

**UNITED NATIONS–NIPPON FOUNDATION**

# **OCEAN GOVERNANCE FELLOWSHIP FOR SIDS**

**United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea**



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Chris Gug, World Oceans Day Photo Competition , 2023

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# SIDS FELLOWSHIP: OBJECTIVES

## Overall Goal:

The United Nations-Nippon Foundation Ocean Governance Fellowship for Small Island Developing States (SIDS Fellowship), generously supported by The Nippon Foundation, aims to increase the capacity of SIDS Government officials to effectively implement ocean governance and international legal frameworks.

In doing so, this Fellowship Programme aims to address the special circumstances of SIDS, and consider the diverse challenges, opportunities and needs across different regions.

## Specific Purpose:

Through the targeted building of human capacity and a highly customized curriculum, the SIDS Fellowship endeavors to support the development of ocean governance frameworks necessary to:

- a) Effectively implement the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), its implementing agreements, including the BBNJ Agreement, and related instruments.
- b) Tackle the triple planetary crisis (climate change; biodiversity loss; and pollution).
- c) Implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 14, with a focus on developing sustainable blue economies, addressing environmental impacts (particularly the devastating impacts of ocean plastic), building resilience to climate change, and giving consideration to gender aspects.

Romeo Bodolai, World Oceans Day Photo Competition (2024)



# CURRICULUM AND ACTIVITIES

Set to run from early September to early December, the SIDS Fellowship consists of a three-month training programme at the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), United Nations Headquarters in New York.

DOALOS develops a highly customized curriculum tailored to the specific national and regional challenges and opportunities related to the special circumstances of SIDS, as detailed in the Fellows' applications and supported by their Nominating Authorities.

## *Substantive activities*

Substantive activities in ocean affairs and the law of the sea include in-person training sessions, group discussions and workshops delivered by United Nations staff and visiting experts in the field. These activities are complemented by group exercises, scenario-based discussions and other assignments.

## *Professional skills development*

Seminars and practical exercises aimed at strengthening the professional skills of the Fellows, conducted by United Nations staff and external experts.

## *Intergovernmental meetings*

To support the Fellowship's objectives, Fellows will have the opportunity to observe intergovernmental meetings and other multilateral processes at United Nations Headquarters.

An overview of the modules covered in the curriculum is available on our [webpage](#).

# WHO CAN APPLY AND HOW?

## Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- Be between the ages of 25 and 45.
- Have successfully completed a first-level university degree.
- Be Government officials from SIDS actively working on ocean affairs and related disciplines.
- Be nominated by a Government official.
- Identify two specific challenges in ocean affairs and the law of the sea linked to the special circumstances in their countries that need to be addressed.
- Be free of all non-Fellowship obligations during the period of the Programme, unless otherwise authorized by DOALOS.

## Application process

Candidates must complete the application package available for this Fellowship in the "Apply Now" section on the UN-Nippon Foundation Programmes website (<https://www.un.org/oceancapacity/content/apply-now>). To apply, candidates must:

1. Complete the required application forms.
2. Submit the application forms, along with a copy of their passport, to the following email address: [doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org)
3. Complete the online form, the link to which is provided on the Application Form.

The Programme is committed to achieving 50/50 gender balance and geographical diversity among participants. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

## Key application documents:

- **Application Form:** Completed and signed by the candidate, this form includes relevant personal information, educational qualifications, employment record, and a description of the identified national or regional challenges.
- **Nomination and Recommendation Form:** Completed and signed by the Nominating Authority—a Government official who can attest to the nature of the candidate's work, support the identified challenges, and indicate the practical outcome of the Fellowship and expected use of the Fellows' training.

*The call for applications for the 2025 session is now open. The deadline for submitting the complete application is 30 March 2025. Awards are expected to be announced by the end of May. Please check our website for updates.*



**For more information on the Ocean Governance Fellowship for SIDS, please visit:**

<https://www.un.org/oceancapacity/content/unnf-ocean-governance-fellowship-sids>

**For inquiries, please contact us at:**

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