

Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action Webinar Series: Private Sector Participation and Engagement, 21 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, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs is working with partners in the organization of a series of sectoral 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. Private Sector Engagement and Participation Webinar – 21 MAY 2020



KEEPING THE MOMENTUM
FOR OCEAN ACTION SERIES

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Engaging the private sector in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, Life Below Water, is essential in ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources. Join our webinar to mobilize the private sector, share information and brainstorm ideas on how to strengthen the momentum for ocean action among businesses 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, UN Global Compact and the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service.

THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2020
9:00 - 10:30 A.M. EDT

Register here by 18 May:
<https://bit.ly/PrivateMomentum>



As a part of DSDG’s four-part series **“Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action”** and a joint-effort by UN DESA (DSDG) and UN Global Compact and in collaboration with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS), the webinar mobilized representatives from the private sector, shared information and collected ideas and proposals on how to keep the momentum towards Ocean Action and further raise engagement of private sector stakeholders in the lead-up to the UN Ocean Conference.

The webinar had 366 registered participants from around 60 countries and 218 attendees.

Opening remarks were delivered by the President of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, and the keynote address was delivered by the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson. Ideas were presented by a wealth of voices during the event, including the co-conveners of the 2020

UN Ocean Conference and over 20 representatives and executives from across the private sector. The valuable inputs, discussions, and interventions underlined the overall willingness and motivation of the private sector in keeping the momentum for ocean action in the lead-up to the Ocean Conference and in building back better considering ocean-based industries in recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Summary of Discussions

3.1 Opening Remarks

The session was opened with [remarks](#) from the **President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (PGA), His Excellency Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande**, who underlined the importance of taking urgent action for our oceans in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the protection of future global health. The PGA emphasized the unique role played by the private sector in the post-COVID19 recovery, including the ability to generate 100 million jobs around the world by 2050 by investing in green and blue economies.

| Agenda (cont.) | |
|----------------|---|
| 9:45 - 9:55 | Keeping the Momentum towards Ocean Action for the Private Sector Keynote address by Ambassador Peter Thomson, UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean |
| 9:55 - 10:25 | Interactive dialogue Moderator: UNDESA/DSDG |
| 10:25 - 10:30 | Next Steps and Closing Remarks Amb. Peter Thomson, UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean |

Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief of the Outreach and Partnerships Branch, from the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), underlined that although the UN Ocean Conference has been postponed, the preparatory process continues and DSDG has been promoting a series of virtual activities, including online consultations and

open webinars, to incorporate voices from diverse stakeholders to keep the momentum for ocean action.

Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the UN

- Director-General for Foreign Policy (Political Department) (2017).
- Director-General for European Affairs (2012 - 2014).
- Diplomatic advisor to the Prime Minister (2009 – 2011).
- *Antici* (coordinator), at the Portuguese Permanent Representation to the EU, in Brussels (2005 – 2009).
- First Secretary at the Portuguese Embassy in Copenhagen (Denmark) (1995 – 2000).
- Second Secretary at the Portuguese Embassy in Islamabad (Pakistan), 1993 – 1995.

The co-hosts of the UN Ocean Conference, Kenya and Portugal, addressed the audience. **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 UN Ocean Conference and the great importance of incorporating the Sustainable Blue Economy

Investment forum. The co-hosts reinforced the importance of the private sector’s involvement and engagement in protecting our oceans and seas.

Finally, the session moderator and Special Advisor to the UN Global Compact, **Mr. Sturla Henriksen**, highlighted some of the specific challenges ocean industries are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic, notably the shipping industry, which goes beyond national boundaries. A

particular challenge concerns ocean-based supply chains as almost 90 percent of global trade of goods is carried by vessels. A critically urgent problem concerns the monthly changeovers of 200,000 seafarers. An uncoordinated patchwork of travel restrictions by countries have rendered routine crew changeover impossible. The UN Global Compact is urging for a comprehensive, coordinated global approach for the ocean industry in responding to COVID-19 impacts.

3.2 Panel Discussion

A panel discussion provided concrete inputs and recommendations as to how ocean industries can recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic by providing new jobs and businesses through a clean, blue and just transition.

Mr. Alfred Tello, Technical and Sustainability Manager at Camanchaca, focused on the aquaculture sector and underlined the importance of accelerating the development of local supply chains to reinforce a strong recovery from COVID-19. **Mr. Jay Collins**, Vice Chairman of Corporate and Investment Banking at Citi, stated that ocean industries must make the choice to thoroughly prepare for the other inevitable risks that face the well-being of the ocean economy, rather than ignoring early-warning signs as was the case with the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to build back better. **Mr. Jay Borkland**, Senior Engineering Manager at Lloyd’s Register, discussed the opportunity for the sector to rebuild by design and highlighted that offshore renewable energy can not only be a powerful instrument in the COVID-19 recovery, but also in safeguarding the health of oceans and stability of the climate.

3.3 Keynote Address



Peter Thomson
UNSG's Special Envoy for the Ocean

- Appointed Special Envoy for the Ocean in 2017
- Mr. Thomson leads UN's advocacy and public outreach efforts inside and outside of the UN system, ensuring that the many positive outcomes of The 2017 Ocean Conference, including the over 1500 voluntary commitments, are analyzed and implemented.
- Mr. Thomson brings distinguished experience in diplomatic services, as Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN and President of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly.

KEEPING THE MOMENTUM FOR OCEAN ACTION SERIES

In a keynote address, the Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, **Ambassador Peter Thomson**, emphasized the opportunity to build 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 were dependent on fossil fuels. Ambassador Thomson urged, despite the postponement of the UN Ocean Conference, that private sector stakeholders keep

their sights on the timeline and accelerate actions towards accomplishing targets for SDG 14. Finally, Ambassador Thomson flagged that the future of the human species depends on the creation of the sustainable blue economy and that the private sector will be crucial in developing it.

3.4 Interactive Dialogue

The next session included interventions from nine pre-selected speakers¹ focusing on ideas and inputs on how the private sector can build back better after the COVID-19 pandemic in supporting SDG 14 implementation. Interventions were made by:

- **Eco Wave Power**, Mr. Matias Sigal (Israel)
- **Ocean Data Alliance**, Mr. Steven Adler (Spain)
- **Common Seas**, Mr. Peter Chauvel (United Kingdom)
- **PlanetCare**, Ms. Mojca Zupan (Slovenia)
- **Blue Ocean Partners**, Mr. Christian Lim (France)
- **Global Partnerships Forum**, Mr. Amir Dossal (USA)
- **CANEUS**, Mr. Milind Pimprikar (Canada)
- **Monterey Bay Aquarium**, Ms. Jennifer Kemmerly (USA)
- **BlueNalu Inc.**, Mr. Greg Murphy (USA)

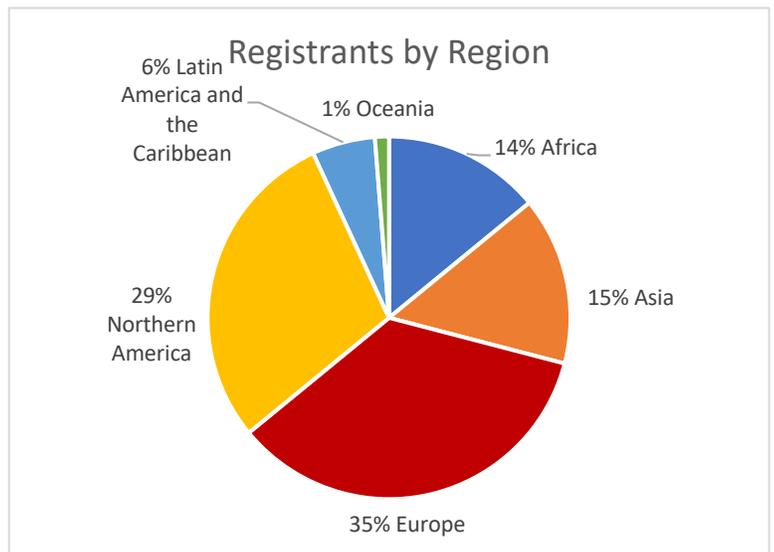
4. More Information

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

Annex 1: Analysis of Registrants to event as of 19 May (9AM)

The **320** registered participants from **58** countries are distributed by region as:

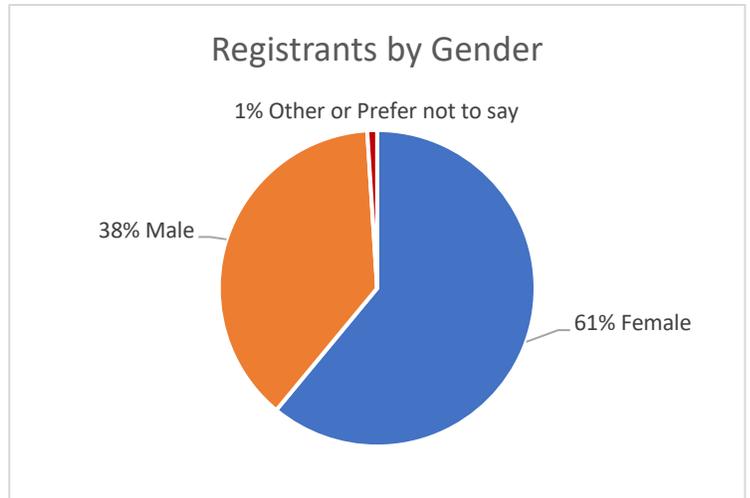
- 14% Africa
- 15% Asia
- 35% Europe
- 29% Northern America
- 6% Latin America and the Caribbean
- 1% Oceania



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

The gender of the registered participants is distributed as:

- 61% Female
- 38% Male
- 1% Other or prefer not to say



The registrants are distributed by sector as:

- 5% National Government
- 27% Civil Society Organization
- 12% Academic Institution
- 6% Scientific Community
- 20% Private Sector
- 8% Philanthropic Organization
- 2% Local or Regional Government
- 8% UN Entity
- 13% Other



Annex 2: Analysis of Feedback

This analysis reflects the outcomes of a survey sent to all 366 registered participants to the webinar in order to understand overall satisfaction, relevance to the audience's work and additional inputs regarding stakeholder engagement. **27 feedback inputs** were received. The main outcomes are reflected below:

Survey Outcomes:

Out of the 27 total respondents, 25 attended the webinar and 2 did not.

Of the respondents that did attend the webinar (25), **84% said that they were very or extremely satisfied by the webinar.**

Almost all responding attendees (over 92%) were satisfied with each of these event aspects: date and time, panelists, interventionists, overall management of the call and sound and video quality. Dissatisfaction was highest regarding the sound and video quality of the event.

88% of responding attendees found the content of the webinar to be relevant to their work.

From these positive responses, some highlighted how the content informed their work:

- ☐ "Ambassador Thompson's input was relevant to our efforts to help create a new framework for ocean monitoring data sharing. Also, the presentation from Citibank about the blue bonds is very timely and useful."
- ☐ "The insight that the private sector is needed to realize SDG14 was emphasized and looked at from various angles."
- ☐ "The emphasis on the need for innovation and private public partnerships".

The elements most enjoyable for the audience, according to responding attendees, were the Keynote Address by Ambassador Peter Thomson and the Panelist discussion from private sector executives.

Highlights: Reasons for joining the webinar

- ☐ "To learn more about how I can support the global goals especially as it relates to SDG 14."
- ☐ "To remain involved on all levels of every discussion relating to ocean conservation".
- ☐ "Provide industry perspective to keeping the momentum going for ocean action".

92% of responding attendees reported that they are very likely to participate in DSDG/UN Global Compact events in the future.

92% of responding attendees said that they would be very likely to tell a friend or colleague about the event or events in the future.

Annex 3: Event Agenda

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 9:00 – 9:05 | <p>Opening Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the United Nations General Assembly |
| 9:05 – 9:20 | <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 (TBC) • Ambassador Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations • Mr. Sturla Henriksen, Special Advisor, Ocean, UN Global Compact |
| 9:20– 09:45 | <p>The role of the Ocean to recover better: mobilizing the private sector for ocean action</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Sturla Henriksen, Special Advisor, Ocean, UN Global Compact UN Global Compact</p> <p>Key Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How ocean industries can contribute to recover better by providing new jobs and businesses through a clean, green and just transition?</i> • <i>What are the private sector expectations and ambitions for the UN Ocean Conference as we build back better?</i> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Alfredo Tello, Technical and Sustainability Manager, Camanchaca • Mr. Jay Borkland, Senior Engineering Manager, Lloyd’s Register • Mr. Jay Collins, Vice Chairman of Corporate and Investment Banking, Citi |
| 9:45 - 9:55 | <p>Keeping the Momentum towards Ocean Action for the Private Sector</p> <p>Keynote address by UNSG’s Special Envoy for the Ocean Ambassador Peter Thomson</p> |
| 09:55 – 10:25 | <p>Interactive dialogue</p> <p>Moderator: UNDESA/DSDG</p> |
| 10:25 – 10:30 | <p>Next Steps and Closing Remarks</p> <p>Amb. Peter Thomson, UNSG’s Special Envoy for the Ocean</p> |