

2020 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE

KEEPING THE MOMENTUM FOR OCEAN ACTION: LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

23 JUNE 2020

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM (EST, NEW YORK)

Draft Concept Note and Agenda

As of 22 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*”¹.

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 from stakeholders towards the preparation and outreach of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference, including

¹ According to A/RES/73/292

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. A webinar is also planned to engage stakeholders in Asia/Pacific.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS WEBINAR – 23 June 2020

As a part of DSDG’s four-part series “Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action” and co-convened with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and in collaboration with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS), the webinar will mobilize representatives from local and regional governments, share information, showcase challenges at local level and collect ideas and proposals on how to keep the momentum towards Ocean Action and the engagement of local and regional government stakeholders in the preparatory process of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

The Local and Regional Governments webinar will begin with a keynote message from UNSG’s Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thomson, followed by two sessions with interventions from 2-3 key stakeholders representing local and regional governments (To be identified in partnership with co-convenor). DSDG will prepare summaries of all webinars and post recordings, presentations and interventions online.

OBJECTIVES

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

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

When: 23 June 2020, 9:30 – 11:00 AM (EDT, New York Time). Please, check time zones [here](#).

Registered stakeholders can connect [here](#) - **Password: 356866**

Live interpretations of the meeting will be offered in French and Spanish.

Due to the large interest in this event and in the case that the meeting reaches capacity, registrants will be forwarded to the live stream of the event on [United Cities and Local Government’s YouTube channel](#).

DRAFT AGENDA

<p>9:30 – 9:45</p>	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Alex Trepelkov, Officer in Charge, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA • Ambassador Duarte Lopes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations. • Prof. Micheni Ntiba, Principal Secretary for Fisheries and the Blue Economy of the Republic of Kenya. • Dr. Mohamed Boudra, Mayor of Al Hoceima, President of the Moroccan Association of Municipal Councils, President of United Cities and Local Governments.
<p>9:45 - 9:55</p>	<p>Keeping the Momentum towards Ocean Action for Local and Regional Governments</p> <p>Keynote address by Amb. Peter Thomson, UNSG’s Special Envoy for the Ocean.</p>
<p>09:55– 10:15</p>	<p>Mobilizing Local and Regional Governments towards Ocean Action: Showcasing local challenges and forward-looking perspectives</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How are local and regional governments mobilizing to support SDG 14 implementation, especially considering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?</i> - <i>How local and regional governments can contribute to recover better through a clean, blue and just transition in support to SDG 14 implementation?</i> - <i>How can national governments support local action towards SDG-14 implementation as part of COVID-19 recovery efforts?</i> <p>Moderator: Ms. Naiara Costa, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, DSDG/UNDESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Leo Brewster, Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy of Barbados • Mr. Emil Dardak, Vice Governor, East Java, Indonesia • Mr. Khalid Belisle, Mayor of Belmopan, Belize • Mr. Pedro Joaquin Delbouis, Mayor of Cozumel, Mexico

<p>10:15 – 10:35</p>	<p>Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action: Local and Regional Governments leadership in the COVID-19 era</p> <p>Key Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>What are the expectations and ambitions from local and regional governments for the UN Ocean Conference as we build back better?</i> - <i>What would be good strategies to engage local and regional governments in the lead up to the UN Ocean Conference?</i> - <i>How can we mobilize Ocean Action Commitments from local and regional governments and networks in the lead up to the UN Ocean Conference?</i> <p>Moderator: Mr. Greg Munro, Secretary General, Commonwealth Local Governments Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Birgitta Liss Lymer, Director, Water Resources / Source-to-Sea, Stockholm International Water Institute • Mr. Sergio Graf, Secretary for Environment, State of Jalisco, Mexico • Ms. Lisa Helps, Mayor of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. • Ms. Joana Pinto Balsemão, City Councillor, City Council of Cascais, Portugal
<p>10:35 – 10:55</p>	<p>Interactive dialogue</p> <p>Moderator: UNDESA/DSDG</p>
<p>10:55– 11:00</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments • Amb. Peter Thomson, UNSG’s Special Envoy for the Ocean.