



General Assembly

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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

New York, 5-9 June 2017

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Organization of work, including the establishment of
subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters**

Organizational and procedural matters

Note by the Secretariat

1. The proposals set out in the present note have been prepared on the basis of General Assembly resolution [70/303](#) of 9 September 2016.

I. Election of officers

2. The Conference shall elect two Presidents and other officers in accordance with its rules of procedure. As stipulated in rule 6, the Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: two Presidents, one from Fiji and one from Sweden, each presiding separately, and 13 Vice-Presidents,¹ one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur-General, as well as a chair for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. The officers shall be elected with a view to ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

II. Adoption of the rules of procedure

3. The Conference shall adopt its rules of procedure. The provisional rules of procedure, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [70/303](#), are contained in document [A/CONF.230/2](#).

* [A/CONF.230/1](#).

¹ 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 two Presidents will, however, have the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents allocated to the regions from which each of the Presidents is elected.



III. Adoption of the agenda

4. The Conference will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda ([A/CONF.230/1](#)), as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution [70/303](#).

IV. Organization of work

A. Dates and venue

5. The Conference will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017. The overarching theme of the Conference shall be “Our oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14”. The General Assembly, in its resolution [70/303](#), encouraged participation in the Conference at the highest possible level.

B. Plenary meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. All plenary meetings will be held in the General Assembly Hall.

8. At the formal opening of the Conference, to take place during the plenary meeting to be held on the morning of Monday, 5 June, 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 two Presidents of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of subsidiary bodies, if needed, 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 Presidents of the Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

9. The eight plenary meetings will be devoted to statements in the general debate. The list of speakers for the general debate will be established on a first-come first-served basis, under the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by other heads of delegation. The European Union will be included in the list of speakers. It is proposed that a time limit of five minutes be established for each oral statement. The list of speakers will be announced in the daily Journal of the United Nations.

10. In addition, the general debate, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [70/303](#) and time permitting, will also hear statements from representatives of other intergovernmental organizations, associate members of regional commissions and the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as major groups and other stakeholders, including

non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations.

11. The closing plenary meeting, to be held on the afternoon of Friday, 9 June, is expected to conclude with reporting on the partnership dialogues, to be followed by the adoption of the “Call for Action” and of the report of the Conference.

C. Partnership dialogues

12. The Conference will include seven partnership dialogues, to be held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 5 June, from 3 to 6 p.m., on the topic “Addressing marine pollution”

Tuesday, 6 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the topic “Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems”

Tuesday, 6 June, from 3 to 6 p.m., on the topic “Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification”

Wednesday, 7 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the topic “Making fisheries sustainable”

Wednesday, 7 June, from 3 to 6 p.m., on the topic “Increasing economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets”

Thursday, 8 June, from 3 to 6 p.m., on the topic “Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology”

Friday, 9 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on the topic “Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”

13. All partnership dialogues will be held in conference room 4 and will be open to all conference participants, with designated seating.

14. Each partnership dialogue will be presided over by two co-chairs, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to be appointed by the Presidents of the Conference. The Secretary-General of the Conference will select a moderator and up to four panellists for each of the partnership dialogues.

15. The seven partnership dialogues will be interactive and multi-stakeholder in nature and will focus on recommendations to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, including through strengthened cooperation, building on existing successful partnerships and stimulating innovative and concrete new partnerships. The partnership dialogues will begin with a panel discussion, followed by an interactive dialogue among participants. Interventions in the interactive debate will be limited to three minutes. Participants are encouraged to focus on concrete solutions to addressing challenges and gaps in the implementation of Goal 14 targets by presenting voluntary commitments and partnerships as well as policy recommendations to support the implementation of Goal 14.

16. The order of speakers for each partnership dialogue will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, bearing in mind equitable geographical distribution while allowing for some flexibility, with priority given to States according to the level of representation, followed by intergovernmental organizations and other

entities, associate members of regional commissions, United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, major groups and other relevant actors. It is envisaged that up to 25 States and 15 other participants will be accommodated to speak in the interactive debate of each partnership dialogue.

17. States and the associate members of regional commissions participating in the Conference are requested to indicate two partnership dialogues in which they would like to have a speaking slot, including the order of preference, name, title and level of participation, to the Secretariat, addressed care of Ms. Mary Muturi (muturi@un.org), before 19 May 2017. Representatives of intergovernmental organizations and other entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, and United Nations organs are also requested to indicate two partnership dialogues in which they would like to have a speaking slot, including the order of preference, name, title and level of participation, to the Secretariat, addressed care of Ms. Federica Pietracci (pietracci@un.org), before 19 May 2017. Representatives of non-governmental organizations and other major groups as well as other stakeholders are requested to indicate two partnership dialogues in which they would like to have a speaking slot before 24 April 2017 by using the form available on the website of the Conference (oceanconference.un.org/stakeholderengagement) Additional guidance on the partnership dialogues and the concept notes will be posted on the Conference website.

18. Summaries of the partnership dialogues will be presented to the Conference at its closing plenary meeting and will be included in the final report of the Conference.

D. Special event commemorating World Oceans Day

19. The special event commemorating World Oceans Day will be held on 8 June 2017, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will include various segments highlighting the wonders of our “blue planet”, oceanic science and exploration. It will also feature examples of the Sustainable Development Goals in action, as well as the contribution of youth to the sustainable development and management of the oceans. Additional information on the special event will be made available on the Conference website. The delegation of each State participating in the Conference and the delegation of the European Union will be assigned two seats each: one seat at a table and one adviser seat. Additional seats will be available to delegations on a first-come, first-served basis, while observers will have access to a designated seating area, also on a first-come, first-served basis.

E. Main Committee

20. The Main Committee, established in accordance with rule 46 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, will meet, if necessary, in parallel with plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing meetings, and will be responsible for finalizing any outstanding matters.

F. Timetable for the work of the Conference

21. A proposed timetable for the work of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present note. Updated information will be posted on the Conference website and announced in the daily Journal of the United Nations.

G. Organization of meetings, parallel meetings and other events of the Conference

22. Meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. To ensure the most efficient utilization of available resources, it is essential that all meetings start promptly.

23. 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.

24. 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 such events and the calendar of those events will be made available on the Conference website.

V. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

25. Rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. It will examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

VI. Participants

26. States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers in the sessions and work of the Assembly, associate members of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and related organizations, other intergovernmental organizations, United Nations organs, non-governmental organizations and other major groups will participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

VII. Secretariat

27. The Secretary-General of the Conference will serve as focal point within the Secretariat for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the representatives of the two Presidents. In October 2016, the Secretary-General of the United Nations nominated the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the Secretary-General of the Conference.

VIII. Documentation

28. 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.

29. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences and as set out in annex II to General Assembly resolution [70/303](#), it is recommended that the Conference adopt a report consisting of the decisions of the Conference, including a “Call for Action”, a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

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

31. All Conference documentation will be available on the Conference website.

IX. Media coverage

32. 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, the special event commemorating World Oceans Day and other events. All relevant information will be made available on the Conference website.

33. The plenary meetings, the partnership dialogues, the special event commemorating World Oceans Day and the press conferences will be broadcast live to the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

Annex

Proposed timetable for the 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

New York, 5-9 June 2017

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item/programme</i>
Monday, 5 June	
1st plenary meeting	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	1 Opening of the Conference
	2 Election of two Presidents
	1 Opening statements
	3 Adoption of the rules of procedure
	4 Adoption of the agenda of the Conference
	5 Election of officers other than the Presidents
	6 Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters
	7 (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
	8 General debate
Partnership dialogue	
3-6 p.m.	Partnership dialogue 1: Addressing marine pollution
Tuesday, 6 June	
2nd plenary meeting	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8 General debate
Partnership dialogue	
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Partnership dialogue 2: Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems
3rd plenary meeting	
3-6 p.m.	8 General debate
Partnership dialogue	
3-6 p.m.	Partnership dialogue 3: Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification

<i>Date/time</i>		<i>Agenda item/programme</i>
Wednesday, 7 June		
4th plenary meeting		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8	General debate
Partnership dialogue		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.		Partnership dialogue 4: Making fisheries sustainable
5th plenary meeting		
3-6 p.m.	8	General debate
Partnership dialogue		
3-6 p.m.		Partnership dialogue 5: Increasing economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
Thursday, 8 June		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.		Special event commemorating World Oceans Day
6th plenary meeting		
3-6 p.m.	8	General debate
Partnership dialogue		
3-6 p.m.		Partnership dialogue 6: Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology
Friday, 9 June		
7th plenary meeting		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	8	General debate
Partnership dialogue		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.		Partnership dialogue 7: Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
8th plenary meeting		
3-6 p.m.	8	General debate
	9	Report of the partnership dialogues
	7 (b)	Report of the Credentials Committee
	11	Outcome of the Conference
	12	Adoption of the report of the Conference
	13	Closure of the Conference