

2022 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE
ONLINE STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING: INPUTS TO THE POLITICAL
DECLARATION ZERO DRAFT

23 March 2022

10:30 – 11:30 AM (EDT, New York)

Intervention

Prof. Tymon Zielinski (Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences)

Dear colleagues,

I would like to stress the crucial role of increasing climate and ocean change awareness among young citizens. I am convinced that we must make every effort to empower them with knowledge, to allow them to critically choose the sources of information regarding observed changes, as well as to decide what they can do to mitigate these changes and adapt to them.

Young generations need to understand the principles of sustainable development, and how to adopt the idea into their own lives. To achieve this, it is crucial to develop innovative educational tools and mechanisms and to implement them in all schools in every country.

We need to take an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach to tackle these changes. Students must understand how complex the issue of global climate and ocean changes are, and that every person, including them, has a profound impact on the fate of our planet.

We must invest in youth climate and ocean education because teenage citizens, within a few years, will make crucial decisions in parliamentary elections that are likely to determine the planet's future. Properly educated citizens are key to achieving global sustainability.

I would suggest modifying the following line in point 12 g of the Declaration, which is now: "...and life-long learning for ocean literacy," and to add: "...and life-long learning for ocean literacy, including obligatory courses in all schools in every country".