



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5 January 2017

Dear Representatives of Non-Governmental and
Civil Society Organizations and other Stakeholders,

I am writing to you today on the subject of The Ocean Conference that will be convened from Monday 5 June until Friday 9 June 2017 at the United Nations in New York.

The Conference is expected to result in a range of tangible measures to reverse the cycle of decline in which the Ocean has become caught. Whether it is marine pollution, ocean acidification, declining fish stocks or degraded marine and coastal ecosystems, The Ocean Conference will seek to set in place the necessary actions to remedy Ocean's decline.

In addition to five days of inter-governmental plenary, leading to a "Call for Action", the Conference will host seven partnership dialogues, each dedicated to specific themes related to SDG 14 of the Sustainable Development Agenda of the United Nations. Indeed the conference is specifically mandated by the United Nations to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development".

My letter today is being sent to a broad number of Stakeholders that have demonstrated interest in the well-being of the Ocean. My letter encourages you all to participate in The Ocean Conference in a proactive frame of mind. It encourages you to enter into partnerships with like-minded parties and use the platform of the partnership dialogues of the conference to pledge positive action.

I would like to remind you that the deadline to register is 22 January 2017 on <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/oceanconference/stakeholderengagement>. If you have not already done so, you are encouraged to register your organization within this deadline.

I look forward to meeting you at The Ocean Conference in June 2017 and its preparatory meeting on 15-16 February 2017, and avail myself to do whatever is necessary to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the Ocean.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson', written in a cursive style.

Peter Thomson