



YOUTH OCEAN PARLIAMENT

A note on the Youth Ocean Parliament (YOP)

In 1998, during the Year of the Ocean, and at the concluding presentation of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans report, youths had met in Lisbon and signed an Ocean Charter agreement with Unesco. Next year, 2008, will be the tenth anniversary of that Year of the Ocean. On the one hand it will be the time to reflect on the progress done over a decade, and on the other hand it will be an opportunity for youths to voice their views for the upcoming years.

As the future generation, youth need to start looking ahead at the world which they are to inherit, and eventually will pass on. They need to exercise their rights, and the YOP will give them this moment. Instead of being simply consulted by various national and regional bodies, youths have to start lobbying directly from their side. The YOP will lead to the creation of a broad concerted action, preparing a second session in Lisbon.

Youths cover a broad category of individuals, statistically grouped in a basket of under 30s-35s. While other youth parliaments aim at giving youths a foretaste and a working knowledge of how national or supranational parliaments work, the YOP's wants to be less technically constrained and more focused on results.

In this first-ever Youth Ocean Parliament, youths will address two main topics, to be found further on in this document. Youths will debate and vote motions on clear decision-making statements. Each session will have a Chairperson and a Rapporteur.



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The format presentation is as follows:

I *Introductory Note*

“Dear Chairperson, Dear Colleagues” followed by an introductory paragraph on the subject.

II *Address*

A brief explanation, history and data of the topic will follow: 5 to 10 minutes maximum.

III *Motion Proposal:*

The text of the motion will then be proposed for voting

IV *Debate*

The Session Chairperson will then ask if anyone would like to intervene. If yes, the interveners are to signal to the Session Chairperson their wish to intervene. The intervener should limit his intervention to 5 minutes. The Session Chairperson has discretionary power to stop the debate on a particular motion if the interventions are seen to be repetitive. Once the interventions have ceased the Session Chairperson can proceed with the voting.

V *Voting*

The voting will be done by a show of hands. A simple majority is sufficient for a motion to pass. The Rapporteur will keep track of motion that do not pass. Motions of relevance, that fail to pass, will be included in the final recommendations and decision of the Youth Ocean Parliament.



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Example:

Nuclear Energy

[Introduction]

“Dear Chairperson, dear colleagues, I would like to address the question of nuclear energy. As you are all well aware, at the recent meeting of...”

[Address]

“Let us remember that nuclear energy is the only proven clean energy that has a high output of electricity, as reported by ...”

[Motion Proposal]

“As such I would like to propose today that this Youth Ocean Parliament votes for an increased use of Nuclear Energy for the production of electricity.”

[Debate]

Various interventions.

[Voting]

Session Chairperson: “The Youth Ocean Parliament will now vote for the following: Is the Parliament in favour to recommend an increased use of Nuclear Energy for the production of electricity?”

The show of hands follows. Negative vote.

Session Chairperson: “The Youth Ocean Parliament has voted against an increased use of Nuclear Energy for the production of electricity”.



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Suggested Topics

1. Revitalizing of International Institutions on Ocean Governance

Suggested motion guideline/topics

- a) Has the increase of ocean related activities increased the exploitation of the Ocean leading to the deterioration of the marine environment?
- b) How can existent regulations and laws be strictly applied to the shipping industry and fisheries?
- c) How can marine hunting be monitored?
- d) The idea of Marine Protected Areas is an internationally known concept. They provide protection for the living and non- living resources of the oceans and seas. How can youths make a difference, protect and preserve the eco-systems in the ocean, while raising public awareness? Should there be more regional NGOs?
- e) How can youths lobby together to governments and corporations to practice sound ocean management, create conservation policy, and enforce existing laws and policy through effective regulation?
- f) Who (How) can truly monitor shorelines and coastal pollution (industrial pollution, oil spills, chemicals, domestic pollution and sewage, agricultural pollution)?
- g) Hilltops to Oceans – the roots of the sea are on top of the mountains. How can we help to reduce pollution?
- h) We are all stewards of the ocean. How can we become responsible citizens and consumers in our everyday life?



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2. Bridging the Sea: A socio-economic divide? A digital divide?

Suggested motion guideline/topics

- a) How can we better manage marine natural resources?
- b) High competition for petroleum resources and ocean space, in the form of sea lanes (ships and technology)
- c) What are the different roles between developed countries and developing countries in relation to the Ocean?
- d) Climate change is the greatest threat to life on Earth today. Should a carbon dioxide tax be introduced?
- e) How can we help more marine species that cannot adapt fast enough to changing ecosystems?
- f) How can we muster more funds for conservation?
- g) Should awareness be raised through education and Ecotourism, science centres, museums and aquariums?
- h) A balance needs to be achieved between economic growth and the management of the marine environment. How can youths bring about a change in the social and political sector of the marine environment?



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The YOP will take place at the Parliament, Valletta
on Wednesday 7th November 2007.

Wednesday 7 November 2007, at Parliament, Valletta.

SESSION 1	10:45-12:15	[1 hour 30 minutes]
SESSION 2	14:00-15:45	[1 hour 45 minutes]
CLOSING SESSION	17:00	

Dr. Anton Tabone, Speaker of the House of Representatives will open the Youth Ocean Parliament.

H.E. Mario Soares, Patron of the International Ocean Institute, President of the Fundação Mario Soares and former President of Portugal, will close the Youth Ocean Parliament.

Mr. Manuel Cira, Coordinator of World Ocean Network, Head of cultural services at NAUSICAA, will chair the sessions.



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Motion template

Please describe a motion proposal by answering the following points:

1. Title of motion
 2. Proposer
 3. Scope:
 - Geographical scope (*please choose*):
 - Local
 - Regional
 - International
 - Type of proposal (*please choose*):
 - Recommendation
 - Proposal for policy
 - Youth action
 4. Objective
 5. Proposed action
 6. Summary (3-5 lines)
 7. Means of implementation
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