



UN Major Group for
Children and Youth
the space for children and youth in the United Nations

OCEANS CONFERENCE 2017

Consultation Guide



UN Major Group of Children and Youth
Oceans/SDG 14 Working Group

If you are reading this manual you are probably thinking (or already planning) to arrange a youth consultation for the United Nations Conference to Implement SDG 14 (Oceans Conference). This manual intends to cover everything you need to know about conducting a consultation, no matter the level of experience. The outcomes from your consultation will then feed into the conference process through the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY).

If you need assistance or want to become further involved, send us an email on oceansgfp@childrenyouth.org.

Background

The High-Level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development will be convened in New York, from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. The Conference will be co-hosted by the Governments of Fiji and Sweden.

H.E. Mr. Jagdish Koonjul, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Magnus Lennartsson, Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations were appointed by the President of General Assembly as co-facilitators for the General Assembly modalities resolution of the Conference.

The Conference shall:

- Identify ways and means to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;
- Build on existing successful partnerships and stimulate innovative and concrete new partnerships to advance the implementation of Goal 14;
- Involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken towards, the implementation of Goal 14;
- Share the experiences gained at the national, regional and international levels in the implementation of Goal 14;
- Contribute to the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing an input to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in accordance with resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013, 70/1 of 25

September 2015 and 70/299 of 29 July 2016, on the implementation of Goal 14, including on opportunities to strengthen progress in the future;

The Conference shall comprise plenary meetings, partnership dialogues and a special event commemorating World Oceans Day.

The Conference shall adopt by consensus a concise, focused, inter governmentally agreed declaration in the form of a "Call for Action" to support the implementation of Goal 14 and a report containing the co-chairs' summaries of the partnership dialogues, as well as a list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Goal 14, to be announced at the Conference.

The President of the General Assembly will convene a two-day preparatory meeting, in February 2017, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, to be chaired by the two co-facilitators, with a view to considering the themes for the partnership dialogues and elements for a "Call for Action".

How to use the manual

The manual sets out to comprehensively describe how to conduct an open-ended consultation. By reading the manual and its linked materials, you should feel prepared to host a consultation. However, consultations are group activities, and differ from one discussion to the other. Please consider this manual, then, as a guide rather than a hard set of rules. Above all, it is important not to lead the discussion, but facilitate it.

What is an Open-Ended Consultation?

An open-ended consultation is a series of facilitated discussions to capture young people's realities, stories, and concerns regarding a particular matter. For the Oceans process, it means gathering experiences and views on the areas covered by SDG 14, and how we can move towards action to implement it.

Recap of SDG 14

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels



14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want

A lot of decision-making processes take a top-down approach. It is important to ensure that we do not lose stories and thoughts from the grassroots level, as we seek ways to actively incorporate all input within an emerging developmental framework. Facilitators should not provide answers, as there is no right or wrong. Open-ended questions and exercises will be used instead, to reflect the realities and perspectives of all participants involved, keeping the discussion inclusive, forward oriented and ensuring a meaningful and relevant outcome.

Why open-ended consultations?

An open-ended consultation is a means to voice the priorities, concerns and ideas of stakeholders. The technique is used in a number of UN processes to ensure that youth opinions feed into the processes and ultimately into decision-making.

For the UN MGCY, open-ended consultations ensure that our policies reflect as many youth voices as possible. Our consultations are designed to be easily conducted and viable for use in a range of different settings, be it at local organisation meetings, regional events, or international gatherings.



The outcomes from open-ended consultations are one of several means to shape the UN MGCY policy for the concerned process. Our policy should reflect youth priorities from all regions and all parts of society, the consultations are an important tool to collect such diverse opinions. Only by acting together and combining all input, we make our voices count.

Objectives

The consultation aims to ensure that youth voices are recognized, heard, and reflected upon by achieving the following objectives:

- Enhance young people's knowledge on actions and challenges associated with Oceans/ SDG 14;
- Introduce young people to the Oceans/SDG 14 process and the themes it addresses;
- Acknowledge young people's priorities for the Oceans/SDG 14 process, develop possibilities of youth participation through discussions on innovative solutions to address the challenges of humanitarian aid and action;
- Inspire young people's commitments to contribute effective and innovative actions to enhance; sustainable use of sea resources,
- Facilitate opportunities for young people to contribute to the global and regional voice of youth and children within the Oceans/SDG 14 process;
- Build the tools for participants to continue communicating the priorities and commitments of youth in Oceans/SDG 14 actions in the long term, and then work to implement these outcomes.

Expected Outcome

After concluding the consultation, we aim to reach the following outcomes:

- Young people have knowledge on current challenges in, engagement, implementing and monitoring of programmes related to Oceans/SDG 14 and have strong motivation and confidence to take actions to address these;
- Facilitate meaningful youth participation as “partners” in implementation of Oceans/SDG 14 globally young people are conscious of their role as one of the stakeholders in Oceans/SDG 14 issue and play an important role in the system at all levels (national, regional and international);
- Use collected inputs to develop policies to be further communicated in the Oceans/SDG 14 process, based upon young people's priorities and commitments for the Oceans/SDG 14 agenda.

Who can facilitate an open-ended consultation?



You don't need to have any specific qualifications or prior experience to facilitate a consultation, aside from a sincere interest in contributing to a productive Oceans/SDG 14 through collaborative and inclusive dialogue. Everyone is encouraged to host their own consultation, and your contribution is important and recognized!

The Consultation Preparatory Actions

A good consultation starts with the preparations.

- Select and prepare facilitators for the consultation according to commitment and comprehension of the process;
- Engage and recruit youth participants who have a good understanding of humanitarian action;
- Create a profile on TheGoals.org to use the Oceans course for learning and action on SDG 14. Available as of March 2017. You can use the course as support or addition to your consultation.
- Select a venue that allows easy speaking, listening, and writing for all participants. Facilitators should be able to make eye contact with all youth participants and receive their opinions clearly. (Tables and chairs can be arranged in a semi-circle to facilitate this);
- Prepare a presentation covering topics regarding humanitarian action: Either you find speakers for the session or you prepare your own presentation. The UN MGCY Oceans/SDG 14 Working Group can help you in preparing materials;
- Select a suitable energizer for breaks and the introduction (a quick game or exercise that energizes the group);
- Prepare for the consultation (see more information below); Prepare enough resources for all youth participants;
- Make plans for follow-up and feedback.
- Send one page summary of the consultations including key issues and recommendations to the UN MGCY Oceans/SDG 14 Working Group to ensure your voice heard.
- Use hashtag #Youth4Oceans when sharing and updating the consultation in the social media.

Breakout sessions



1. Introduction

The objectives of the consultation are to ensure that the participants' thoughts are heard and reflected in the Oceans/SDG 14 process.

The consultation facilitators should begin the session in the following manner:

- Welcome all participants;
- Present the agenda and objectives for the session;
- Explain what a consultation is, highlighting that there are no right or wrong answers during the discussions, that their thoughts are their own ideas and no one can take them away from them or question them, and that each contribution is valuable;
- Inform the participants that their contributions will be translated into policy, and that they are welcome to take part in that process within the UN MGCY Oceans/SDG 14 Working Stream.

2. Presentations

The presentations are either delivered by external speakers and experts or by you, the facilitators. Presentations should help provide an understanding of the Oceans/SDG 14 process and issues regarding humanitarian action that has led to the call for the Oceans/SDG 14. The UN MGCY Oceans/SDG 14 Working Group can provide you assistance in preparing materials.

3. Open-Ended Consultation

The following section describes an open-ended consultation within the UN MGCY. The aim is to create a forum where young people can raise their priorities and transform them into meaningful and effective policies.

We suggest six parts for the consultation: The Line, Group Discussion, Technical Open-Ended Consultation, the Oceans course on TheGoals.org, the Individual Survey, and an Online Summary.

If the time is limited to an hour, it is advised to focus on exercises one and two. If you have more time available, you may benefit from including relevant aspects of exercise three, which provides more specific focus on technical aspects of humanitarian issues. A course on TheGoals.org will probably stretch over several sessions but it is self-regulated by the young people and their engagement with the course. You do not always have to physically meet, but the participants should be able to talk to each other and discuss their answers.



You are encouraged to leave time for exercise five and six, which records the opinions of youths worldwide. This is to ensure that eventual policies may be effectively measured against youth priorities and concerns.

Part 1 - The Line

The Line aims to warm up the group and give you insight to the group dynamics. The Line is one of many value-based exercises. If you are familiar and more confident using another suitable interactive introduction exercise, you can choose that instead.

The exercise consists of the following:

1. Participants take away their chairs and stand in two lines facing each other.
2. You will say statements concerning humanitarian action and their task is to decide whether they agree or disagree. If they agree they take one step forward, if they disagree they stand still.
3. After each statement they return to their original position.

Proposed statements:

- Oceans is an important factor in achieving Sustainable Development Goals;
- Youth is one of the man actors in implementing the SDG 14;
- Your region/ country is equipped with policy in preventing and reducing marine pollutions in all kind;
- Your region/ country is equipped with policy in strengthening resilience and is taking action on marine restoration;
- It is okay that the private sector or NGOs have a financial profit from managing resources from the oceans.
- Youth should be included in scientific cooperation on Oceans/SDG 14 issue at all level;
- The United Nations should intervene more often in issues related to Oceans/SDG 14;

You may add questions of your choice, related to the discussion topic

Part 2 - Group Discussion

Divide the participants into smaller groups of 3-10, and make sure that each group has a facilitator, time taker and a rapporteur.

- The rapporteur is taking notes and will report back after the discussion.



- The facilitator sets up the questions and makes sure that everyone in the group gets a chance to speak. It is also the facilitator's task to ensure that the discussion stays focused on the topic, however without steering the discussion to specific answers.
- The time taker helps the facilitator to watch the time for the group discussion, so that each question is addressed and adequately discussed.

Inform the participants that they have 30 minutes to discuss the following four questions.

1. What are the pressing priorities for Oceans/SDG 14 issues?
2. What are the challenges specifically faced by young people in dealing with Oceans/SDG 14 issues, specifically related to marine protection, marine pollutions, illegal fishing, and empowerment of local community?
3. What is the role of young people in implementing Oceans/SDG 14 issues and how can young people contribute better? What support is needed to ensure a meaningful contribution?

Part 3 - Technical Open-Ended Consultation

If you have additional time you may want to focus on a specific discussion point of the consultation. Depending on your group, you can decide to focus on a specific topic depending on the local/national conditions and policies.

Another possibility is to focus the consultation on one of the Oceans/SDG 14 targets and indicators, as mentioned in the previous section.

Part 4 – The Oceans course on TheGoals.org

A course on TheGoals.org is based on non-formal education within a small group (6-8 participants) breaking down the SDG at hand into bitesize challenges and turning learnings into action.

As such it helps young people to better understand the issues at hand find ways for them to tackle them in their local community. To make the courses accessible to everyone all it requires is a mobile phone and at some point connection to the internet. Users on TheGoals.org working on the same challenge will be connected through the process of the course and through the exchange of learnings and outcomes be able to understand the global and interconnected element of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Oceans course consists of 4 missions: Your life and the Oceans, Pollution and Resource Depletion, Climate Change, and Take Action. Each mission consists of several objectives. The answers within the course will be compiled to mission stories, which will be shareable as part of the consultation as well as with the global community connected on TheGoals.org.



Part 5 - Individual Survey

The online survey is not only an alternative to the offline consultations, but a means to collect input from youth worldwide. We encourage you to leave time at the end of your consultation for all participants to fill out the survey individually. If participants have internet access, they should do so directly online. You can also print the survey, but the answers will have to be manually entered in the online survey afterwards.

By taking the time to ensure that your participants fill out the survey, you are ensuring that our policy more accurately reflect youth priorities and concerns.

The Online Survey is currently being finalized and will be linked very soon (with translations to the UN languages).

Part 6 - Online Summary

After conducting the consultation, you should send one page summary to the UN MGCY Oceans/SDG 14 Working Group. Youth summary will be incorporated by the UN MGCY for the Oceans/SDG 14 conference. The summary should highlights key challenges and recommendation based on the consultation.





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