



# UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE NICE, FRANCE 2025

## UNOC3 Conference Side Event

### Arctic Future Pathfinders

10 June 2025, 10:00–12:00

Aboard the tall ship *Statsraad Lehmkuhl*, Port of Nice

**Organized by: UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Centre  
for the Ocean and the Arctic, Memorial University of  
Newfoundland and Labrador**

#### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

This high-level side event explored how the future of ocean governance is being shaped in and by the Arctic. Hosted aboard the sailing ship *Statsraad Lehmkuhl*, the event brought together Arctic leaders, students, Indigenous experts, scientists and policymakers to discuss climate change, cooperation and knowledge integration in the North. Anchored in the ongoing collaboration between UiT and Memorial University, and in connection with the Arctic Future Pathfinders voyage through the Northwest Passage, the session emphasized the importance of inclusive, interdisciplinary, and anticipatory approaches to global ocean challenges. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway opened the event.

#### **Key Issues discussed (5-8 bullet points)**

- The Arctic as a frontline of climate, geopolitical, and ecosystem change – with global implications.
- Indigenous peoples as rights holders and essential contributors to ocean governance.

- The need for holistic governance frameworks that integrate science, Indigenous knowledge, and youth voices.
- How Arctic education and research can contribute to international ocean efforts under SDG14.
- The role of the private sector, civil society, and national governments in supporting resilient Arctic communities.
- Arctic cooperation as a model for peace, sustainability, and inclusive governance.
- Youth perspectives on the urgency of intergenerational inclusion and transdisciplinary knowledge.
- The importance of long-term, non-extractive partnerships in research and policy development.

### **Key recommendations for action / voluntary commitments (5-6 bullet points)**

- Strengthen Indigenous partnerships and integrated approaches in Arctic and ocean decision-making at all levels.
- Foster long-term educational programs that combine academic excellence with lived experience.
- Support collaborative Arctic research linked to global efforts like the UN Decade of Ocean Science.
- Commit to inclusive governance frameworks that balance environmental protection, cultural rights, and economic opportunity.
- Promote Arctic voices and expertise in global forums, especially those of youth and Indigenous communities.
- Build on initiatives like *Arctic Future Pathfinders* to shape the next generation of Arctic ocean leaders.