



Global Geodesy Forum

The Power of Where: The Value of Geodesy to Society

Earth Day, Thursday, 22 April 2021

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon. (UTC)/06:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. (EDT-New York/UTC-4)

Global Geodesy Ambassador His Excellency Peter Thomson

In 2017, the United Nations Secretary-General Guterres appointed Ambassador Peter Thomson of Fiji as his Special Envoy for the Ocean, aiming at galvanizing concerted efforts to follow up on the outcomes of the 2017 United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference, maintaining the momentum for action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Mr. Thomson leads UN's advocacy and public outreach efforts inside and outside of the UN system, ensuring that the many positive outcomes of The 2017 Ocean Conference, including the over 1500 voluntary commitments, are analyzed and implemented. He also works with civil society, the scientific community, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders, to coalesce and encourage their activities in support of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

Mr. Thomson brings a distinguished experience in diplomatic services and is familiar with the work of the United Nations, including as Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN and President of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly, during which he provided visionary leadership in guiding the preparation of The 2017 Ocean Conference.

Elected President of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority's 2011-2012 session and President of the Council of the Authority's 2015-2016 session, Mr. Thomson chaired the Group of 77 and China (2013) and served as President of the Executive Board of UN Development Programme/UN Population Fund/UN Office for Programme Support (UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS) from 2014 to 2015. As a civil servant in the Government of Fiji, he devoted many years of his life to working in the fields of rural development and then foreign affairs.

Importantly, Mr. Thomson as Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York put forward to the United Nations General Assembly the resolution titled "A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development" with the support of 52 other Member States that was adopted as United Nations Resolution 69/266 in February 2015. "We fully realize the importance of critical geospatial infrastructure and information in helping countries and decision-makers make more informed, evidence-based decisions on mitigation and preparedness", Ambassador Thomson stated. He explained then that, as a Small Island Developing State, Fiji is vulnerable to increasingly severe natural disasters, sea-level rise and other problems triggered by climate change, uses and rely on geodetic data to plan and prepare as best as it can.

For more about UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, please visit <https://oceanconference.un.org/SpecialEnvoy>

