2025 UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE
PRESS BRIEFING PROGRAMME

UNITED NATIONS
OCEAN CONFERENCE
NICE, FRANCE 2025

Press Briefing Room Location: **Media Center, second floor**

Updated: Thursday, 12 June

DATE	TIME	TITLE	SPEAKERS
MONDAY, 9 June			
9-June-2025	1:15-1:45 PM	**DAILY UN PRESS BRIEFING** **UN Ocean Conference overview** Overview of the UN Ocean Conference highlighting the need for urgent ocean action, global partnerships, and sustainable use of marine resources. **Treaty Event for the BBNJ Agreement** The UN Legal Counsel will brief on the Special Treaty Event on 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 (the "BBNJ Agreement").	Speakers: • **Li Junhua,** Conference Secretary-General; UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs • **Ambassador Peter Thomson**, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean • **Elinor Hammarskjöld**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel Moderated by **Martina Donlon**, Spokesperson for the UN Ocean Conference, UN Department of Global Communications

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9-June-2025	3:15-3:45 PM	**PRESS CONFERENCE: 30X30 OCEAN ACTION PLAN** **Summary:** Developed by Friends of Ocean Action, **the 30x30 Ocean Action Plan** charts a clear path to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030. The press conference will highlight key findings, priority actions, and collaboration opportunities for governments, communities, and businesses to accelerate marine protection.	Speakers: • **Ambassador Peter Thomson**, Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean • **Emanuel Gonçalves**, Chief Scientist and Member of the Board of the Oceano Azul Foundation • **Razan Al Mubarak**, President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) • **Dr. Susan Gardner**, Director of Ecosystems, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Moderated by **Martina Donlon**, Spokesperson for the UN Ocean Conference, UN Department of Global Communications
TUESDAY, 10 June			
10-June-2025	10:30-11:15 AM	**UN SECRETARY-GENERAL PRESS CONFERENCE** **Summary:** Press encounter on the UN Ocean Conference with the UN Secretary-General.	Speakers: • **António Guterres**, United Nations Secretary-General Moderated by **Stephane Dujarric,** Spokesperson for the Secretary-General of the United Nations

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10-June-2025	1:00-2:00 PM	**DAILY UN PRESS BRIEFING** **UNESCO Ocean Initiative** UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), through the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and OceanOPS, are launching the "10,000 Ships for the Ocean" initiative to transform the role of the global shipping fleet in ocean science. **UN Global Compact Report Launch** The Ocean Investment Protocol is a framework for financial institutions, (re)insurers, ocean industries, governments and development finance institutions to lead the growth of the Sustainable Ocean Economy to achieve SDG14 and other related Sustainable Development Goals.	Speakers: • **Joanna Post**, UNESCO-IOC Head of Ocean Observation and Services • **Mathieu Belbeoch**, OceanOPS Manager • **Suzanne Johnson**, Senior Advisor, Ocean, UN Global Compact • **Ayla Bajwa,** Senior Vice President, Sustainability, DP World Moderated by **Martina Donlon**, Spokesperson for the UN Ocean Conference, UN Department of Global Communications
10-June-2025	3:30-4:00 PM	**PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS, PALAU AND VANUATU** **Summary:** Guests will speak to the press following the Pacific-France Summit with President Macron. They will highlight the need for bold climate action to save oceans.	Speakers: • **President Hilda C. Heine**, Republic of the Marshall Islands • **President Surangel Whipps Jr**., Palau • **Ralph Regenvanu,** Minister of Vanuatu Moderated by **Tina Stege**, Climate Envoy, Republic of the Marshall Islands

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10-June-2025	5:00-5:30 PM	**PRESS CONFERENCE: SMALL SCALE FISHERFOLKS** **Summary:** Small-scale fisherfolk organizations from Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia will highlight both the challenges these communities face and their successes in advancing human rights-based marine conservation.	Speakers: • **Hasmia**, Vice Secretary General of the Union of Traditional Fisherfolk of Indonesia • **Gwenael Pennarum**, President of Low Impact Fishers of Europe • **Zoila Bustamante**, President of the Latin American Union of Artisanal Fishing and of the National Confederation of Artisanal Fisherfolk of Chile • **Dawda Foday Saine**, Secretary General, Confederation of Professional Organizations in the Artisanal Maritime and Continental Fisheries of Africa • **Annie Tourette**, Blue Ventures • **Eugenia Arguedas**, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica. Moderated by **Carolina Sánchez**, CoopeSolidar/Fundación Quantum
10-June-2025	6:15-7:15 PM	**PRESS CONFERENCE:THE NICE WAKE UP CALL FOR AN AMBITIOUS TREATY ON PLASTIC POLLUTION** **Summary:**	Speakers: • **SE Mme Agnès Pannier-Runacher**, Minister for Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forestry, Sea and Fisheries of France

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		Guests will reaffirm the shared ambition, instilled in Busan (CIN5, November 2024), of a coalition of several countries from all regional groups and all levels of development, to conclude an ambitious treaty taking into account the entire life cycle of plastics.	• **HE Mr Daouda Ngom**, Minister for the Environment and Ecological Transition, Senegal • **SE Ms Alicia Bárcena**, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico • **SE Ms Jessika Roswall**, European Commissioner for the Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy • **HE Mr Maina Vakafua Talia**, Minister of Home Affairs, Climate Change and Environment of Tuvalu Moderated by **Agnès Pannier-Runacher,** French Minister of Environment
WEDNESDAY, 11 June			
11-June-2025	12:00-12:30 PM	**PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU** **Summary:** At this UN Ocean Conference, Vanuatu welcomes the Nice Ocean Action Plan — but reminds the world that voluntary pledges are not enough. Climate action is not optional; it is a legal obligation under international law.	Speakers: • **Hon. Ralph Regenvanu**, Minister of Climate Change of Vanuatu • **Vishal Prasad**, Director of Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change • **Julian Aguion**, Director Blue Ocean Law, • **Dr. Stuart Minchin**, Director General of the Pacific Community Moderated by **Anne-Sophie Vivier**, Global Engagement Manager and Pacific Legal Adviser

11-June-2025	1:00-2:00 PM	**DAILY UN PRESS BRIEFING** **FAO Report Launch** The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will launch the **2025 edition of the Review of the State of World Marine Fishery Resources**, which presents the most comprehensive and detailed assessment of marine fisheries to date. **IMO Shipping Initiatives** The International Maritime Organization will showcase efforts to address key ocean challenges, from underwater noise and marine plastic pollution to shipping's role in ocean protection and climate action. The briefing will also highlight IMO's 2025 World Maritime Day theme, "Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity."	Speakers: • **Prof. Manuel Barange**, Assistant Director-General and Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) • **Arsenio Dominguez**, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Moderated by **Martina Donlon**, Spokesperson for the UN Ocean Conference, UN Department of Global Communications

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11-June-2025	3:00-3:30 PM	**PRESS CONFERENCE: LEADERS OF SUBNATIONAL ISLAND JURISDICTIONS** **Summary:** Leaders of the Subnational Island Jurisdictions (SNIJs) will launch the SNIJ Climate Coalition, a new alliance to strengthen collaboration and amplify SNIJ voices on the global stage. Guests will also showcase innovative policies, local action, and regional leadership in marine protection and climate resilience.	Speakers: • **Jeremie Katidjo-Monnier**, New Caledonia Minister for Environment and Ocean • **Ahab Downer**, Green Overseas Programme Director, Expertise France • **Vannesa Toré**, Director of Foreign Economic Cooperation the Ministry of Economic Development Government of Curaçao. Moderated by **James Ellsmoor**, Founder of Island Innovation
11-June-2025	4:00-4:30 PM	**PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY OF PORTUGAL** **Summary:** The speaker will discuss the importance of ocean sustainability and present an announcement in relation to the Gorringe Bank.	Speakers: • **Maria da Graça Carvalho,** Minister of Environment and Energy of Portugal
11-June-2025	6:30-7:00 PM	**PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE MINISTRY OF ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION OF FRANCE** **Summary:** The speaker will provide an initial assessment of the actions taken by France to protect the oceans and reach the agreements at the UN Ocean Conference.	Speakers: • **SE Mme Agnès Pannier-Runacher**, Minister for Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forestry, Sea and Fisheries of France

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THURSDAY, 12 June			
12-June-2025	10:00-10:30 AM	**PRESS CONFERENCE BY TUVALU** **Summary:** Guests will share Tuvalu's message on the 2025 UN Ocean Conference and their position on sea level rise.	Speakers: ● **Honourable Feleti Teo,** Tuvalu Prime Minister
12-June-2025	11:00-11:30 AM	**PRESS CONFERENCE BY CANADIAN DELEGATION** **Summary:** The Young Politicians of Canada will highlight new partnerships with UN Canada focusing on actions around Sustainable Development Goal 14 and strengthening efforts with government partners and organizations on ocean related issues.	Speakers: ● **Jaden Braves**, CEO, Young Politicians of Canada and Co-President, Sustainable Development, UNA Canada
12-June-2025	11:30 AM -12:00 PM	**PRESS CONFERENCE: FOSSIL FREE OCEAN** **Summary:** The press conference will provide an opportunity to share States' obligations to achieve a fossil-free ocean, and how the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty can serve as an ocean-based climate mitigation strategy	Speakers: ● **Ralph Regenvanu**, Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology & Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and Disaster Management, Government of Vanuatu ● **Sivendra Michael**, Permanent Secretary of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Fiji ● **Samira Ben Ali**, Global Campaigns Lead at World Youth for Climate Justice

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			Moderated by **Bruna Campos**, Senior Campaigner, Offshore Oil and Gas, Center for International Environmental Law
12-June-2025	1:00-2:00 PM	**DAILY UN PRESS BRIEFING** **CBD's Biodiversity COP17 Highlights** Armenia, Host of COP 17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2026, will highlight the country's participation in the UN Ocean Conference and preparations for the upcoming COP in Yerevan. Guests will also highlight COP 16 outcomes and priorities for action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. **UNESCO Seabed Mapping & Ocean Decade Alliance Call to Action** The Ocean Decade Alliance will launch a bold Call to Action to accelerate efforts toward mapping the global seabed. This initiative urges governments, international organizations, and the private sector to increase financial and in-kind contributions, and to liberate the estimated 25% of mapping data currently held privately or by governments.	Speakers: • **HE Mr. Robert Abisoghomonyan**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia • **Astrid Schomaker,** Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) • **Julian Barbière**, UNESCO-IOC Head of Marine Policy and Regional Coordination, Coordinator of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 • **Sam Harper**, Assistant Director at the IHO Moderated by **Martina Donlon**, Spokesperson for the UN Ocean Conference, UN Department of Global Communications

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13-June-2025	10:00-10:30 AM	**PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC FOR UNOC3** **Summary:** The President's special envoy will give an initial assessment of the UN Ocean Conference from a French perspective.	Speakers: ● **Olivier Poivre D'Arvor,** Special Envoy of the French Republic for the UN Ocean Conference Moderated by **Salomé Sifaoui**, French Communication Officer for the UN Ocean Conference
13-June-2025	1:00-1:30 PM	**CLOSING PRESS CONFERENCE** **Summary:** Guests will brief journalists on the key moments and commitments from the 2025 UN Ocean Conference.	Speakers: ● **Arnoldo Andre Tinoco**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica ● **Olivier Poivre D'Arvor**, Special Envoy of the French Republic for the UN Ocean Conference ● **Li Junhua,** Conference Secretary-General; UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Moderated by **Martina Donlon**, Spokesperson for the UN Ocean Conference, UN Department of Global Communications

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