

Ocean Governance Fellowship for Small Island Developing States
Training curriculum

Note: The following general training curriculum outlines the core sessions and professional skills development activities; however, it is not exhaustive and is adapted to address the specific needs identified by the Fellows in their applications. Intergovernmental meetings at UNHQ that will be observed by the Fellows will depend on their scheduling.

Sessions are mainly delivered by DOALOS staff and other United Nations staff including from UN System Organizations, as well as external experts and practitioners, primarily affiliated with academic [Host Institutions](#) of the United Nations-Nippon Foundation (UNNF) Programmes and Alumni of the UNNF Programmes.

The sessions are conducted in various formats, including lectures, group exercises, and workshops.

I. Substantive curriculum

Module 1: The role of the United Nations in ocean affairs and the law of the sea

- The role of the United Nations in ocean affairs and the role of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)
- Cooperation and coordination in ocean affairs and the role of UN-Oceans
- Foundations of international law and the work of the United Nations

Module 2: The special circumstances of SIDS in the sustainable development of ocean, including challenges, needs and opportunities across regions

- Introduction to sustainable development in the context of ocean affairs
- The United Nations and SIDS: Special circumstances of SIDS in the context of sustainable development
 - The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS)
 - SDG14 and the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (UNOC)
- The United Nations and vulnerable States: The work of OHRLLS

Module 3: The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) – Maritime zones and jurisdiction

- Introduction to the law of the sea
- Baselines
- Maritime zones and jurisdiction

- The continental shelf
- Maritime boundary delimitation
- Deposits and due publicity
- Technical aspects of UNCLOS

Module 4: Ocean governance and the blue economy in the context of SIDS

- Ocean governance and ocean governance matrix
- Sustainable blue economies and finance
- Ocean-funding mechanisms

Module 5: UNCLOS framework and related instruments for ocean-based activities, including a SIDS perspective

- International shipping and navigation under UNCLOS
- Maritime security
- Archipelagic States and navigation regime
- The work and instruments of the International Maritime Organization
- Fisheries and the law of the sea
- The 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
- Small-scale fisheries
- Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing
- The work and instruments of the Food and Agriculture Organization
- Non-living resources and other economic activities
- Marine scientific research
- Submarine cables and the law of the sea
- Mineral exploitation and exploration in the Area
- The human dimension in the law of the sea
- Gender considerations in ocean governance

Module 6: The protection and preservation of the marine environment, including a SIDS perspective

- Protection and preservation of the marine environment
- Marine plastic pollution
- Jurisdictional aspects and environmental considerations in relation to energy installations at sea, including oil and gas and renewables

Module 7: Climate change and the ocean, including a focus on SIDS vulnerabilities

- The impacts of climate change on the ocean and relevant legal frameworks
- Climate Change and the Ocean: An overview of UNFCCC's ocean-related work
- The effects of sea level rise on the law of the sea
- Climate Change and the ocean: Recent developments in international courts and tribunals

Module 8: Marine biological diversity, including beyond national jurisdiction from a SIDS perspective

- Marine biological diversity frameworks
- 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”)
- Special circumstances of SIDS under the BBNJ Agreement

Module 9: Dispute settlement

- Dispute settlement under UNCLOS
- The work of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- The work of the International Court of Justice

Module 10: Sustainable development, ocean management, including area-based management tools and marine spatial planning

- Sustainable development and the law of the sea
- An introduction to integrated ocean management, the ecosystem approach, ABMTs including MPAs.
- Marine spatial planning

Module 11: Science/knowledge-policy interface, including the importance of traditional and local communities’ knowledge

- The UN Regular Process
- The role of science and traditional knowledge as the basis for decision-making, including the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

II. Professional skills

Fellows will engage in professional skills development activities, such as multilateral negotiation, research, and communication skills, through theory lectures and practical exercises led by both UN staff and external professionals.

III. Intergovernmental meetings at United Nations Headquarters

Fellows will have the opportunity to observe intergovernmental meetings and other multilateral processes related to ocean affairs and the law of the sea at United Nations Headquarters, actively engaging in discussions and completing assignments related to these events.

IV. Fellowship deliverables

Successful completion of the programme requires the submission of the following deliverables, which may include:

- a. A research paper and/or an ocean governance matrix addressing the specific national or regional challenges related to the special circumstances of SIDS, as outlined in the Fellow's application and supported by the Nominating Authority.
- b. An oral presentation of the research paper and/or ocean governance matrix findings to the group, followed by an interactive Q&A session.