



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Empowering Women: An Ocean of Opportunities in Science, Policy and Blue Economy

28 June 2022, 10.00-11.15, Side Room 1, Altice Arena

Organized by:

World Maritime University–Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute;
International Maritime Organization; International Seabed Authority;
Government of Antigua and Barbuda; Sailors for the Sea Japan; and
Leading Women for the Ocean

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The ocean is at a critical stage that needs all aspects of society to make radical changes to their activities to achieve sustainable management and development. It has been widely acknowledged that women continued to be under-represented in the field of ocean actions, particularly in decision-making roles in ocean science, policy-making, and blue economy. Recognising the need to raise awareness of women’s contributions and to enhance women’s participation and representation in ocean actions, this Side Event contributed to the thematic interactive dialogues topic 8 of the UN Ocean Conference, namely leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 Life Below Water and Goal 5 Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Women contribute to all fields of ocean actions despite the fact that it has been less-recognised
- Ocean science, policy and blue economy need the full and fair engagement and participation of women at all levels

- Diversity in leadership is essential for furthering sustainable development of maritime and ocean sectors
- The rule of law is at the core to ensure the legal order of the sea, including the participation of women
- Transformative actions are needed to change a male-dominated world and a male-dominated culture
- Gender mainstreaming in all fields of policy- and decision-making
- The importance of women's education and capacity development

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- There is an urgent need to establish comprehensive baseline data to understand the status quo of women's participation and representation in ocean actions
- Active leadership is required to support an enabling environment for pursuing gender equality and the empowerment of women in all aspects of ocean actions
- There should be enhanced transparency to ensure equal pay
- On the organisational level, there should be affirmative action policies that respect gender equality and value women's participation and contribution
- On the individual level, everyone could and should take actions to support the empowerment of women

Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)

Each organising partner will make a voluntary commitment to the theme of empowering women aligned with their respective initiatives and programmes implemented in the context of their own mandates.