

# Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action Webinar Series: Local and Regional Government Participation and Engagement, 23 June 2020

## SUMMARY

### 1. Background

Convened by the General Assembly of the United Nations and co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, the “[2020 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](#)” will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, under the overarching theme: “*Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions*”.

In light of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and as per the General Assembly decision co-hosts of the Conference, the governments of Kenya and Portugal, in consultation with the General Assembly, will decide on future dates for the Conference, including timelines for the preparatory process.

With the aim of keeping the momentum towards Ocean action, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs is working with partners in the organization of a series of sectoral webinars to connect, mobilize and bring new ideas from stakeholders towards the preparation and outreach of the UN Ocean Conference, including the compilation of new Commitments of Ocean Action and progress on previous commitments made in connection with the 2017 UN Ocean Conference.

### 2. Local and Regional Government Sector Participation and Engagement Webinar – 23 June 2020



#### LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Engaging local and regional governments in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, Life Below Water, is essential in the transition towards a clean, blue and just ocean economy. Join our webinar to mobilize stakeholders from local and regional governments, share information and brainstorm ideas on how to strengthen the momentum for ocean action amongst local and regional governments during the preparatory process of the 2020 UN Ocean Conference.

This session of the four-part series “Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action” is a joint effort from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Cities and Local Governments, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service.

TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2020  
9:30 - 11 A.M. EDT

Register here by 21 June:  
<https://bit.ly/LocalRegGovMomentum>



As a part of DSDG’s webinar series “**Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action**” and a joint effort from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Cities and Local Governments, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, the webinar mobilized representatives from local and regional governments, shared information and collected ideas and proposals on how to keep the momentum towards Ocean Action and further raise engagement of local and regional governments in the lead-up to the UN Ocean Conference.

The webinar had 404 registered participants from around 71 countries. Around 210 attendees followed the discussion live and more than 125 have watched the [recording on YouTube](#) (as of 24 August 2020).

Opening remarks were delivered by Alex Trepelkov, Officer in Charge of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), representatives from the co-hosts of the UN Ocean Conference, Kenya and Portugal, and Dr. Mohamed Boudra, Mayor of Al Hoceima, President of the Moroccan Association of Municipal Councils and President of United Cities and Local Governments. The keynote address was delivered by the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson, and experiences on implementing ocean action were shared by representatives of local and regional governments from all over the world. The inputs, discussions and interventions highlighted the importance of the participation and collaboration by local and regional governments towards keeping the momentum for ocean action in the lead-up to the Ocean Conference and in building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 3. Summary of Discussions

#### 3.1 Opening Remarks



**Mr. Alex Trepelkov**, Officer in Charge from the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) opened the webinar and underlined the importance of using the 2030 Agenda as a roadmap for action and sustainable development in light of the COVID-19 crisis and postponement of the UN Ocean

Conference. Mr. Trepelkov stressed the relevance of the UN Ocean Conference theme of “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions” and the essential role local and regional governments have in progressing this initiative.



Representatives of the co-hosts of the UN Ocean Conference, Kenya and Portugal also addressed the audience. **Ambassador Francisco Duarte Lopes**, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, and **Professor Micheni Ntiba**, Principal Secretary for Fisheries and the Blue Economy of the Republic of Kenya, reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to the UN Ocean Conference and incorporating all relevant stakeholders in order to achieve full implementation of SDG 14. Both Ambassador Lopes and Professor Ntiba reinforced the importance of local and regional governments as first responders to ocean issues and underlined their key role in

mobilizing citizens and communities.



Finally, **Dr. Mohamed Boudra**, Mayor of Al Hoceima, President of the Moroccan Association of Municipal Councils and President of United Cities and Local Governments, highlighted the importance of taking action for the oceans and seizing the opportunity presented by the COVID-19 pandemic to build back better. Dr. Boudra pointed to local and regional governments as being essential in protecting ocean industries, such as tourism and sustainable fishing, and first witnesses to the effects of ocean issues. For this reason, local and regional governments must be incorporated and heard in multilateral processes to make effective change for the generations to come.

### 3.2 Keynote Address



In a keynote address, the Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, **Ambassador Peter Thomson**, emphasized that so much of what needs to be accomplished to achieve SDG 14 comes down to the policy, programs and projects that are being applied at the local and regional realms of government. Ambassador Thomson emphasized the opportunity to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, through a "blue-green recovery road," and by implementing solutions that will prevent the long-term consequences and revert past methods that were dependent on fossil fuels. Ambassador Thomson concluded by urging participants to use the event as an opportunity to learn from the shared experiences and increase collaboration in follow-up in and between networks of local and regional governments.

### 3.3 Panel Discussions

Two panel discussions provided concrete inputs and recommendations as to how local and regional governments can mobilize in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the lead-up to the UN Ocean Conference.

The first panel, "*Mobilizing Local and Regional Governments towards Ocean Action: Showcasing local challenges and forward-looking perspectives.*" focused on questions of how local and regional governments can contribute to the implementation of SDG 14. **Dr. Leo Brewster**, Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy in Barbados, shared his perspective on the need for community buy-in and trust that must be engrained across all activities at the local and regional government level. **Mr. Emil Dardak**, Vice Governor of East Java in Indonesia, described his experience implementing ocean zoning policy to ensure harmony in the usage of the ocean across activities such as fishing, mining and tourism. **Mr. Pedro Joaquin Delbouis**, Mayor of Cozumel, Mexico, flagged the level of ocean protection in his region and registered his concerns with the impacts of climate change. With

regards to COVID-19, Mayor Delbouis mentioned that, although internal efforts managed to contain the advance of the epidemic in the island, they are currently facing the challenge of reopening tourist services while maintaining the pandemic under control. Finally, **Major Lloyd Jones**, Technical Advisor to the Mayor of Belize City, shared some of the challenges Belize City has faced regarding synchronicity between the national and local and regional governments and solutions implemented to effectively continue progress on SDG 14.

The second panel, *“Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action: Local and Regional Governments leadership in the COVID-19 era,”* focused on expectations and strategies for engagement of local and regional governments in the lead-up to the UN Ocean Conference. **Ms. Birgitta Liss Lymer**, Director of Water Resources at the Stockholm International Water Institute, discussed source-to-sea management and the benefits of collaboration between levels of government to increase engagement and effectiveness. **Mr. Sergio Graf**, Secretary for Environment of the State of Jalisco in Mexico, reinforce the importance of collaborative efforts between sub-national governments and shared the experience of the “Governors’ Alliance for the Climate”. With regards to COVID-19, strengthening the collaboration between the productive sector, environmental protection and tourism will be even more necessary and sub-national governments are fundamental in supporting local communities in this regard. **Ms. Joana Pinto Balsemão**, City Councillor from Cascais in Portugal, shared Cascais’ experience leading innovative coastal research to gain concrete insights into the city’s needs and progress on scientifically-backed policy. Lastly, **Ms. Lisa Helps**, Mayor of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada, underlined the tools that ocean cities have already created for addressing SDG 14 and the need for increased dialogues and fora in the lead-up to the conference to share this knowledge. Ms. Helps proposed the organization of a “Mayors’ Ocean Forum” during the UN Ocean Conference.

### 3.4 Interactive Dialogue

The next session included interventions from eight pre-selected speakers<sup>1</sup> focusing on ideas and inputs on how local and regional government can work to build back better after the COVID-19 pandemic in supporting SDG 14 implementation. Interventions were made by:

- **Future Ocean Alliance**, Ms. Isabel Torres de Noronha (Portugal)
- [Ocean Policy Research Center of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation](#), Mr. Masanori Kobayashi (Japan)
- **ICLEI**, Ms. Kobie Brand (South Africa)
- [International Dialogues on Underwater Munitions](#), Mr. Terrance Patrick Long (Canada)
- [Associação Brasileira de Combate ao Lixo Marinho](#), Ms. Marlise Araujo (Brazil)
- [Green Hope Foundation](#), Mr. Kehkashan Basu (Canada)
- [Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future](#), Mr. Charles Allen Nouhan (USA)
- **Common Seas**, Mr. Peter Chauvel (United Kingdom)
- [KIMO International](#), Arabelle Bently (UK)

<sup>1</sup> Speakers indicated their interest in making an intervention when registering to attend the webinar. The review of applications was conducted by UN DESA and UCLG.

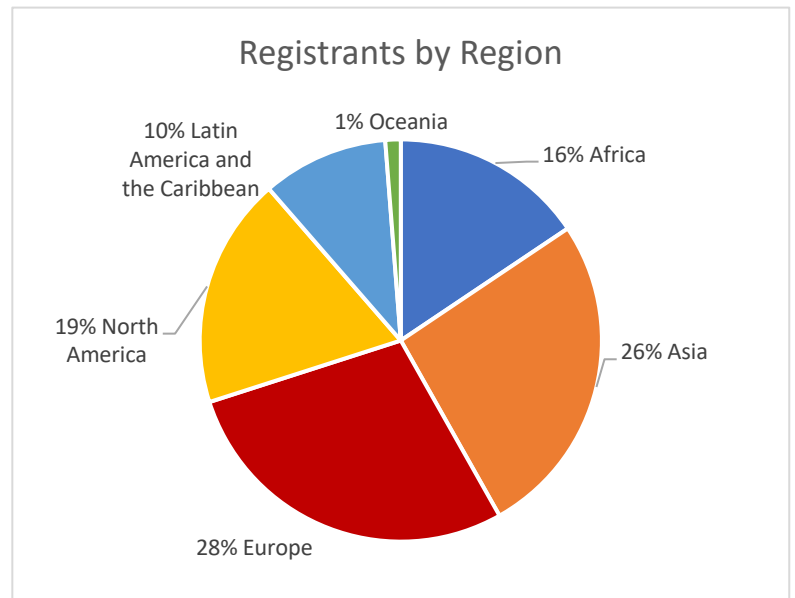
#### 4. More Information

- [Recording of meeting](#)
- [PowerPoint presentation](#)
- [Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action series page](#)

### Annex 1: Analysis of Registrants to Event

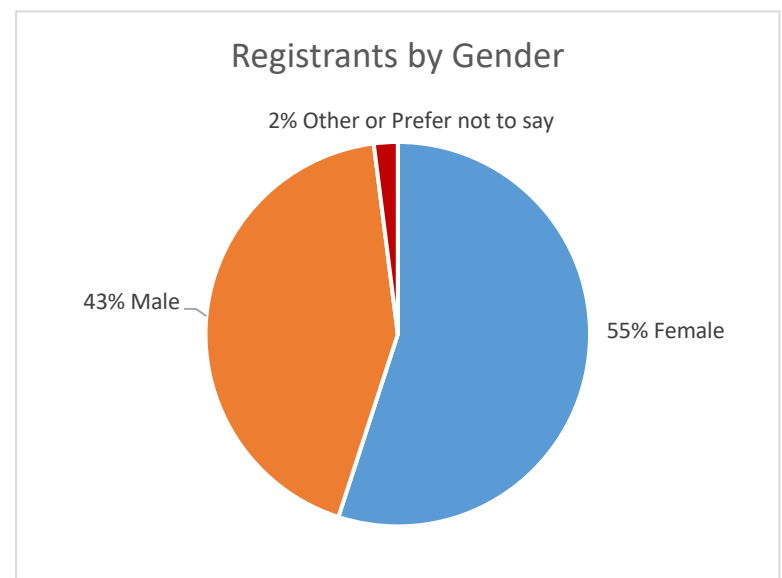
The **404** registered participants from **71** countries are distributed by region as”

- 16% Africa
- 26% Asia
- 28% Europe
- 19% North America
- 10% Latin America and the Caribbean
- 1% Oceania



The gender of the registered participants is distributed as:

- 55% Female
- 43% Male
- 2% Other or Prefer not to say

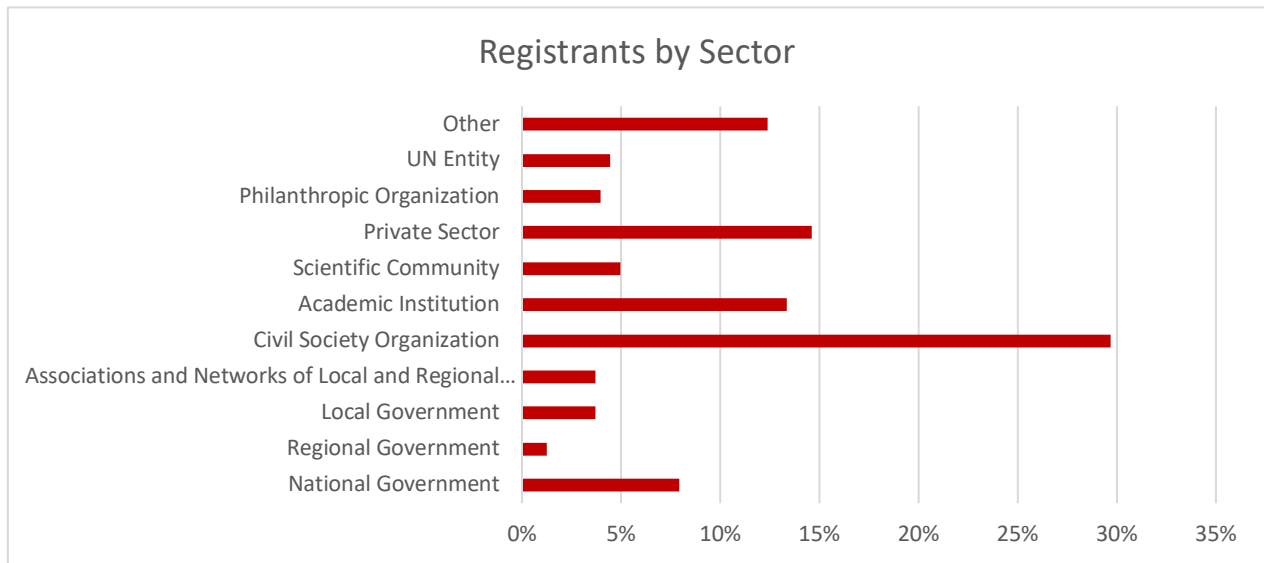


The registrants are distributed by sector as:

- 8% National Government
- 1% Regional Government
- 4% Local government
- 4% Associations and Networks of Local and Regional government
- 30% Civil Society Organization
- 13% Academic Institution
- 5% Scientific Community
- 15% Private Sector
- 4% Philanthropic Organization
- 4% UN Entity



- 12% Other



## Annex 2: Analysis of Feedback

This analysis reflects the outcomes of a survey sent to all 404 registered participants to the webinar in order to understand overall satisfaction, relevance to the audience’s work and additional inputs regarding stakeholder engagement. **45 feedback inputs** were received. The main outcomes are reflected below:

### Survey Outcomes:

**Out of the 45 total respondents, 38 attended the webinar and 7 did not.**

Of the respondents that did attend the webinar (38), **92% said that they were very or extremely satisfied by the webinar.**

**Most responding attendees (over 83%) were satisfied with each of these event aspects: date and time, speakers, interventionists, overall management of the call and sound and video quality.** Dissatisfaction was the highest regarding the sound and video quality and interventionists during the event.

**71% of responding attendees found the content of the webinar to be relevant to their work.**

From these positive responses, some highlighted how the content informed their work:

- “It indeed revealed to me the synergy between Local Government and Regional Government in Ocean Action engagement”.

- “To strengthen our capacity to manage our coast”.
- “It provided me with a needed update on the current thinking of local leaders and related stakeholders”.
- “I heard from a perspective (government practices) that I did not know too much about. I have focused much of my work with NGOs and the youth I work with need to engage more in local and regional governments to make their efforts stick and be effective.”

**Highlights: Reasons for joining the webinar:**

- “Because it was relevant to our objectives of our NGO activities.”
- “Because I was supposed to be going to the Lisbon UN Ocean Conference and am keen in keeping the 'momentum' and maintain myself updated, connected and actively engaged.”
- “To know the first actions implemented by local and regional governments”
- “I live in an archipelagic country and I wanted to see how local and regional governments across the world were undertaking the endeavor of protecting our oceans so that we may be able to replicate some if we're not already doing it now.”

**84% of responding attendees reported that they are very likely to participate in UNDESA/UCLG/Global Taskforce events in the future.**

**Annex 3: Event Agenda**

<p><b>9:30 – 9:45</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Alex Trepelkov</b>, Officer in Charge, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA</li> <li>• <b>Ambassador Duarte Lopes</b>, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations.</li> <li>• <b>Prof. Micheni Ntiba</b>, Principal Secretary for Fisheries and the Blue Economy of the Republic of Kenya.</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Mohamed Boudra</b>, Mayor of Al Hoceima, President of the Moroccan Association of Municipal Councils, President of United Cities and Local Governments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9:45 - 9:55</b></p>	<p><b>Keeping the Momentum towards Ocean Action for Local and Regional Governments</b> Keynote address by <b>Amb. Peter Thomson</b>, UNSG’s Special Envoy for the Ocean.</p>
<p><b>09:55– 10:15</b></p>	<p><b>Mobilizing Local and Regional Governments towards Ocean Action: Showcasing local challenges and forward-looking perspectives</b> <b>Key questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How are local and regional governments mobilizing to support SDG 14 implementation, especially considering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How local and regional governments can contribute to recover better through a clean, blue and just transition in support to SDG 14 implementation?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can national governments support local action towards SDG-14 implementation as part of COVID-19 recovery efforts?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Naiara Costa</b>, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, DSDG/UNDESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Leo Brewster</b>, Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy, Barbados</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Emil Dardak</b>, Vice Governor, East Java, Indonesia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Pedro Joaquin Delbouis</b>, Mayor of Cozumel, Mexico</li> <li>• <b>Major Lloyd Jones</b>, MBA, MSc, Technical Advisor to the Mayor of Belize City</li> </ul>
<p><b>10:15 – 10:35</b></p>	<p><b>Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action: Local and Regional Governments leadership in the COVID-19 era</b></p> <p><b>Key Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What are the expectations and ambitions from local and regional governments for the UN Ocean Conference as we build back better?</i></li> <li>• <i>What would be good strategies to engage local and regional governments in the lead up to the UN Ocean Conference?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can we mobilize Ocean Action Commitments from local and regional governments and networks in the lead up to the UN Ocean Conference?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Greg Munro</b>, Secretary General, Commonwealth Local Governments Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Birgitta Liss Lymer</b>, Director, Water Resources / Source-to-Sea, Stockholm International Water Institute</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Sergio Graf</b>, Secretary for Environment, State of Jalisco, Mexico</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Lisa Helps</b>, Mayor of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Joana Pinto Balsemão</b>, City Councillor, City Council of Cascais, Portugal</li> </ul>
<p><b>10:35 – 10:55</b></p>	<p><b>Interactive dialogue</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: UNDESA/DSDG</b></p>
<p><b>10:55– 11:00</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Emilia Saiz</b>, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments</li> <li>• <b>Amb. Peter Thomson</b>, UNSG’s Special Envoy for the Ocean.</li> </ul>