



PIMUN
2022!

STUDY GUIDE ECOSOC

"Ensuring a Sustainable Use of the Oceans"



INTRODUCTION TO THE CHAIRS

Greetings to you all! I'm Dhruvi Khandelwal Sukhnani and I'm pleased to be your chair for the ECOSOC in PIMUN 2022! I study comparative law and I'm in my penultimate year of study at IE University in Spain. In addition to my academics, I'm involved in several student clubs, namely, Debate Club and Cheerleading Club. Through Debate Club, I grew my expertise in debating but also developed a deeper passion for MUN. I went to my first Model United Nations Conference when I was 15 and since then it's only been a rollercoaster that goes up. After attending a few conferences, I realized that engaging myself in MUN was both enriching and fun, so I continued doing it, even if it meant skipping school... Everyone has been new to something once, and the goal is to enjoy yourself, so it would be greatly appreciated if the committee could be welcoming to the first-timers! And to my fellow first-timers, I empower you to turn this overwhelming feeling into confidence and use it to defeat your competition, you got this! As you can tell, I love a little friendly fire. Apart from that, I am an enthusiast for anything food related. Talk to me about ingredients, cooking techniques, fun facts about food, celebrity chefs, and you would make it into my good books!

Welcome delegates! My name is Lucas Iturmendi and I eagerly look forward to being your chair in the ECOSOC committee of PIMUN's 2022 edition. I am originally from Spain and I grew up between Madrid and Texas. I currently attend IE University in Madrid where I am finishing my second year of International Relations. I am enthusiastic about foreign policy and I have a particular interest in geopolitics. Other than academics, I have numerous passions like running, traveling, learning languages, and MUN. I have taken part in MUN conferences since the beginning of high school, primarily taking on the role of delegate, but occasionally participated as a chair and organizer. I believe that MUN reflects my academic interests and enables me to pursue what I aim to achieve in the future. It's an initiative that empowers us to solve global issues whilst adhering to perspectives we may not often agree with. I think it's a unique chance to get out of your comfort zone, and an enriching opportunity to meet and connect with many talented and amazing people. If at any point prior to or throughout the conference you wish to ask me anything, please do not hesitate to approach me! Also I can't wait to visit Paris so if you have any recommendations from a local perspective please reach out!

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council) is one of the six principal organs within the system of the United Nations, as it was established by the UN Charter in 1945. This committee comprises 54 member states that are elected by the General Assembly. ECOSOC coordinates the activities of the United Nations' fourteen specialized agencies, functional commissions, as well as the five regional commissions on economic and social-related issues. It is the primary platform for debating international socioeconomic concerns, and for generating policy recommendations adhering to the context of each member state, as well as for the entirety of the UN system. ECOSOC has the well-established goals of promoting an increased state of well-being across the world, as well as conducting efforts to bolster economic development and social prosperity. It aims to incorporate an interdisciplinary approach at tackling prevalent international issues such as unemployment, and other types of wide-scale economic obstacles. This committee is also concerned with facilitating international educational and cultural cooperation, and at a wider level it encompasses the intention of encouraging universal respect and compliance for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In 2013, there was a reform to the scope of ECOSOC, thereby including the power to identify emerging challenges around the world, promote innovation and achieve a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development (established by the Johannesburg Declaration of 1992) : economic, social and environmental issues. In specific, the discussions of the ECOSOC meetings are usually focused around an annual theme of global importance to sustainable development.

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) agreed upon 17 different issues that are of dire importance to sustainable development, called “Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs)” that were aimed to be resolved to the maximum extent possible by 2030. Given that sustainable development is a priority to the committee- there is a very strong connection between ECOSOC and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

Sustainable Development Goal #14 is about the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The world's oceans account for an unmistakable and overwhelming majority of water on the planet. Over 96.5% of Earth's water can be found within the oceans. The ostensible ambiguity encompassing the term "ocean" can come about as somewhat perplexing given the wide variety of distinct ecosystems one can encounter within them. Levels of biodiversity and valuable commodities are wide-ranging in different seas and oceans. Nonetheless, it must be pointed out that deep ocean ecosystems do not nearly comprise the same levels of biodiversity as coral reefs or wetlands. Certain bodies of water like the Persian Gulf provide invaluable amounts of heavily demanded resources like oil and gas, while others remain more economically irrelevant. Economic and geopolitical interests define the prominence of bodies of water, and can usually be attributed to how often they are transited, or the extent to which they are exploited. For instance, waters in the strait of Malacca do not particularly contain any treasured commodity, but their strategic relevance connecting maritime trade routes from east Asia to the Indian ocean have converted it into a region of vital geopolitical importance. The economies of coastal states are predominantly structured according to the resources and geography encountered within the area of their territorial sea.

Oceans are an integral component to the eradication of poverty by creating sustainable livelihoods and providing forms of employment. As of 2019, over three billion people are dependent on marine and coastal resources for their livelihoods. In addition to that, oceans are extremely crucial for global food security and human health (considering that these natural water bodies are responsible for the regulation of global climate). The pertinence of preserving the ocean for sustainable development was first brought up by the Johannesburg Declaration—after which it was further developed by The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20.

The advantageous use of oceans, seas and marine resources have become a norm to society, particularly to vulnerable groups with a high dependency on natural resources and ecosystem-related livelihoods— which may result in an interdependence of the well-being of both to be able to actually produce any benefits. It would be difficult for the "well-being" of mankind to be

achieved without the conservation and protection of the Earth’s ecosystem- therefore there must be a series of solutions to prevent this from happening.

1. Past Actions & Stakeholders

*** Note to delegates, make sure that your country is a party to the convention/signed the treaty before quoting any of these authorities in committee ***

<u>Name of the Initiative/Organization</u>	<u>Functions/Powers/Information</u>
Geneva Convention on the High Seas	<p>This convention, passed in 1958, was aimed at declaring and establishing principles of international law with relation to the high seas. It was a result of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. Some of the examples of the principles set by this convention are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the definition of high seas(parts of the sea that are not national territory) ● freedom of the high seas(ability to navigate, fish, fly over and also lay submarine cables and pipelines) ● The definition and condemnation of piracy in the high seas
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	<p>Also known as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, IMO is a specialized agency of the UN responsible for regulating waterborne transport, established in 1948. Its parent organization is ECOSOC. The primary purpose of IMO is to develop and maintain a comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping and its other scope includes maritime safety, environmental concerns, legal matters regarding transport using means of water, maritime security and also the ecological efficiency of shipping.</p>
UNEP	<p>The United Nations’ Environmental Programme (UNEP) was established in 1972. Through its Regional Seas Programme, works towards establishing policies to protect oceans and seas and promote a sustainable use of marine resources.</p>

	<p>UNEP is also responsible for global monitoring as it is the custodian agency of the SDG indicators. In 2021, UNEP published a global manual on SDG 14– which is a compilation of information monitored by data science.</p>
OceanCare	<p>OceanCare is a marine wildlife protection agency. In 2011, OceanCare was granted Special Consultative Status by ECOSOC. This allowed OceanCare to share their technical information to all relevant UN bodies.</p>
UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	<p>UNCLOS, also known as Law of the Sea treaty, was signed by 157 member states of the UN member states in 1994. The convention establishes a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities. One of the most important and significant revisions to UNCLOS was in 1967 as there was clear specificity about navigation, archipelagic status, the setting of limits, exclusive economic zones, protection of the marine environment and the outcome of scientific research on the sea. The convention actually replaces the concept of “freedom of the seas” by establishing nautical mile limits to territorially disputed waters- so that there would be protection of fish stocks, the ability to enforce pollution controls and the assignment of countries that could have access to the mineral resources. However, UNCLOS does not deal with issues of territory, as it is meant to just set principles as such.</p>
International Seabed Authority (ISA)	<p>The International Seabed Authority was an outcome of UNCLOS and was established in 1994. The ISA is responsible for organizing, regulating and controlling all mineral-related activities in the international seabed area which doesn’t fall within the limit of national jurisdiction- to protect the seabed from any harmful effects which may arise from mining activities.</p>
UN-Oceans	<p>UN-Oceans, founded in 2003, is an inter-agency framework that seeks to enhance the</p>

	<p>coordination, coherence, effectiveness of competent organizations of the UN system and the International Seabed Authority, in conformity with with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the respective competences of each of its participating subsidiaries and the mandates approved by their respective governing bodies.</p>
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2. Problems Identification

a. Rising Sea Levels

The unquestionable impacts of climate change are transforming the nature of ocean ecosystems across the globe, having diverse consequences in each region. General sea levels appear to continue rising at a concerning rate, consequently threatening coastal environments and settlements. Low-elevation regions are particularly susceptible to this, and the existence of entire nations such as several pacific island-states is at threat. Adaptation capabilities to the threats of climate-change greatly vary between highly developed and developing nations. In the context of the rising sea levels, industrialized states like the Netherlands have intricate infrastructure systems to prevent any type of flood from occurring, while other states such as Bangladesh prevail in constant vulnerability to substantial floods.

b. Overfishing

Overfishing is another pressing issue attributable to our collective aim of ensuring a sustainable use of the oceans. It can be defined as the withdrawal of species of fish from a certain bodies of water at a rate which is greater than the species is capable of reinvigorating to its previous levels of population. It can have devastating consequences on its surrounding environments, some of which have demonstrated to be irreversible. Overfishing has an adverse and direct impact on the food cycle, as it inhibits other natural predators of fish from nurturing themselves, potentially placing numerous species in threat of endangerment. Moreover, the reckless assortments of preposterous amounts of fish leaves stockpiles vulnerable for the years to come, putting local communities that rely on fishing at a huge risk. Overfishing predominantly transpires in regions with relatively deregulated maritime legislature. Moreover, in international waters where sovereignty is shared within member states, the deregulatory nature of the legislation in place arguably incentivizes individuals and corporations to commit

shameless actions to favor their own interests. Statistics have concerningly indicated around 34% of the world's fish stocks currently suffer some palpable form of overfishing. In the mediterranean this number ascends to 62%, implying that well over half of the fish stocks of one of the most populated coastal regions are in great danger. At the international level, we have not yet seen any remarkable effort carried out that has led to substantive outcomes when preventing overfishing; and each day that passes by, this seemingly implausible threat becomes a more tangible reality.

c. UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

Disputes of sovereignty between states are not limited to in-land territory, but also often to control and rights over waters. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is an international agreement that was adopted in 1982 establishing the legal frameworks for all marine and maritime activities. This treaty clearly states the differences between the concepts of territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone, and high seas. It was developed as an endeavor to bring long lasting peace at sea and to serve as a consolidated scheme to prevent further disputes from taking place. Nonetheless, despite the efforts carried out in this international agreement, its loopholes and exemptions reveal that maritime disputes are very much still a prevalent reality. This is particularly evident in the South China Sea, where a large number of its coastal nations claim overlapping waters. The ambition to consolidate dominance over this body of water has reached the unimaginable extent of states like China constructing artificial islands with land reclamation technology in order to claim a larger portion of water. The development of these man-made islands on itself already has ostensible environmental impacts, but that is not even the most crucial issue. A mutual claim by two or more states for economic exploitation of a certain maritime region entails an unsustainable overutilization of limited resources. This had led to ecologically detrimental outcomes not just in the South China sea, but in various other places around the globe.

3. Possible Solutions

The committee may work in unison or in blocs to be able to agree upon the necessary solutions for the problem at hand. A general solution that can be adopted and adapted by every member of the ECOSOC is: the establishment of information campaigns for the reduction of misuse of natural resources such as the ocean. It is also viable for the committee to incentivize

compliance and innovation in the sustainable use of the ocean, by instituting frameworks to recognize the member states that have been actively engaged in carrying out substantive efforts.

In the context of the topic at hand, the priorities and concerns of states who comprise extensive low-elevation coastal areas are undoubtedly different from those who do not, which is why this key difference could presumptively lead to different approaches at dealing with the issue. Additionally, the extent to which land-locked countries play a relevant role when debating matters related to the ocean is limited. Thus, reaching consensus to address everyone's concerns in an equitable manner could prompt fruitful discussions and engender clashing perspectives. In spite of the disparities of opinions within the committee, that derive as a result of states' geography and involvement in the issue, the committee should strive to agree upon objectives that reasonably and cohesively integrate the perspectives and demands of all.

A wide range of maritime disputes arise due to the noncompliance, ambiguity, or contested technicalities occasionally found within international maritime law. Consequently, another conceivable solution this committee could aim on achieving could be to redefine and reassess the prevalent social and economic aspects within the realm of international maritime law, whilst always adhering to the duties of ECOSOC.

4. QARMAs

- How can SDG 14's "targets" be met and further improved upon?
- What is the degree of sustainability determined when referring to the usage of the oceans ecosystem for profitable use to humans?
- How can the quantity of waste be considerably reduced and prevented from polluting the ocean?
- Is there a consensus of mutually respectful behaviors between landlocked countries and those with direct access to sea?
- Is the resolution able to not only resolve the issue, but also create visibility for it? (think about inclusion of information campaigns, charities and crowdfunding initiatives)

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