DRAFT programme

HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE: OCEANS AND SMALL ISLAND STATES

5 JUNE 2017, 1.15 TO 2.30 PM
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

Co-Organised by

- Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)
- Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)
- SIDS DOCK

For Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the ocean environment is of strategic importance and constitutes a valuable development resource. Therefore, SIDS are at the forefront of the global efforts to ensure the successful implementation of SDG 14. The intimate linkages between oceans and SIDS sustainable development are recognised in the SAMOA Pathway (para 53 to 59), which sets the blueprint for the sustainable development of SIDS.

The Ocean Conference offers a timely opportunity for the international community to strengthen support to SIDS in the implementation of SDG 14, which is cross-cutting theme for the sustainable development of this group of countries.
It is in this context and the spirit of partnerships, that the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) and SIDS DOCK are convening a “High Level Dialogue on Oceans and Small Island States” on 5 June from 1.15 to 2.30 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York.

The high level event will draw upon the national and regional experiences of SIDS through the perspective of political leaders, experts and stakeholders in various aspects pertaining to ocean and seas. The programme will include a high-level dialogue among SIDS leaders followed by presentations by special guests on concrete initiatives to support the implementation of SDG 14 and the Samoa Pathway in SIDS. The event will announce SIDS-specific Voluntary Commitments, which will be presented as a direct contribution to the outcome of the Ocean Conference on behalf of SIDS and their partners.

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Welcome remarks by the co-organisers:
   
   Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High-Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
   
   H.E. Mr. Mohamed Shainee, Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture, Republic of Maldives
   
   Dr. Al Binger, Secretary-General, SIDS DOCK

2. Remarks by Heads of delegations of Member States

3. Guest speakers:
   
   • Dr. Sylvia Earle, Oceanographer and Explorer, Mission Blue, Silvia Earle Alliance
   • Mr. Douglas Frantz, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD
   • Mr. Nishan Degnarain, Chair, Global Agenda Council on Oceans, World Economic Forum
   • Mr. Mr Jonathan Taylor, Vice-President for Climate, European Investment Bank

4. Announcements of SIDS-specific voluntary commitments

5. Concluding Remarks

End

Note: Speakers are kindly reminded to observe the speaking limit of 5 minutes for Heads of State and Heads of delegations and 3 minutes for special guests and announcement of voluntary commitments.