

United Nations - Nippon Foundation

Strategic Fellowship Programme

Objectives and activities

Overall goal

The Strategic Fellowship Programme was established by the United Nations (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs) and the Nippon Foundation to assist developing States, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing States (SIDS), and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) to:

- (a) address identified strategic needs in the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and related instruments, in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and other relevant SDGs; and
- (b) strategically develop and implement national legal and governance frameworks for ocean affairs and the law of the sea in support of sustainable oceans and seas for present and future generations.

Specific purpose

Through the targeted building of human capacity, the Strategic Fellowship addresses needs-based capacity gaps at the national level in order to overcome critical capacity barriers. The purpose is to enable the most vulnerable States to better address strategically important and time-sensitive ocean affairs and the law of the sea issues with which they are faced.

This specific purpose will be achieved through the delivery of capacity assistance in the implementation of UNCLOS and related instruments, in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and other relevant SDGs, in the format of a Fellowship Programme.

Activities

A highly customized individual curriculum is developed by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, in consultation with the nominating State, for the successful candidates. This personalized curriculum will place emphasis on building the capacity of the Fellows to effectively address the high priority needs identified by their States.

Through the delivery of presentations by recognized experts, including United Nations staff, as well as through observing United Nations multilateral processes, the Fellows learn about the main developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea relating, for example, to the implementation of SDG 14 and other relevant

SDGs; the delineation of maritime zones, including the continental shelf; sustainable fisheries; biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction ('BBNJ'); maritime security; sustainable ocean-based economies; the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects; ocean governance; and oceans and climate change. They will also learn about the activities of the bodies established under UNCLOS (the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the International Seabed Authority, and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) and of relevant United Nations system organizations. Fellows will observe relevant United Nations processes related to oceans, with a view to reinforcing their understanding of ocean affairs and the law of the sea. This knowledge will be reinforced through a number of written assignments and practice seminars.

Fellows can expect to observe the following intergovernmental meetings at United Nations Headquarters (when these coincide with the Fellowship dates):

- The Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument 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;
- The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (Regular Process);
- The Informal Consultations of States Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement;
- The Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; and
- The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

Professional skills development activities will also be organized for the Fellows, including theory lectures and practical exercises. For example, the Fellows will receive training by UN staff, as well as by external professionals on:

- Report writing skills, which they will practice by preparing substantive reports relating to the intergovernmental meetings which they observe;
- Presentation skills, which they will practice through presentations to the other Fellows;
- Research skills, including in relation to UN documents;
- Team-building skills; and
- Strategic communication skills.

Reporting Requirements for Fellows

The submission of reports and other assignments is one of the responsibilities accepted by Fellows. Note that if reports and other assignments are not completed and submitted in a timely manner, a Fellowship Completion Certificate will not be issued and relevant nominating authorities and Governments will be formally notified. DOALOS reserves the right to modify the Fellowship Reporting Requirements at any time. Candidates are advised to visit the Fellowship website regularly for Programme updates.

Fellows will be required to complete feedback surveys during and at the of the Programme.

As Alumni of the Programme, they will also be required to complete online surveys from time to time after the end of their Fellowship.