



2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE

PARTICIPATION OF: NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

January 2022

1) Who can attend the 2022 UN Ocean Conference?

In accordance with paragraphs 26-28 of General Assembly resolution 73/292 of 9 May 2019, entitled “2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, the following participants may attend or be represented at the Conference:

- All States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
- Intergovernmental organizations, including those having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and works of the General Assembly, international financial institutions and other international bodies;
- Associate members of the regional commissions;
- Organizations and bodies of the United Nations;
- **Non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations.**

2) Which civil society organizations, private sector, academia and other stakeholders can attend the 2022 UN Ocean Conference?

Relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations whose work is relevant to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, accredited in accordance with the provisions set forth in Annex II of General Assembly resolution 73/292 can request registration to participate as observers in the Conference.

Please, see below for information on how to request special accreditation for the Conference.

3) Which organizations can register participants to attend the Conference?

The organizations listed below will be able to request **registration** to attend the 2022 UN Ocean Conference (Please, click on the links for details):



- Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC (Special, General or Roster consultative status). You can check if your organization has consultative status [here](#).
- Organizations that have received special accreditation by the United Nations General Assembly to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference (*please, read more about Special Accreditation for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference below*):
 - 1) Outcomes of the **first round** of Special Accreditation to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference (December 2019) can be found [here](#).
 - 2) Outcomes of the **second round** of special accreditation to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference (April 2020) can be found [here](#).
 - 3) A **third round** of Special Accreditation to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference will be held in **between 17 January – 28 February 2022** (please, check below for details).
- Organizations that were accredited to any of the following past Conferences and Summits (please click on the links for details):
 - 1) The [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#);
 - 2) The [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development](#);
 - 3) The 2017 [high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development](#);
 - 4) The [intergovernmental conference on an internationally legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction](#);
 - 5) Previous United Nations conferences on sustainable development of small island developing States, held in [Barbados](#), [Mauritius](#) and [Samoa](#).

If your organization is not on the lists above, please, check below for information on how to request Special Accreditation to attend the Conference.

4) My organization is not on any of the lists above. Can I still participate at the Conference?

Yes. Interested organizations not included on the lists above may request [Special Accreditation](#).

Other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector and philanthropic organizations whose work is relevant to the Conference that are not in consultative status with ECOSOC, or that have not been accredited to participate in the Conferences listed above must submit special accreditation requests through a dedicated platform in order to be able to register to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference. The final round to request Special Accreditation will be held between **17 January and 28 February 2022**.

5) How do I request Special Accreditation for my organization?

Application for Special Accreditation can only be completed through a dedicated online platform and between **17 January – 28 February 2022**.

The link to the online form is: [here](#).

Accreditation requests must be made ONLY on behalf of organizations or institutions and NOT as individuals.

Applying for accreditation requires important information on organizations that apply – such as an annual report, proof of legal status and motivation letter – please allow enough time to provide all these.

6) What are the documents I need to submit when applying for Special Accreditation?

Organizations will be asked to submit the following documents when applying for Special Accreditation:

- LEGAL STATUS:
 - Proof of incorporation;
 - For non-governmental organizations, proof of non-profit-making status, e.g. tax exemption certificate such as 501 (c)(3) filing status;
 - Only official government-issued documents, from the national/federal government, will be accepted.
- ANNUAL REPORT/ACTIVITY REPORT:
 - Organization will be requested to submit annual report (previous 12 months)
 - If your entity does not have an annual report, the organization will be asked to provide evidence of activity in areas relevant to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference within the last 12 months (e.g., projects, programs, research, etc.).
- EXPRESSION of INTEREST/MOTIVATION LETTER
 - Organizations will be asked to submit a letter on official letterhead addressed to the Secretariat of the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, signed by the head of the entity, requesting accreditation for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference.
 - Motivation letters should include:
 - Background and vision of the entity;
 - Relevant work to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference;
 - Motivation/interest in attending the 2022 UN Ocean Conference.

7) What is the process for Special Accreditation requests to be reviewed?

The United Nations Secretariat reviews each submission and its documentation. Submissions that are complete and relevant to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference are compiled and sent to the Office



of the President of the General Assembly (PGA). The PGA submits the list for the review of United Nations Member States under a non-objection basis. After the review by Member States, the PGA publishes the final list of organizations specially accredited to the Conference.

8) When will I know if my organization was specially accredited to attend the 2022 UN Ocean Conference?

The Special Accreditation process is expected to be finalized April 2022. Specially accredited organizations will be informed accordingly.

9) My organization has received Special Accreditation to attend the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, can I show a copy of the letter to attend the Conference?

No. All organizations will need to **register** their representatives in order to be able to attend the Conference.

10) I do not belong to any organization. Can I attend the Conference?

Unfortunately, you cannot register to the Conference as an individual. Participants must be connected to an accredited organization or to a United Nations Member State delegation in order to have registrations confirmed.

11) My organization has consultative status with ECOSOC. Do I need to register to attend the Conference?

Yes. All participants must register to attend the Conference.

12) How can I register to attend the Conference?

Information about registration to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference is not available yet. Please, check this page for updates: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022/participate>

13) I'm not 18 years old yet. Can I attend the Conference?

The minimum age for participants to register to the 2022 UN Ocean Conference is 18 years old.

14) How many representatives can each organization register to attend the 2022 UN Ocean Conference?



Information about the number of participants each organization will be able to request will be available when registration opens. Please, check this page for updates: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2022/participate>

15) Are funds available for stakeholders to attend the Conference?

Registered stakeholders are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs.

16) I represent a city and/or a regional government. Can I attend the 2022 UN Ocean Conference?

Representatives of local and regional governments should register through their Member State delegation.

Associations of local and regional governments can also request special accreditation. Associations of local and regional governments in consultative status with ECOSOC will also be able to register participants.

17) Are there opportunities for stakeholders to speak during the Conference?

Information on engagement opportunities will be published [here](#). You may also sign up to the general mailing list to receive updates. Please, check [here](#).

18) Can NGOs and other stakeholders organize side-events at the 2022 UN Ocean Conference?

Yes. Accredited organizations will be able to apply for side-events once the process is open. Information will be published [here](#).

Do you still have questions?

Please, email: dsdg@un.org

For Private Sector Organizations and Philanthropic Institutions - Please email unocean@unglobalcompact.org