWG 4 (link to SDG 14, targets 4, 6 and b).

7. Conference structure:

- a. 8 plenary meetings
- b. 7 partnership dialogues
- c. One Commemoration for the World Oceans day
- d. There will also be space for side events, an oceans village and a regatta.

8. Supporting analysis: The United Nations Secretary General has prepared a background note for the Prep Com proposing the themes of the partnership dialogues. Several IGOs contributed to the preparation of this document and provided inputs (including FAO, WTO and UNCTAD). The proposed themes are:

- i. Addressing marine pollution. This theme would address target 14.1.
- ii. Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems. This theme would address targets 14.2 and 14.5.
- iii. Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification. This theme would address target 14.3.
- iv. Making fisheries sustainable. This theme would address targets 14.4 and 14.6.
- v. Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets. This theme would address targets 14.7 and 14.b.
- vi. Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology. This theme would address target 14.a.
- vii. Implementing international law, as reflected in UNCLOS. This theme would address target 14.c

9. Outcomes of the conference:

- a. Intergovernmental outcome document: "**A call for action**" (global plan for implementation for SDG 14);
- b. **The presentation and a compendium of action-oriented Partnership** (potentially subject to monitoring);

- c. **A list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of SDG 14**
(subject "smart" measurement).

10. Objectives and modalities of the partnerships dialogue:

- i. Guidelines based on the United Nations General Assembly modalities resolutions. (Guidelines have been already been provided to IPWGs);
- ii. All stakeholders must participate and contribute;
- iii. The Co-Presidents will appoint co-chairs that will oversee each of the 7 of the partnership dialogues (the co-presidents start the consultations). They will be 14 co-chairs to be appointed (7 from developed countries and 7 from developing countries) to chair the partnership dialogues.
- iv. Each partnership dialogue will last 3 hours.

11. The conference web page is:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/oceans/SDG14Conference>