



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Managing the Oceans: Strengthening Capacity for Ocean Governance

29 June 2022, 1:00pm-2:30pm Lisbon Time, Virtual

Organized by the World Bank’s Environmental and International Law Practice Group, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (DOALOS), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Melbourne Law School (MLS), and the Center for Maritime and Oceanic Law at the University of the Nantes (CDMO).

[Link to side event webpage](#) (recording available)

Background on the event

The side event showcased the Ocean Governance Capacity Building Training Program jointly designed and delivered by the side event organizers. The Training Program focuses on enhancing the capacity of government officials, partner organizations’ staff, and other stakeholders on ocean governance by providing training on international law related to the oceans with the objective of strengthening the implementation of the Conventions at the national level and combatting growing threats to the marine ecosystem. In addition, the side event highlighted the partner organizations’ other capacity building programs to strengthen ocean governance.

Key Issues discussed

- Training Program Approach: The organizers highlighted the unique approach and value of the Training Program, which serves to provide a cohesive and integrated understanding of international law as it relates to ocean governance. The Training Program is designed as a foundational course meant to be completed by specialized courses offered by the partner institutions and others. The Training Program brings together several international organizations to support learning and implementation related to ocean governance in their respective areas of interest in accordance with their respective mandates. The partner institutions also emphasized the need for a multidisciplinary approach and addressing

regional and local specificities in designing programs that are effective in creating and sustaining change.

- **Training Curriculum:** The [curriculum](#) is composed of core modules, which provide a foundation on international conventions related to ocean governance and the blue economy, and elective modules, which delve into specialized interest areas.
- **Training Format:** The Training Program is run in a hybrid format over six weeks, involving pre-recorded videos, readings, quizzes, additional resources, and live sessions on Zoom where participants ask questions and discuss the relevance of the training and materials to the practice areas in their respective countries.
- **Diversity:** The organizers discussed their efforts to achieve gender and regional diversity among Training Program participants. In 2021, the training was offered in the Pacific and Africa regions in English and French to 150 participants (57% women), and the organizers hope to offer it in additional regions and languages, including Spanish and Arabic, in the coming years. In addition, a self-paced e-learning course will be available globally online for free later in 2022.
- **Climate Change Component of the Training Program:** In response to an audience question, the organizers explained that the Training Program includes modules on ocean-related mitigation and adaptation. It considers emissions from shipping, geoengineering, blue carbon, nature-based solutions, and multilateral efforts in this area, as well as other related issues.
- **Alumni Network:** Alumni of the Training Program shared their impressions of the course. They have remained connected and have established a work program that builds on the training they received, focusing on developing blue economy projects, sharing experiences across regions, and supporting the implementation of UNCLOS, among others.
- **Available Resources and Next Steps:** The organizers provided information on the [Ocean Governance Capacity Building Training Program](#) and other trainings offered by [DOALOS](#), [FAO](#), and [ISA](#). Participants interested in learning more about the Training Program, including future training workshops, were encouraged to contact the organizers at the following address: OceanGovernanceTraining@worldbank.org.

Key recommendations for action

- To ensure the Training Program's sustainability, organizers recommended continuous capacity building, a multidisciplinary approach, stakeholder consultation, and assisting governments to make laws that are relevant to their local contexts.
- The organizers recommended moving beyond the international/regional level to implementation at the national level by assisting government counterparts and other stakeholders to overcome specific challenges encountered locally.
- The organizers stressed the importance of demand-driven capacity building, and in this spirit invited audience members and others interested in this Training Program to contact the organizers to convey their capacity building needs and recommendations.