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**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**

Nice, France, 9–13 June 2025

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Organization of work, including the establishment of
subsidiary organs, and other organizational matters**

Organizational and procedural matters

Note by the Secretariat

1. The proposals set out in the present note have been prepared on the basis of General Assembly resolution [78/128](#).

I. Election of officers

2. The Conference shall elect two Presidents and other officers in accordance with its rules of procedure. As stipulated in rule 6, the Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: two Presidents, one from Costa Rica and one from France, each of whom shall preside separately. The Conference shall also elect 13 Vice-Presidents,¹ one of whom shall be designated as Rapporteur-General, two ex officio Vice-Presidents from the host countries as well as a Chair for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. The officers shall be elected with a view to ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

* [A/CONF.230/2025/1](#).

¹ Three from each of the following groups: African States; Asia-Pacific States; Eastern European States; Latin American and Caribbean States; and Western European and other States. The election of the two Presidents will, however, have the effect of reducing by one the number of Vice-Presidents allocated to the regions from which each of the Presidents is elected.



II. Adoption of the rules of procedure

3. The Conference shall adopt its rules of procedure. The provisional rules of procedure, as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution [78/128](#), are contained in document [A/CONF.230/2025/2](#).

III. Adoption of the agenda

4. The Conference will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda ([A/CONF.230/2025/1](#)), as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution [78/128](#).

IV. Organization of work

A. Dates and venue

5. The Conference will be held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025. The overarching theme of the Conference shall be “Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”.

6. The venue of the Conference will be the Nice Congress Centre, located at Quai Infernet, 06300 Nice, France.

B. Plenary meetings

7. The Conference will consist of a total of 10 plenary meetings, to be held as follows:

Monday, 9 June: from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 10 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 11 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 12 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 13 June: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m.

8. All plenary meetings will be held in the Plenary Hall.

9. At the opening of the Conference, to take place during the first plenary meeting, from 9 to 10 a.m. on Monday, 9 June, consideration will be given to all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the election of the two Presidents of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of subsidiary organs, as appropriate, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee, arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference and other matters. Also at the first plenary meeting, statements will be made by the Presidents of the Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General of the Conference and elected representatives of the host region and city.

10. The plenary meetings will then be devoted to statements in the general debate. The list of speakers for the general debate will be established on a first-come, first-served basis, under the customary protocol whereby among representatives of States and the European Union, the Heads of State, Vice-Presidents and Crown Princes or Princesses, Heads of Government, deputy prime ministers, ministers and vice-ministers

(or their equivalents in the case of the European Union) are given priority (regardless of the areas of responsibilities of the ministers and vice-ministers), in that order. Each delegation is to make no more than one statement in the general debate, delivered by no more than one accredited representative physically present in the Plenary Hall. It is proposed that a time limit of five minutes be established for each oral statement. The list of speakers will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations* under “Conferences and Summits” and circulated through the e-deleGATE portal.

11. In addition to the representatives of States participating in the Conference and the representative of the European Union, representatives of the following observers may, time permitting and without setting a precedent, make a statement during the general debate: (a) intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observer in the sessions and work of the General Assembly (rule 60 of the provisional rules of procedure); (b) associate members of regional commissions (rule 61); (c) specialized agencies and related organizations (rule 62); (d) other intergovernmental organizations and international bodies (rule 63); and (e) interested United Nations organs (rule 64). Representatives of non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders approved to participate in the Conference may also be added to the list of speakers (rule 65).

12. At the final plenary meeting, to be held on Friday, 13 June, the Conference is expected to conclude with, inter alia, reporting on the discussions of the Ocean Action panels, to be followed by the adoption of the brief, concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed declaration and the report of the Conference, followed by statements by the Special Adviser to the Presidents of the Conference on oceans and legal matters and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Ocean.

C. Ocean Action panels

13. The Conference will include 10 Ocean Action panels, to be held in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

- Monday, 9 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Ocean Action panel 1, on the theme “Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems, including deep-sea ecosystems”
- Monday, 9 June, from 3 to 6 p.m.: Ocean Action panel 2, on the theme “Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity-building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health”
- Tuesday, 10 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Ocean Action panel 3, on the theme “Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in support of Sustainable Development Goal 14”
- Tuesday, 10 June, from 3 to 6 p.m.: Ocean Action panel 4, on the theme “Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities”
- Wednesday, 11 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Ocean Action panel 5, on the theme “Fostering sustainable fisheries management, including supporting small-scale fishers”
- Wednesday, 11 June, from 3 to 6 p.m.: Ocean Action panel 6, on the theme “Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience, leaving no one behind”

- Thursday, 12 June, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Ocean Action panel 7, on the theme “Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages”
- Thursday, 12 June, from 3 to 6 p.m.: Ocean Action panel 8, on the theme “Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional levels”
- Friday, 13 June, from 9 a.m. to noon: Ocean Action panel 9, on the theme “Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security”
- Friday, 13 June, from 1.30 to 4.30 p.m.: Ocean Action panel 10, on the theme “Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”

14. All Ocean Action panels will be held in the Ocean Action Panel Room.

15. The background note and concept papers for the Ocean Action panels are contained in documents [A/78/880](#), [A/CONF.230/2025/4](#), [A/CONF.230/2025/5](#), [A/CONF.230/2025/6](#), [A/CONF.230/2025/7](#), [A/CONF.230/2025/8](#), [A/CONF.230/2025/9](#), [A/CONF.230/2025/10](#), [A/CONF.230/2025/11](#), [A/CONF.230/2025/12](#) and [A/CONF.230/2025/13](#).

16. Each Ocean Action panel will be presided over by two Co-Chairs – one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to be appointed by the Presidents of the Conference – and will be facilitated by a moderator. The panels will be open to all conference participants, with designated seating. A letter from the President of the General Assembly² transmitting the announcement by the co-hosts of the Conference (Costa Rica and France) about the 10 Co-Chairs of the Ocean Action panels was sent to all Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations in New York on 8 April 2025.

17. The Ocean Action panels will be collaborative and multi-stakeholder in nature and will focus on commitments and actions to support the implementation of Goal 14, including through strengthened cooperation, building on existing successful partnerships and stimulating innovative and concrete new ones, taking into account the theme of the Conference. The Ocean Action panels will begin with introductory remarks by the Co-Chairs and a panel discussion, followed by an interactive debate among participants. Interventions in the interactive debate will be limited to three minutes. Participants are encouraged to focus on concrete solutions to addressing challenges and gaps in conserving and sustainably using the ocean, especially by presenting voluntary commitments and partnerships, as well as policy recommendations to support the implementation of Goal 14.

18. The order of speakers for the interactive debate of each Ocean Action panel will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, bearing in mind equitable geographical distribution while allowing for some flexibility, with priority given to States according to the level of representation, followed by intergovernmental organizations and other entities, associate members of regional commissions, United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, major groups and other relevant actors. It is envisaged that up to 22 States and 10 other participants will be accommodated to speak in the interactive debate of each Ocean Action panel.

19. Summaries of the Ocean Action panels will be presented by the respective Co-Chairs to the Conference at its closing plenary meeting and included in the final report of the Conference.

² Available at <https://www.un.org/pga/79/2025/04/08/letter-from-president-general-assembly-on-ocean-conference-panels/>.

D. Main Committee

20. The Main Committee, if established in accordance with rule 46, will meet, if necessary, in parallel with plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing meetings, and will be responsible for finalizing any outstanding matters.

E. Timetable for the work of the Conference

21. A proposed timetable for the work of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present note. Updated information will be posted on the Conference website³ and announced in the daily *Journal of the United Nations* under “Conferences and Summits”.

F. Organization of meetings, parallel meetings and other events of the Conference

22. Meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., except for the first and tenth plenary meetings, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m. on 9 and 13 June, respectively; and Ocean Action panels 9 and 10, which will be held on 13 June from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1.30 to 4.30 p.m., respectively. To ensure the most efficient utilization of available resources, it is essential that all meetings start promptly.

23. Side events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to the implementation of Goal 14, will be organized by participants in the Conference. Guidelines for organizing such events and the calendar of those events will be made available on the Conference website.

V. Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

24. Rule 4 provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

VI. Participants

25. The General Assembly, in its resolution [78/128](#), encouraged participation in the Conference at the highest possible level. States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, intergovernmental organizations and other entities that have received a standing invitation from the Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers in the sessions and work of the Assembly, associate members of the regional commissions, specialized agencies and related organizations, other intergovernmental organizations and other international bodies, United Nations organs, non-governmental organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders will participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

³ <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025>.

VII. Secretariat

26. The Secretary-General of the Conference will serve as focal point within the Secretariat for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation and coordination with the Presidents of the Conference. In February 2024, the Secretary-General of the United Nations nominated the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Li Junhua, as Secretary-General of the Conference.

27. The Special Adviser to the Presidents of the Conference on oceans and legal matters will support the achievement of the goals of the Conference by providing both substantive and procedural advice.

28. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management will serve as the Secretary of the Conference.

VIII. Documentation

29. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, the official documentation of the Conference will include documents issued before, during and after the Conference.

30. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences and set out in annex II to General Assembly resolution 78/128, it is recommended that the Conference adopt a report consisting of the decisions of the Conference, including the intergovernmentally agreed declaration, a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

31. Summaries of the plenary meetings and Ocean Action panels and a list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Goal 14 registered after 1 July 2022 and announced at the Conference should also be included in the report of the Conference. The intergovernmentally agreed declaration and the list of voluntary commitments will be referred to as the “Nice Ocean Action Plan”.

32. All Conference documentation will be available on the Conference website and in the *Journal of the United Nations* under “Conferences and Summits”.

IX. Media coverage

33. Press materials will be prepared by the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat for journalists covering the Conference, including a media kit and press releases of the plenary meetings. All relevant materials will be made available on the Conference website.

34. The plenary meetings, the Ocean Action panels and the press conferences will be broadcast live to the Media Centre and also available on United Nations Web TV.⁴ A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

⁴ Available at <http://webtv.un.org>.

Annex

Proposed timetable for the work of the 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

Nice, 9–13 June 2025

<i>Date/time</i>		<i>Agenda item/programme</i>
Monday, 9 June		
1st plenary meeting		
9 a.m.–1 p.m.	1	Opening of the Conference
	2	Election of the two Presidents
	1	Opening statements
	3	Adoption of the rules of procedure
	4	Adoption of the agenda of the Conference
	5	Election of officers other than the Presidents
	6	Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary organs, and other organizational matters
	7 (a)	Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
	8	General debate
Ocean Action panel		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	9	Ocean Action panel 1, “Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems, including deep-sea ecosystems”
2nd plenary meeting		
3–6 p.m.	8	General debate
Ocean Action panel		
3–6 p.m.	9	Ocean Action panel 2, “Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity-building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health”
Tuesday, 10 June		
3rd plenary meeting		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	8	General debate

<i>Date/time</i>		<i>Agenda item/programme</i>
Ocean Action panel		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	9	Ocean Action panel 3, “Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in support of Sustainable Development Goal 14”
4th plenary meeting		
3–6 p.m.	8	General debate
Ocean Action panel		
3–6 p.m.	9	Ocean Action panel 4, “Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities”
Wednesday, 11 June		
5th plenary meeting		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	8	General debate
Ocean Action panel		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	9	Ocean Action panel 5, “Fostering sustainable fisheries management, including supporting small-scale fishers”
6th plenary meeting		
3–6 p.m.	8	General debate
Ocean Action panel		
3–6 p.m.	9	Ocean Action panel 6, “Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience, leaving no one behind”
Thursday, 12 June		
7th plenary meeting		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	8	General debate
Ocean Action panel		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	9	Ocean Action panel 7, “Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages”
8th plenary meeting		
3–6 p.m.	8	General debate
Ocean Action panel		
3–6 p.m.	9	Ocean Action panel 8, “Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional levels”
Friday, 13 June		
9th plenary meeting		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	8	General debate

<i>Date/time</i>		<i>Agenda item/programme</i>
Ocean Action panel		
9 a.m.–noon	9	Ocean Action panel 9, “Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security”
Ocean Action panel		
1.30–4.30 p.m.	9	Ocean Action panel 10, “Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”
10th plenary meeting		
4–7 p.m.	8	General debate
	9	Report of the Ocean Action panels
	7 (b)	Report of the Credentials Committee
	10	Outcome of the Conference
	11	Adoption of the report of the Conference
	12	Closure of the Conference