



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 February 2017

Excellency,

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/303 on the modalities for the 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, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from the co-facilitators of the preparatory process, H.E. Mr. Alvaro Mendonça e Moura, Permanent Representative of Portugal and H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations, related to the preparatory meeting of the Conference, convened on 15 and 16 February 2017. The letter includes an annex containing the final list of themes for the partnership dialogues.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson'.

Peter Thomson

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



New York, 21 February 2017

Excellency,

We are pleased to write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators appointed by the President of the General Assembly to oversee the preparatory process and to conclude the intergovernmental consultations on a "Call for Action" for the 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.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/303, the preparatory meeting of the Conference was convened on 15 and 16 February 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting considered the themes for the partnership dialogues and elements for a "Call for Action". The discussions were very constructive and fruitful and we thank delegations and other stakeholders for their active participation at the preparatory meeting.

With regard to the themes of the partnership dialogues, the Secretary-General's proposal contained in his background note for the preparatory meeting (A/71/733, to be issued) for themes 1 to 6 received broad support. There was also broad support to slightly modify the Secretary-General's proposal of theme 7 in order to more closely reflect the text of target 14.c as agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). Theme 7 would thus read: "Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea".

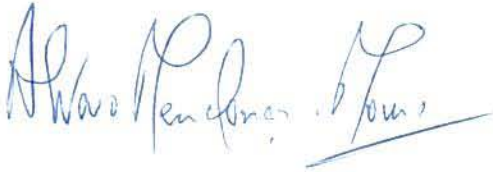
The seven themes for the partnership dialogues are listed in the annex to this letter.

It was also underlined at the preparatory meeting that the themes constitute a broad chapeau for discussion, and will provide the opportunity for delegations to raise other elements that they may consider to be relevant, including cross-cutting issues and inter-linkages with other SDGs in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

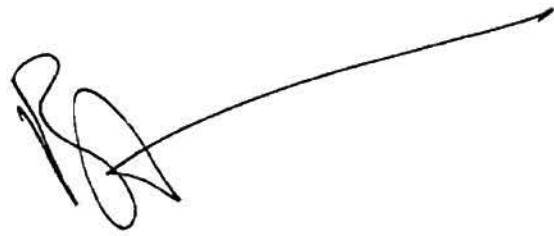
On the "Call for Action", it is our intention to make the "zero draft" available by early March 2017, in accordance with the requirements of resolution 70/303. The draft will take into account the deliberations of the preparatory meeting and other inputs, and will be the starting point for our next consultations.

Taking into account the requests of several delegations and groups of delegations for more time to consult and coordinate on the draft "Call for Action", the first round of consultations will be held from Monday, 20 March 2017 through Wednesday, 22 March 2017. We look forward to working closely with all delegations and other stakeholders.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Álvaro Mendonça e Moura
Ambassador
and Permanent Representative
of Portugal to the United Nations



Burhan Gafoor
Ambassador
and Permanent Representative
of Singapore to the United Nations

*H.E. Peter Thomson
President of the General Assembly
United Nations, CB-0250
New York*

Themes for the partnership dialogues

1. Addressing marine pollution.
2. Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems.
3. Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification.
4. Making fisheries sustainable.
5. Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.
6. Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology.
7. Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.