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**Message from Ms Irina Bokova,
Director-General of UNESCO
on the occasion of World Oceans Day**

Our Ocean, Our Future

8 June 2017

This year, we celebrate *World Oceans Day* with the first-ever United Nations Ocean Conference. This ground-breaking event brings together Heads of State, high-level dignitaries and actors from across the world, to build partnerships and strengthen the commitments needed to implement the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* -- to conserve and sustainably use an ocean that gives humankind the keys to its survival, from oxygen to a well-functioning climate, to key elements of our natural and human heritage.

For this, we must nurture, mobilize and harness the best scientific knowledge.

A healthy ocean requires robust global knowledge of ocean science. We cannot manage what we cannot measure, and no single country is able to measure the myriad changes taking place in the ocean. From Fiji to Sweden, from Namibia to the Arctic, all Governments and partners must share knowledge to craft common science-based policies.

This is the goal of the *Global Ocean Science Report*, launched at the *United Nations Ocean Conference* by UNESCO -- this records for the first time where and how existing ocean science capacities are empowering society, sustaining the environment and generating knowledge to conserve ocean resources for all. Our message is clear -- much has been done to promote and finance ocean science, but much more is required to fill the capacity gaps.

'Business-as-usual' is not enough to deliver the future we want by 2030. Achieving SDG14 calls for new science-based solutions and their transformation into informed

policies and decisions. This is why UNESCO and partners are calling for 2021-2030 to become the *International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development*, in order to provide Governments, the scientific community, civil society and all other actors with a framework for coordinating and consolidating the observations and research needed to achieve SDG14.

We invite everyone interested to join us and help transform ideas into a broad plan of concerted action with shared goals and responsibilities.

World Oceans Day is an opportunity for all of us to take measure of the global sustainable development challenges we face and to unite for the ocean we need for the future we want.

Irina Bokova