



2025 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3)
Nice, France
9–13 June, 2025

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IMPACT REPORT

August 2025



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



**UNITED NATIONS
OCEAN CONFERENCE
NICE, FRANCE 2025**

This report features information about stakeholders participation in the preparatory process and the 2025 UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) which was held in Nice, France, from 9 June - 13 June 2025.

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Background

The high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (the 2025 UN Ocean Conference) was held in Nice, France, from 9 – 13 June 2025 and co-hosted by France and Costa Rica.

The overarching theme of the Conference was “**Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean**”. The Conference aimed to support further and urgent action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and identify further ways and means to support the implementation of SDG 14.

UNOC3 Stakeholder Engagement Mandate



In accordance with paragraph 4 of A/RES/78/128, the 2025 UN Ocean Conference involved all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other interested international bodies, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken towards, the implementation of Goal 14.

UNOC3 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

To meet the mandates for stakeholder engagement as outlined in resolution [A/RES/78/128](#), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), through its Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), developed a stakeholder engagement strategy with two key and mutually reinforcing tracks:

- **Awareness-raising and information sharing** to all stakeholders about the Conference and its preparatory process through multiple channels
- **Creating and providing opportunities** for stakeholders to engage in, and contribute to the intergovernmental process on the outcome document

This report presents key outcomes of engagement activities targeting the mobilization of stakeholders from different sectors to contribute and attend the Conference.

The UNOC3 Conference Secretariat expresses gratitude to all stakeholders for the collaboration, mobilization and constructive participation during the preparations and the Conference itself.

Photo by IISD



UNOC3 Stakeholder Engagement in Numbers

855

Organizations
Specially Accredited
by UNGA

5960

Registered
Participants

3872

Conference
Stakeholder Badges
issued

72

Written Inputs
Published

450

UNOC3 Side
Events

1671

Stakeholder
Organizations
Represented

40

Stakeholder
Interventions
delivered

Photo by UNDESA/Predrag Vasic



Preparatory Process

To ensure meaningful and substantive engagement of stakeholders in preparation for the UNOC3 Conference, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, major groups and other actors were invited to contribute their substantive inputs as part of the preparations for the Conference.

Online Consultations

UNDESA led global online consultations to gather substantive inputs from stakeholders to the intergovernmental process for the UNOC3 Conference.

[26 July – 30 August 2024] Global Online Stakeholder Consultation – Inputs to Ocean Action Panel's Concept Papers



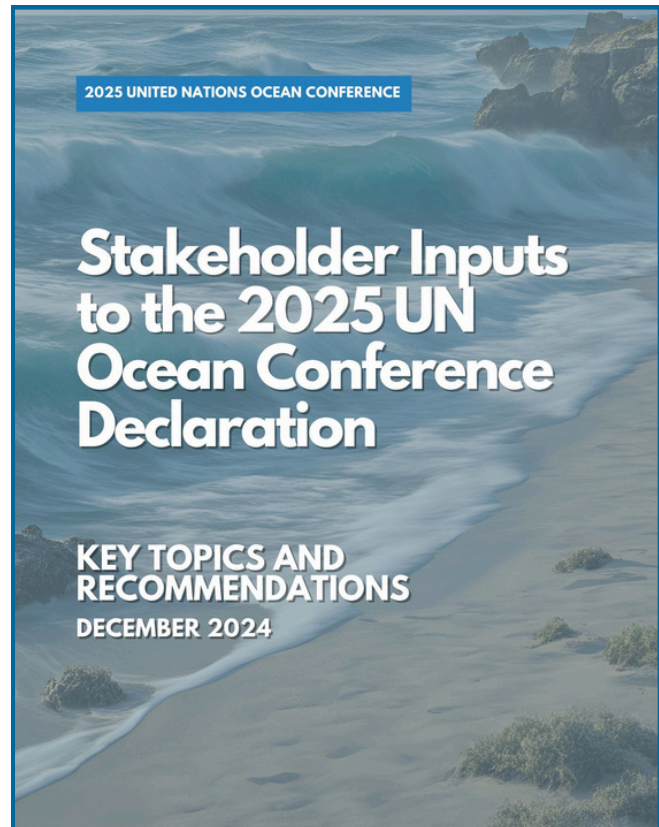
- UNDESA conducted a global online consultation to compile inputs for the concept papers of the Ocean Action Panels.
- Information about the consultation was widely disseminated through mailing lists, UN official websites, social media, and a [dedicated webpage](#).
- Contributions from stakeholders were sought regarding substantive inputs for the Ocean Action Panels, addressing main challenges, transformative actions, opportunities, and potential areas for new partnerships to advance the implementation of SDG 14.
- The report summarizing all inputs as well as all detailed responses received from stakeholders is available [here](#).

More than 400 inputs were received from stakeholders based in 90 countries.

Online Consultations

[18 – 29 November 2025] Global Online Stakeholder Consultation - Inputs to the 2025 UN Ocean Conference Declaration

- The 2025 UN Ocean Conference adopted a brief, concise, action oriented and intergovernmentally agreed declaration, titled “**Our ocean, our future: united for urgent action**”, which along with a list of voluntary commitments, is referred to as the “**Nice Ocean Action Plan**” ([A/RES/79/314](#)).
- Upon the request of the Co-Facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations (Australia and Cabo Verde), UN DESA organized a global online stakeholder consultation for non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other actors to contribute substantive inputs to the 2025 UN Ocean Conference Declaration.
- Inputs addressed up to three key actions that focus on areas of accelerated and collective action to support the implementation of SDG 14 and that could be considered by Member States for inclusion in the 2025 UN Ocean Conference Declaration.
- All inputs were shared with the Co-Facilitators prior to the finalization of the zero draft. The summary includes a word cloud illustrating the common themes raised by stakeholders (featured to the right) as well as a list of main recommendations. The report and all responses by stakeholders are available on this [webpage](#).



More than **900 inputs** were received from **380 countries**. 27% of responses came from youth *below 35 years old*.



*Word cloud on common themes for the Declaration, generated on WordClouds.Com

Preparatory Meeting, 2 July 2024

As mandated in the General Assembly [resolution 78/128](#), the President of the General Assembly convened a preparatory meeting, on 2 July 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Chaired by the two co-hosts of the Conference, Costa Rica and France, the objective was for Member States to consider the themes for the Ocean Action panels and elements for the declaration.

Representatives from accredited stakeholder organizations were able to attend and contribute to the discussions held during the Preparatory Meeting.

- **387 representatives** from accredited non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholder organizations registered to attend the meeting.
- UNDESA conducted an open call with all registered stakeholders to indicate their interest in delivering short remarks during the Preparatory Meeting. **55 applications** were received. **14 stakeholders delivered oral interventions** during the preparatory meeting. The Secretariat also compiled a number of written inputs. All statements are published [here](#).
- More information, including the webcast link can be found [here](#).



2025 ECOSOC Youth Forum

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum took place from 15 to 17 April 2025, providing a platform for young people to engage in a dialogue with Member States and other stakeholders to share their views and concerns as well as provide recommendations, guided by the 2025 theme of ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum (HLPF): “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”.

The 2025 ECOSOC Youth Forum’s Thematic Session on SDG 14, “Youth for Sustainable Oceans: Mobilization and Actions”, organized and led by UNDESA, UNEP, UNESCO, YOUNGO and MGCY, brought together representatives from 15 UN Member States and featured **7 youth respondents** who offered compelling interventions rooted in their lived experiences and community-driven initiatives. The dialogue highlighted the vital role of young people in driving ocean action, capacity-building programs and underscored the importance of inclusive spaces that reflect diverse voices. Their contributions helped frame a forward-looking conversation around ocean conservation, resilience and innovation, laying the groundwork for meaningful youth engagement ahead of the 2025 UN Ocean Conference. The youth respondents’ passion and insights are further showcased in a short video [here](#), highlighting their engagement on SDG 14 and their vision for resilient, inclusive ocean action.

Photos by UNDESA/Jennifer Kim



Briefings and Webinars

To ensure the timely dissemination of information regarding the UNOC3 Conference, UNDESA organized a virtual webinar. This webinar served to update stakeholders on the Conference proceedings, share opportunities for stakeholder engagement, and provide a platform for direct interactions with stakeholders.



[19 March 2024] 1st Multi-stakeholder Informative Webinar on the 2025 UN Ocean Conference

- The co-hosts of the Conference, France and Costa Rica, shared their visions for the Conference and Ambassador Peter Thomson, the UN SG Special Envoy for the Ocean, made an intervention calling on all stakeholders to contribute to the implementation of SDG 14. A representative from the Mission of Portugal shared some lessons learned in the organization of the UN 2022 Ocean Conference.

830 registrations were received and **410 participants** joined the virtual meeting live.

- Stakeholders representing networks of CSOs, local and regional governments and youth also shared key messages and expectations for the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.
- For more information about the webinar, please, check [here](#).

Special Accreditation Process

As guided by resolution [A/RES/78/128](#) (paragraph 4) relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society and youth organizations, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, local and regional authorities, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders, could participate in the Conference and the preparatory meeting as observers.

Two open calls for special accreditation were conducted by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) of the Department of Global Communications (DGC). The President of the General Assembly (PGA) circulated the list of recommended organizations for Member States review on a non-objection basis.



- 2025 UN Ocean Conference - Special Accreditation for Non-Governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders (First Round)

114 organizations received special accreditation in the first round conducted between February and March 2024.

- 2025 UN Ocean Conference - Special Accreditation for Non-Governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders (Second Round)

741 organizations received special accreditation in the second round conducted between November and December 2024.

In total, **855 organizations** received special accreditation to attend the UNOC3.

Practical Guide

To facilitate and support the participation of representatives of NGOs, Major Groups and other stakeholders, UNDESA published a practical guide for stakeholder participation prior to the Conference. The practical guide provided all relevant information for stakeholder participation and was well received by all registered participants. The guide can be accessed [here](#).

Registration

- Stakeholder registration was open from 6 May to 19 May 2025. Each accredited organization was able to request registration for **up to 7 representatives**.
- **5960 stakeholder registrations** were approved for the UNOC3 Conference through the three channels for stakeholder registration: (1) Specially Accredited Organizations (4233), (2) Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC (1437), and (3) Umbrella Organizations (290).
- **1671** organizations registered participants to attend the Conference. The stakeholders were from **139 different countries** of residence and **149 nationalities**.
- Around **35% (2094)** of all registered stakeholders were under 35 years old.
- **3872** stakeholders (65% of those registered) retrieved their badges and attended the Conference in Nice, France. This represents an **84.2% increase in participation** compared to UNOC2 in Lisbon, Portugal (based on printed badges).

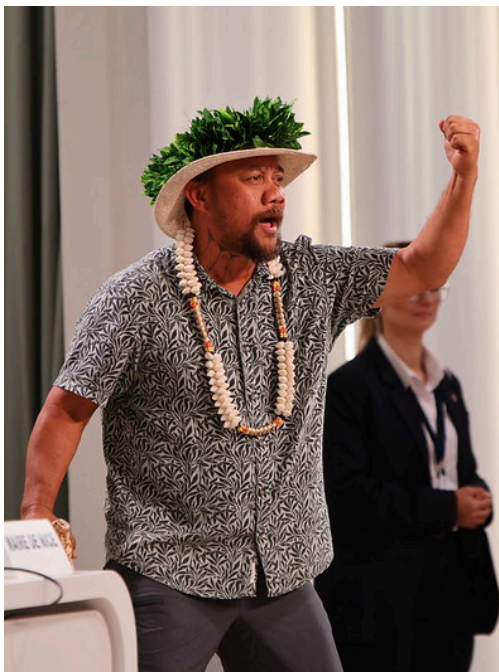


Photo by UNDESA/Predrag Vasic

Specially Accredited Organizations

4233 registrations were approved for this category of organizations. This process was coordinated by the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS-DGC).

Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with

ECOSOC

1437 registrations were approved for representatives of organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC. This process was coordinated by UN DESA.

Umbrella

The Secretariat called on a limited number of accredited organizations to support the registration and participation of additional stakeholder representatives from a few strategic sectors. **290 participants** registered through this channel. This process was coordinated by UNDESA.

Stakeholder Interventions – UNOC3

Conference Official Sessions

Prior to the Conference, UN DESA circulated an open call for registered stakeholders to indicate their interest in delivering remarks during the official sessions of the UNOC3 (Plenary and Ocean Action Panels). **304 stakeholders** registered their interest in speaking at the Plenary sessions or Ocean Action Panels of the Conference. **40 stakeholders** intervened during the official sessions of the 2025 UN Ocean Conference:

Plenary

23 stakeholders intervened during the Plenary session held in the morning of 12 June representing different sectors, regions and thematic priorities. The statements are available [here](#).

Ocean Action Panels

17 stakeholders intervened during the 10 Ocean Action Panels. Written versions of these interventions can be found by navigating the Conference programme and selecting the dedicated webpages for each plenary session or Ocean Action Panel [here](#).

Written Statements

An open call for written inputs from accredited stakeholders was held. **77 submissions** from accredited non-governmental organizations and stakeholders are published [here](#).

Photo by UNDESA/Predrag Vasic



UN Secretary-General's meeting with Civil Society and stakeholder representatives

On 9 June 2025, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, held a special meeting with civil society and stakeholder representatives. The session underscored the UN's recognition of the essential role that civil society plays in ocean action and emphasized the importance of listening to and amplifying the voices of those most affected by ocean degradation and climate change, as well as those driving solutions on the ground.

Structured as an interactive dialogue, **the meeting brought together 15 representatives** from stakeholder groups actively contributing to the implementation of SDG 14. Participants included representatives from youth, the private sector, local and regional governments, science and academia, Indigenous Peoples, women, and philanthropic organizations. Special attention was given to ensuring regional and gender balance. The session was moderated by the Conference Secretary-General, USG Li Junhua from UN DESA, and was also attended by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Ocean, Ambassador Peter Thomson, along with USG for Legal Affairs, Ms. Elinor Hammarskjöld.

Participants emphasized the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, support for Indigenous Peoples and coastal communities, and the need for global cooperation to address pollution and illegal fishing. The discussion also highlighted the importance of science-based solutions, reliable data, and inclusive participation, particularly from youth, women, and vulnerable groups. The private sector representatives stressed the need for sustainable investment and improved coordination, while local leadership and voluntary commitments were recognized as key drivers of progress. As a follow-up, the UN Secretary-General will continue to foster dialogue with civil society and other stakeholders, emphasizing the integration of climate, ocean, biodiversity, and pollution perspectives with a strong focus on science and data collection.

Photo by from [X account](#)



Stakeholder Messages

The following statements capture key messages from stakeholders during the 2025 UN Ocean Conference. They include written submissions provided in advance, as well as remarks delivered during the Ocean Action Panels and Plenary meetings.



"The deep-sea is the "common heritage of humankind." It belongs to our ancestors, and it belongs to future generations. We have a responsibility to steward this inheritance, not exploit it."

Sustainable Ocean Alliance



"Supporting citizen science and community-based monitoring ensures marine data reflects Indigenous perspectives."

Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba) and the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development



"We need open technology to monitor and verify progress, and call on governments to make ocean data accessible, support community monitoring, and ensure youth and civil society have a real voice in every SDG 14 decision—from local plans to BBNJ implementation."

Plant for the Planet



"We urge recognition and preservation of traditional knowledge and cultural practices developed by small scale fishers especially women and girls whose expertise spans seas, rivers, and lakes. These practices are crucial to sustainable marine governance."

Women's Major Group



"Ocean justice must be lived and felt by the communities who call the ocean home. The Pacific is not just on the frontlines—we are leading. We ask the world to walk with us."

Ocean Eco Alliance

Side Events

Side events served as a key channel for stakeholder engagement and participation, providing an important opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the UNOC3 Conference. Side events could be organized either in-person inside the Conference venue, in-person across Nice or virtually by **Member States, the UN system, Intergovernmental Organizations and accredited non-governmental stakeholders.**

The open call for side events in connection with the UNOC3 Conference received **1250 applications**. Priority was given to side events organized by Member States and those organized in partnership by several networks/organizations.

In total, over 450 side events took place in connection with the UNOC3 Conference.

This included 130 side events held inside the Conference venue, more than 240 side events across Nice and 80 virtual side events.

The UNOC3 side events showcased an extraordinary diversity of themes and approaches, reflecting the shared global commitment to ocean sustainability. Organized by a wide range of partners including Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the UN System and accredited stakeholders, the events highlighted collaborative action across areas such as ocean climate linkages, marine biodiversity, blue economy innovation, small-scale fisheries, marine spatial planning, ocean data and technology, deep sea conservation and inclusive governance. Many side events were solution-oriented and emphasized the importance of partnerships, capacity building, indigenous and youth engagement, as well as equitable financing and legal mechanisms to advance SDG 14. The breadth and depth of discussions demonstrated a collective drive toward accelerating ocean action through science, policy and cross-sectoral collaboration. Over **50 summaries** of side events have been uploaded to the [Conference website](#).

Photos by UNDESA/Predrag Vasic and Lineke Schrijver



Additional Spaces

Special Events

Three special events were organized in connection with the 2025 UN Conference by the Government of France and numerous partners. These events complemented the UNOC3 Conference, providing an additional platform for stakeholders and others to come together and advance ocean action.

One Ocean Science Congress

Key partners: The One Ocean Science Congress is co-organized by the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and French national institute for ocean science and technology (Ifremer).

Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition Summit

Key partners: The Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Coalition Summit is co-organized by the City of Nice and the Ocean Climate Platform.

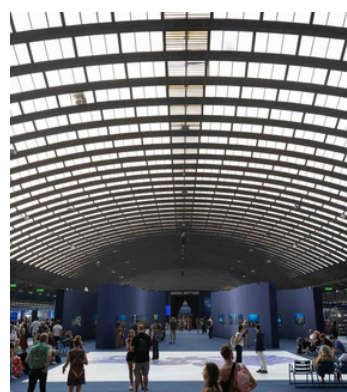
Blue Economy and Finance Forum

Key partners: The Blue Economy and Finance Forum is co-organized by the Principality of Monaco, the Foundation Prince Albert II de Monaco, the Monaco Oceanographic Institute.

La Baleine

In addition, the French government offered an additional space close to the UNOC3 Conference venue for exhibitions, dialogues, and performances, showcasing diverse perspectives and innovative approaches to ocean sustainability. Together, these activities underscored the importance of collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and broad stakeholder participation in accelerating progress toward SDG 14.

Photos by IISD and UNDESA/Predrag Vasic



Travel Support

- A total of **11 stakeholders** from SIDS representing youth networks (5), Indigenous Peoples (2); Academia (1) and civil society organizations (3) received travel support to attend the UNOC3 Conference. Ireland supported this initiative through a grant implemented by UNDESA.
- Stakeholders were identified through a compilation of nominations from major groups directly engaging in the UNOC3 preparations as well as active stakeholder networks from SIDS countries.



Photos by IISD, UNDESA/Predrag Vasic and Lineke Schrijver



Stakeholder mobilization and outreach

- **Website:** From 1 January to 30 June 2025, the official [UNOC3 Conference webpage](#) had a total number of **1,369,638 page views**.
- **Dedicated webpage:** A [dedicated page](#) was set up for the UNOC3 Conference website to promote opportunities for stakeholder engagement.
- **Mailing List:** A mailing list has been set up for communication and outreach with interested stakeholders. **Over 3,400 registrants** signed up to the UNOC3 mailing list.
- **UN News Stories:** A total of **6 UN News stories** were published.

Social Media

- A dedicated [Trello board](#) was created by the Department of Global Communications (DGC) to share outreach materials related to the UNOC3 Conference and its preparatory process. This included the Conference logo, digital card templates, facts and figures, suggested social media messages, podcasts, YouTube videos, news articles, and more.
- The Conference and its outcomes received extensive media coverage, including reports from major wire services (Reuters, AFP, EFE, dpa) as well as original reporting by prominent outlets like The New York Times, BBC, The Guardian, and others. European media outlets led in both visibility and volume of coverage.
- The primary hashtag for the Conference was **#UNOC3**, which was widely circulated through social media platforms, including X, Facebook and LinkedIn.



Photos by UNDESA/Predrag Vasic





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