



SEK MUN

UNESCO committee

Topic 2: Strategies for the development of
the project “Ocean decade”



President: Ines Aschenbrenner

Moderator: Marina Komissarchik



WELCOMING LETTER

Dear delegations,

Speaking on behalf of the SEKMUN organization, it is a big pleasure to welcome you all to the UNESCO council. We are Ines Aschenbrenner and Marina Komissarchik, president and moderator of the council, and we are excited that you will be part of this United Nations Model.

We have selected the following topics to to be debated:

- “The need to raise awareness towards racism in schools, due to its increase during the last decades”
- “Strategies for the development of the project “Ocean decade”

Both topics deal with deep themes that have been carefully selected by us.

These topics are an issue that has to be dealt with as quickly as possible in order to prevent any disasters or damages to both living beings and nature. We are certain you understand the seriousness of these issues and will be able to defend the positions and the opinions of your assigned countries. The ineffective resolutions made by the United Nations Model previously, should be rectified by you, delegations. You should be able to reach effective, fruitful and well thought agreements/solutions in order to guarantee successful changes that will lead to a prosperous future.

Given the breadth of both topics, to avoid vagueness and inaccuracies during the debate and the resolutions, Ines and Marina have cleverly chosen the subtopics that will be specified later on in the guide that will help and guide all the delegations throughout the debate.

From the committee table, we expect all the delegations to bring truthful information, respect other delegations while they are speaking, defend the position of their assigned country well and be able to develop analytical, communication, teamwork and other skills throughout the debate.

Summarizing everything previously stated, we hope that all delegations will be able to have a serious and at the same time fun debate, make new friends, be able to reach solutions with other countries, and learn new things that will help you, delegations, in the future life.

Information about your president and moderator

Your president:

"Hello delegates! My name is Ines Aschenbrenner. I am a 2nd year IB student, and my plan is to study Medicine or Law at university next year. I have been to many MUN conferences, such as BosMUN and MEI, but I have a special interest in SEKMUN, as this was when I started my journey in debate as a page in 2019. On a personal note, I am both Spanish and Austrian and I like playing piano, skiing and matcha."

Your moderator:

"Hello fellow delegates! My name is Marina Komissarchik. I am half Israeli and half Russian and I am in my 2nd year as an IB student. In the future I would like to do something related to business and economics and to be a jewish activist. I have taken part in many debates such as BFMUN,CMUNCE... and I am very thankful to be your moderator in the UNESCO council. Some curiosities about me are: I am a huge fan of Russian literature, I love Star Wars and I am passionate about learning new languages."

UNESCO

UNESCO can stress the ultimate need for world political unity and familiarize all people with the implications of the transfer of full sovereignty from separate nations to a world organization

Julian Huxley, Inaugural Director-General UNESCO and
Founder of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

UNESCO is the organization in the United Nations that handles Education, Science and Culture. The aim of this organization is to contribute to peace and security while playing a role in promoting global cooperation in science, education, communication, culture and information. UNESCO encourages sharing knowledge and the free flow of ideas to have an accelerated common ground to understand human being's life all around the world. The programs carried out by UNESCO make a vast contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that were defined in the 2030 Agenda, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

UNESCO is the only United Nations organization that counts with a global network of cooperating bodies; National Commission for UNESCO. The commission relevant for the second topic that will be debated is the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

On the other hand, the Ocean Decade Project is handled by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) within UNESCO. The IOC is the United Nations body which is responsible for supporting the science and services in the ocean on a global scale. It enables its 150 Member States to work in unison in order to protect the health of the ocean via the coordination of programs. In the 21st century, IOC is focused on assisting its Member States for these to build a scientific and institutional building block to achieve the global goals, such as the UN Agenda 2030 and its SDGs.

CONTEXT

“The IOC has an important role to play in key areas needed for implementing SDG14, particularly capacity development and technology transfer.”

Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for Decade of Ocean

Life on Earth is slowly degrading because of numerous issues: Climate change, food shortages, epidemics and natural disasters, economic crises and unemployment. The next 10 years are crucial in turning everything around. In taking action.

One of the major components that must be targeted in this change is the ocean. Plastics invading the marine ecosystems, damaging marine life; Pollution. Malpractices for food; Overfishing. As it is a major carbon sink (stores CO₂ from the atmosphere), the increase in CO₂ is increasing ocean acidity; Coral bleaching. All these problems joint together; Species extinction.

To restore the ocean and protect it from future harms, it must be our aim to better understand it. The *Ocean Decade* project was created for this purpose. It is a framework to acquire knowledge that will lead to solutions to the ocean’s most demanding concerns. It is all about putting action into motion, rather than simply theorizing. However, a way must be found in order for effective strategies to be encountered in individual countries.

ABOUT THE OCEAN DECADE

Vision: *The science we need for the ocean we want.*

Mission: *Transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and our ocean.*

The Ocean Decade project, formally known as the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) seeks to from the identification of a science to the generation of the science and to the use of it for the ocean. It aims to reverse the decline of the condition of the ocean ecosystem, thus catalyzing new chances for a sustainable development of this major carbon sink and home to marine life.

The project provides a framework in order for stakeholders from differing sectors and scientists to acquire knowledge, and for partnerships to accelerate the advance through investment. This must be carried out to obtain an improved understanding of the ocean to deliver solutions that are science-based and will help achieve the 2030 Agenda.

For the implementation of the Ocean Decade project, the UN General Assembly delegate the coordination to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

To better achieve the ocean we want by 2030, IOC has set a series of 10 Challenges. These challenges were made to unite the partners that are investigating on common ocean science priorities in relation to important infrastructure, gaps of knowledge, and capacity for development. The actions that take the form of projects, activities, programs and contributions, will be implemented to accomplish the Agenda and global policies.

The 10 different challenges that have been set are the following:

- *Challenge 1:* Understand and beat marine pollution.
- *Challenge 2:* Protect and restore ecosystem and biodiversity.
- *Challenge 3:* Sustainably feed the global population.
- *Challenge 4:* Develop and sustainable and equitable ocean economy.
- *Challenge 5:* Unlock ocean-based solutions to climate change.
- *Challenge 6:* Increase community resilience to ocean hazards.
- *Challenge 7:* Expand the global ocean observing system.

- *Challenge 8:* Create a digital representation of the ocean.
- *Challenge 9:* Skills, knowledge and technology for all.
- *Challenge 10:* Change humanity’s relationship with the ocean.

The Ocean Decade Implementation Plan has been created to provide a non-prescriptive synthesis for its application. Within the plan it has been arranged that there will be extensive stakeholder engagement, by including National Decade committees. Additionally, it endorses Implementing Partners which are selected by institutions of stakeholders, networks committed to the vision and mission stated of the Project. These partners sustain efforts in supporting the Ocean Decade through specific tasks.

 Health of marine biodiversity	 Geographic gaps in knowledge	 Multiple stressors	 The ocean-climate-biodiversity nexus	 Human aspects of the ocean
<p>The issue:</p> <p>The health of marine biodiversity is declining, but how rapidly this decline is occurring in different parts of the ocean is not well known.</p>	<p>The issue:</p> <p>Many developing countries lack ocean data. Most of the deep sea remains unexplored and little is known about microbial diversity in the ocean.</p>	<p>The issue:</p> <p>The cumulative and increasing impacts of multiple stressors on marine biodiversity are not well understood.</p>	<p>The issue:</p> <p>The combined impacts of ocean warming, acidification and deoxygenation on biodiversity are not well known. Ocean carbon storage function is important but under-researched.</p>	<p>The issue:</p> <p>The human component of the ocean is still poorly understood, with social, cultural and economic information not routinely collected as part of biological and ecological research.</p>
<p>The response:</p> <p>Ocean Decade initiatives such as Marine Life 2030 seek to transform the observation and forecasting of marine life globally.</p>	<p>The response:</p> <p>Ocean Decade programmes such as Challenger 150 and the Ocean Twilight Zone Project study the deep sea, while the Ocean Biomolecular Observing Network seeks to understand ocean life and build capacity.</p>	<p>The response:</p> <p>Ocean Decade programmes including Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability (OARS) and the Global Oxygen Ocean Decade (GOOD).</p>	<p>The response:</p> <p>Ocean Decade initiatives such as the Global Ocean Decade Programme for Blue Carbon and the Reef Recovery 2030 address interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change.</p>	<p>The response:</p> <p>Ocean Decade initiatives such as Ocean Voices build equity through understanding ocean actors, their culture and well-being.</p>

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Figure 1. Knowledge gaps in ocean science underpinning the GBF and how the Ocean Decade is responding to them.

COP-15 MEETING

A COP is the meeting of all the governments that belong to a specific convention. Governments from different countries come together to reach an agreement on

decisions that will affect the future of humanity. COP-15 was made for a negotiation to emerge on biodiversity and the relationship human beings have with it. The main objective is to adopt the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This framework includes a plan in which the central focus are the negotiations at the *15th Convention of Parties of the Convention of Biological Diversity*, that was held in Montreal Canada, in December 2022. The Ocean Project will help achieve the ocean-related goals to be solved in this convention.

In order to greatly contribute to the objectives in the 2030 Agenda, this project aspires to focus on marine and coastal biodiversity. It will require an increased investment to advance regarding scientific knowledge, and partnerships with a great number of diverse groups to convert the scientific knowledge into palpable and scalable action. Action into motion.

The event will explore how to move from knowledge to practical solutions. This will be carried out by bringing together speakers from science, government, and philanthropy exploring the elements needed of the different actors to inform policy and decision making globally.

OCEAN DECADE AFRICA ROADMAP

It is intrinsic to take countries in all stages of development into consideration. Starting with Africa, a game-plan is set in order for it to function for these countries that greatly depend on the state of the ocean.

The Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap has resulted from the efforts of numerous patterns throughout the course of multiple years to plan how to convert the ocean into the ocean we want as part of the original Ocean Decade. Activists, communities, youth and industry are needed to lead and tackle the most urgent needs. This plan has identified 9 priority actions recognizing that engagement and skills are essential for the implementation. It additionally aims to bring together ocean science-informed, indigenous and local knowledge to create a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous Africa.

For the strategies proposed to be adequate, it is important for the countries to investigate how this roadmap will be carried out, and how this can be applied to any developing country.

LINKS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General information.

OCEAN DECADE PLATFORM. Latest news and basic information is provided.

<https://oceansdecade.org>

INTRODUCTION TO OCEAN DECADE. What is the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO2Un-6nIS4>

10 OCEAN DECADE CHALLENGES. Short synthesis and video of each challenge.

<https://oceansdecade.org/challenges/>

More specific and relevant information for debate.

COP-15. 15th Convention of Parties of the Convention of Biological Diversity.

<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022>

REPORT. Implementation plan.

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000376780>

JPI. Implementing partner for Europe, its impact.

<https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/en/un-ocean-decade-0>

REPORT. Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap.

<https://oceansdecade.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Ocean-Decade-Africa-Roadmap.pdf>