

## **Our Ocean 2019 – speaking points handover invitations**

- Norway will host the sixth Our Ocean Conference in Oslo 23-24 October 2019.
- The Our Ocean conferences were initiated by Secretary of State John Kerry in 2014, with the aim to put oceans on the foreign policy agenda, and create a platform where leaders from government, business and civil society meet on an equal footing to promote action and innovation for clean, healthy and productive oceans.
- The Oslo conference will highlight the importance of knowledge as the basis of our actions and policies to ensure sustainable future economic growth. We will emphasise integrated management of sea and coastal areas as the key to protection and sustainable use of the oceans.
- Key issues at the conference will be action to meet the main challenges facing the oceans – climate change, over-fishing and marine pollution. The conference will also look at how we use the resources in the ocean, in particular how we can build a food value chain that delivers from healthy oceans to healthy people, and how we can shape a sustainable ocean economy for the future. Finally, we would like to inspire discussion on how to address the implementation gap on ocean governance and management.
- At the core of the Our Ocean conferences are voluntary commitments for significant and meaningful actions. There are no negotiated documents from the Our Ocean conferences.
- Commitments are made under six areas of action: sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, climate change, marine protected areas and other area-based management measures, sustainable blue economy, and maritime security.
- Previous conferences have resulted in nearly 1000 commitments from governments, organisations and businesses.
- The Oslo Conference aims at adding new and far-reaching commitments to the best of our oceans. These should have significant impact, be measurable and have a clear timeframe. The most substantial commitments will be announced at the conference. Participants are encouraged to bring forward commitments at the conference.
- Speaking opportunity at the conference are primarily linked to announcement of significant commitments.
- The Our Ocean conferences complement and reinforce other international efforts. We will aim to trigger, amplify and accelerate action in preparation for the UN Ocean Conference in 2020, and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The conference will run over two full days (tentatively 9-17). There will be a ministerial dinner hosted by Prime Minister Solberg in the evening of 22 October, and a reception for all delegates hosted by Foreign Minister Eriksen Søreide on 23 October.

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- More information is available on [www.ourocean2019.no](http://www.ourocean2019.no). A programme concept will be posted shortly, as well as further information about registering commitments.
- As with former Our Ocean conferences, there will be a limited number of slots for side-events at the conference venue. They will not be held in parallel with the conference but rather before/after, in order not to draw participants from the plenary programme. Application for side-event slots will be announced on the web page.
- In parallel to the Our Ocean Conference, there will be a Youth Leadership Summit convening 100 young leaders from over 70 countries to inspire, inform, and empower youth participants to build holistic solutions that balance the needs of fishermen, marine transportation, and ocean conservation. More information will soon be available on the Our Ocean website [www.ourocean2019.no](http://www.ourocean2019.no). We invite you to inform your national youth and sustainability networks.

### **Beredskap reisestøtte**

(Det vil ikkje bli annonsert at reisestøtte er tilgjengeleg, men ved spørsmål kan følgjande informasjon delast)

- Travel support will be considered upon request for participants from Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.