



Pacific Islands
Development Forum

CONCEPT NOTE

**SYMPOSIUM: SDG14 Pacific commitments -
2018 Action Agenda**



19 December 2017

Novotel, Suva, Republic of Fiji



INTRODUCTION

The 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 was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017. It adopted an agreed declaration in the form of a "Call for Action" and a report containing the co-chairs' summaries of the partnership dialogues, as well as a list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Goal 14. One of the outcomes of the UN Ocean Conference was the appointment of Ambassador Peter Thomson as the Special Envoy for the Ocean to lead UN's advocacy and public outreach efforts to ensure the outcomes and the voluntary commitments are implemented.

The UN had seven themes or clusters including:

- Addressing marine pollution.
- Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems.
- Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification.
- Making fisheries sustainable.
- Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.
- Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer for marine technology.
- Implementing international law, as reflected in UNCLOS.

These themes were further clustered into three groups to suit the Pacific preparation for the UN Ocean Conference, which are:

- Marine Pollution and Protection of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems.
- Climate Change and Ocean Acidification.
- Fisheries, Fisheries Subsidies and Blue Growth / Economy Benefits to SIDS/LDCs, including the outcomes from PBEC.

Close to 1,400 voluntary commitments for concrete action to advance implementation of SDG 14 were made by governments, the United Nations system, civil society organizations, academia, the scientific community, and the private sector. These commitments, together with the Conference outcome document *Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action*, mark a global breakthrough on the path to sustainable management and conservation of our oceans, seas and marine resources.

Each of the Ocean Conference voluntary commitments addresses one or several of the SDG 14 targets, often with associated positive impact on other SDGs, including for example SDG 3 on good health and well-being and SDG13 on climate action, among others. In the Pacific context, the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) hosted the 1st high level Pacific Blue Economy Conference (PBEC) in August 2017, building on the outcomes of the UN Ocean Conference.

The PBEC was the first step in providing a roadmap for refining the concept and implementing a Blue Economy in the Pacific.



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An Oceans Pathway Partnership was also launched on the 16 November 2017 in Bonn by the COP23 Fiji Secretariat to include oceans in the negotiations with acknowledgement of the Call for Action from the UN Ocean Conference and develop a work programme on oceans by 2019. It involves all the existing alliances, parties, civil society organisations, observers and interested institutions.

To follow-up on the implementation of these global voluntary commitments; to catalyze and generate new voluntary commitments; and to facilitate collaboration and networking amongst different actors in support of SDG 14, the United Nations is launching nine thematic multi-stakeholder Communities of Ocean Action.

This half day symposium for the Pacific will be held, under the patronage of Ambassador Peter Thomson, to review the Call for Action voluntary commitments globally and for the Pacific, to present and promote participation in the nine thematic multi-stakeholders Communities for Ocean Actions platforms and finally to discuss regional activities to be taken up in 2018 in pursuit of SDG14 implementation in the Pacific.

Objectives

- To discuss the analysis of the global and Pacific voluntary commitments.
- To review and promote the Communities of Ocean Action among Pacific stakeholders
- To report on the COP23 launch of the Ocean Pathway initiative.
- To discuss the outcomes of Pacific Blue Economy Conference
- To discuss regional activities to be taken up in 2018 in pursuit of SDG14 implementation in the Pacific.

Partners

- Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)
- Office of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

Participation

This official level Meeting will include participation from relevant government representatives, Pacific island country missions, civil society organisations, academic institutes and the relevant private sector.

Contact

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