

## **Background Note**

### **UNEP CPR Briefing**

#### **The 2022 UN Ocean Conference**

- Pursuant to General Assembly decision 75/578, the 2022 UN Ocean Conference will be held from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in Lisbon, co-chaired by Portugal and Kenya.
- The theme of the Conference is “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”.
- The Conference will be full in-person with all official meetings broadcast via United Nations Web TV, no virtual participation or intervention will be available.
- It will consist of nine plenary meetings, including opening and closing segments in parallel with eight interactive dialogues. According to modality resolution 73/292, the Secretary-General, Presidents of the Conference, PGA, President of ECOSOC and the Secretary-General of the Conference are expected to speak at the opening session on Monday, 27 June.
- Four in-person high-level Special Events will be organized by the Co-Hosts in collaboration with different partners. These include: *the Youth and Innovation Forum* (24-26 June in Cascais); *Localizing Action for the Ocean: Local and Regional Governments* special event (25 June in Matosinhos); the *Sustainable Blue Economy Investment Forum* (28 June inside the Altice Arena in Lisbon); and the *High-Level Symposium on Water – Bridging SDG 6 and SDG 14* (27 June, inside the Altice Arena in Lisbon). More details are available on the Conference website at: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022/events/special>
- A schedule of side events organized Governments, the UN system and other stakeholders will be available in early June on the Conference website.
- Following GA decision 75/578, the substantive and logistical preparations for the Conference have been finalized by the end of May.

- On 3 June, Conference Secretary-General USG Liu Zhenmin and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal Francisco André signed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the organizational and financial matters for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference.
- On 26 May 2022, the intergovernmental consultations on the political declaration of the Conference, co-facilitated by Denmark and Grenada, have successfully passed the silence procedure and a draft document is posted on the Conference website.
- The concept papers for the eight interactive dialogues have been issued as pre-session documents and published on the Conference website.
- The panelists/moderators/lead discussants for the interactive dialogues are being finalized. Invitation letters from the Conference Secretary-General have been sent out to those panelists who have already confirmed their participation informally. The co-hosts have also designated co-chairs of each interactive dialogue, one from developed country and one from developing country.
- At present we have 1766 voluntary commitments listed in the online registry managed by DESA. More pledges are expected to be made during the Conference itself where the Secretariat will take note of and include in the final report of the Conference. To register a commitment, please visit: <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/action-networks/ocean-commitments>