High Level Panel Launch Statements

New York, 24 September 2018
Norway

Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway

Colleagues,

Thank you for accepting my invitation to join the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and for attending the Inaugural meeting. I want to express a special appreciation to President Remengesau as my co-chair.

2030 is only 12 years away. With the Sustainable Development Goals, the world has set high ambitions for itself.

In order to reach the SDGs – on food, jobs, energy, climate, biodiversity – we need to produce more from the ocean. We need the ocean for more food, more jobs, more energy. And we need the ocean for climate and biodiversity.

That’s why we need to manage the ocean better.

And we are here to help the world do just that.

At present the Ocean is under threat.

- From effects of climate change
- From marine litter and pollution
- From illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- From loss of habitat and biodiversity.

These threats undermine the potential of the Ocean. We urgently need to reverse these trends. To build a sustainable Ocean economy it is necessary to stop the degradation of the world’s marine ecosystems and to improve the environmental status of the Ocean.

This is the reason why we have established the Panel. As the only ocean policy body made up of serving world leaders, we have the authority and determination needed to trigger, amplify and accelerate action for Ocean protection and production in policy, governance and finance.

Our goal is to advance a new contract between humanity and the sea that both protects the Ocean and optimizes its value to humankind.

While there has been a recent surge in interest in the Ocean, there is something missing. Many policymakers, business leaders, and other Ocean stakeholders still lack an evidence-based understanding of how sustainable use of the Ocean and its resources will generate higher value creation – and how this will help meet some of our most vital needs: food security, employment, sustainable communities, and building resilience to climate change.

It is fully possible for a diversity of ocean economic activities coexisting with healthy oceans.

To secure the transition to a sustainable Ocean economy, we need all major ocean actors to be part of the solution. Governments, industries, environmental NGOs, researchers.
Thank you very much Prime Minister. When you invited me earlier this year to participate in this Panel I was delighted to do so. I want to reassure you that the new Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Morrison, who succeeded me on 24 August is equally committed to the work of the Panel and has asked me to represent him here today.

I have listened carefully to the other members and I agree with all their observations. I want to thank all of the Panel members who have spoken before me for their insight and I know that each nation represented here is passionately committed to a healthy ocean.

I note the Vice President of Indonesia’s observations about the great efforts and leadership President Jokowi has shown in terms of the blue economy. All of us recognise that the ocean is the source of life. The Prime Minister of Fiji spoke very eloquently about the need to unify actions on ocean and climate. That is a critical commitment. We all understand the impact of climate change and global warming on our oceans. We have in Australia the world’s largest coral reef, the Great Barrier Reef, and with me here is Russell Reichelt, the Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. He and his team and the other scientists involved in the work have been world leaders in maintaining the health of that coral reef – but obviously with global warming we are now seeing bleaching events. The challenge now is to ensure we work together to share our expertise and our research and that we have coral species that are more resilient.

Another important issue for the health of our oceans, and particularly shallow marine environments like coral reefs, is the washing of sediments – in particular nutrients from agricultural lands and indeed from cities – into these shallow coastal waters. Almost half of the $500 million Australian dollars committed recently by my government, as it then was, to the health of the Great Barrier Reef, is being directed at that priority.

Panel members have spoken about waste plastics. The scourge of plastic pollution is one that we all have to address and I want to congratulate the Prime Minister of Jamaica on the issues that he’s tackling. This is something that is within our control to deal with – using less plastic and ensuring that it doesn’t enter the waste stream. I believe that even in those parts of the world where there is scepticism about the science of climate change, surely the need to prevent pollution of the oceans can be recognised.

The bad news is that the health of the ocean is under great stress. But the good news is that there is more awareness of that than ever before. The science is also better than it has been ever before and technologies are available to address these challenges in a manner that haven’t been there before. So we have the tools, and now we must have the will to use them.

I want to touch briefly on a couple of other points which I think should be addressed in addition to those already raised. The case for sustainable farming in the ocean is compelling. We humans consume terrestrial animals but the vast majority of what we consume from the land is farmed, and indeed we consume only a very relatively small number of terrestrial species. The same is not true of the oceans. Most of the fish and sea life that is eaten comes from wild harvest, meaning that it has not been farmed. And we consume hundreds of species as important protein sources. Fish farming presents real challenges in shallow coastal environments where there is limited circulation. We have the technology to do more with large scale fish farming in the open ocean with techniques that are able to protect the structures in the event of high sea states. That’s something that surely we should
be addressing because if the ocean is to be the source of more of our food we should be approaching it in a more systematic and sustainable manner.

I want to conclude by congratulating you Prime Minister Solberg on your leadership in establishing this Panel, and thank your Vice Chair, the President of Palau, as well as all the other members. Australia is an island – one big island and several smaller ones – and in fact in our national anthem we say that we are “girt by sea”, which is a phrase that is rather archaic but everyone is very fond of. So we are very committed, we will not be a passenger in this, and you will find the Australian officials and leaders absolutely committed to the work of this Panel. I think it is timely and a great opportunity to take action that is needed to preserve the health of our oceans which, after all, cover 70 per cent of our planet.

Thank you.
Chile

Ambassador Milenko Skoknic, Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN

Acknowledgements

Chile is an ocean country, with one of the planet’s largest Exclusive Economic Zones and a coastline measuring over 6,400 kilometres. As a vital part of our national development, the ocean thus offers many opportunities but also many challenges in order to reconcile its conservation and sustainable use.

Since it is in our national interest to take action to protect the ocean while deriving maximum benefit from its sustainable use, we seek to align our national efforts and policies with international experience, innovations and best practices.

Accordingly, the President of Chile, Sebastián Piñera, accepted the invitation from the Norwegian Prime Minister, Erna Solberg, for Chile to join this select High-level Panel on Building a Sustainable Ocean Economy. I am honored to represent Chile at the Panel’s first meeting, since the President’s duties in Chile prevented him from attending, as he would have wished.

Our nations, and particularly Chile as an ocean country, have a pressing need to understand the intimate link between the ocean and related sustainable economic activities if we are to devise policies and actions reflecting research and recommendations based on the best available scientific information, on the example of initiatives constituting a virtuous combination of action by governments, the private sector and the community, and on the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals as the framework for our work.

Concerning these Goals, and particularly SDG 14, Chile was an active participant in the first United Nations Ocean Conference held last year in New York and we have formulated and fully met all the voluntary commitments announced at the series of Our Ocean Meetings, one of which we had the privilege of hosting in 2015. I purposely mention this series, to be held this year in Bali, Indonesia, and in Norway and Palau in the coming years, because it is no coincidence that these four nations, united in the Our Ocean series of commitments, are also part of this High-level Panel.

Chile is also deeply committed to other international initiatives associated with the Oceans agenda, such as the Acidification Partnership and the “Because the Ocean” Political Declarations, which we co-sponsored with France and Monaco at the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and which are currently supported by more than 35 States. These declarations emphasize the crucial role played by the Ocean as the principal means of mitigating global warming and CO2 emissions and how relevant it is to focus the Ocean within the respective National Determined Contributions (NDCs) to implement the Paris Agreement.

And any discussion of sustainable ocean economies cannot overlook the fact that Chile is today a global leader as regards Marine Protected Areas (43 per cent of its Exclusive Economic Zone is protected and associated with sustainable, responsible and regulated fishing). In addition, recent Chilean legislation bans plastic bags throughout the country (a real and effective contribution to the solution of the drama of odor micro-pollutants in our Oceans). Also, today we have global-scale salmon aquaculture in our ocean, which has taught us positive and sometimes costly lessons about how to ensure sustainability while developing this activity. This is another major point of similarity between Chile and Norway, which are the world’s two main producers and exporters in a productive ocean industry that wants to be and must be sustainable.
Finally, I should like to note that Chile adopted its first National Ocean Policy at the beginning of this year. This government policy lays solid foundations for future activities by Chile in its Ocean, with an emphasis on: conservation and sustainable use of its resources; prevention of illegal fishing; marine pollution, especially by plastics; the effects of climate change on the ocean; and the challenge of making the ocean one of the pillars of our economic activity, promoting its sustainable, coordinated and informed use and thus ensuring the future of the ocean and its resources.

This is how we envisage our contribution to this High-level Panel and the report that it will issue in 2020, reflecting a clear synergy with our own efforts at the national level and an opportunity to associate ourselves with this great initiative of achieving a new Sustainable Ocean Economy, for the good of our planet and of future generations.

Thank you.
Fiji

J.V. Bainimarama, CF (Mil), OSt.J, MSD, jssc, psc, Prime Minister of Fiji

Excellencies,
Fellow Friends of our Oceans,
Bula Vinaka and good afternoon to you all,

First, I wish to thank and congratulate the leadership of Norway and Palau on this wonderful initiative to bring us together to find ways to navigate the way forward as we face the challenge of both climate change and an ocean that is under unprecedented stress.

In June 2017 Fiji and Sweden co-chaired the first UN Conference on the Ocean, which ended in a call for actions by 2020 and 2030 to ensure that we reach—and preferably surpass—Sustainable Development Goal 14 for a sustainable ocean.

We know that we cannot fulfil the Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees without a much healthier global ocean. The interaction of ocean ecology and climate change is so profound and so intimate that we cannot attempt to solve the crisis of one without confronting the crisis of the other. The global ocean is perhaps the single most-important factor influencing climate, and the ocean both reacts to and influences climate-related events worldwide. We rely on the ocean to absorb carbon dioxide and provide nearly half the oxygen we breathe. But the ocean is at breaking point. In addition, we humans have stressed our oceans through overfishing, pollution, acidification and the sheer weight of human exploitation.

At the COP23 in Bonn in 2017 we launched the Ocean Pathway Partnership to ensure that the ocean is integrated in the UNFCCC process. The actions on oceans and climate must be unified, parallel and properly paced to achieve the greatest effects for both. A healthier ocean is a valuable tool against climate change, and proper actions to mitigate global warming form a valuable tool to save our oceans. We need to create a virtuous cycle that accelerates the improvement of both our global ocean and our global climate.

A sustainable ocean economy is not a choice, it is an imperative. We must rethink and transform the way we operate our economies—and in one sense, the way we live our lives—if we are to roll back the damage being done to our climate and our ocean and become proper stewards of these delicate resources.

I would like to share with you today some brief thoughts that I hope can be considered as we develop the two-year programme for this initiative and the white paper for 2020.

A new relationship of people with the ocean must underpin any new ocean-based economy that is sustainable and responsible. The Fijian people, and the people of all the Pacific islands, have lived harmoniously for thousands of years with our ocean. We are intimately connected with the ocean. The ocean is a living ecosystem that is the source of life to our communities and our islands and essential to our culture.

As we modernise and urbanise, we steadily erode that relationship. We begin to lose touch with the harmony we once had, and we develop a relationship with the ocean that is driven more by exploitation than appreciation. We expect the ocean to provide food, employment, recreation, trade and tourism.
We all must recapture and nurture that respectful relationship we once had with the ocean, or we will be reduced to seeing ocean sustainability as the sum total of the many tasks and policies required to manage extraction and control pollution—not true stewardship founded on a sense of oneness with the seas. We need a change of heart as well as a shift in mindset—about how we will live with the resources we were given.

The Ocean needs a global process that aligns local and national commitments with international targets. We are learning from the UNFCCC that action must be taken at a local and national level to make a difference in climate change, and they must include commitments that are tangible and accountable.

I hope that at the next UN Ocean Conferences in Kenya and Portugal, we will be able to present a clear case for commitments that would be voluntary at first—basically, Nationally Determined Contributions for oceans—and that go hand in hand with the commitments sought in the current negotiations on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

Working together, ocean NDCs and climate NDCs will drive the transformation towards a sustainable ocean economy.

This transformation will require a revolution of sorts. We can’t rely on an evolutionary process, which would be too slow. We need to begin seeing results before it is too late. It is my fervent hope that we develop fundamentally rethink our bilateral and multilateral arrangements and recommend truly innovative strategies for private-sector financing.

We will need solutions, new strategies and financing to:
- to manage fisheries and invest in aquaculture;
- transform our transportation systems and replace our domestic shipping fleets;
- rethink and restructure the way we value and price services provided by the ocean;
- prevent pollution, particularly plastics, toxic chemicals and agricultural runoff;
- invest in ocean-based industries that are sustainable;
- restore ocean health and ecosystems; and
- restore and protect livelihoods of coastal communities.

In April this year, I had the privilege of launching the listing of Fiji’s Green Bond for 50 million US dollars on the London stock exchange to finance climate change and adaptation activities in Fiji. This was just a first step. In fact, we will need to do much more if we hope to transform our economies as quickly and effectively as they need to change.

That will require a diversified portfolio of fiscal measures at a scale we have not considered before. We have two years in this group to develop a way forward in this critical area. It is a burden we share, and we cannot fail.

In Fiji’s incoming role as the Chair of the Pacific Islands Developing States, Fiji will ensure that the Pacific Island states will work on these solutions jointly and with great determination.

Let us each also focus on actions and targets in our own ocean spaces. Just as accountable, effective climate action must take place at the local and national level, so it is with effective actions for ocean health. We sometimes risk losing sight of the responsibility each of us has when the discussion revolves around global targets. We need targets for each ocean and each regional sea if we are to have accountability and real action.
We all need to focus on delivery of results in our EEZs, our regions and each of our oceans and seas that support meeting global targets. This is why the target of setting aside 10 per cent of the ocean as marine protected areas makes sense. It is good to see that the total area covered by Marine Protected Areas globally has increased nearly twenty-fold since 1993 and has more than doubled since 2010 and that we are on track to meet the 10 per cent Sustainable Development Goal 14. Pacific nations, including Palau and Kiribati, have set aside huge areas of their marine territories as MPAs. But now we need accountability.

Nations that have made these commitments need to adopt and strictly enforce laws that make these areas protected in fact, and not just in name. These protected areas need to be managed, and we need to look at ways to protect a wider variety of species and ecosystems.

Finally, I think we have learned one important lesson from our experience fighting global climate change: that sustainability is not the enemy of economic well-being. Quite the opposite is true.

Fast-track actions for sustainable ocean economies will help ensure that a thriving and sustainable ocean will contribute to a thriving global economy. It is up to us to provide the leadership and the commitment that will make sustainable ocean economies a global reality, and I look forward to working with you.

Vinaka vakalevu. Thank you.
Ghana

Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana

“The Global Ocean: Current Challenges, Threats and Opportunities”

- I thank Prime Minister Solberg, my co-Chair for the UN Secretary-General’s Eminent Group of Advocates for the SDGs, for inviting me to be a member of this High-Level Panel.

- I am particularly excited to be a member of this High-Level Panel because of the clear intersection between the purpose of this Panel and the on-going work of the UN Secretary General’s Eminent Group of Advocates for the SDGs, which I have the distinguished honour to co-chair with Prime Minister Solberg.

- Despite the huge economic and sustainable development potential of the oceans and the ocean economy, the oceans clearly are under threat as a consequence of reckless human behaviour.

- Amid an ever-growing global population, the cost of inaction, without any shred of a doubt will be huge; and failure to act now could have catastrophic economic and human consequences over the medium term.

- As a result of the inter-generational dependence on the oceans, we as the present generation, have a moral obligation to halt the degradation of the oceans, as we seek to maximise the benefits of this golden resources bestowed to us by the Almighty God.

- And precisely because the oceans are a global public good, we require nothing short of collective action. The threats to the ocean are a common challenge that indeed require collective action.

- The specific targets under SDGs 14: combating marine pollution, particularly from land-based activities; protection of the marine and coastal ecosystems; addressing ocean acidification; the regulation of harvesting and overfishing from the ocean; the preservation of coastal and marine areas, among are indeed the very issues that confront our ocean world today.

- The challenge is indeed huge, and success will require bold and ambitious actions.

- In Ghana, we are working hard and fully committed to the global efforts to protect the oceans ecosystem, while at the same time optimising its economic and human development value.

- Marine fisheries, for example contribute about 4% to our local GDP and provide livelihood for some 2.5 million people in Ghana.

- And as we seek to optimise the value of the oceans economy, in December last year, I launched a major Marine Drive Tourism and Investment Project, to make good use of the ocean by boosting tourism and increasing economic growth. The project is expected to employ some 150,000 people and contribute to our quest to alleviate poverty and hunger and ensure that our citizens living along the ocean shores live decent and healthy lives.
Crucially, we are also implementing legislation towards the sustainable utilisation of our marine resources. For example, my government has taken a decision to implement a closed season for fishing activities in the country. Effective next year, the month of August will be observed as a closed season where all activities on marine fishing will be suspended.

Distinguished Panel members, as we collectively endeavour to address the threats to the ocean economy, I cannot help but lend my strong voice to the calls for urgent and radical action to address the perverse phenomenon of ocean plastics. We must act Now, and do so robustly.

The challenge may seem daunting. But the world has the wherewithal - the basic science, the technology and innovation - to achieve success. But crucially, what we will need to underpin success will be a smart mix of policy interventions and a strong dose of political will to back up proposed actions.

We must use the report of this High-Level Panel in not only establishing the evidence and in defining an actionable narrative on the ocean economy. Importantly we must use the Report as a Call to Action, and back up implementation of its recommendations with all the global tools and the policy arsenals at our disposal. We must also leverage our collective political influence and build strong partnerships with business leaders and influencers in civil society to drive implementation of the outcome of the Report.

Once again, I thank Prime Minister Solberg for her vision and leadership in putting together this august Panel. I am confident that the output of the work of this Panel will contribute immensely to the transformation of the ocean economy, to the sustainable use of the oceans, and enhance prospects for achieving the SDGs.
Indonesia

M. Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia

Excellencies,
Distinguished Head of States and Governments,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Prime Minister of Norway and the President of Palau for initiating the High Level Panel on Building a Sustainable Ocean Economy.

This Panel is timely, as we further strengthen common efforts to address challenges that threaten our ocean. We hope that such efforts would contribute positively towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal No. 14.

As the largest archipelagic state, Indonesia is blessed with more than 17 thousand islands. We have the second longest coastline, and our seas contain rich marine biodiversity.

Naturally, the ocean is part of our country’s history, culture, and identity. It plays an important role in sustaining economic growth, energy security, food security, and social activities. 2

More recently, these elements are reflected in the Global Maritime Fulcrum, a concept introduced by President Joko Widodo as a means to harness the maritime strengths and resources of our country.

It also envisions Indonesia as a hub for connectivity between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, linking Asia to the rest of the world.

However, in spite of these potentials, there are numerous challenges that threaten to destroy the ocean’s ecosystem. They include:
- The increasing demand for food resulting from the world’s growing population;
- The destruction of coastlines as a result of the uncontrolled growth of urban areas; and
- The growing demand for various other marine products.

Excellencies,
If we continue to exploit our oceans, we may lose:
- Over 50% of the world’s corals and
- 29% of sea grass in the next following years.

Our greediness may result in overfishing, putting major stress on 90% of the globe’s fish stocks.
To overcome these challenges, we must develop and sustain a comprehensive and inclusive efforts.
For its part, Indonesia has initiated various programs in at least three areas:

First, Indonesia recently launched the Indonesia Ocean Policy, which will contribute towards the concrete implementation of the Global Maritime Forum.
It aims at, among others:
- Reducing 75% of marine plastic debris by 2025, and establishing a related National Action Plan that outlines collective efforts at regional and national level;
- Enforcing regulations on illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and
- Completing more than 20 million square kilometers of Marine Protected Areas.
Second, Indonesia stresses the value of aligning and synergizing political commitments at the regional and global fora.

By developing a common platform for interactions and exchanges, we are creating the means to implement our commitments through concrete actions.

And third, our efforts for healthy ocean require partnership and collaboration from all stakeholders. As a way to facilitate this, we are proud to host the upcoming Our Ocean Conference, which will be held in Bali on 29-30 October 2018. We will also be organizing the Archipelagic Island States Forum, in Manado on 1-2 November 2018.

Excellencies,

We hope this panel will produce substantial outcomes and concrete recommendations that could be applied throughout the world. Our aim is to develop a global action plan on building a sustainable ocean economy, which will benefit us all and our future generations.

Thank you.
Mr. Chairman, I am quite honoured to be here, representing the interests of Jamaica, the Caribbean region and indeed all Small Island Developing States. A sustainable Ocean Economy is absolutely critical to achieving sustainable development and indeed prosperity.

As small island and coastal states, our inherent vulnerabilities associated with the size of our economies, geography, and exposure to natural hazards loom large and challenge us to action. Our people are however resilient and focused on the opportunities, not risks! We are focused on ACTION.

Our people, have a clear understanding of the value of a healthy Blue Economy. A high-level panel such as this, is critical because it outlines the way forward, it charts a course that our citizens, the most important stakeholders, can coalesce around.

Today, I have opted to highlight the points which will fit into a similar format for the output document expected in 2020; by sharing some information on Jamaica.

The Jamaican Context
As an archipelagic state, Jamaica has stewardship over marine space 24 times its land space, with an exclusive economic zone of 235,000 square kilometers. More than 100,000 Jamaicans depend directly on the ocean for livelihood and approximately 70% of our population live within 5km of the coast. Therefore, protecting and developing an ocean economy lies at the heart of Jamaica’s economic growth and long-term sustainability. The necessary steps are therefore being taken to build capacity and to reduce our vulnerability.

In Jamaica, over the last few years, key policy and legislative framework documents were completed which enhance protection of our “blue assets”:

- The Government has declared approximately 2,000 km² or 15% of Jamaica’s archipelagic marine resources legally protected. These include 14 Special Fishery Conservation Areas (SFCA) and 2 marine parks.

- We have launched a comprehensive programme of analysis of the systems which manage Jamaica’s protected areas. This is with the view of establishing a mechanism for their comprehensive and integrated management, so as to accurately determine the economic value of marine and coastal ecosystems, to aid in decision making.

- The Government of Jamaica is actively pursuing legislation for a new Fisheries Act, which takes far reaching steps to promote sustainability of our fishery resources.

- Tourism is a major foreign exchange earner and source of employment for Jamaica and indeed the entire Caribbean. This industry is highly susceptible to Climate related vulnerabilities and other external shocks. Jamaica has established “The Tourism Resilience Center” not just for ourselves, but to assist countries in the region, to be more prepared so that we can recover quickly from external shocks.

- The Government of Jamaica has taken additional steps to protect its Coastline and territorial waters from degradation caused by Plastic Waste.
A phased ban on Plastic Straws, Single use carrier/shopping plastic bags and expanded polystyrene containers was announced recently with some measures to take effect as early as January 1, 2019.

Jamaica has further announced the launch of a Plastic Bottle Deposit Scheme which will target removal of 80% of plastic bottles from the waste stream for recycling.

However, despite our active environmental protection & monitoring; the pressures of population growth, economic development and the effects of climate are growing and impacting negatively on the country’s ecosystem, natural land and seascapes. Emphasis is therefore placed on “disaster-proof” development for resilience and sustainability.

Jamaica has taken its responsibility to the Global Community seriously. In addition to hosting the International Seabed Authority, we are a party to several Conventions related to the health of oceans, which include:

a) **The UN Law of the Sea Convention**
   - Jamaica is currently engaged in the negotiation of a global mechanism to address biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

b) **The Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.** Jamaica has ratified two of the three Protocols under this Convention.

c) **The CARICOM Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)** - which promotes and facilitates the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources.

d) **The Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI)** – its objective being the protection and sustainable management of 20% of the Caribbean’s marine and coastal ecosystems by the year 2020.

e) As party to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, Jamaica is committed to the achievement of the Convention’s 17 Biodiversity targets.

**Closing Remarks**

Jamaica is focused on inclusive prosperity that all people deserve. Our context demands that we protect our Blue Economy and indeed rapidly develop its potential. As we honour our individual responsibilities, the shared importance of a sustainable Blue Economy is critical for the results we want – sustainable growth and social inclusion. I call on all present here today, to use their collective weight to push the global community to provide the necessary assistance to the most vulnerable states, who also have the greatest potential for sustainable growth from the Blue Economy.

I endorse the direction of the road map that this High Level Panel seeks to develop - “The Ocean Economy, The Urgency of Today, The Possibility of tomorrow, & Charting the Course Ahead”.

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Japan

Ambassador Hideo Suzuki, Ambassador, Assistant Minister for Global Issues

Excellency, Ms. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway,
Excellency, Mr. Tommy Remengesau, President of the Republic of Palau
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished delegates,

Our ocean has opened up a tremendous opportunity to mankind, through new energy-source development and utilization of its generous resources in the ocean.

On the other hand, numerous issues have emerged -- such as overfishing, resulting in depletion in aquatic resources; plastic litters in the oceans; and ocean acidification arising from the effects of climate change.

It is our collective responsibility to pass on a beautiful and productive ocean to our future generations, so that they can also continue to benefit from the marine ecosystem.

It is from this perspective that the High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy is significant, contributing to the achievements of SDGs, namely the Goal 14. And I would like to highly commend Prime Minister Solberg for taking on this important initiative.

With regard to the panel, I would like to raise two important perspectives that, in my view, warrant closer attention during the discussions.

First, is the importance of strictly enforcing the rule of law in all matters related to the oceans. Unless rule-based uses of the oceans including freedom of navigation are guaranteed, it is not possible to build a sustainable ocean economy.

Second, is the importance of harmonizing the use and the conservation of the ocean. The two are not in conflict with one another, on the contrary. Ocean conservation, based on science, enables sustainable use of the ocean. And a broader understanding of the importance of ocean conservation stems from actually using the oceans.

From these perspectives, I would like to identify three issues to be addressed at the panel.

First, is the issue of marine plastic litter. Marine plastic litter will harm the marine ecosystem, and also would impact our health. Furthermore, it may affect livelihoods and economies that are based on the oceans, through adverse impact on industries such as fisheries and tourism. Measures to address the problem of marine plastic litter, therefore, can no longer wait. All countries, each one of us must now take action, as it relates to our own existence. It is my hope that we can deepen discussions on how to tackle this growing problem at this panel.

Taking advantage of our technologies and expertise on waste management and 3Rs --- “Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle”, Japan has been driving international cooperation in knowledge sharing for the promotion of 3Rs by introducing plants that transfer wastes into energy; and improving waste collection and disposal system, among others. We are already seeing increasing positive actions to tackle this issue among developing countries. Japan with partners will collaborate with all parties concerned, both locally and internationally, sharing our technologies and expertise.
As the Chair of the G20 Osaka Summit next year, I would also like to announce that the Summit will highly feature Ocean Plastic Wastes on the agenda. At the Osaka Summit, Japan is aiming to announce a robust initiative for effective measures to tackle this problem, and lead to global partnership to resolve this issue.

The second issue that I believe the panel should address is the effect of climate change on the oceans. Rising sea temperatures and ocean acidification from the effect of climate change are causing abnormal weather patterns and coral bleaching. The panel may seek to address this issue, including how to assist Small Island Developing States that are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

The third issue that warrants discussion at the panel is the problem of sustainable fishery. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing remains a threat to the sustainable use of marine living resources. Enforcing the rule of law on the seas and eradicating IUU fishing, thereby protecting sustainable fisheries should be a common benefit to the global community. It is my hope that this panel will address future measures on this issue.

The future of this planet is inherently tied to our ocean. The High Level Panel should offer a vision and a way forward for our ocean’s future through extensive discussions.

Thank you for your attention.
México

Enrique Peña Nieto, Former President of Mexico

INAUGURACIÓN DEL PANEL DE ALTO NIVEL PARA UNA ECONOMÍA OCEÁNICA SOSTENIBLE

- Para México, es un alto honor participar en el Panel de Alto Nivel para una Economía Oceánica Sostenible.
- Repito a la Primera Ministra de Noruega, Erna Solberg, nuestro respaldo absoluto a su convocatoria para definir las directrices globales que aseguren la gobernanza de los océanos con un enfoque de sostenibilidad.
- En este foro convergen la evidencia científica de connotados expertos y el conocimiento práctico de los sectores social y privado, esenciales para explorar nuevas soluciones de política pública, tecnología y financiamiento.

HACIA UNA ALIANZA GLOBAL

- Compartimos el reto de perfilar las líneas de acción para lograr una economía oceánica sostenible y de sumar a esta visión de desarrollo a otros países.
- México trabajará especialmente con Chile y Jamaica para que más naciones hermanas de América Latina y el Caribe se integren a esta causa.
- La única manera de asegurar la viabilidad de esta iniciativa es que sea una alianza global por el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 14, vida subacuática.
- Se deben establecer los mecanismos para incorporar a más países.

MÉXICO, COMPROMETIDO CON LA CAUSA AMBIENTAL

- Si bien en México está por cambiar el Gobierno Federal, sepan que las autoridades entrantes tendrán los elementos necesarios para cumplir los acuerdos y compromisos internacionales en favor del medio ambiente.
- En particular, la preservación de la riqueza de los océanos es prioritaria.
  - Superficie marina de más de 3 millones de km².
  - Más de 11 mil km de costas, de las cuales viven 30 millones de personas.
- De ahí nuestra firme determinación de alcanzar un equilibrio entre crecimiento económico, seguridad alimentaria y conservación de los ecosistemas.
- Para lograrlo, hemos fortalecido nuestras acciones dirigidas a:
  - Fomentar la pesca y acuacultura sostenibles, y combatir la pesca ilegal.
  - Conservar las especies marinas y reducir la contaminación de océanos.
  - Aumentar la superficie marina bajo régimen de protección ambiental.
    - En México se protegen 70 millones de hectáreas de zonas marinas, destacando el Parque Nacional Archipiélago de Revillagigedo (15 millones).
    - Con ello, México ha duplicado el cumplimiento de la meta de Aíchi (10% de la superficie marina).
  - México promueve el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad marina, más allá de la jurisdicción nacional, en el marco de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar (CONVEMAR).

PROPUESTA DE MÉXICO CONTRA EL SARGAZO

- Estamos dispuestos a compartir nuestras experiencias exitosas y a ampliar nuestros programas de cooperación con los países que lo requieran, a fin de enriquecer la hoja de ruta para construir una economía oceánica sostenible.
• Aprovecho este foro privilegiado para plantear la incorporación de un tema importante para México relacionado con los océanos:
• Establecer una estrategia conjunta para encontrar soluciones científicas a la llegada atípica de sargazo a los litorales del Atlántico Poniente.
✓ El arribo masivo de esta alga puede tener graves repercusiones ambientales, económicas y sociales, especialmente para países del Caribe.
  ➢ Es un fenómeno que afecta a la biodiversidad y a los recursos marinos, lo mismo que al turismo, la pesca y los proyectos de energía renovable.
• Para elaborar una respuesta conjunta, proponemos una Conferencia Regional ─con el apoyo de la ONU─, en la que se analicen factores como el cambio climático, la conservación de la biodiversidad y la contaminación marina.
• Sé que el propósito de este Panel es definir las grandes directrices para lograr una economía oceánica sostenible, pero también creo que la gobernanza marina se fortalece mediante la solución de problemas específicos.
✓ Superar juntos el reto que nos plantea la llegada masiva de sargazo a las costas es un ejemplo de lo mucho que este grupo de trabajo puede lograr.

MENSAJE FINAL
• Hago un respetuoso llamado a los panelistas para mantener un sentido de urgencia en nuestros trabajos, a partir de las siguientes premisas:
✓ Nuestras acciones son un imperativo ético, porque el patrimonio marino pertenece a las generaciones de hoy y también a las del futuro.
✓ La causa que defendemos es socialmente necesaria, económicamente viable y ambientalmente urgente.
✓ La conciencia de que la vida submarina está íntimamente relacionada con todos los demás Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible que aspiramos a 2030.
• El mar NO tiene fronteras y el compromiso para proteger el planeta tampoco debe tenerlas.
• La lucha en favor de los océanos merece la unión de las capacidades y las inteligencias de todos.
Namibia

Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia

Your Excellency Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway;

Your Excellency Tommy Remengesau, President of Palau;

Your Excellencies Presidents and Prime Ministers of the other 10 of the 12 members of the High-Level Panel on Sustainable Oceans Economy;

Distinguished Sherpas of the 12-member countries of the High-Level panel on Building a Sustainable Oceans Economy;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I wish to congratulate, on behalf of the people of Namibia, Her Excellency Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, for initiating and convening this important Panel, which I fully support. I have appointed Honourable Bernhard Esau, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, which is our coordinating ministry on blue economy issues, to be my personal representative (Sherpa) in this important Panel.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Our oceans are key to survival of humanity. Our oceans influence global weather patterns, global carbon dioxide and oxygen concentrations, which in turn affect global warming and life on earth as we know it. Our oceans supply humanity with fish, and contain important mineral and energy deposits which are an economic mainstay of many countries, including Namibia. Unfortunately, our oceans are currently experiencing great challenges, ranging from global warming, ocean acidification, marine pollution including plastic pollution, dumping of toxic waste, Illegal Unreported and Unrecorded (IUU) fishing, and unsustainable exploitation of its living marine resources. There is therefore a need for the world to urgently work together to address these challenges, if the oceans are to continue sustaining life on earth.

Namibia is highly dependent on ocean economy for its development. As part of our blue economy, we have a vibrant and rich fisheries sector, located in the upwelling Benguela current system in the South Atlantic Ocean, an important marine diamond mining sector, maritime transport and marine tourism activities.

Namibia has, right from its independence, invested heavily in scientific assessments, monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) and other management measures aimed at protecting our marine resources. We are currently implementing initiatives aimed at maximising economic contribution of our marine resources to poverty eradication and economic inclusivity. Namibia takes seriously the sustainability of our ocean resources. We have included in our Constitution a provision to use our resources sustainably, including our marine resources. We are keen to ensure that we can continue our marine mining in ways that minimise its impact on our marine ecosystem, thus ensuring sustainability of our fisheries and other living marine resources. In this regard, Namibia is currently developing a Blue Ocean policy to coordinate economic activities in our part of the South Atlantic Ocean. Namibia therefore considers this Panel process as an opportune forum to share our experiences and shape debate and action on sustainable ocean economies.
Namibia is the Chairpersonship of SADC, which brings together central and southern African countries. Namibian is also host nation for South Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), which brings together Angola, the European Union, Iceland, Namibia, Norway, Republic of Korea, South Africa, United Kingdom (on behalf of St. Helena) and United States of America. Namibia is also the Chairperson of the Benguela Current Commission (BCC), which brings together Angola, Namibia and South Africa to sustainably co-manage the Benguela Large Marine Ecosystem.

Namibia is therefore keen to not only participate in this process, but also leverage support for the Panel process from member states in these organizations. In addition, we will explore how we can use the experiences and best practices in this Panel process to inform and shape debate on sustainable ocean economy governance activities at BCC, SADC and the AU. I also take note of the important work being done at the Oceans entitative, which concluded a successful conference in Lisbon Portugal last week, and Our Oceans initiative which will be meeting in November in Bali. I am happy to note that these initiatives are all working together with this High-Level Panel to ensure that the world through the UN, reaches a decisive and binding agreement on actions to save our oceans when we meet in Lisbon in 2020 on this matter.

In conclusion, Namibia’s economic future, and fulfilment of SDGs is highly dependent on our ocean economy. I suppose that this is also true for many, if not all the countries represented in this Panel. I therefore consider this High-Level Panel on Ocean Economies as a great opportunity participate in informing and shaping tangible global action on ensuring the health of our oceans.

Let us together consider the cleanliness and health of our oceans, and shape the debate and action necessary to ensure sustainability of its resources. The livelihoods of our people and indeed humanity, depends on our collective ability to take urgent action to sustain our Oceans.

I thank You.
Portugal

Ana Paula Vitorino, Minister of the Sea

The High Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economy is a key initiative that will generate strategic proposals on policy, science, technology and innovation that will pave the way for a blue economy that delivers growth with environmental benefits and well paid jobs.
HIGH LEVEL PANEL for
A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY

Inaugural Meeting

High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy

24 September 2018
17:30 – 19:30

Meeting Report

Founders Room, Museum of Modern Art
11 W 53rd St, New York, NY 10019, USA
Inaugural Meeting of the
High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy

The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy on 24th September 2018 at the Founders Room, Museum of Modern Art, New York. L to R: H.E. Peter Thomson, UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, Vice President Jusuf Kalla, Indonesia (representing President Joko Widodo), H.E. Malcolm Turnbull, former Prime Minister of Australia (representing Prime Minister Scott Morrison); President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Republic of Ghana; Prime Minister Andrew Holness, Jamaica; President Tommy Remengesau, Jr., Republic of Palau; Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, Fiji; Ana Paula Vitorino, Minister of Sea, Portugal (representing Prime Minister António Luís Santos da Costa); Prime Minister Erna Solberg, Norway; Ambassador Hideo Suzuki, Assistant Minister for Global Issues/Director-General for Global Issues, Japan (representing Prime Minister Shinzō Abe); President Enrique Peña Nieto, Mexico; President Hage Geingob, Namibia; H.E. Milenko E. Skoknic Tapia, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations (representing President Sebastián Piñera).

Background
The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (HLP) came together in New York City on the 24 September 2018 to begin working on an assessment of the value of ocean goods and services in economic planning, and support the sustainable use of ocean resources. Co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg and President of the Republic of Palau, Tommy Esang Remengesau, Jr., the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy consists of 12 heads of government and is supported by the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean. This marks the first time serving heads of government have joined forces on a global approach to protect the world’s ocean.

Goods and services from the ocean amount to about US$2.5 trillion each year—an amount expected to double by 2030. The ocean supports a multitude of industries, including fishing, shipping, transportation, energy generation and tourism, and is of increasing interest to mining and biomedical
companies. The ocean feeds 3 billion people, who depend on the sea for their primary source of protein.

**Meeting Opening**
The first meeting of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy was opened by its Co-Chairs Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg and President of the Republic of Palau, Tommy Remengesau, Jr.

In her opening remarks Prime Minister Solberg noted that “We are dependent on a clean and healthy ocean, and all use of marine resources must be sustainable. As the only ocean policy body consisting of serving world leaders, we have the authority and determination needed to trigger and accelerate action for ocean protection and production. We need to find common solutions – to develop and implement comprehensive, effective regulation and an integrated ocean management regime. This is truly a test of our ability to deliver a healthier planet and ocean to the next generation.”

President Remengesau noted in his opening statement "for Palau, the ocean is at the center of our life, culture, and identity. Its capacity to provide for our needs is immense, but it is not without limits. Humanity must learn the lessons of small islands and respect our ocean, or we risk losing many of its gifts for good.”

Following these opening statements the meeting reverted to a Chatham House rule and the media were asked to leave.

The agenda for the meeting that was then followed and the key participants can be found in Annex 1 and 2 respectively.

**Views from the High Level Panel Members**
The HLP Co-Chairs invited the panel members to in turn provide their views on the current challenges, threats and opportunities related to the global ocean and where they think the HLP should be prioritizing. While each statement made is provided in full in Annex 3 of this report, for the purposes of this report a short quote from each HLP member is provided here:

**Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Australia**
“Our future prosperity is closely linked to the health of the ocean, and the establishment of the High Level Panel comes at a critical time. Australia shares the Panel’s interest in building a sustainable ocean economy that supports a clean, healthy ocean environment.”

**President Sebastián Piñera, Chile**
“In the vision Chile has of its ocean, we endeavour to take into account: Sustainability to protect and conserve it; Consciousness of its social and economic resources; Safety for the activities that take place in it; Education about the natural laboratory for scientific research that it represents; Inspiration from this cultural heritage and identity and more Awareness regarding natural disasters and the impact of human activities.” (Vision established in the National Oceanic Policy of Chile, approved in March 2018)

**Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, Republic of Fiji**
“Our oceans would be in trouble even if the world’s climate was not changing—from overfishing, pollution, acidification and the sheer weight of human exploitation. But the interaction of ocean ecology and climate change is so profound and so intimate that we cannot attempt to solve the crisis of one without confronting the crisis of the other.”
President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Republic of Ghana

“Amid an ever-growing global population, the cost of inaction on the challenges that confront the ocean economy without a shred of a doubt will be huge. Failure to act now could have catastrophic economic, environmental and human consequences over the medium-term.”

President Joko Widodo, Republic of Indonesia

“As the largest archipelagic state, the ocean is very important to Indonesia. The ocean is embodied with our nation’s history and culture. It is also an important source of economy, social activities, climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as biodiversity. We highly appreciate Prime Minister of Norway for establishing the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. We are honored to be part of the Panel. Indonesia hopes that the Panel will produce a substantial outcome and recommendations, and develop a global action plan for a sustainable ocean economy, for the benefit of us all and our future generations.”

Prime Minister Andrew Michael Holness, Jamaica

“The ocean truly connects all of us, it provides life and livelihood. The opportunities from the ocean are immeasurable, however the risks posed from its continued abuse are frightening. Jamaica is a prime example of this. We face the risks that all SIDS face because of climate change, and stand to gain immensely from improvements in ocean health. As such we are committed to all initiatives which contribute to ocean health. We are also very happy to be a part of this High Level Panel, and expect that the solutions arrived at will be achievable, and measurable.”

Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, Japan

“The High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy contributes to the achievements of SDGs such as Goal 14, and I would like to highly commend Prime Minister Solberg for taking on this initiative. This Panel’s discussion should focus on strictly enforcing the rule of law in the ocean and harmonizing ocean use and science-based conservation of the oceans. The three issues that should be addressed at the panel are the problems of marine plastic litter, the effect of climate change on the oceans, and tackling illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Among these issues, measures to address the problem of marine plastic litter can no longer wait. Japan would like to contribute to the global community, using our technologies and expertise on this issue. As Chair of the G20 Osaka Summit next year, I would like to announce that the Summit will feature Ocean Plastic Wastes on the agenda. At the Osaka Summit, Japan would like to announce an initiative for effective measures to tackle this problem, and drive global measures to help resolve this issue.”

President Enrique Peña Nieto, United Mexican States

“The actions that we take to preserve our oceans are a moral imperative because we owe them to future generations. These measures are both socially and economically needed, since they respond to the immediate interest of our communities, and create development opportunities and welfare for our countries.”

President Hage Gottfried Geingob, Republic of Namibia

“In line with Article 95(l) of our Constitution, Namibia is committed to utilize our ocean’s natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future. This is a blue circular economy principle, which is in line with SDG 14, and which we are committed to fulfill.”

Prime Minister António Costa, Portugal

“More than 97% of Portugal’s territory is ocean. It holds the promise of immense resource wealth and great potential for boosting economic growth, employment and innovation. Realizing the full potential of the ocean will therefore demand responsible, sustainable approaches to its economic development,
based on high quality science and good regulation. There is no plan B for a sustainable ocean policy, pragmatic, that delivers solid and practical results!”

**UNSG’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson**, emphasized the importance of the High Level Panel’s work in restoring humanity’s relationship with the ocean to one of respect and balance. “SDG14 calls for conservation and sustainable use of the ocean’s resources,” he said. “The High Level Panel will guide us towards the right balance between protection, production and prosperity.”

**The Panel Architecture and Report**

The Norwegian Special Envoy for the Ocean, Vidar Helegsen, was invited by the HLP Co-Chairs to provide an overview of the Panels Architecture and an introduction to the initial thinking on the outline of the report.

The High Level Panel brings together serving heads of government who recognize that economic production and ocean protection must be mutually supporting if we are to “produce, protect and prosper.”

Members of the Panel represent countries large and small, and at all stages of development, with special attention to low-income countries, small island states, and communities that rely on the ocean for their survival. This diversity extends to the Expert Group, Advisory Network and Secretariat who will support the Panel with analytical work, communications and stakeholder engagement.

The Secretariat is based at World Resources Institute, which has created a team of globally-recognized experts on ocean economics, governance, technology and science.

The objective of the High Level Panel is to build a new, shared understanding of the current and potential future state of ocean economy and ecology, and generate a set of policy, governance, technology and investment solutions aimed at catalyzing a truly Sustainable Ocean Economy.

The Panel will produce a final report and suite of bold but pragmatic recommendations that are a roadmap for aligning robust economic development – especially in the developing world – with protecting the vital natural capital of the ocean.

The goal is for top decision-makers around the world to recognize that economic production and ocean protection must be mutually supporting, and that striking the right balance between use and conservation of the ocean will lead to stronger productivity, job creation, food security, and regional stability at the same time as a more vibrant, healthy ocean.

**Meeting Close**

The meeting ended with concluding remarks from the HLP Co-Chairs Prime Minister Solberg and President Remengesau. The Co-Chairs requested that the HLP members and their Sherpas remain engaged on the work of the Panel and that they be proactive in their pursuit of ideas and action, at the regional and global level, which the HLP could undertake in addition to the Final Report in June 2020. Members were also requested to promote the work of the HLP and find opportunities to meet with each other and their counterparts in other countries to seek input to the work of the Panel. It was agreed that the next full meeting of the High Level Panel on a Sustainable Ocean Economy would be in September 2019 in the margins once again of the UN General Assembly. In the meantime Sherpas shall continue to meet.
**Annex 1**  
*Agenda for the Inaugural Meeting*  
*High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy*  
*24 September 2018*  
*17:30 – 19:30*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>17:30</td>
<td><em>High Level Panel Family Photo</em></td>
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<td>17:35</td>
<td><em>Opening by High Level Panel Co-Chairs</em></td>
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<td>17:45</td>
<td><em>The Global Ocean: Current Challenges, Threats and Opportunities</em></td>
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<td>Views from the High Level Panel Members (5 minutes each)</td>
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<td>UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean</td>
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<td>18:50</td>
<td><em>The Panel Architecture and Report</em></td>
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<td>- Introduction to the Architecture of the Panel (5 min)</td>
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<td>- Introduction to the outline of the Report (5 min)</td>
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<td>- Discussion (20 minutes)</td>
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<td>19:20</td>
<td><em>Final Remark by High Level Panel Co-Chairs</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>President Tommy Remengesau, Jr., Republic of Palau</td>
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<td>Prime Minister Erna Solberg, Norway</td>
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<td>19:30</td>
<td><em>Meeting Ends</em></td>
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### Annex 2

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Hon Malcolm Turnbull</td>
<td>Former Prime Minister</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Dr Russell Reichelt</td>
<td>Sherpa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Ms Suzi Heaton</td>
<td>Adviser to the Sherpa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Ambassador Milenko Skoknic</td>
<td>Chile's Permanent Representative to the United Nations</td>
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<td>Chile</td>
<td>Isauro Torres</td>
<td>Ambassador, Director of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>Chile</td>
<td>Javier Gorostegui</td>
<td>Legal Adviser of Chile Mission to UN</td>
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<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Frank Bainimarama</td>
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<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Taholo Kami</td>
<td>Special Representative - Ocean</td>
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<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Yogesh Karan</td>
<td>Permanent Secretary to the PM</td>
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<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Ambassador Solo Mara OR</td>
<td>Ambassador to the United States Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN</td>
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<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Eugene Owusu</td>
<td>Special Advisor to the President on the SDGs</td>
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<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Hon Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey</td>
<td>Minister of Foreign Affairs</td>
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<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Hon Prof George Gyan Baffour</td>
<td>Minister of Planning</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Muhammad Jusuf Kalla</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Susi Pudjiastuti</td>
<td>Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djan</td>
<td>Permanent Representative to the UN in New York</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Ambassador Mohammad Oemar</td>
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<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>Andrew Holness</td>
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<td>H. E. Mr. Rafael Pacchiano</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Paulina Terrazas Valdés</td>
<td>Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Presidency</td>
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<td>Namibia</td>
<td>Dr Hage G. Geingob</td>
<td>Prime Minister</td>
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<td>Hon. Bernhardt Esau</td>
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<td>Ambassador Neville Gertze</td>
<td>Permanent Representative of Namibia to the UN</td>
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<td>Dr John Steytler</td>
<td>Economic Adviser to the President</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>Erna Solberg</td>
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<td>Vidar Helgesen</td>
<td>Sherpa, Special Envoy</td>
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<td>Sunniva Ihle Steinstad</td>
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<td>Georg Børstring</td>
<td>Policy Director (HLP team)</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>Geir Sjøberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>Tommy Esang Remengesau, Jr</td>
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<td>Palau</td>
<td>Hon. Emais Roberts</td>
<td>MD, Minister of Health</td>
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<td>Palau</td>
<td>Mr Rebludd Kesolei</td>
<td>Deputy Chief of Staff of President</td>
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<td>Palau</td>
<td>Ngedikes Olai Uludong</td>
<td>Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the UN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Ana Paula Vitorino</td>
<td>HE the Minister for the Sea of the Portuguese Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Rúben Eiras</td>
<td>Director General for Ocean Policy</td>
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<td>Ines Aguiar Branco</td>
<td>Adviser for Ocean Governance</td>
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<td>Sérgio Carvalho</td>
<td>Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations</td>
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<td>United Nations</td>
<td>Peter Thomson</td>
<td>United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean</td>
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<td>United Nations</td>
<td>Tomas Anker Christensen</td>
<td>Ambassador</td>
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Annex 3

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Secretariat/WRI</td>
<td>Kristian Teleki</td>
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<td>Sophie Wood (notetaker)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretariat/WRI</td>
<td>Katie Flanagan (notetaker)</td>
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<td>FOA</td>
<td>Gaia Felber</td>
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<td>WRI</td>
<td>Andrew Steer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisory</td>
<td>Maria Damanaki</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Advisor</td>
<td>Kristin Rechberger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expert Group</td>
<td>Jane Lubchenco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expert Group</td>
<td>Mari Pangestu</td>
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