



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

[Role of youth in addressing marine pollution via innovation, advocacy, and stocktake]

[29th June, 13:00 UTC, Virtual]

Organized by: [MUN Impact, Sustainable Ocean Alliance, Plastic Fischer, Alliance of Small Island States]

Background on the event

This panel discussion event focused on a two-way brainstorming to unfold how today's Youth can become a catalyst in curbing marine pollution and help implement the policies discussed during the UNOC. The role of the youth has become prevalent and urgent in fostering collaboration amongst the public and private sector in protecting marine life and our oceans.

Key Issues discussed

- The importance of small scaled action has had an equivalent effect as large projects.
- The need for technology to be conceptualised at a grass-roots level in order to collaborate with local communities towards maximum impact.
- Collaboration is key especially when working complementary to each other.
- Open-source innovation is a critical step and must be followed by direction.
- The role of the youth is inevitable especially when they are aware and informed.
- The need to have an intersectional approach such that the problems faced must be addressed together as they remain interconnected.

Key recommendations for action

- Awareness remains a critical first step especially in understanding how marine pollution affects those at a grass roots level and policymakers.
- Collaboration is the new leadership- public, private sectors and civil society must work cohesively together.

- Introducing sustainability into a plausible business model that promotes green practices whilst not creating a financial deficit.
- Investing in modern technology and research to find diverse solutions that are both sustainable and plausible.
- In a post-Covid-19 society, social media has proven to be essential and must be used as a prominent method of awareness and outreach.