



UNOC3 Conference **Virtual Side Event V79**

“Catalyze Multilateral Partnership and Cross-Sectoral Collaboration to Safeguard the Future of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for Blue Economy and Sustainable Development”

13 Jun 2025, 9:00-10:30 AM (UTC-4)

Organized by: CliMates, Universal Versatile Society, Lead For Earth, Young Environmentalists Programme Trust, Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Youth Peace & Leadership Organization, The Indigenous Peoples Observatory Network (IPON), SDG7 Youth Constituency, Youth4Energy and Eminate.

Background of the virtual event:

This high-level session under the 2025 UN Ocean Conference spotlighted innovative leadership and scalable solutions for ocean sustainability in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), underpinned by cross-sectoral collaboration, intergenerational fairness, and multi-species justice. The event amplified leading voices from civil society, scientific institutions, Indigenous communities, and youth networks to co-create pathways for implementing SDG 14 and achieving the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) through inclusive blue economy strategies and science-policy integration. The session highlighted youth participation, food system innovation, plastic management, and renewable energy as key pillars of resilient ocean stewardship.

Key issues discussed:

- **Blue Economy for SIDS:** Emphasis on resilient, inclusive blue economy development through multistakeholder partnerships to strengthen the nexus of food, energy, and water.

- **Plastic Pollution and GBF Targets:** The role of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) in enabling robust policy frameworks to combat marine plastic pollution and promote GBF implementation.
- **Youth Leadership in Ocean Action:** Empowering youth-led initiatives as enabler for ocean literacy, policy advocacy, renewable energy innovation, and grassroots mobilization in vulnerable island nations.
- **Renewable Energy Integration:** Clean energy innovations as gamechangers for sustainable livelihoods, reduced dependence on imports, and climate resilience in SIDS.
- **Indigenous and Local Knowledge:** Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' stewardship practices and incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge and cultural heritage into ocean adaptation plans.
- **Ocean Literacy and Environmental Education:** Promoting environmental education platforms and intergenerational equity through community-based awareness and training programs.

Key recommendations for action / voluntary commitments

1. **Launch the “Nice Ocean Action Plan” Commitments for SIDS** to formalize cross-sectoral collaboration platforms integrated with ocean science, policy, and community leadership.
2. **Develop localized Sustainable Ocean Plans** anchored in Indigenous knowledge, science, and youth innovation, well in line with Ocean Action 2030 and GBF 30x30 targets.
3. **Establish Youth-Led Ocean Innovation Hubs in SIDS** to facilitate community-driven technology transfer, clean energy pilots, and capacity building.
4. **Scale Nature-based Solutions (NbSs) and Circular Economy Strategies** for waste management, food security, and marine biodiversity conservation.
5. **Enact regional policy frameworks** for plastic waste elimination and inclusive marine governance through INC-supported mechanisms.