

MESSAGES

4. Messages in acknowledgement of the Conference's contributions were received from His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, the Prime Minister of Sweden, leading political figures from the Russian Federation, the Republic of the Seychelles, the Republic of South Africa, and the United States, as well as from the Rt. Hon. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG, ACOPS' President and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and Dr. Mario Soares, Chairman of the IWCO, and former President of Portugal.
5. His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden welcomed both organisers and participants to this important Conference. He expressed his interest in protection of the environment and stated that he was pleased that the ACOPS/GLOBE Conference would set scientific knowledge into political action in this regard. His Majesty the King also stated that he would be interested in learning more of the outcome of the Conference, and conveyed his best wishes for success.
6. Mr. Göran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden, expressed his pleasure that the City of Stockholm was host to this Conference, in particular since the Baltic Region had the potential to become the fastest-growing region in Europe for years to come if the goal of peaceful co-existence, socially stable economic development and successful environmental policies in the region could be attained. The Prime Minister extended his best wishes for the success of the Conference.
7. Mr. Gennadii Nikolaevich Seleznev, President of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, wished the ACOPS/GLOBE Stockholm Conference success in achieving its laudable aims, and hoped that the productive work carried out by ACOPS/GLOBE in the Russian Federation would continue.
8. Mr. France Albert René, President of the Republic of the Seychelles, had high expectations that the Conference would be successful in developing concrete proposals for policies and actions to implement the recommendations of the Potomac Declaration.
9. Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa, thanked ACOPS for appointing Mr. Peter Mokaba, Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, to the position of ACOPS' Vice-President from South Africa. President Mandela also pointed out the important steps that South Africa had taken in the framework of environmental resources management since ACOPS' Washington Conference on Oceans and Security, and wished success to the participants of this Conference.
10. Mr. Al Gore, Vice-President of the United States of America, acknowledged ACOPS' efforts aimed at creating a space for discussing solutions for the problem of pollutants that affect the coastal and marine environment, and extended his best wishes for a successful and productive Conference.
11. Mr. Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, presented the participants at the Conference with three challenges: to establish a global ocean data base in order to develop a virtual ocean model; to work towards the designation of an International Biodiversity Year (IBY); and to perform cost-benefit analyses of environmental activities in order to maximise the return from environmental investments and to determine the effectiveness of current policies. Finally, he commended the participants of the Conference for their work towards the goal of enhancing ocean security.