

Reference: DESA-24/01869

18 September 2024

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 16 July 2024 by the President of the 78th session of the General Assembly, forwarding the letter from H.E. Ms. Maritza Chan-Valverde, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, and H.E. Mr. Nicolas de Rivière, Permanent Representative of France, in their capacity as the co-hosts of the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference.

The letter provided the final list of themes for the ten “Ocean Action Panels,” which will provide participants the opportunity to delve into specific, consequential topics representing the building blocks of successful Goal 14 implementation. The titles of the Panels are as follows.

- a. Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers.
- b. Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems.
- c. Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional level.
- d. Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities.
- e. Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages.
- f. Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind.
- g. Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security.
- h. Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health.
- i. Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS.
- j. Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14.

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

The Secretariat will begin preparing concept papers on each of the ten themes.

As per paragraph 24 of General Assembly resolution 78/128, I would like to invite your Government to submit inputs to these concept papers, also keeping in mind the theme of the Conference itself: “Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”. As these concept papers are parliamentary documents and subject to length restrictions, the Secretariat may not be able to incorporate your entire contribution in the relevant paper(s). With your approval, however, the full text of your contribution will be published on the Conference website at: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025/documentation>.

It would be greatly appreciated if your contributions could be sent, in English, to the Secretariat directly to Ms. Stephanie Rambler, rambler@un.org, and Ms. Ruoshi Geng, ruoshi.geng@un.org, with copy to Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, chatterjeem@un.org, by **15 November 2024**.

I would also like to invite an expression of interest of your Government’s high level official to serve as a Co-Chair for any of the ten Ocean Action Panels, and I welcome suggestions on distinguished experts to serve as moderators and panellists, as outlined in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 78/128. Kindly communicate these proposals to the Secretariat directly to Ms. Stephanie Rambler, rambler@un.org, and Ms. Ruoshi Geng, ruoshi.geng@un.org, with copy to Ms. Madhushree Chatterjee, chatterjeem@un.org, by **15 November 2024**.

Finally, I would like to encourage your Government to provide an update on any existing voluntary commitments to advance the implementation of Goal 14, and to announce new Goal 14 voluntary commitments, as outlined in paragraphs 4 (g) and 19 of General Assembly resolution 78/128.

The Secretariat stands ready to support you throughout this important process.

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



LI Junhua

Under-Secretary-General

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Secretary-General of the 2025 UN Ocean Conference