

UNESCO

ECOSOC

TOPIC A:

“Ocean Preservation”

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“Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans.”

-Jacques Cousteau

Andrea Austria González
Undersecretary of ECOSOC

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Topic A:

Ocean Preservation

UNESCO is responsible for coordinating international cooperation in education, science, culture and communication. It strengthens the ties between nations and societies, and mobilizes the wider public so that each child and citizen:

- has access to quality education; a basic human right and an indispensable prerequisite for sustainable development;
- may grow and live in a cultural environment rich in diversity and dialogue, where heritage serves as a bridge between generations and peoples;
- can fully benefit from scientific advances;
- and can enjoy full freedom of expression; the basis of democracy, development and human dignity.

Covering over two-thirds of our blue planet, the ocean makes it habitable. It is at the origin of all life on Earth and affects each of our lives: it is the source of our freshwater and of half the oxygen we breathe; it also influences our climate and weather. Our ocean provides food, medicine, and mineral and energy resources. It supports a multitude of life forms and shapes the Earth's characteristics.

People need air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, new medicines, a climate we can live in, beauty, inspiration and recreation. We need to know we belong to something bigger than ourselves. We want a better future for those we care about.

Because the oceans are the largest ecosystems on Earth, they are the Earth's largest life support system. To survive and prosper, we all need healthy oceans. Oceans generate half of the oxygen people breathe. At any given moment, more than 97% of the world's water resides in oceans. Oceans provide a sixth of the animal protein people eat. They're the most promising source of new medicines to combat cancer, pain and bacterial diseases. Living oceans absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and reduce the impact of climate change.

Now days, the oceans are being contaminated by a lot of waste, waste that we all produce day by day. Also, we do not realize the great damage we are doing to our planet and that's why we are not doing anything to remedy it.

The environmental movement began in the United States during the 1960s, including the first grass-roots efforts to preserve surf breaks and coastlines. It wasn't until 1972 that the government established the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), which allowed the regulation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to prohibit illegal dumping of pollutants into the oceans. The MPRSA helped to establish marine conservation as a major component of environment in the United States.

Points to address:

- What policies can coast countries implement to safeguard oceans and other water bodies?
- What are other different factors affecting oceans?
- How NGO's can play a major role on ocean preservation?

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- Are your coasts affected by any factor that might endanger your people or animals?

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