

**United Nations-Nippon Foundation
Alumni Programme**

2023 Alumni Meeting

Report

28-30 June 2023
Cascais, Portugal

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1. Background

Generously funded by The Nippon Foundation, the Alumni Programme provides a unique platform for the Alumni of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programmes to come together and actively engage in thought-provoking discussions and multi-stakeholder processes concerning the ocean. By doing so, they have the opportunity to further build their profiles as ocean professionals and expand their network by interacting with globally recognized experts and like-minded colleagues.

Since 2009, 11 meetings have been held, fostering a community of knowledgeable and passionate ocean professionals eager to make significant contributions to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and sustainable development of the ocean. In 2023, the Meeting was aimed at our Lusophone Alumni, from Brazil, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, and Timor-Leste.

2. The 2023 Alumni Meeting

The 2023 Alumni Meeting took place from 28 to 30 June 2023, and was held to coincide with the Second Annual Conference of The Portuguese Institute for the Law of the Sea (IPDM), on 28 June 2023.

The Conference featured a series of panels and presentations centered around the theme *“Maritime Security in a Changing World”*, providing our Alumni with valuable opportunities to learn from experts and practitioners in the field. The final panel of the Conference was dedicated to our UNNF Alumni, who delivered engaging presentations on *“Maritime safety & security: capacity-needs in Portuguese speaking countries”*. During this panel, our Alumni shared practical examples of their national and/or regional experiences, highlighting key challenges and potential solutions. The participants to the Conference actively engaged with the Alumni, resulting in a fruitful and enriching exchange of ideas.

Other activities were organized during the two days following the Conference (29-30 June 2023) in Casa de Santa Maria, including presentations, panel discussions, and interactive sessions on topics related to the *“Protection and preservation of the marine environment: challenges and opportunities in national implementation of UNCLOS and related instruments in the context of blue economies”* and *“Science as a cross-cutting aspect in ocean law and policy”*. Notably, these activities featured supervisors from our esteemed Host Institutions: Prof. Dr. Alexander Proelss, from the University of Hamburg; and Dr. Arron Honniball, from the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law.

A field visit to the local marine protected area was also kindly organized for our group by the Municipality of Cascais.

2.1. Objectives

The Meeting was an overall success, not only in accomplishing its substantive goals, but also in facilitating in-person networking, an important element of our Alumni activities which had been absent for the past three years, due to the pandemic.

During the Meeting, the Alumni was able to:

- Share their national/regional experiences and bring fresh perspectives to the table.
- Identify key challenges in ocean affairs and the law of the sea in developing countries.
- Provide potential solutions.
- Gain valuable insights from other panelists and participants.
- Receive important feedback from peers, allowing them to refine their research work and ideas.
- Enhance professional growth.
- Build knowledge on issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including the implementation of SDG 14.
- Network with Government officials and ocean professionals from other Lusophone countries.
- Build their profiles as experts and ocean professionals.
- Engage with newer Alumni and establish a mentoring role.

3. Participants

Participant	Country	Affiliation
Mr. Abbas Dahir Djama	Djibouti	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Mr. Mé-Chinhô Albano Costa Alegre	São Tomé and Príncipe	Independent consultant
Mr. Andrei Polejack	Brazil	Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Brazil
Mr. Felipe Santos	Brazil	Ministry of Labor, Brazil
Ms. Maria Cecilia Trindade de Castro	Brazil	Brazilian Navy
Ms. Lais Palazzo	Brazil	National Oil, Natural Gas and Biofuels Regulatory Agency, Brazil
Mr. Joaquim Chaves	Timor-Leste	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Timor-Leste
Ms. Mariana Graciosa Pereira	Brazil	Technical Advisor to the Environmental Quality Directorate, Brazil
Ms. Katryana Madeira	Brazil	Port Authority RS, Brazil
Ms. Fernanda De Oliveira Lana	Brazil	GEOSAKER Ativos e Soluções Inteligentes Eireli in partnership with CENPES/Petrobras, Brazil
Ms. Carina Tostes Abreu	Brazil	Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation, Brazil
Mr. Uira Cavalcante De Oliveira	Brazil	Manager of Environment and Sustainability at the National Waterway Transport Agency (Antaq), Brazilian federal government
Mr. Elisio Jamine	Mozambique	Secretariat of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU at the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (D-PAPS), AU Headquarters, Addis Ababa
Ms. Mariana Martins De Andrade	Brazil	2023 UNNF Fellow

4. Programme of activities

Day 1: Second Annual Conference of IPDM “*Maritime security in a rapidly changing world: are legal rules still fit for purpose?*”

Day 2: Advancing sustainability and science in the law of the sea and ocean affairs

Objective: A day dedicated to addressing and meeting the needs identified by our Alumni, in line with their interests and professional requirements.

Day 3: A field visit to the local marine protected area, organized by the Municipality of Cascais.

Objective: The objective of this field trip was to provide an opportunity to visit a locally managed marine protected area (MPA). Alumni will have the chance to engage with municipal authorities, ask questions, and share experiences.

Programme of Activities

27 June	Arrival
8:00-10:00 Venue: Casa das Histórias Paula Rego	Welcoming reception organized by IPDM
28 June 9:00-18:15 Venue: Casa das Histórias Paula Rego	Day 1: Second IPDM Annual Conference - Maritime Security in a Changing World <i>(Complete Programme as an attachment to this Report)</i>
Panel Five UNNF Alumni 16:30-18:00	Maritime safety & security: capacity-needs in Portuguese speaking countries Moderator: Mr. Francois Bajet, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations <i>The remaining challenges for Gulf of Guinea countries in securing the seas in the context of the tenth anniversary of the Yaoundé Architecture, with a case study on IUU fishing challenges</i> Mr. Abbas Daher Djama (UNNF Alumni Representative, Djibouti) and Mr. Mé-Chinhô Albano Costa Alegre (UNNF Alumni São Tomé and Príncipe) <i>The role of science in maritime security and law-making: perspectives from the South</i> Dr. Andrei Polejach (UNNF Alumni Brazil) <i>Appraisal on occupational health and safety of Brazilian mariculture workers</i> Mr. Felipe Santos (UNNF Alumni Brazil) <i>Santos Basin: An Area to Be Avoided</i> Ms. Maria Cecília Trindade (UNNF Alumni Brazil) and Ms. Lais Palazzo (UNNF Alumni Brazil) <i>Priorities for a healthy & secure ocean that sustains the livelihoods of the Timorese people</i> Mr. Joaquim Chaves (UNNF Alumni Timor-Leste)
20:00	Gala dinner organized by IPDM

29 June 9:30-18:00 Venue: Casa de Santa Maria	<p>Day 2: Advancing sustainability and science in the law of the sea and ocean affairs</p> <p>Objective: A day dedicated to addressing and meeting the needs identified by our Alumni, in line with their interests and professional requirements.</p>
Opening Remarks 9:30-10:00	Ms. Valentina Germani, Senior Legal Officer, DOALOS/OLA Dr. Carlos Carreiras, Mayor of Cascais (TBC) Mr. Daher Djama Abbas, UNNF Alumni Representative Prof. Vasco Becker-Weinberg, President of the Instituto Português de Direito do Mar (IPDM)
Panel One 10:00-1:00	<p>Protection and preservation of the marine environment: challenges and opportunities in national implementation of UNCLOS and related instruments in the context of blue economies</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Vanessa Arellano, Associate Legal Officer, DOALOS/OLA</p> <p><i>Overview of the blue economy in ocean governance</i></p> <p>Mr. Francois Bailet, Senior Legal Officer, DOALOS/OLA</p> <p><i>Overview of Part XII of UNCLOS and its adaptability to new challenges</i></p> <p>Ms. Valentina Germani, Senior Legal Officer, DOALOS/OLA</p> <p>Coffee break</p> <p><i>The Implementation of MARPOL by Port States</i></p> <p>Dr. Arron N. Honniball, Senior Research Fellow (Law of the Sea) at the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace & the Rule of Law</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Discussant: Professor Dr. Alexander Proelss, Chair in the International Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Hamburg</p>
	<p>Lunch break</p>
Panel Two 2:30-6:00	<p>Science as a cross-cutting aspect in ocean law and policy</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Valentina Germani, Senior Legal Officer, DOALOS/OLA</p> <p><i>Overview of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)</i></p> <p>(virtual presentation by DOALOS staff)</p> <p><i>The science-policy interface and Ocean governance</i></p> <p>Mr. Francois Bailet, Senior Legal Officer, DOALOS/OLA and</p> <p><i>The role of science in law-making; and the role of law in science-making, including an overview of Part XIII of UNCLOS and the BBNJ Agreement</i></p> <p>Professor Dr. Alexander Proelss, Chair in the International Law of the Sea and International Environmental Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Hamburg</p> <p>Coffee break</p> <p><i>Science and area-based management tools</i></p>

	Prof. Vasco Becker-Weinberg, President of the Instituto Português de Direito do Mar (IPDM)
Case studies presented by Alumni	
<i>The role of citizen science in the fisheries management plan of Cassurubá Extractive Reserve, Brazil</i>	
Ms. Carina Tostes Abreu (Alumni Brazil)	
<i>Fostering an inclusive science-based approach to ocean governance in Brazil</i>	
Ms. Mariana Andrade (2023 UNNF Fellow, Brazil)	
30 June 9:30-17:30	Day 3: Alumni engagement day – field trip to a local MPA Objective: This activity, kindly organized by the Municipality of Cascais, aims to foster a sense of camaraderie and strengthen the Lusophone Alumni Network by building lasting connections.
9:30-10:00	Group meeting
10:00-13:00	Field trip
	Lunch and farewell

5. Photos





