



BLUE TALKS CANBERRA JUNE 10TH 2022 CONCEPT NOTE

The Embassy of Portugal, The High Commission of Kenya and the United Nations Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific (UNIC Canberra) will be hosting **BLUE TALKS** in Canberra as part of the preparations, formal and informal, for the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) 2022 to be held in Lisbon June 27 to July 1st 2022. The theme of the Conference is *“Scaling up the ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”*.

This Dialogue will be organized in cooperation with the Resident Coordinators of Fiji, Micronesia and Samoa, the three United Nations Resident Coordinators Multi country offices for the Pacific Region.

“Blue Talks” provide the setting for several thematic Dialogues, contextualizing the debate with an overview of the *status quo* while underlining the urgency of finding solutions to the challenges identified. Overall, the objective is to trigger the debate and wide interest in Ocean related issues and by extend active participation in the UN Ocean Conference, by sharing of experiences and innovative approaches, and to identify opportunities to mobilize the public and private sectors.

Dialogue 5 is the theme chosen for our Pacific region **BLUE TALKS**

PROMOTING AND STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMIES, IN PARTICULAR FOR SMALL-ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

- Interconnecting SIDS’s and LDC’s prosperity and stability with the sustainable use of ocean capital.
- Identifying clear competitive economic ocean sectors and exploring comparative advantages in a sustainable and multidisciplinary integrated way.
- International cooperation for development and its scope (knowledge, technical assistance, innovation networks, observatories, R&D, financial instruments).
- Promoting knowledge-sharing, governance, and science-based partnerships.



The BLUE TALKS will host open discussions with ideas from different countries in the region but considering the outcomes and commitments of the “OUR OCEAN” PALAU 2022 CONFERENCE that took place in Palau last April. This overview will be provided by HE the President of the Republic of Palau.



LISBON
27 JUNE -
1 JULY
2022

PROGRAMME- FRIDAY JUNE 10TH 2022

MEMBERS' DINING ROOM 3, OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDING, CANBERRA

09.30 Welcome/introductory remarks

1. Damian Cardona Onses - Director of UNIC Canberra
2. Prerecorded video message from Pat Conroy, Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific
3. Prerecorded video message from João Gomes Cravinho, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, introduced by António Pedro Rodrigues da Silva, Ambassador of Portugal
4. Pre-recorded video message from Macharia Kamau, Principal Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, introduced by Kapchianga Simatwa, Minister/Counsellor High Commission of Kenya
5. Welcome video message from Peter Thomson, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

10:00 Brief overview and outcomes of the Palau's 'Our Ocean Conference' by Surangel S Whipps, Jr. President of the Republic of Palau, introduced by Jaap van Hierden, UN Resident Coordinator Micronesia

10:25-12:30 BLUE TALKS: Panel discussion on promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean economies on small-island developing states (SIDS)

Guest 1: from Fiji (online) - Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed – Khaiyum Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development, introduced from Suva by Sanaka Samarasinha, UN Resident Coordinator Fiji

Guest 2: from Samoa (online) - Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, Prime Minister of Samoa (pre-recorded message), Dalton Tagelai, Premier of Niue (pre-recorded message), and Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster, Minister of Environment of Samoa, introduced from Apia by Simona Marinescu UN Resident Coordinator Samoa

Guest 3: Sujiro Seam, European Union Ambassador/ Head of Delegation for the Pacific

Guest 4: Russell Reichelt – Australia's Prime Minister Sherpa to the High-Level Panel for sustainable ocean economy

Guest 5: Zuleika Chang, Senior Advisor, Secretariat of the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO.

Guest 6: Ethan Jerome-Leota, Chair of New Zealand's Youth Leaders for the Decade.

12.30 Closing of the event

Following the event, please note that the Embassy of Portugal is kindly offering a reception in the adjoining room starting at 12h30