



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Empowering Women for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

27 June 2022, 13.00-15.30, Auditorium III at the FIL Lisbon Exhibition and Congress Centre | CCL – Lisbon Congress Centre | PT Meeting Center

Organized by:

World Maritime University–Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute;

Department of Legal Affairs of the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Portugal;

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden;

Fisheries and Oceans, Canada;

Ocean Policy Research Institute, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan;

Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Japan;

Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, the Western Indian Ocean Marine
Science Association, Kenya;

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO; and

High Seas Alliance.

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The role of women in ocean science is an important issue that has been historically overlooked and understudied in ocean affairs. This knowledge gap extends to the efforts needed to promote women's empowerment. Recognising the crucial role of gender equality in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the aim of the UN Ocean Decade, the World Maritime University has partnered with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Nippon Foundation to establish a research and capacity building Programme on Empowering Women for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. This Side Event showcased the research work of the Programme team and advocated increasing women's representation and participation in ocean science to deliver the science we need for the ocean we want.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Research data shows that women continue to be underrepresented in ocean science in both scientific research institutions and science-dependent governance systems
- There are a number of good practices that support the empowerment of women in ocean science that need to be further implemented
- In some regions, the societal and local cultures are biased against women to study or work in ocean science field
- The gender specific provisions in the anticipated BBNJ Agreement need to be adopted at the intergovernmental conference and fully implemented by future States Parties
- There is an urgent need to end gender-based violence

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- We need to collect comprehensive baseline data to understand the status quo of women's participation and representation in ocean actions
- We need to identify the effective good practices that support women's equal and fair participation in ocean science on all levels
- We need to take collective actions to promote the implementation of existing laws and policies that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women
- We need to educate and inspire the next generation, particularly young girls, to contribute to ocean science
- We need to provide more opportunities for women early career professionals to further their careers
- Women need to support women and their families

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.