14 April 2020 - In light of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and growing public health concerns, the 2020 United Nations Ocean Conference, which was scheduled to take place from 2 to 6 June in Lisbon, Portugal, has been postponed per decision 74/548 adopted by the General Assembly on Monday, 13 April 2020 at 3:01 p.m. Co-hosts of the Conference Kenya and Portugal in consultation with the General Assembly will decide on possible future dates for the Conference, including timelines for the preparatory process.

As a result, pre-registration of representatives from accredited non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference is currently suspended.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1) Who can attend the 2020 UN Ocean Conference?</th>
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<td>In accordance with paragraphs 26-28 of General Assembly resolution 73/292 of 9 May 2019, entitled “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”, the following participants may attend or be represented at the preparatory meeting and the Conference:</td>
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- All United Nations Members States;
- Members of the specialized agencies and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
- Intergovernmental organizations;
- International financial institutions and other international bodies;
- Associate members of the regional commissions;
- Organizations and bodies of the United Nations; |
- Non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations.

2) Which civil society organizations, private sector, academia and other stakeholders can attend the 2020 UN Ocean Conference?

Relevant stakeholders, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations, whose work is relevant to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference, accredited in accordance with the provisions set forth in Annex II of A/RES/73/292 can request registration to participate as observers in the Conference and its preparatory meeting.

3) Which organizations will be able to register participants to attend the Conference?

The organizations listed below will be able to request pre-registration to attend the 2020 UN Ocean Conference (Please, click on the links for details):

- ECOSOC accredited(Special, General or Roster consultative status);

Organizations that were accredited to attend the following:

- The World Summit on Sustainable Development;
- The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
- The 2017 high-level 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;
- The intergovernmental conference on an internationally legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;
- Previous United Nations conferences on sustainable development of small island developing States, held in Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa;
- Organizations that have received special accreditation by Member States to participate in the 2020 UN Conference and the preparatory meeting.

1) First list of organizations specially accredited can be found here.
2) Second list of specially accredited organizations can be found here.

4) My organization is not on any of the lists above. Can I still participate at the Conference?

Special accreditation process for the 2020 UN Ocean Conference is now closed. Only accredited organizations can request registration to attend the Conference.
5) My organization has received Special Accreditation to attend the 2020 UN Ocean Conference, can I show a copy of the letter to attend the Conference?

No. All organizations will need to pre-register their representatives in order to be able to attend the Conference.

6) I missed the deadline to request special accreditation. Can my organization still apply?

No. Applications after the deadline of 10 March 2020 will not be accepted.

7) I do not belong to any organization. Can I attend the Conference?

Unfortunately, you cannot register to attend the Conference as an individual. Participants must be connected to an accredited organization or to a United Nations Member State delegation in order to have registrations confirmed.

8) My organization has consultative status with ECOSOC. Will I need to register to attend the Conference?

Yes. All participants must pre-register to attend the Conference.

9) How can I register to attend the Conference?

Pre-registration to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference is now suspended. Information on how to register will be shared in due time here: https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2020/participate.

10) I’m not 18 years old yet. Can I attend the Conference?

The minimum age for participants to register to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference is 18 years old.

11) How many representatives can each organization register to attend the 2020 UN Ocean Conference?

Each organization will be able to request registration of up to 5 (five) representatives to attend the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

12) Are funds available for stakeholders to attend the Conference?

Registered stakeholders are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs.
13) I represent a city and/or a regional government. Can I attend the 2020 UN Ocean Conference?

Representatives of local and regional governments should register through their Member State delegation.

14) Will I receive an invitation letter so that I can apply for a visa?

Once an individual has been approved to participate, the system will generate a generic letter of invitation that can be used to apply for a visa. Requesting and processing visas are the sole responsibility of the participant.

15) Can I register directly at the Conference venue?

No. All registrations will be done through dedicated forms and before the deadline. There will not be registrations on site.

16) Are there opportunities for stakeholders to speak during the Conference?

Information on engagement opportunities will be published here.

17) Can NGOs and other stakeholders organize side-events at the 2020 UN Ocean Conference?

Yes. Accredited organizations will be able to apply for side-events once the process is open. Information will be published here.

Do you still have questions?

Please, email: dsdg@un.org

For Private Sector Organizations and Philanthropic Institutions - Please email unocean@unglobalcompact.org