

The Ocean Conference Inaugurated at the UN General Assembly Hall



The Ocean Conference Inaugurated at the UN General Assembly Hall by Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations. Taking at his inaugural speech, he emphasized the importance of oceans for humanity in terms, social, economic and environmental benefits and expressed his grief at the sorry state of the oceans ecology today. He said that ocean are faced with extreme threats from the human activities at land and in oceans and therefore ocean is now comprising of more plastic than fish. He stressed the need for an urgent action and increased cooperation among nations to address the ever increasing challenges that the marine ecosystem is facing today.

Earlier the chair and co-chairs of the ocean conference were elected by consensus and Sweden and Fiji co-hosted the Ocean Conference 2017 at the UN headquarter New York. This was followed by speeches by the head of states of the UN member states. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe informed that Indian Ocean has got the world second largest volume of plastic waste and this is posing serious threat to the blue economy of the region. He stressed the need to address the marine environment issues through collaborative efforts.



Dr. Mohamed Shainee, Minister for fisheries Maldives informed that Maldives being a small Island state is facing various marine environment threats and global warming is the worst of all threats that Maldives is faced with sea level rise. He also joined the voice of the Sri Lankan PM in stressing the need for a joint efforts to address the marine environment challenges in the Indian Ocean. The high level session concluded in the afternoon and will continue the second day on 6th June, Meanwhile the side events are attracting the delegates as there are many side events taking place on most of the marine environment issues. SACEP will be organizing the side event on the 6th June at 18.30-19.15 hours at UN conference room-B on the theme of "Marine Environment Pollution Challenges and Response in line with SDG-14 in South Asian Seas Region".