



## *Information Meeting*

Towards UNOC 3: From San Jose to Nice  
Wednesday 10 July 2024, 4.00 - 6.00 PM CEST, Online

### *Minutes*

#### Opening remarks from the UNOC3 co-hosts

H.E. Ambassador Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, Special Envoy of the President of the French Republic for UNOC 3, highlighted the strong commitment of France and Costa Rica to make UNOC3 a landmark Conference for ocean protection, and the key role of civil society in the process. Ambassador Poivre d'Arvor recalled the *High-Level Event on ocean action: Immersed in Change* in Costa Rica (7-8 June 2024) and the Preparatory Meeting in New York (2 July 2024), which both promoted multilateral efforts such as the BBNJ agreement, the plastic treaty, and initiatives against illegal fishing. Stressing the importance of inclusivity, he called for collective effort, listening, and fairness, pointing out the overrepresentation of Western countries in conferences. He underscored the importance of including voices from the "People of the Sea" in the discussions, to ensure all perspectives contribute to the decisions taken in Nice. Looking ahead to the Nice Agreement, he envisioned a decisive moment akin to what the Paris Agreement is for climate change, aiming for ambitious political declarations and voluntary contributions from NGOs, such as significant pledges from the shipping sector. He urged NGOs to actively participate in World Ocean Day to highlight the urgency of the ocean's situation to heads of state and government. Finally, he stressed that deliverables from civil society initiatives, along with recommendations from the scientific community and the blue economy community will guide States' actions to protect and sustain our ocean.

#### Sailing Toward Nice 2025

- Outcomes of the Preparatory Meeting

Lilou Sciortino Monaco, Coordinator of the UNOC3 for the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, outlined the ten panel themes chosen for the upcoming UNOC3. These themes were discussed by the 193 UN Member States during the Preparatory Meeting in New York (2 July 2024), aiming to address a wide range of ocean-related issues and align closely with SDG14. The Conference will feature two themes each day, co-chaired by two different countries, preferably Heads of state or government, to ensure high-level political engagement and ambition. The themes (see the annex) will not necessarily be addressed in the order listed during UNOC.

- Updates on the Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience Coalition

Théophile Bongarts, Head of Coastal Adaptation, Ocean & Climate Platform, introduced the UNOC Special Event dedicated to coastal cities and regions. Scheduled for 7 June 2025, this event will feature the launch of the *Ocean Rise & Coastal Resilience - Coalition of cities and regions*, chaired by Mr. Christian Estrosi, Mayor of Nice. The coalition aims to bring together coastal cities and regions, networks of local authorities, financial intermediaries, scientific institutions, and civil society willing to support coastal territories' adaptation to sea level rise and other ocean hazards. It seeks to gather 500 representatives, collectively supporting 1 billion people at risk. The OCP coordinates the coalition's prefiguration phase, designing its outcomes and governance. This coalition will advocate for coastal cities and regions in international climate

and ocean negotiations (e.g., COP Climate, COP Biodiversity) and aims to accelerate action by connecting these areas with key stakeholders. For more information, kindly contact Théophile Bongarts-Lebbe ([tbongarts@ocean-climate.org](mailto:tbongarts@ocean-climate.org)).

- [Updates on the Blue Economy and Finance Forum \(BEFF\)](#)

Marianne Carpentier, Engagement Lead on the Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF), ORRAA, presented the BEFF, a UNOC Special Event scheduled for 7-8 June 2025 in Monaco. Co-chaired by Pascal Lamy and H.E. Ilana Seid (Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations), the BEFF aligns with the themes of UNOC3, focusing on mobilising finance for ocean action in support of SDG14. Indeed, despite the ocean's critical role in global trade and ecosystem services, SDG14 remains underfunded. The blue economy offers significant opportunities, including job creation and profitable sustainable ocean economies essential for human life and economic stability. The BEFF thus aims to mobilise finance, insurance, and development banks, involving partners from the finance sector, governments, philanthropies, and business leaders. It seeks to catalyse investments to build global momentum around the blue economy and finance. The forum's action pillars include investing in ocean resilience, financing the blue economy, and innovating through ocean governance and finance. The Steering Committee is identifying existing initiatives and welcomes suggestions for inclusion.

- [Updates on the One Ocean Science Congress](#)

Chiraz Talbi, Strategic advisor to the CEO at Ifremer, presented the One Ocean Science Congress, one of the UNOC3 Special Events. Co-organized by CNRS and IFREMER, the congress aims at providing science-based recommendations to global leaders, drawing on current oceanic scientific knowledge. This event will explore a wide range of scenarios for the future of the ocean, assess potential contribution the ocean can bring to major transitions (food, energy,...), and offer visibility to the IPOS. The [themes of the Congress](#) align with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the overarching goal of aiding decision-making, as well as the global discussions and negotiations scheduled for UNOC3. A call for abstracts on these themes will open on September 15th, until November 14th - more information is available [here](#). Registration for the Congress will open on 5 December 2024.

- [Towards an International Panel for Ocean Sustainability \(IPOS\)](#)

Adrien Vincent, Senior Advisor IPOS, presented the IPOS initiative, developed over the past three years to address global challenges in achieving SDG14 targets. The IPOS aims to bridge the gap between ocean knowledge and actionable policymaking, operating inclusively to provide timely, independent support. It brokers existing knowledge to assist states in accelerating their implementation of international ocean sustainability targets and frameworks. Supported by the European Commission and endorsed by the French and Chinese governments, the IPOS is gaining traction globally. A coalition of scientific institutions is actively contributing to its development. They are currently preceding an online and inclusive consultation, which will allow to develop the terms of reference, which will be presented at UNOC 3. Visit [this website](#) to follow developments of the IPOS.

- [Mobilising civil society](#)

Loreley Picourt, Executive Director, Ocean & Climate Platform (OCP) provided an update on efforts to mobilise civil society for the UNOC3. Co-hosts of UNOC 3, the Governments of France and Costa Rica, have mandated the OCP and The Varda Group to lead these efforts. The OCP and The Varda Group started by launching a global consultation in 2023, which [Synthesis Report](#)

highlights the need to accelerate ocean governance, track commitments, ensure accountability from both State and non-State actors, and plan beyond 2030. Key next steps towards Nice include delivering on SDG14 and crafting a collective post-2030 vision, mobilising through the [Let's Be Nice to the Ocean](#) movement to support innovative ocean governance and the Protection Principle. The 2030 Agenda, though UN-led, requires future planning by 2028. The OCP thus aims to lead civil society in shaping a vision, by launching a global communication campaign and a visioning exercise leading up to UNOC3, contributing to the conference's legacy. A High-Level Event for Civil Society is also set to take place on 8 June 2025, in Nice, during World Ocean Day, gathering Civil Society Organisations and Heads of State from France, Costa Rica, and other nations.

- [Deep dive in Let's Be Nice to the Ocean](#)

Rémi Parmentier, Director, the Varda Group, presented the [Let's Be Nice to the Ocean Initiative](#) launched in 2023 by the Varda Group and partners. Initially sparked by civil society's demand for bolder, creative approaches to ocean protection, the initiative has evolved into a movement, with now 45 organisations with the status of "associated stakeholders". This initiative emphasises a collective call to make ocean protection the norm rather than the exception. Organisations are invited to join the movement by reaching out to [LetsbeNicetotheOcean@gmail.com](mailto:LetsbeNicetotheOcean@gmail.com). Participants were also invited to consult the ['Let's be Nice to the Ocean' booklet](#) (October 2023), and the report [Let's Be Nice To The Ocean: Civil Society Approaches to Ocean Protection towards the Third UN Ocean Conference](#) (June 2024).

*About the webinar:*

- The recording of the webinar is now available [online](#).
- This information meeting was convened by the Ocean & Climate Platform and the Varda Group, as part of their mandate to mobilise civil society.
- For all matters related to participation, including registrations, accreditations, and side-event proposals, please refer to the UN DESA website: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025/about-unoc-2025>.

## ANNEX

Following the presentation made by the Governments of France and Costa Rica at the Preparatory Meeting of UNOC 3 (2 July 2024) and the successful conclusion of the silence procedure, the 193 UN member States unanimously adopted the ten themes the Ocean Action Panels will focus on next year:

1. Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers
2. Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems.
3. Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and subregional level.
4. Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities.
5. Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages.
6. Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind.
7. Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security.
8. Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health
9. Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS.
10. Mobilising finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14.