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26/03/2024

Third United Nations Oceans Conference (Nice, 9-14 / 06/2025)

France and Costa Rica will host the third edition of the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC), as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in the resolution adopted by consensus on December 20, 2022.

This Conference will be held from **June 9 to 14, 2025** in Nice, France, with a prologue from June 8, 2025. A high-level thematic preliminary event will be organized in Costa Rica on June 7 and 8, 2024.

France and Costa Rica are dedicated to an inclusive and transparent consultation process and an action-oriented conference. Both countries wish to raise the level of ambition compared to the two previous editions of UNOC, by associating with the political declaration an action program made up of voluntary commitments, carried by coalitions.

hold. These two elements, as well as the conclusions of the high-level Ocean Action Panels, would together constitute the main written results of the Conference: the Nice Ocean Action Plan, “NOA Plan”).

Thus, the third edition of the UNOC will be structured around the following three pillars:

- (i) advocate for the success of multilateral processes directly or indirectly related to the ocean and consolidate and reinforce our common objectives for ocean protection,**
- (ii) mobilize and increase funding, including through the development of new financial mechanisms relevant to achieve Sustainable development goal N°14 (SDG14) and support a sustainable blue economy,**
- (iii) strengthen and better diffuse knowledge related to ocean sciences for science-based, comprehensive decision-making**

Three major special events will be organized in Nice and Monaco ahead of the Conference, between June 5 and 8, 2025:

- A three-day “**One Ocean Science**” Congress bringing together nearly 3,000 researchers;
- a forum dedicated to **the blue economy and the financing of ocean protection**, organized in and with the Principality of Monaco;
- a special **summit on coastal cities and regions** and their resilience to climate change and sea level rise.



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The Ocean, which covers more than 70% of our planet's surface, is an essential resource for populations in numerous ways. According to the United Nations figures, **over 3 billion people depend on the ocean for their livelihoods.**

The Ocean has an irreplaceable role in regulating global warming, in particular through its role as a carbon pump. It is estimated that the ocean contains 50 times more carbon than the atmosphere and that it has absorbed 30% of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions in the last decades. The significant deterioration of its health and biodiversity will lead to irreversible losses. As stated by the United Nations Secretary General at the last United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, the ocean is entering a state of emergency. Collective action to halt and reverse the decline in ocean health is imperative.

The aim of this conference is thus to make real and concrete progress in implementing SDG 14 and other international ocean protection goals. With regard to SDG 14: the fight against marine pollution of all kinds; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and the management and sustainable protection of ecosystems will be at the heart of UNOC discussions.

Costa Rica and France have conceived the Conference around three priorities, which may be enriched and complemented through consultations. **Both countries wish to converge existing multilateral ocean-related processes. The ongoing negotiations on the fight against plastic pollution, fisheries regulation, marine biodiversity conservation in waters beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) are all examples of processes that could come to fruition by 2025.**

France is aiming for an **exceptional international mobilization** for ocean protection similar to that for climate, ten years after COP21 and the Paris Agreement (participation of the UN Secretary General and around 100 Heads of state). In addition to UN member states, specialized agencies, civil society, the private sector and international donors will be represented. This mobilization is necessary to take account of the urgency of the situation, to strengthen scientific knowledge, and to make progress in the ongoing negotiations.

We have identified several work streams for UNOC, brought together in an "Ocean Compact". These topics could be showcased through dedicated Ocean panels, stakeholder coalitions, specific announcements by participants, or even Conference outcomes. Local authorities will be important stakeholders in this Ocean Compact. /.