



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

24 May 2016

Excellency,

Enclosed for your kind attention is a letter, dated 20 May 2016, from Co-Facilitators on the modalities of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, H.E. Mr. Jagdish Koonjul, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mauritius and Ambassador Magnus Lennartsson, Ambassador at the Permanent Mission of Sweden circulating the attached draft resolution on modalities of the Conference, to be considered at the next informal consultation during the first week of June.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York



PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York

20 May 2016

Excellency,

Please find attached a zero draft for the General Assembly modalities resolution for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development.

We will be convening informal consultation between Member States on the zero draft during the first week of June 2016. Exact date, time and venue for the informal consultation will be announced in the Journal.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Jagdish Koonjul  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
Mauritius

Magnus Lennartsson  
Ambassador  
Sweden

H.E. Mogens Lykketoft  
President of the United Nations General Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> Session

**Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly**

**Modalities for the 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 General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012 containing the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want”,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which adopts a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental, in a balanced and integrated manner, building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirmed the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

*Reaffirming* that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will depend upon a revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors, and noting in this regard the interest expressed in holding future conferences or events at a high level that would complement but not duplicate existing efforts and activities to support implementation and to maintain political momentum to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 70/226 of 22 December 2015, and recalling its decision to convene 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 in Fiji from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with the World Oceans Day

*Recalling also* paragraph 2 of resolution 70/226 in which it decided that all costs relating to the Conference and its preparations shall be financed through extrabudgetary resources;

*Welcoming again* the generous offer by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden to co-host and assume the costs of the Conference,

## **Objectives**

1. *Decides* that the Conference shall:

- (a) identify ways and means to strengthen cooperation for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, based on commitments to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the interlinkages of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its related targets with other goals and targets;
- (b) serve as a forum to build on existing successful partnerships as well as to launch innovative and concrete new ones to advance the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;
- (c) involve all relevant stakeholders to assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, building on, inter alia, relevant existing reports and processes;
- (d) share the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;
- (e) contribute meaningfully to the follow-up and review process of Sustainable Development Goal 14 by reporting its outcomes to the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in accordance with resolution 67/290 and 70/1 and consider benchmarking of progress on implementation at subsequent sessions and events;

## Theme

2. *Decides* that the overarching theme of the Conference shall be “Protect our oceans, protect our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14”;

## Organization

3. *Decides* that the Conference shall be convened at the highest possible level;
4. *Decides* that the Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: two Co-Presidents and an ex officio Vice-President from the host countries, and thirteen Vice-Presidents<sup>1</sup>, one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur;
5. *Decides* that the Conference shall comprise eight plenary meetings and seven Partnership Dialogues, from 5 to 9 June 2017, and shall include a special event commemorating the World Oceans Day on 8 June 2017;
6. *Decides* that the plenary meetings will be held as follows:

Monday, 5 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June 2017: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

7. *Decides* that the special event commemorating the World Oceans Day will be held on 8 June 2017 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
8. *Decides* that the Partnership Dialogues will be held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 5 June 2017: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June 2017: 3 to 6 p.m.

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<sup>1</sup> Three from each of the following groups: African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western European and other States. The election of the Co-Presidents will, however, have the effect of reducing by two the number of Vice-Presidents allocated to the regions from which the Co-Presidents are elected.

Friday, 9 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

9. *Also decides* that the Partnership Dialogues shall be interactive and multi-stakeholder in nature and shall identify ways and means to strengthen cooperation for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, based on commitments to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the interlinkages of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its related targets with other goals and targets, as well as interlinkages and synergy and coherence between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
10. *Further decides* that the organizational arrangements of the Partnership Dialogues will be as follows:
  - (a) Each Partnership Dialogue will be presided by two Chairs to be appointed by the Co-Presidents of the Conference, from among representatives at the level of Head of State or Government and/or at the ministerial level;
  - (b) The Secretary-General of the Conference will select up to four panelists for each of the Partnership Dialogues. The panel discussions, facilitated by a moderator, will be followed by an interactive debate among States and other relevant stakeholders;
11. *Recommends* the provisional agenda set forth in annex I to the present resolution for adoption by the Conference;
12. *Decides* that the Conference shall be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the present resolution;
13. *Recommends* the provisional rules of procedure set forth in annex III to the present resolution for adoption by the Conference;

#### **Preparatory process**

14. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session to appoint two co-facilitators to oversee informal intergovernmental consultations on all issues relating to the Conference and its preparatory process;

15. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene a two-day preparatory meeting in February 2017 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, to be chaired by the two co-facilitators, with interpretation services on an “as available” basis, with a view to consider the themes for the Partnership Dialogues and elements for a draft political declaration;
16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly, by the end of January 2017, outlining challenges and opportunities, gaps and constraints for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, including proposals for themes for the Partnership Dialogues. This report will inform the discussions of the preparatory meeting;
17. *Requests* the co-facilitators to present a concise draft political declaration no later than March 2017, taking into account the deliberations of the preparatory meeting;
18. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the Conference no later than April 2017;

## **Outcome**

19. *Decides* that the Conference shall result in a concise, focused, and inter-governmentally agreed political declaration, to be adopted during the closing plenary of the Conference, and a report comprising the Co-chairs’ summaries of the Partnership Dialogues focusing on concrete and action-oriented recommendations as well as a list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, announced at the Conference;

## **Participation**

20. *Decides* that the Conference and its preparatory process shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency;
21. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, international financial institutions and other intergovernmental bodies and platforms to participate as observers in the Conference and its preparatory meeting;
22. Calls for the participation of associate members of the regional commissions in the Conference and the preparatory meeting, in the same capacity specified for

their participation in the global conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States held in 1994, 2005 and 2013;

23. *Reiterates* the importance of the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders in the Conference and its preparatory meeting, and decides that:
- (a) The non-governmental organizations and major groups as identified in Agenda 21, in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as those that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and previous conferences on the sustainable development of the small island developing States held in Barbados, Mauritius, and Samoa, shall register in order to participate;
  - (b) The President of the General Assembly shall also draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations whose work is relevant to the Conference, who may participate in the Conference and its preparatory meeting as observers, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and will submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis and bring the list to the attention of the Assembly;<sup>2</sup>

### **Secretariat**

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the Conference and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed;
25. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General of the Conference to serve as focal point within the Secretariat of the United Nations for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the authorities of the co-hosts;

### **Trust Fund**

26. *Invites* international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to a trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, priority being given to representatives of least developed countries and small island developing States, including

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<sup>2</sup> The list will include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, will be made known to the office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.



coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses, in the meetings of the Conference and its preparatory meeting.

## **Annex I**

### **Provisional agenda of the 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**

#### **Nadi, Fiji, 5 to 9 June, 2017**

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the Co-Presidents.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda of the Conference.
5. Election of officers other than the Co-Presidents.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
  - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
  - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General debate.
9. Partnership dialogues.
10. Special event commemorating the World Oceans Day
11. Outcome of the Conference.
12. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
13. Closure of the Conference.

## **Annex II**

### **Proposed organization of work of the 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**

#### **Nadi, Fiji, 5 to 9 June, 2017**

1. The arrangements set out below have been formulated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/226 of 22 December 2015.
2. The 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 Nadi, Fiji, from 5 to 9 June, 2017.

#### **I. Organization of work**

##### **A. Plenary meetings**

3. The 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 consist of a total of eight plenary meetings, to be held as follows:

Monday, 5 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June 2017: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

4. The eight plenary meetings will be devoted to statements.
5. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings will be established on a first-come first-served basis, with the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first followed by other heads of delegation. The European Union, in its capacity as observer, will be included in the list of speakers. Detailed arrangements will be communicated in a timely manner through a note by the Secretariat, prepared in close consultations with the host country.
6. At the formal opening of the Conference, to take place during the plenary meeting to be held in the morning of Monday, 5 June 2017, consideration will be given to all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the election of the Co-Presidents of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee, arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference and other matters. At the opening, statements will be made by the Co-Presidents of the Conference, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Conference. The plenary meeting will also hear statements from heads of the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as major groups and other stakeholders in accordance with the practices of the General Assembly.

8. The closing plenary meeting, to be held in the afternoon of Friday, 9 June, is expected to conclude with reporting on the Partnership Dialogues, to be followed by the adoption of the outcome document and the report of the Conference.

9. The plenary meetings will run in parallel with Partnership Dialogues, unless otherwise specified in this resolution.

### **B. Partnership Dialogues**

10. The 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 include seven Partnership Dialogues, held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 5 June 2017: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 8 June 2017: from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 9 June 2017: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

11. The summaries of the Partnership Dialogues should be reported to the closing plenary meeting of the Conference and included in the final report of the Conference.

### **C. Special event commemorating the World Oceans Day**

12. The special event commemorating the World Oceans Day will be held on 8 June 2017 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

### **D. Main Committee**

13. A Main Committee, established in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference, will meet if necessary in parallel with plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing meetings. The Main Committee will be responsible for finalizing any outstanding matters.

## **II. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee**

14. A Credentials Committee will be appointed according to the rules of procedure of the Conference.

## **III. Secretariat**

15. The Secretary-General of the Conference will serve as focal point within the Secretariat of the United Nations for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the host country authorities.

## **IV. Documentation**

16. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, the official documentation of the Conference will include documents issued before, during and after the Conference.

17. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consists of a political declaration, a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference.

18. Summaries of the plenary meetings and partnership dialogues as well as a list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 announced at the Conference should also be included in the report of the Conference.

## **VI. Organization of parallel meetings and other events of the Conference**

19. Parallel meetings and other events, including those of major groups and other stakeholders, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and Partnership Dialogues, space permitting. Interpretation services will be provided for such meetings, as available.

## **VII. Side events**

20. Side events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, will be organized by participants in the Conference. Guidelines for organizing special events and the calendar of those events will be made available on the Conference website.

## **VIII. Media coverage**

21. Press materials will be prepared by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for journalists covering the Conference. In addition, regular press releases will be issued on the results of plenary meetings, Partnership Dialogues and other events. All relevant documentation will be made available on the Conference website.

22. The plenary meetings, Partnership Dialogues and press conferences will be broadcast live to the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

## **Annex III**

### **Provisional rules of procedure of the 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**

[To be circulated shortly]