

## 2020 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE

### KEEPING THE MOMENTUM FOR OCEAN ACTION: ASIA-PACIFIC STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

3 JUNE 2020 | 10:00 – 11:30AM (BANGKOK)

Co-convened by UN-DESA, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) and UN-ESCAP

#### Concept Note and Agenda

As of 3 June 2020

#### BACKGROUND

Convened under the auspices of the United Nations and co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, the [“2020 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”](#) will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, under the overarching theme: *“Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”*<sup>1</sup>.

The 2020 UN Ocean Conference will involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other interested international bodies, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken towards, the implementation of SDG 14.

In light of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and as per the General Assembly decision 74/548 of 13 April 2020, the 2020 United Nations Ocean Conference has been postponed. The co-hosts of the Conference, the governments of Kenya and Portugal in consultation with the General Assembly, will decide on possible future dates for the Conference, including timelines for the preparatory process.

The substantive preparations for the Conference will continue and keeping stakeholders mobilized to bring their contribution and commitment will be critical in the lead up to the event.

In preparation to the Conference, the UN DESA Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) has coordinated [two open webinars](#), connecting and bringing perspectives from stakeholders from different sectors and all regions of the world in support to SDG 14 implementation.

With the aim of keeping the momentum towards Ocean action, DSDG is working with partners in the organization of a series of sectorial webinars to connect, mobilize and bring new ideas

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<sup>1</sup> According to A/RES/73/292

from stakeholders towards the preparation and outreach of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference, including the compilation of new Commitments of Ocean Action and progress on previous commitments. Webinars are being planned to mobilize youth, local and regional governments and the private sector.

## OBJECTIVES

- To keep the momentum in preparation for the 2020 UN Ocean Conference through the engagement of key stakeholder sectors;
- To collect ideas and recommendations on how to strengthen outreach and mobilization for the Ocean Conference, including the mobilization of Ocean Action commitments.

## ASIA-PACIFIC STAKEHOLDER WEBINAR

As a part of DSDG's four-part series "*Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action*" and co-convened with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the webinar will mobilize stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region, share information and collect ideas and proposals on how to keep the momentum towards Ocean Action and the engagement of stakeholders in Asia-Pacific in the preparatory process of the UN Ocean Conference.

The thematic scope of the webinar will include some of the pressing environmental challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular:

- a) **Marine Plastic pollution:** Considering the large volumes of plastic production and consumption in the region, stakeholders such as the private sector and individuals have the capacity to reduce the demand for plastics and catalyze a transformation in the plastic industry by changing social norms and shifting towards a plastic-free economy.
- b) **Ocean and Climate synergies:** The discussion on the role of the ocean moderating climate change and the interlinkage between SDG14 and SDG13 embraces the active role of all stakeholders. The carbon footprint on land carries impacts on the ocean. All stakeholders, including those in landlocked countries, may mitigate this burden through changes in consumption and lifestyles in urban and rural areas on land, which would consequently benefit the ocean.

The virtual event will provide participants with an opportunity to exchange perspectives on the active role of stakeholders in advancing the 2030 Agenda and the ocean-related SDGs.

The Asia-Pacific stakeholder webinar will begin with a keynote message from UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson, followed by a session with interventions from three key stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region. An interactive session will follow based on the ideas and challenges presented by the speakers. DSDG will prepare summaries of all webinars and post recordings, presentations and interventions online.

## PARTICIPATION

The webinar will be hosted on 3 June 2020 at 10 AM (Bangkok time). Time zones can be checked [here](#).



The webinar will be open to all Interested stakeholders. Interested participants should register by **1<sup>st</sup> June** through this form: <https://bit.ly/AsiaPacificMomentum>

**AGENDA**

<b>10:00 – 10:10</b>	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Lotta Tahtinen</b>, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), UN-DESA</p> <p><b>Mr. Stefanos Fotiou</b>, Director of the Environment and Development Division, UN-ESCAP</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> UN-ESCAP</p>
<b>10:10 - 10:20</b>	<p><b>Keeping the Momentum towards Ocean Action for Stakeholders in Asia-Pacific</b></p> <p><i>Keynote address by UNSG’s Special Envoy for the Ocean Ambassador Peter Thomson (via video message)</i></p>
<b>10:20– 10:50</b>	<p><b>Engaging Asia-Pacific Stakeholders for Ocean Action: Marine Plastic Pollution and Ocean-Climate Synergies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Dr. Brajesh Dubey (India)</b> Professor, Department of Civil Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) with nearly 20 years of research, teaching, training and industrial outreach experience, has authored/co-authored more than 200 publications.</li> <li>● <b>Ms. Fithriyyah Iskandar (Indonesia)</b> President of Seangle - Indonesia Chapter Pontianak Environmental &amp; Youth Activist (marine debris, ocean-climate science)</li> <li>● <b>Mr. Raheed Ali (Fiji)</b> Project Coordinator, Alliance for Future Generations Fiji [AFG], Environmental &amp; Youth Activist (climate empowerment and plastics)</li> </ul>
<b>10:50 – 11:25</b>	<p><b>Interactive dialogue</b></p> <p>Interventions from selected speakers (different constituencies)</p>
<b>11:25 – 11:30</b>	<p><b>Next steps and Closing remarks</b></p>