

8 June 2014

**Message of H.E. John W. Ashe
President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
for World Oceans Day**

On World Oceans Day, I encourage people across the globe to honour our oceans. Oceans are a major source of economic activity, food and are an essential part of our biosphere.

The United Nations General Assembly has recognized oceans and seas as an important part of sustainable development, as envisioned by the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Since 2009, the United Nations family has come together each year to urge communities to ensure that our oceans remain clean and healthy, and this year's theme underscores the power of collaboration: "Together we have the power to protect the ocean!"

As we look to implement a sustainable Post-2015 Development Agenda, I call on Member States and other stakeholders to continue to take action to protect our oceans by reducing pollution, and protecting marine life for present and future generations.

Billions of humans, plants and animals depend on our oceans each and every day and together we must strive to protect them and create a better, cleaner future for our planet.