

# A CALL TO ALL THE VOICES OF THE OCEAN

## OUTCOMES FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATION

*In preparation of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference*

CO-FACILITATED BY

LORELEY PICOURT AND RÉMI PARMENTIER

AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCE AND COSTA RICA

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OCEAN & CLIMATE  
PLATFORM



# About the survey

The “Call to All the Voices of the Ocean” was launched by **Loreley Picourt (Executive Director of the Ocean & Climate Platform)** and **Rémi Parmentier (Co-founder of The Varda Group)**. This survey is part of their mandate to **facilitate the mobilisation and consultation of civil society** in the run-up to the 3rd UN Ocean Conference, upon request of its Co-Chairs, the Governments of France and Costa Rica.

The Call ran from April to June 2023. All civil society organisations (CSO) working on ocean issues around the world were invited to participate. It was designed around 5 questions (see below) [accessible online](#), in English, French and Spanish.

1. Based on your experience of previous UN Ocean Conferences, what would you replicate and what would you do differently? As NGOs but also if you were the conference organisers.
2. As NGOs, how do you want to position yourselves, and how do you want to be remembered for your participation at the 3rd UN Ocean conference?
3. Which are your [3 to 5] key deliverables for the 3rd UN Ocean Conference (e.g. in terms of public policy, governance, finance, science, innovation)?
4. As ocean advocates, where do you want to bring governments and the private sector, and how do you propose to bring them on board to uplift SDG 14?
5. Do you think the 3rd UN Ocean Conference should provide an opportunity to identify action beyond SDG 14, five years before 2030?

# Executive Summary

The “Call to All the Voices of the Ocean” has been heard by many. **125 civil society organisations from around the globe** participated in the survey (Figure 1) and provided valuable inputs to prepare the 3rd UN Ocean Conference.

The synthesis report reflects **a high diversity of respondents**, both in terms of entities (non-governmental organisations, foundations, think tanks...) and expertises (fisheries, education, science, marine conservation, etc.). Nonetheless, **clear and common messages have emerged from the survey analysis**.

This Executive Summary therefore offers an **overview of what the ocean community has identified as priority topics, expected outcomes and values which in their views should be at the core of UNOC 3** to ensure its success.

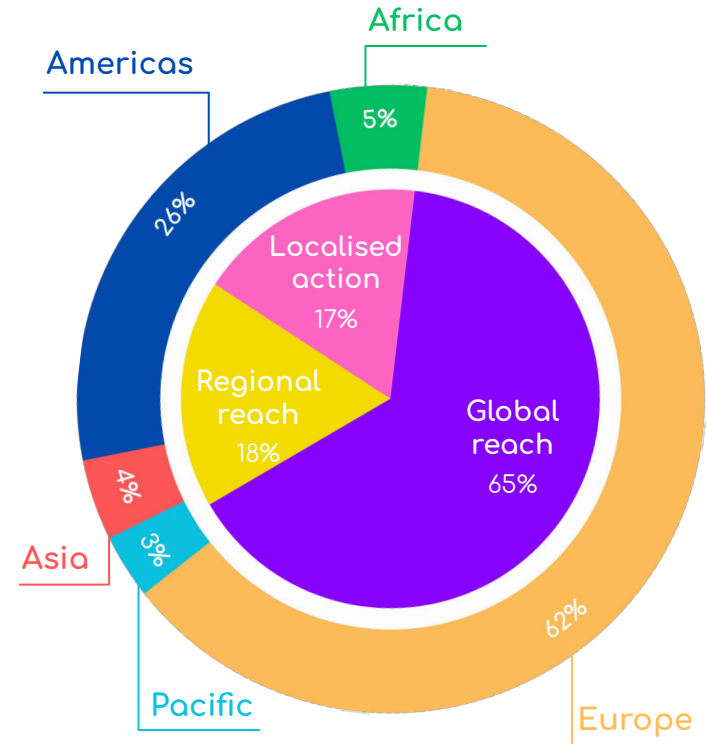


Figure 1. Geographic distribution and reach of organisations which participated in the survey.

## Organisation of UNOC 3

The analysis provides a wide range of information and recommendations, not only on the logistical and organisational aspects of the Conference (Figure 2), but also on the expectations regarding its content and agenda.

The inclusion and representation of a wider part of civil society was strongly recommended. This could be facilitated, for example, by providing financial support, expanding timeframes for application and accreditation, translating services during events, and providing live streaming of the different sessions.

Improving communication towards the general public, media, and among attendees, was also deemed essential. The media should be engaged with ahead of the Conference to raise awareness on the stakes of UNOC 3 among the general public and especially youth. Additionally, strengthening communication among attendees could help breaking the silos among participants from civil society, national delegations and representatives of the private sector, which could lead to new dynamics and partnerships.

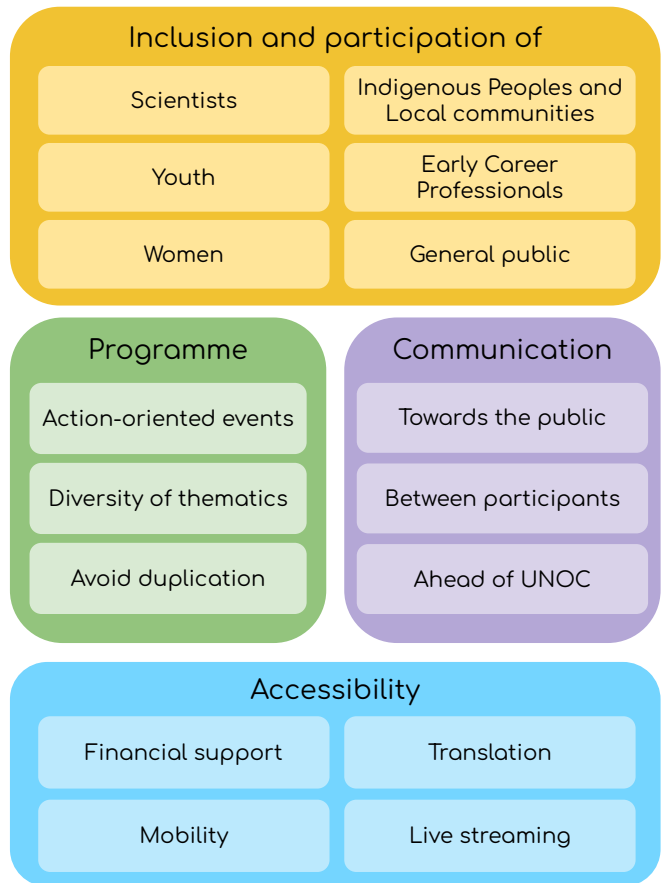


Figure 2. Suggested areas of improvement for UNOC 3 (based on UNOC 1 and 2).

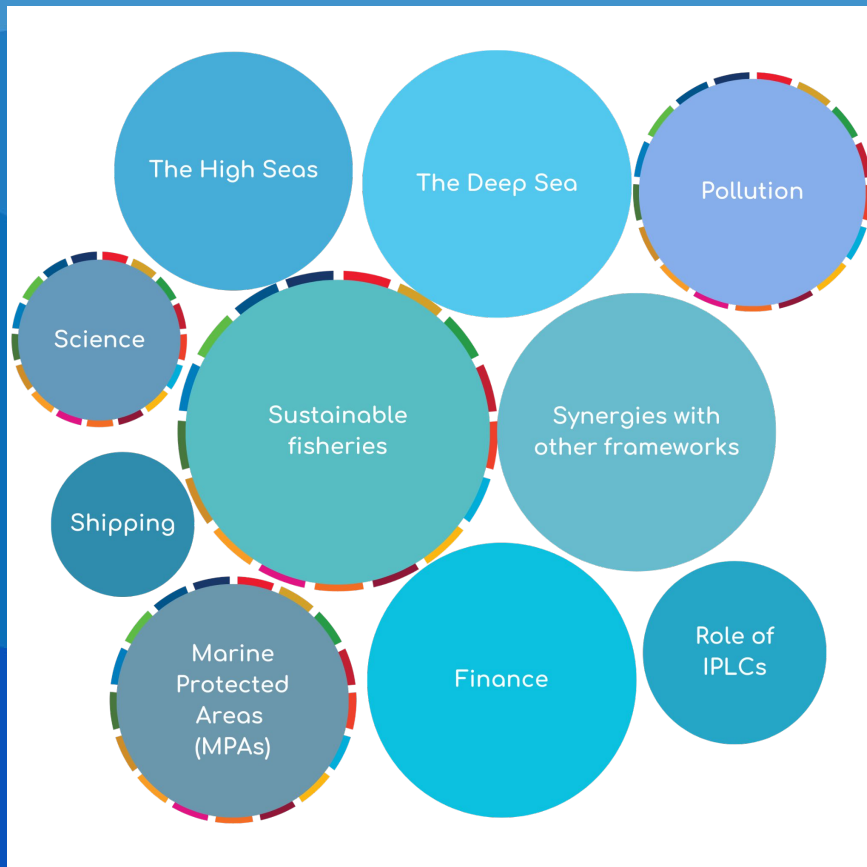


Figure 3. Occurrence of priority topics to be addressed at UNOC according to responses to the survey.

## Priority topics

The survey invited contributors to reflect on topics of discussion and areas of action that should be put at the top of the Conference's agenda. While the questions were open-ended, ten thematics stood out, some of which are - unsurprisingly - intrinsically linked to SDG 14 (Figure 3).

1 out of 3 organisations stressed the importance of **strengthening synergies with other global frameworks and their targets**. It includes the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ), negotiations on the Deep-sea, Plastics and at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

29% of participants further insisted on the **interconnectedness of the 17 targets of the 2030 Agenda with the ocean**, thus calling to adopt a holistic and coordinated approach to ocean governance.

## Expectations

Regarding the content of UNOC 3, many organisations raised concerns about how current efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) by 2030, are highly insufficient. UNOC 3 must **assess the progress on commitments** made at previous UN Ocean Conferences, **as to monitor the outcomes of future editions** to accelerate ocean action (Figure 4).

20% of the contributors recommended the outcomes for UNOC 3 included **a revised roadmap, rooted in the values of inclusivity, transparency and accountability**. This new blueprint would prove useful to maximise our efforts in the 5 years that will then separate us from the 2030 deadline.

Similarly, **21% of respondents called on all ocean stakeholders to take immediate measures and concrete actions** to safeguard the health of our ocean and the communities that rely on it.

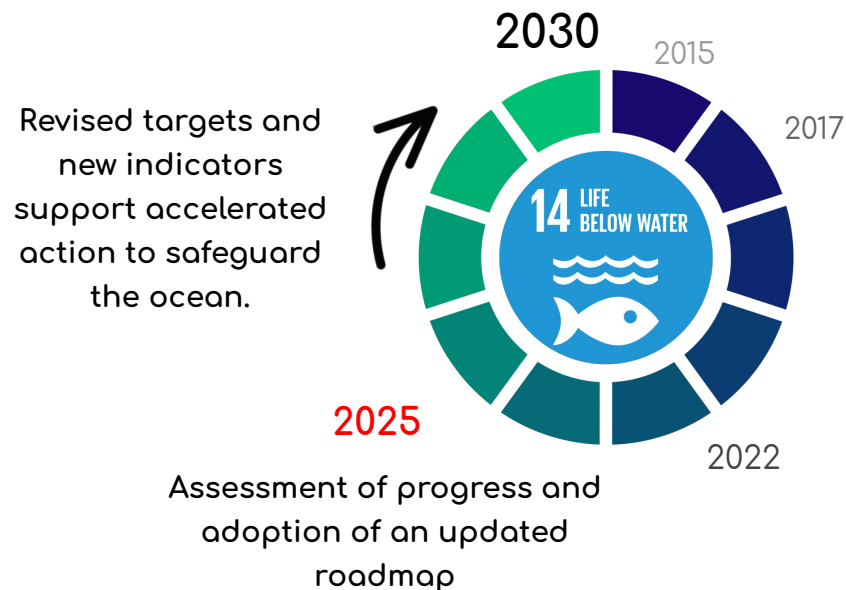


Figure 4. By concluding with an updated roadmap for SDG 14, UNOC 3 could be a milestone towards the protection of the ocean and its ecosystems, and the sustainable use of its resources.

## Expected outcomes for Ocean Governance

Each of the following key outcomes were mentioned by > 20% of the organisations.

The adoption of a moratorium or a ban on deep-sea mining is celebrated in Nice.

How do we achieve this? By seeking consensus on a moratorium or ban on deep-sea mining and continuing to expand at the highest level the coalition of States against deep-sea mining.

Following its ratification by at least 60 Parties, the High Seas Treaty enters into force in 2025.

How do we achieve this? By building on the High Ambition Coalition on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction launched at the One Ocean Summit.

An ambitious and legally-binding Plastic Treaty is implemented.

How do we achieve this? By supporting the adoption of the Treaty at INC-5 in the Republic of Korea in 2024 at the latest.

States include the ocean in their national strategies for biodiversity and climate, i.e. in NDCs and NBSAPs.

How do we achieve this? By further exploring the portfolio of ocean-based climate solutions for a net-zero and biodiversity-positive future; and aligning commitments under the UNFCCC and CBD.

UNOC participants call for the protection of the Southern Ocean.

How to achieve this? UNOC outcome document calls on CCAMLR to support three new MPAs.



## Other opportunities to seize

Other opportunities to make UNOC 3 a success were mentioned, that particularly align with the priorities set by the co-hosts of UNOC 3. Both **the role of IPLCs and finance** were stressed as crucial key enablers for the success of the Conference. Numerous organisations highlighted the **urgency of having more accessible public and private funds invested in the ocean**, especially to support projects at the local scale.

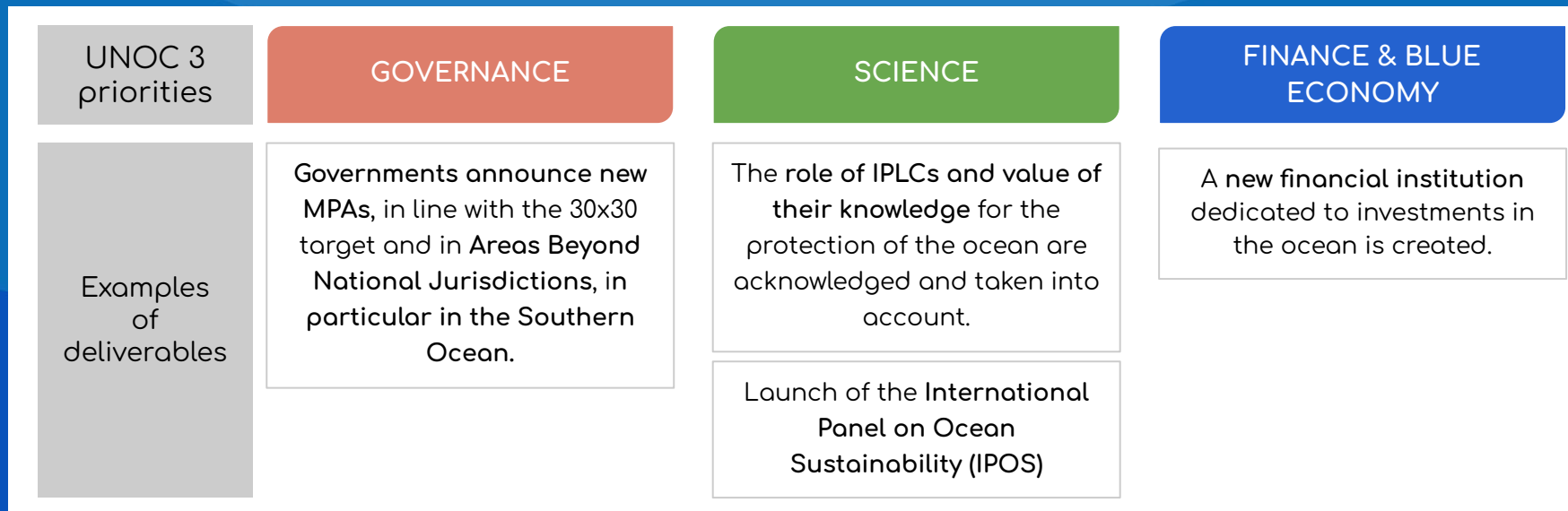


Figure 5. Examples of deliverables that align with the three priorities identified by the Co-hosts of UNOC 3.



## Ways forward

UNOC 3 must **strengthen collaboration and collective action** to achieve a sustainably managed and protected ocean (Figure 6).

To conclude, the inputs to this survey showcased the determination and motivation of the ocean community to support a meaningful and successful UNOC 3. As conveners of ambition and sources of expertise and knowledge, civil society organisations are looking forward to bridging efforts across all stakeholders, and expect them to rise to the challenge.

Indeed, the UN Ocean Conference will take place only 5 years ahead of the 2030 deadline. Thus, it must finally **turn the tide towards an ambitious, strong and effective protection of the ocean and its ecosystems**, for our well-being depends on it.

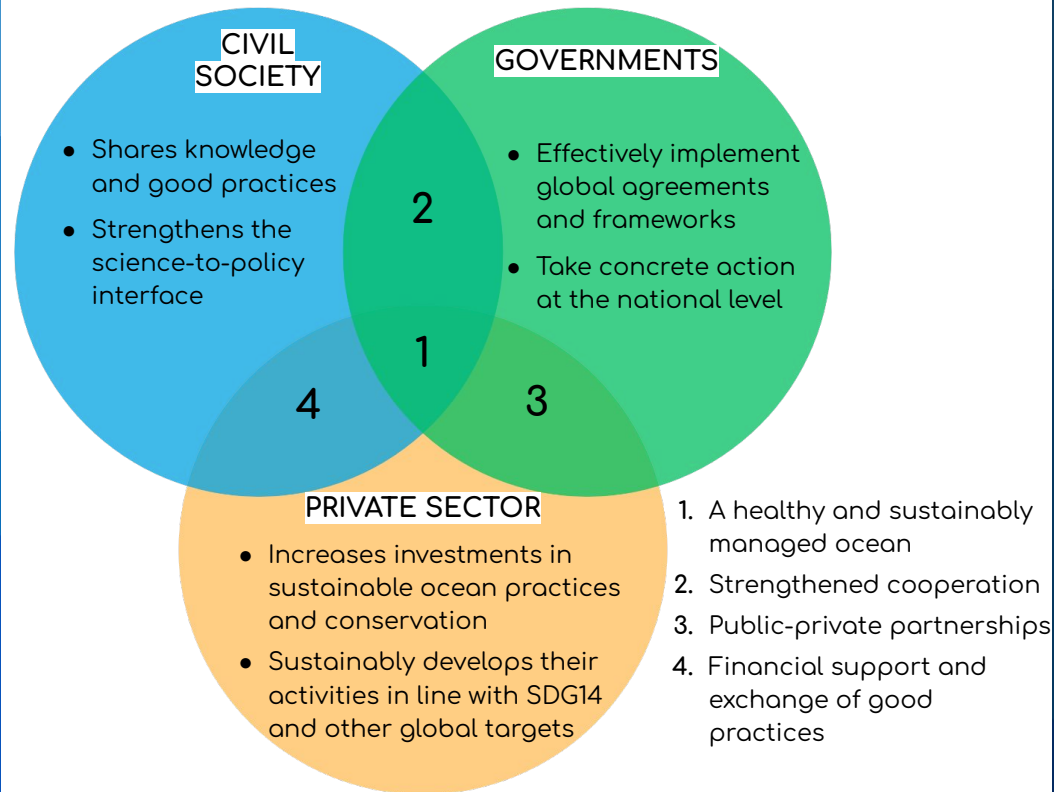


Figure 6. Representation of measures of collaboration and collective action that could support the achievement of SDG14, and overall, the protection of the ocean.

## Co-facilitators assessment & recommendations

We are grateful for the time and thoughts provided by the 125 contributing CSOs, which reflect their commitment and support to **current ocean policy debates**.

In addition, we would like to propose to establish and facilitate a **small task force of experts** with a mandate to look specifically at **new and innovative « outside the box » outcomes** for consideration in Nice.

*“The Nice conference cannot and must not be only a reiteration of past efforts. Participants cannot leave Nice with the impression that they’ve been hearing -- and that they sang! – the same old tune.”*

Rémi Parmentier, in ‘Let’s be Nice to the Ocean’ – 2023, *in-print*

### Possible additional fora at UNOC 3



#### Small-scale fisheries

Organising a **dedicated Ocean Action Panel** during UNOC 3, building on the Call for Action released for Lisbon (2022).



#### NSA-Governments Dialogue

Organising a **“Let’s be Nice to the Ocean” high-level event** during UNOC to dive into more disruptive and bold proposals to safeguard our Blue Planet.

## Possible political campaigns ahead of Nice

	TARGET	OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES	POLITICAL SUPPORT & COALITION
<b>Climate</b>	10 years after COP21, 100+ UNFCCC Parties include ocean-based measures in their national strategies for both mitigation and/or adaptation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2nd revision cycle of NDCs in 2025 (COP30 Belem, Brazil)</li> <li>France includes blue carbon ecosystems in their national climate strategy &amp; seeks incorporation in EU NDC.</li> </ul>	A joint initiative between France/Brazil.
<b>MPAs</b>	The Protection Principle (reversing the burden of proof)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blue Finance session in Monaco: Finance GBF Target 8 (2025-2030 rechanelling subsidies)</li> <li>France, Costa Rica to announce strict MPA definition in June 2024</li> <li>UNOC call on CCAMLR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through the High ambition Coalition for Nature &amp; People</li> <li>Monaco Oceanographic institute initiative under consideration.</li> </ul>
<b>Sea level rise and coastal cities</b>	Launch an operational programme to support coastal cities in adapting to rising sea levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objectives: centralising scientific knowledge and observation systems; promoting and assisting with sustainable solutions; mobilising financing and making it accessible.</li> <li>Secretariat launched with a 3-year roadmap and budget (5M€/an)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+40 signatories of the Sea'ties Declaration at the One Ocean Summit</li> <li>Support from C40, Cities Race to Resilience, etc.</li> </ul>

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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