

Reference: DESA-24/01789

20 September 2024

Dear Colleagues,

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 78/128 on the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference, which will be co-hosted by the Governments of the Republic of Costa Rica and the French Republic and will take place 9-13 June 2025 in Nice, France.

The Conference will be convened under the theme “Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean,” and it will draw on the experience and perspectives of a broad range of stakeholders working to implement Goal 14 at the global, regional, national and local levels. With its intergovernmentally agreed declaration as a guide, the Conference will promote decisive, Member-State-driven ocean action, with a whole-of-society approach. It will build on the results of the preceding United Nations Ocean Conferences, held in New York in 2017 and in Lisbon in 2022, and will seek to galvanize innovation, spark new and expanded commitments, and scale up financing.

For the Conference to achieve its objectives, we will need to muster the full strength of the United Nations family, engaging expertise and insights from across the system. I therefore invite entities within the United Nations system to participate at the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference at the highest possible level. Entities are also welcomed to submit proposals for side events at the Conference. Information on the application process and requirements will soon be available on the Conference website <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025>.

A key component of the Conference will be 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. To ensure that these Panels are rooted in cutting-edge knowledge and diverse points of view, I invite United Nations entities to contribute to the concept papers for the Panels. I invite entities also to recommend individuals who would be well-suited to serve as panellists and moderators. 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.

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- 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.

Kindly send inputs and recommendations by 1 December, to Ms. Xin Feng, at xin.feng@un.org, and Ms. Ruoshi Geng, at ruoshi.geng@un.org. Please note that the inputs to the concept notes may be posted, with appropriate consent from your organization, to the Conference website. You may also send confirmation of your entity's participation in the Conference to Ms. Feng and Ms. Geng, at your earliest convenience.

The 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference is an “all hands-on deck” moment, for the health and future survival of the ocean. I look forward to working closely with you all in the coming months to meet this moment and to deliver a successful Conference.

Yours sincerely,



LI Junhua

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