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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Outcome of the UN Ocean Conference (New York, 5–9 June 2017)
- Information from the Swedish delegation

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Swedish delegation on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 19 June 2017.

Outcome of the UN Ocean Conference**(New York, 5-9 June 2017)****- Information from the Swedish delegation -**

Last week, representatives of States, international organisations, civil society, the research community, industry and other stakeholders came together in New York to reaffirm their commitment to SDG 14 at the UN Ocean Conference, at which Fiji and Sweden were co-presidents.

The aim of the Conference was to strengthen the implementation of SDG 14 and other related goals in the interlinked 2030 Agenda. More than 80 Ministers and 14 Heads of State participated. They expressed a clear political will to implement efficient measures and strengthen global cooperation. The EU was represented by Commissioner Vella.

The outcome of the Conference was threefold.

The first outcome was the adoption by consensus of a Call for Action. The Call for Action is short, concise and action-oriented, and includes a number of important elements that can help us reverse the negative trend in ocean health. The Call for Action can serve as a global starting point for long-term action-oriented implementation of SDG 14 and all its targets. The EU and its Member States provided an explanatory note to clarify the EU's position with regard to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Paris Agreement.

Secondly, at the end of the Conference, over 1 300 voluntary commitments had been registered. A large amount was delivered by the EU and EU Member States.

Thirdly, the outcome of the seven Partnership dialogues identified critical gaps, challenges and opportunities, mobilised relevant stakeholders and initiated new partnerships.

The results of the Conference will be reported to the next High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the Implementation of the SDG in July. The results of the Conference need to be followed up within the relevant parts of the UN and other international organisations. It is of great importance that the work is also followed up at national, regional and international level. The "Our Ocean Conference" in Malta in October will be an important opportunity to take the work forward.
