

Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action Webinar Series: Youth Participation and Engagement, 14 May 2020

SUMMARY

June 2020

1. Background

Convened by the General Assembly 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”*.

In light of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and as per the General Assembly decision 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.

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 from stakeholders towards the preparation and outreach of the UN Ocean Conference, including the compilation of new Commitments of Ocean Action and progress on previous commitments made in connection with the 2017 UN Ocean Conference.

2. Youth Engagement and Participation Webinar – 14 MAY 2020



KEEPING THE MOMENTUM
FOR OCEAN ACTION SERIES

YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Engaging young people in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, Life Below Water, is more essential than ever. Join our webinar to mobilize youth representatives, share information and brainstorm ideas on how to strengthen the momentum for ocean action among young people during the preparatory process of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

This session of the four-part series “Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action” is a joint effort from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, the Major Group for Children and Youth and the Sustainable Ocean Alliance.

THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2020
9:30 - 11:00 A.M. EDT

Register here by 11 May:
<https://bit.ly/YouthMomentum>



As a part of DSDG’s series **“Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action”** and a joint-effort by UN DESA, the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN NGLS), the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), and Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA), the webinar mobilized representatives from youth from all over the world, shared information and collected ideas and proposals on how to keep the momentum towards Ocean Action and the engagement of youth stakeholders in the lead-up to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

The Webinar counted with 872 registered participants from around 110 countries and 427 attendees.

The Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Oceans, Ambassador Peter Thomson, the co-costs of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference and fifteen youth representatives presented their ideas and recommendations on how youth can continue to mobilize for ocean action in the lead-up to the Conference. With over 500 audience comments and messages received during the event, the

event highlighted youth motivation in keeping up the momentum and creating a strong global network to continue to protect the oceans.

3. Summary of Discussions

3.1 -Opening Remarks

The session opened with remarks from **Lotta Tahtinen**, Chief of the Outreach and Partnerships Branch, Division for the Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), who underlined the importance of connecting youth voices from all over the world and valuing the voices of youth stakeholders in the preparatory process of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.



In a keynote address, the Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, **Ambassador Peter Thomson**, emphasized the opportunity of building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic through a “blue-green recovery road”, making a sustainable blue economy, rather than reverting to past methods that depended on fossil fuels. “You have to demand your future and create your future”, he noted.

The co-hosts of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference, **Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes**, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, and **Ambassador Lazarus O. Amayo**, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference and in hosting a dedicated youth ocean forum in parallel to the event. Ambassador Amayo reinforced the importance of making sure that no one was left behind, especially in these times where digital communication is so essential and not always guaranteed in every part of the world.

3.2 Mobilizing Youth towards Ocean Action: Forward looking perspectives

During the ensuing panel, four youth leaders made concrete recommendations on how to scale up ocean action and sustain youth mobilization, considering the COVID-19 epidemic. This session was moderated by **Oghenekevwe Christopher Oghenechovwen**, a Global Focal Point for the Major Group for Children and Youth.

Emma Camp, a marine biochemist and UN Young leader for the SDGs, discussed the need for online engagement platforms that include arts and communications to help inspire activism. **Ron Tardiff**, a Program Associate with Sustainable Ocean Alliance, encouraged making the UN processes more accessible and understandable to young people to illustrate how the SDGs will directly improve the lives of youth. **Stina Bagge**, a global focal point for Major Group for Children and Youth, talked about giving youth a concrete role in global ocean action and taking their voices seriously. Finally, **Luke Mullen**, filmmaker and activist, touched on the emotional and motivating

side of social media and the opportunity to use these platforms to recruit more action in networks all over the world.



3.3 Interactive dialogue

The session closed with eleven pre-selected interventions¹ focusing on ideas and inputs on how to keep the momentum for ocean action amongst youth. Interventions were made by:

- **POP Ocean and Plastic Oceans Mexico**, Ana Hanhausen (Mexico)
- **Children for the Ocean**, Thomas Lesage (France)
- **[All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors](#)**, Eimear Manning (Ireland)
- **The Millennials Movement**, Rosario del Pilar Díaz Garavito (Peru)
- **OceanHub Africa**, Stephanie Canac (South Africa)
- **Niger Delta Snapshots**, Kingsley Chinemerem Adindu (Nigeria)
- **[Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Kafr El-Shiekh University](#)**, Khaled El-said Shaker Khalifa (Egypt)
- **[Youth Voices for Climate Action](#)**, AHMAD (India)
- **[Ocean Bridge Program](#)**, Nadia Dalili (Canada)
- **[EarthEcho International](#)**, Sean Russell ([USA](#))
- **[Blue Cradle](#)**, James Nikitine ([New Zealand](#))

4. More Information

- [Recording of the meeting](#)
- [PowerPoint presentation](#)
- [Keeping the Momentum series page](#)

¹ Speakers indicated their interest in making an intervention when registering to attend the webinar. The review of applications was conducted by UN DESA in collaboration with MGCY.

Annex 1: Resources for ocean action provided via meeting chat box

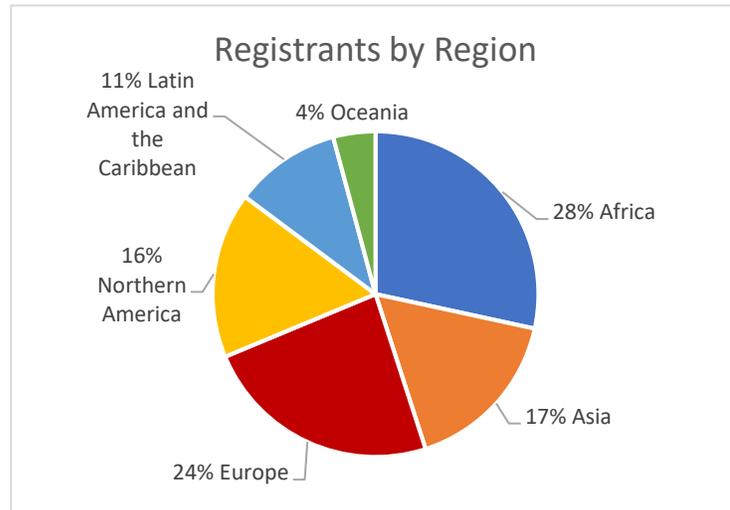
The event mobilized an extensive networking with over 500 messages received in the WebEx chat box. Below follows a list of resources shared by participants during the call. The content of the different pages are the sole responsibility of the participants.

- [Ecosurf; Twitter](#)
- [Posidonia Green Project; Twitter](#)
- [Global Kids;](#)
- [Plastic Oceans International](#)
- [Plastic Oceans Mexico](#)
- [All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors](#)
- [POP Ocean Initiative; Twitter](#)
- [Instituto Monitoramento Mirim Costeiro; Twitter](#)
- [EarthEcho International; Twitter](#)
- [African Heritage and Global Peace Initiative](#)
- [Sustainable Ocean Alliance; Twitter](#)
- [Ocean Frontier Institute; Twitter](#)
- [Youth Climate Leaders](#)
- [Costal Students Cultural Forum](#)
- [Bracenet](#)
- [Oceano Azul Foundation; Twitter](#)
- [RISE UP](#)
- [Orkney Islands Council – Orkney Marine Environment Project](#)
- [Interreg MED](#)
- [World Federation Coral Reef Conservation; Twitter](#)
- [Beyond Coral](#)
- [Mission Blue; Twitter](#)
- [Wildlife Conservation Society; Twitter](#)
- [Sustainable Seas Trust; Twitter](#)
- [Ocean Conservancy; Twitter](#)
- [myEnvironment myWealth](#)
- [Research Institute for Sustainable Development](#)
- [National Marine Educators Association; Twitter](#)
- [CYCAN \(China Youth Climate Action Network\)](#)
- [UNESCO Chair on Oceans' Cultural Heritage; Twitter](#)
- [Precious Plastic Mauritius](#)
- [Dropledge; Twitter](#)
- [One Blue Ocean](#)
- [BirdLife Europe and Central Asia; Twitter](#)
- [Parvati Foundation; Twitter](#)
- [Intercultural Center for the Study of Desert and Oceans; Twitter](#)
- [WWF Portugal](#)
- [Indonesian Maritime Youths \(Maritim Muda Nusantara\); Twitter](#)
- [Project Survival Pacific](#)
- [High Seas Alliance; Twitter](#)
- [UN Reboot Accelerator Competition](#)
- [Beyond the Surface International](#)
- [Ervis Foundation; Twitter](#)
- [CoopeSolidaR R.L.](#)
- [Ocean Wise](#)
- [Canadian Youth Biodiversity Network; Twitter](#)
- [Galmudug Youth Association Network GYAN](#)
- [Pescarte Project](#)
- [Ocean. Now!](#)

Annex 2: Analysis of registrants to event as of 12 May (9AM)

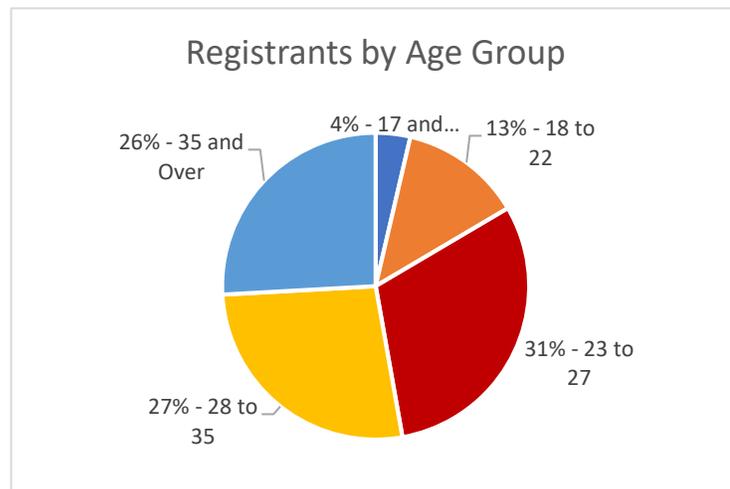
The **762** registered participants from **109** countries are distributed by region as:

- 28% Africa
- 17% Asia
- 24% Europe
- 16% Northern America
- 11% Latin American and the Caribbean
- 4% Oceania



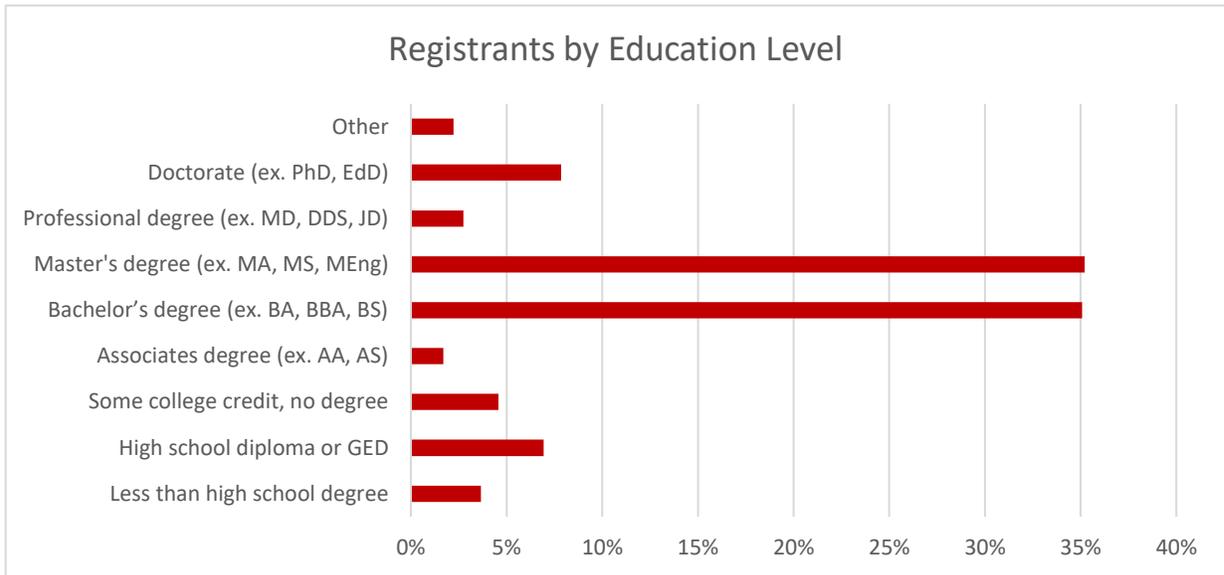
The age of the registered participants is distributed as:

- 4% 17 and below
- 13% 18 to 22
- 31% 23 to 27
- 27% 28 to 35
- 26% 35 and over



The level of education of the registered participants is distributed as:

- 4% Less than high school degree
- 7% High school diploma or GED
- 5% Some college credit, no degree
- 2% Associates degree (ex. AA, AS)
- 35% Bachelor's degree (ex. BA, BBA, BS)
- 35% Master's degree (ex. MA, MS, MEng)
- 3% Professional degree (ex. MD, DDS, JD)
- 8% Doctorate (ex. PhD, EdD)
- 2% Other



Annex 3: Analysis of Feedback

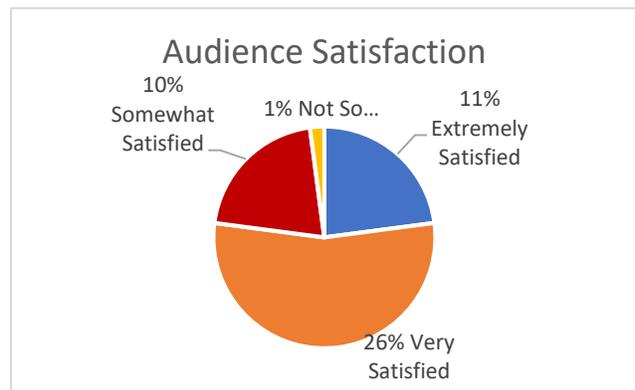
This analysis reflects the outcomes of a survey sent to all 907 registered participants to the webinar in order to understand overall satisfaction in performance, relevance to the audience’s work/studies and additional inputs regarding stakeholder engagement. 61 feedback inputs were received. The main outcomes are reflected below.

Survey Outcomes:

Out of the 61 total respondents, 48 attended the webinar and 13 did not.

Of the respondents that did attend the webinar (48), **77% said that they were very or extremely satisfied by the webinar.**

Of the respondents that did not attend the webinar (13), **the most common occurring reason for their absence was due to issues related to establishing internet connection during the time of the event.**



Almost all attendees (over 93%) were satisfied with each of these event aspects: date and time, speakers, interventionists, overall management of the call, chat interaction and sound and video quality.

Highlights: Reasons for joining the webinar

- “Preparation for attending UN Oceans Conference once a new date is set”
- “To gain experience to volunteer in saving our oceans for development in my home country”
- “To hear what other youth are involved in with regards to the environment”
- “To get a view of our different perspectives from our different walks”
- “To create partnership and have a look of other experiences and knowledge”

98% of responding attendees found the content of the webinar to be relevant or could be relevant to their work and studies.

Highlights: Suggestions and topics for more opportunities for stakeholder engagement during the lead-up to the 2020 Ocean Conference

- “Ocean/coastal community perspective and challenges faced by ocean warriors around the globe”
- “Indigenous knowledge about Ocean in youth.”
- “Sensitization on ocean action for both governments and youths”
- “Highlight some of the good work the students are doing. Sometimes it is hard for young people to realize they can have a positive effect on the environment”
- “Inclusion of technology for solutions towards ocean action”

Annex 4: Event Agenda

9:30 – 9:40	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnerships Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), UNDESA • Ambassador Lazarus O. Amayo, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations • Ambassador Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations.
9:40 - 09:50	<p>Keeping the Momentum towards Ocean Action for Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote address by UNSG’s Special Envoy for the Ocean Ambassador Peter Thomson.
9:50– 10:15	<p>Mobilizing Youth towards Ocean Action: Forward looking perspectives</p> <p>Key questions to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How are young people mobilizing to support SDG 14 implementation, especially considering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?</i> • <i>What would be good strategies to engage youth in the lead up to the UN Ocean Conference?</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How can we mobilize Ocean Action Commitments from youth organizations and networks in the lead up to the UN Ocean Conference?</i> <p>Moderated by Oghenekevwe Christopher Oghenechovwen, MGCY Global Focal Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Emma Camp, PhD, Discovery Early Career Research Award (DECRA) & University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Chancellor's Research Fellow, United Nations Young Leader SDGs • Ms. Stina Bagge (PUSH Sweden and Global Focal Point - Ocean/SDG14 Youth Constituency at MGCY) • Mr. Ron Tardiff, Sustainable Ocean Alliance • Mr. Luke Mullen, Actor, Filmmaker and Environmentalist
10:15– 10:50	<p>Interactive dialogue Moderated by UN DESA/DSDG <i>List of speakers was prepared in advance, based on registration form.</i></p>
10:50 – 11:00	<p>Next Steps and Closing Remarks Amb. Peter Thomson, Special Envoy on Ocean</p>