

12th ABLOS CONFERENCE
7 - 8 October 2025

IS UNCLOS FIT FOR PURPOSE IN MODERN TIMES ? ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PATHWAYS



Organised in association with The Qatari Standing Committee of the Convention of the Law of the Sea

MONDAY 6 OCTOBER

1300 - 1800	ABLOS Registration	Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Doha, Qatar
-------------	--------------------	---------------------------------

TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER

0800 - 0900	ABLOS Registration	Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Doha, Qatar
0900 - 0910	Welcome Address	H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al-Hammadi – Chairperson of the Qatari Standing Committee on the Convention on the Law of the Sea
0910 - 0920	Welcome Address	Admiral Luigi Sinapi, Director, International Hydrographic Organization
0920 - 0930	Welcome Address	Dr Richard Gross (TBC), President, International Association of Geodesy
0930 - 1000	Keynote Address	Ms Alice Hicuburundi, Senior Legal Officer, United Nations Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)

1000 - 1045 Coffee break and photo

1045 - 1230	SESSION 1 – UNCLOS: Fit for Purpose in Modern Times Chair: Fiona Bloor
-------------	---

Elfatih Elnour
(The Qatari Standing Committee
of the Convention on
the Law of the Sea)

The Ability of UNCLOS to Face Modern Challenges: An Overview

Andrew Serdy
(University of Southampton)

“Flexibility” of UNCLOS

Adnan Al-Azri
(Ministry of Foreign Affairs–Oman)

Successes and Shortcomings of UNCLOS in Safeguarding the Marine Environment

Ayo Olugbode
(National Hydrographic Agency–
Nigeria)

From Policy to Practice: Strengthening Nigeria’s Blue Economy through Integrated Ocean Governance

1230 - 1400 Lunch

1400 - 1530

SESSION 2 – UNCLOS and Ocean Management Challenges Chair: Lorenzo Schiano di Pepe

Ilaria Tani

(University of Milano–Bicocca)

UNCLOS and the New Challenges of the Underwater Dimension

Randa El Fakhry and Roger Fakhoury

(Lebanese University)

The Effectiveness of the UNCLOS in Combating Maritime Environmental Crimes: A Contemporary Criminal Approach

Kevin Baumert

(U.S. Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) Project)

A Global Map of Extended Continental Shelf Limits

José Cordova-Aguilar
(Ecuadorian Navy)

National Sovereignty and International Law: A Case Study of the Brotherhood Marine Reserve Delimitation under UNCLOS Principles

1530 - 1600 Coffee break

1600 - 1730

SESSION 3 – Advances in Ocean Governance Chair: Sheikh Mohammad bin Hamad Al-Thani

Tullio Scovazzi

(University of Milano–Bicocca)

Underwater Cultural Heritage

Elizabeth Macpherson
(University of Canterbury)

Equity and Justice in the Design of Blue Carbon Legal Frameworks: Reflections from Aotearoa New Zealand

Ander López Puertas
(University of Cádiz)

Advancing Continuous Monitoring of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC): A Framework for Integrated Observations and Climate Impact Assessment

Tihao Zeng
(University of Geneva)

Integrating Ocean Observation into Plastics Governance: Legal Pathways under UNCLOS, the Emerging Plastics Treaty, and Climate Obligations

1900 - 2100 ABLOS Reception - All participants are kindly invited to a reception at Fenyal – Gewan Island

WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER

0830 - 1000

SESSION 4 – Climate Change and the Ocean Chair: Clive Schofield

David Freestone

(International Law Association Committee on International Law and Sea Level Rise)

Sea Level Rise and the Evolution of State Practice – the Role of the International Law Association Committee on International Law and Sea Level Rise

Lolwa Al-Kuwari

(Ministry of Environment and Climate Change–Qatar)

Climate Change and the Law of the Sea: A Vision for a more Sustainable Future

Mitchell Lennan

(University of Aberdeen)

Are the Fisheries Provisions of UNCLOS Fit for Purpose to Respond to the Impacts of Climate Change?

Beatriz Martinez Romera
(University of Copenhagen –CLIMA)

Shipping Decarbonization in the Age of the ITLOS and ICJ Advisory Opinions

1000 - 1030 Coffee break

1030 - 1245	SESSION 5 – New Technologies and Maritime Security Chair: John Ells
James Kraska (Naval War College–USA)	Critical Underwater Infrastructure Security and UNCLOS
Rashid Al-Hajri (Qatar Emiri Naval Force– Ministry of Defence–Qatar)	Emerging Maritime Security Threats in the Arabian Gulf: Causes and Implications
Robert van de Poll and Clive Schofield (Fugro and University of Wollongong–ANCORS)	SatRecon and Maritime Boundary Dispute Resolution
Eva van Heukelom (University of Hamburg)	Balancing National Data Protections and UNCLOS Obligations in the Age of AI
Andrey Chernov (SUNY Maritime College)	MRV Data Liability for Alternative Marine Fuels: UNCLOS as a “Living Instrument” for Ocean Observation Accountability
1245 - 1400 Lunch	
1400 - 1530	SESSION 6 – Ocean Observation Infrastructure and Space Chair: Niels Andersen
Michael Linden-Vørnle (Technical University of Denmark–Space)	Technical Aspects of our Space Infrastructure and its Impact on the Future UNCLOS
Erik Franckx (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)	Past Present and Future: Challenges Raised by the Regime of Marine Scientific Research and Ocean Observation
Inga Lips (L4M Consulting)	From Consent to Collaboration: EOOS as a Pathway to Fit-for-Purpose Ocean Observation under UNCLOS
Sheila Kong Mukwele (Ministry of External Relations of Cameroon)	Ocean Observation, Institutional Fragmentation, and the Limits of UNCLOS: A Legal and Policy Inquiry into the Fit-for-Purpose Test in the Age of Climate and Technological Disruption
1530 - 1600 Coffee Break	
1600 - 1730	SESSION 7 - Ocean Observation and Cooperation Frameworks Chair: Virginie Tassin Campanella
Laura Giuliano (The Mediterranean Science Commission–CIESM)	Where Oceans Unite: CIESM Marine Research across the Mediterranean and Black Sea
Emily Charry Tissier (Whale Seeker–Canada)	From Satellites to Cetaceans: Technical and Legal Challenges of Spatial Ocean Observation
Saud AlRuways (ROPME Sea Area Hydrographic Commission)	Data for Decision-Making: Enhancing Maritime Safety and Economic Security in the RSAHC
Laura Meyer (IOC–UNESCO)	From Silos to Synergy: Harnessing (Private Sector) Data to Strengthen the Science-Policy Interface - in the Context of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
1730 - 1830	CLOSING CEREMONY
Closing Keynote	Tomas Heidar, President, International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
Closing Address	Admiral Luigi Sinapi, Director, International Hydrographic Organization
Closing Address	H.E Dr. Ahmed Al-Hammadi - Chairperson of the Qatari Standing Committee on the Convention on the Law of the Sea