



ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

AGENDA ITEM 5.2.2B

PARTICIPATION IN 3RD UN OCEANS CONFERENCE



BACKGROUND

- In support of IHO Strategic Plan Goal 3, “Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean”, the IHO has actively participated in key international forums such as the 2nd UN Oceans Conference and the Ocean Decade Conference 2024.
- The paper sets out the IHO Secretariat’s aims, objectives, specific activities and level of ambition for participation in the 3rd UN Ocean Conference in June 2025 (UNOC25) and identifies specific budgetary requirements.



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HISTORY AND AIMS OF THE UN OCEAN CONFERENCE SERIES

- The overarching aim of the conference series is to support the delivery of SD14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Previous conferences:
 - 1st – Hosted by Sweden and Fiji in 2017 in New York – SB2030 a voluntary commitment
 - 2nd – Hosted by Portugal and Kenya in 2022 in Lisbon – IHO hosted a side event
- As UN events, outputs from the conferences can take the form of frameworks, declarations, action plans, protocols, statements etc. that can have a particular legal standing.
- Attended by reps from 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



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AIM OF THE ENGAGEMENT

- The aim of the IHO engagement in UNOC25 (and associated events) is to support the delivery of the Strategic Plan by:
 - Ensuring international oceans policy is conducive, if not supportive of the broadest utilization (ergo investment in and implementation) of S-100
 - Advocating for investment in primary data gathering and the sharing of existing data holdings, and;
 - Protecting the domain expertise of the IHO.



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UNOC25 KEY ELEMENTS AND ASSOCIATED EVENTS

International
Hydrographic
Organization

- **Date** 9 – 13 June 2025
- **Theme** - *“Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”*
- **Format** – 10 plenary sessions and 10 Ocean Action Panels
- Focus on building upon existing instruments to support collaboration and expedite various activities that support delivery of SDG14
- The Conference will adopt , an international declaration, which along with a list of voluntary commitments, will be referred to as “Nice Ocean Action Plan”
- CBSC23 and IRCC17 will be held the week prior to UNOC23
- UNOC will also be preceded by One Ocean Science Congress and a Blue Economy and Finance Forum



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POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES

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The exact nature of the engagement will be refined as details of the conference and its specific themes are made public. Initial ideas include:

- **Side event** at the Economic and Finance forum. **Focus** on Polar regions. **Audience** – Policy makers, National Hydrographers, Multilateral Development Finance community.
- **Side event** at the Economic and Finance forum in collaboration with the OECD. **Focus** on launch of the Seabed mapping in 2050 report. **Audience** – Policy makers, National Hydrographers, Multilateral Development Finance community.
- **Side event** at the UNOC25 main conference in collaboration with the OECD and IOC, bringing out S-100 based products and services in the context of the OECD Report on the Ocean Economy in 2050. **Audience** - National delegations, civil society, policy makers, philanthropy etc.



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NEXT STEPS

- The IHO Secretariat is working with a number of partner organizations to refine exactly how we will be involved
- Encourage MS to make use of the co-location of IRCC17 to seek to participate in national delegations to UNOC25
- Welcome interested MS to make themselves known to Assistant Director Harper serve as the PoC and coordinate activity



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RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that Council notes and supports the proposed engagement in UNOC25, encourages member states to take advantage of the alignment of IRCC17 to the UNOC25, and to engage early with national delegations in order to participate accordingly.



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ACTIONS REQUESTED OF COUNCIL

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The Council is invited to:

- a. Note and discuss this paper
- b. Take any action it deems necessary