



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

DIRECTION DES RESSOURCES HUMAINES

SOUS-DIRECTION DE L'ATTRACTIVITÉ ET DES RECRUTEMENTS

Bureau des concours et examens professionnels

**Concours interne et troisième concours pour l'accès à l'emploi de
secrétaire des affaires étrangères (cadre d'Orient)
au titre de l'année 2027**

Épreuve écrite d'admissibilité n° 3

Jeudi 24 septembre 2026

Cas pratique diplomatique ou consulaire en anglais

Durée totale de l'épreuve : 3 heures - Coefficient : 3
Toute note inférieure à 10 sur 20 est éliminatoire.

Résolution d'un cas pratique diplomatique ou consulaire en anglais, sur la base d'un dossier à caractère professionnel, rédigé en anglais

Ce dossier comporte 10 pages (*page de garde, sommaire et sujet non compris*)

Sommaire

Document 1 : Nice Conference Adopts Declaration Underscoring Vital Importance of Ocean to Life on Our Planet, Essential Role in Mitigating Climate Change – Press release, United Nations, 13 June 2025.....	1
Document 2 : UN Ocean Conference delivers unified call to action and strong commitments	3
Document 3 : The UN Ocean Conference tries to turn promises into protection - Associated Press article, 9 June 2025.....	5
Document 4 : Entry into force of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction ("BBNJ" Agreement) - Press release, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 24 September 2025	7
Document 5 : Operationalizing the High Seas Agreement: Ongoing developments and next steps - IDDRI article (IDDRI is an international think tank based in Paris, dedicated to sustainable development), 17 March 2026	8
Document 6 : 15 countries in Kenya adopt the Mombasa Declaration to fight illegal fishing - Associated Press article, 17 June 2026	10

Sujet

You are an advisor (named Dominique Dupont) to the General Directorate for Globalisation. The General Director will soon be meeting with her G20 counterparts to discuss the latest developments regarding the protection of marine biodiversity, one year after the third United Nations *Ocean Conference* (UNOC3) which took place in *Nice* in June 2025.

In order to prepare for this meeting, you are tasked with drafting an operational memo, using the provided documents and you own knowledge. This memo will be accompanied by talking points for your General Director (3 or 4 points, each a few lines long).

Document 1 : Nice Conference Adopts Declaration Underscoring Vital Importance of Ocean to Life on Our Planet, Essential Role in Mitigating Climate Change – Press release, United Nations, 13 June 2025

NICE, FRANCE — After a week of deliberation and discussion, the United Nations Ocean Conference today by consensus adopted a political declaration titled “Our ocean, our future: united for urgent action”, stressing that the ocean plays an essential role in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

“The ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and to our future, and we remain deeply alarmed by the global emergency it faces”, the Conference’s outcome document (A/CONF.230/2025/L.1) said, adding also: “Action is not advancing at the speed or scale required to meet Goal 14 and realize the 2030 Agenda [for Sustainable Development]”.

The declaration, also known as the “Nice Ocean Action Plan”, expressed deep concern that the ability of the ocean and its ecosystems to act as a climate regulator and to support adaptation has been “weakened”.

Underlining the importance of interlinkages between the ocean, climate and biodiversity, the declaration called for enhanced global action to minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification. It emphasized the particular importance of implementing various UN agreements and frameworks, recognizing that it would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change and help to ensure the health, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean.

Further emphasizing the need to adapt to the “unavoidable effects” of climate change, the declaration affirmed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Commending the leadership of small island developing States in highlighting and aiming to address sea level rise, the declaration also expressed concern for the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution and its negative impacts on the environment.

The declaration reaffirmed shared commitment to accelerating action to prevent and significantly reduce and control marine pollution of all kinds, and reiterated the need to increase scientific knowledge on deep sea ecosystems.

Further, the Conference’s outcome document recognized the “tremendous opportunities” offered by sustainable ocean-based economies for States, especially developing countries, and particularly small island developing and least developed countries, to eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve economic growth and social development.

The declaration recognized the fundamental role of management tools, such as sustainable ocean plans, in achieving sustainable ocean-based economies and the sustainable management of ocean areas under national jurisdiction. It encouraged all States to promote participatory management schemes for small-scale fisheries and highlighted the importance of efforts in regional fisheries management organizations to establish sound management measures for sustainable fisheries and recognized the critical role of maritime transport, routes and infrastructure in the global economy, trade, food and energy security.

Noting the adoption of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, the declaration called upon States and regional economic integration organizations that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying, approving or accepting the Agreement.

Furthermore, the declaration called on States to promote awareness and education campaigns at the local, national, regional and international levels to inform the public about the importance of a healthy ocean and resilient marine ecosystems. Additionally, it emphasized the critical need for national ocean accounting and mapping of coastal and marine ecosystems, and of the ocean floor to inform policy decisions, development planning, integrated coastal zone management and conservation planning.

Ocean action must be based on the best available science and knowledge, including, where available, traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems, while recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, in conserving, restoring and sustainably using the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The declaration also recognizes that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 is one of the least funded Goals and that accelerating ocean action globally requires significant and accessible finance and the fulfilment of existing commitments and obligations under relevant intergovernmental agreements.

After the adoption of the outcome document, the representative of the Russian Federation, in explanation of vote, distanced her delegation from paragraph 26 which underlines the need for the swift entry into force of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.

Panama's delegate said that while much progress has been made this week, participants should have left the Conference with the full implementation of the Agreement.

Venezuela's delegate said that her Government is not party to the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, but despite that, Caracas is committed to today's outcome document.

Both Chile and the Republic of Korea's representatives made statements on their joint proposal to host the next United Nations Conference on Oceans in 2028.

Delivering closing remarks, Special Adviser to the Presidents of the Conference on oceans and legal matters Elinor Hammar skjöld said the Conference's dedication to ocean governance being more inclusive ensures that every voice is heard. "Together, we are shaping a future where cooperation leads to real lasting change", she said. The adoption of this historic document has been a major achievement for the UN and is a vital step to reversing damage done to the climate.

"The signs of the ocean in distress are all around us", said Peter Thomson, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Ocean. "The time of debating with the denialists is over", he added.

Special Presidential Envoy for the Ocean of France, Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, said that for thousands of years the ocean has shaped the "global world as we know it", and for centuries, men have been using the ocean to explore other worlds. For centuries, the ocean has allowed people to trade in goods. "How have we been able to get to the stage where we serve the ocean so poorly", he asked, adding that fully achieving SDG 14 is "not just a simple task".

The 2025 UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, was held in an effort to boost commitments among nations, world leaders, environmental agencies and groups.

Document 2 : UN Ocean Conference delivers unified call to action and strong commitments?
un.org, 13 june 2025

13 June 2025 - The 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference concluded today with more than 170 countries adopting an intergovernmentally agreed declaration committing to urgent action to conserve and sustainably use the ocean.

The political declaration titled "Our ocean, our future: united for urgent action" calls for concrete steps to expand marine protected areas, decarbonize maritime transport, combat marine pollution, and mobilize finance for vulnerable coastal and island nations, among others.

The declaration – together with bold voluntary commitments by States and other entities – constitutes the Nice Ocean Action Plan, successfully concluding the five-day Conference with a boost to environmental multilateralism.

"Pledges made this week must be rigorously implemented, tracked, and scaled," said United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua, who served as the Conference Secretary-General. "The momentum we have generated must carry us forward to COP30, global and regional ocean forums, and national decision-making, and translate into decisive national action."

Voluntary commitments made during the Conference include:

The European Commission, as part of its Ocean Pact, announced an investment of 1 billion EUR to support ocean conservation, science and sustainable fishing.

French Polynesia pledged to create the world's largest marine protected area to safeguard its seas, covering its entire exclusive economic zone, approximately 5 million square kilometres (1.93 million square miles).

New Zealand committed over 52 million US dollars towards supporting enhanced ocean governance, management and science in the Pacific Islands region.

Germany launched a 100 million EUR immediate action programme for the recovery and clearance of legacy munitions in the German Baltic and North Seas – the first of its kind.

Indonesia, the World Bank and other partners launched a Coral Bond, a groundbreaking financial instrument designed to mobilize private capital to conserve coral reef ecosystems within marine protected areas in Indonesia.

Thirty-seven countries, led by Panama and Canada, launched the High Ambition Coalition for a Quiet Ocean — the first high-level political initiative to tackle ocean noise pollution on a global scale.

Italy committed 6.5 million EUR to strengthen surveillance by the Coast Guard in marine protected areas and on oil platforms, including through a satellite surveillance system capable of detecting potential oil spills in real time.

Canada contributed 9 million US dollars to the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance to help Small Island Developing States and coastal developing countries increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions.

Spain committed to creating five new marine protected areas that would allow protection of 25% of its marine territory.

A collective of United Nations agencies and global partners launched a co-design process for One Ocean Finance — a bold new effort to unlock billions in new financing from ocean-dependent industries and blue economy sectors.

A Conference report, listing the voluntary commitments in an annex, will be published after the Conference.

The Marine Biodiversity Treaty (BBNJ Agreement)

In a big step towards entry into force of 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 (BBNJ Agreement), 19 more States ratified the Agreement in the margins of the Conference, and 20 more signed it, bringing the total number of signatures to 136, and ratifications to 50 States plus the European Union. Ten more ratifications are needed for the Agreement to enter into force.

The BBNJ Agreement, adopted in June 2023, is a crucial legal instrument to protect marine life and ecosystems in the two-thirds of the ocean that lie beyond any country's jurisdiction.

About the Conference

From 9 to 13 June 2025, 55 Heads of State and Government, along with 15,000 participants from civil society, business, and science, participated in the UN Ocean Conference co-hosted by the Governments of France and Costa Rica, including more than 450 side events, to accelerate action and mobilize all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean.

Ten Ocean Action Panels produced forward-looking recommendations to guide implementation across key themes — from marine pollution and nature-based solutions to the role of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples in ocean governance.

The fourth UN Ocean Conference, in 2028, will be co-hosted by Chile and the Republic of Korea.

Document 3 : The UN Ocean Conference tries to turn promises into protection - Associated Press article, 9 June 2025

NICE, France (AP) — The third U.N. Ocean Conference opened Monday as pressure mounts for nations to turn decades of promises into real protection for the sea.

"The fight for the ocean is at the heart of the yearslong battles we've been waging — for biodiversity, for climate, for our environment and for our health," said French President Emmanuel Macron, delivering the keynote address.

Just 2.7% of the ocean is effectively protected from destructive extractive activities, according to the nonprofit Marine Conservation Institute. That's far below the target agreed under the "30x30" pledge to conserve 30% of land and sea by 2030.

Ratification of the High Seas Treaty tops the agenda. Adopted in 2023, the treaty would for the first time allow nations to establish marine protected areas in international waters, which cover nearly two-thirds of the ocean and are largely ungoverned.

"It's the Wild West out there with countries just fishing anywhere without any sort of regulation, and that needs to change," said Mauro Randone, regional projects manager at the World Wildlife Fund's Mediterranean Marine Initiative. "The high seas belong to everyone and no one practically at the same time, and countries are finally committing to establish some rules."

The ocean is critical in stabilizing Earth's climate and sustaining life. It generates 50% of the oxygen we breathe, absorbs around 30% of carbon dioxide emissions and captures more than 90% of the excess heat caused by those emissions.

Without a healthy ocean, experts warn, climate goals will remain out of reach.

The treaty will come into force once 60 countries ratify it. As of Monday, at least 49 countries had. Advocates hope the conference can build enough momentum to cross the threshold, which would allow for the first official Oceans Conference of Parties.

"Two-thirds of the ocean is areas beyond national jurisdiction — that's half our planet," said Minna Epps, director of global ocean policy at the International Union for Conservation of Nature. "We cannot possibly protect 30% of the ocean if it doesn't include the high seas."

South Korea, France and the European Union have championed the treaty, but most large ocean nations have yet to ratify it, including the rest of the G20.

Thousands of conference attendees are expected, including heads of state, scientists and industry leaders. The United States has confirmed it isn't sending a formal delegation, just observers.

From protections on paper to something real

The conference highlights the growing gap between marine protection declarations and real-world conservation.

France, the conference co-host, claims to have surpassed the 30% target for marine protection. But environmental groups say only 3% of French waters are fully protected from harmful activities like bottom trawling and industrial fishing.

In 2024, more than 100 bottom-trawling vessels were recorded spending over 17,000 hours fishing within France's six marine nature parks, according to ocean advocacy group Oceana.

"The government declares these as protected areas, but this is a lie," said Enric Sala, founder of National Geographic Pristine Seas marine reserve project. "Most of it is political box-ticking. It's all paper parks."

That criticism is echoed across the continent. A new World Wildlife Fund report found that although more than 11% of Europe's marine area is designated for protection, just 2% of EU waters have management plans in place.

Fabien Boileau, director of marine protected areas at France's Office for Biodiversity, acknowledged the presence of bottom trawling in French protected areas, but said it was part of a phased strategy. "In France, we made the choice to designate large marine protected areas with relatively low levels of regulation at first, betting that stronger protections would be developed over time through local governance," he said. "Today, we're gradually increasing the number of zones with stricter protections within those areas."

France's Port-Cros: A model for conservation

Other marine protected areas show what real protection can achieve. Off southern France, Port-Cros National Park is one of the oldest marine reserves in the Mediterranean. Strict anchoring bans have allowed vast seagrass meadows to grow undisturbed. Massive groupers patrol rocky outcrops, brightly colored nudibranchs munch on algae and schools of large corbs glide through the shallows, undisturbed by fishing lines.

"Thanks to the protections that have been in place since 1963, we can observe species that are much larger than elsewhere in the Mediterranean and at a much higher density than in other areas," said Hubert Flavigny, manager of Mio Palmo dive center in Hyeres, France.

Still, such examples remain exceptions.

Advocates say industrial fishing lobbies continue to resist stricter protections, despite evidence that well-managed reserves boost long-term fisheries through the "spillover effect," whereby marine life flourishes in nearby waters.

"Protection is not the problem — overfishing is the problem," said Sala. "The worst enemy of the fishing industry is themselves."

Frustrated by government inaction, environmental groups have taken enforcement into their own hands. In May, Greenpeace dropped 15 limestone boulders into France's Golfe du Lion, aiming to physically block bottom trawling in a marine area that has long been designated for protection. The protected zone was established in 2008 to preserve deep-sea ecosystems, yet 12 trawlers continue to operate there, despite scientific warnings of ecological collapse, according to activist group MedReAct.

The Golfe is now one of the most overfished areas in the Mediterranean.

What will the conference deliver?

The conference will feature 10 panels on topics such as blue finance, sustainable fisheries and plastic pollution. Deep sea mining is expected to feature in broader discussions, while small island states are likely to use the platform to advocate for increased climate adaptation funding. The outcome of these discussions will form the basis of the Nice Ocean Action Plan — a declaration of voluntary commitments to be adopted by consensus and presented at the United Nations in July.

"There cannot be a healthy planet without a healthy ocean," said Peter Thomson, U.N. special envoy for the ocean. "It's urgent business for us all."

Document 4 : Entry into force of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction ("BBNJ" Agreement) - Press release, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 24 September 2025

On 23 September 2025, during the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly, M. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, brought together, in the presence of UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres, all the representatives of the 68 States that, to date, have deposited their instruments of ratification of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (the BBNJ Agreement), allowing this decisive agreement for the ocean and planet to come into force on 17 January 2026.

The high seas, which cover 50% of the earth's surface, now have a governance based on science and protection. France's diplomatic action was decisive for the agreement to enter into force in the space of only two years. By way of comparison, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea took more than 12 years, between its signing in 1982 and entry into force in 1994.

President Macron paid tribute to "all the member States which, during the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice in June 2025, brought about an unprecedented awareness of the challenges of the High Seas, and which today have joined the group of 60 pioneer countries. Born out of the One Ocean Summit in Brest in February 2022, this unprecedented mobilization led, in record time, to the adoption of the treaty in New York in June 2023, the threshold of 60 ratifications today and the organization in 2026 of the first Ocean COP. It's a huge victory for multilateralism, and France is proud to have contributed to it, I believe in a major way".

M. Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, paid tribute to "the French diplomatic service's exemplary work of persuasion, which enabled us to secure so quickly the entry into force of such a decisive agreement for the future of a sustainable planet". For Mme Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Minister for the Ecological Transition, Biodiversity, Forests, Marine Affairs and Fisheries, "the BBNJ Agreement's entry into force is a historic milestone in the protection of the oceans and of marine biodiversity. The agreement, which is the fruit of years of negotiations, shows that the global community is capable of cooperating to protect our planet's most fragile ecosystems. I welcome this major step forward, which results from intense efforts by French diplomacy in the run-up to the United Nations Ocean Conference to strengthen the international legal framework and pave the way for the sustainable use of areas beyond national jurisdictions. It's now up to us to flesh out the agreement by mobilizing the most ambitious countries. That's the message I'll be sending to the Ocean Board's annual meeting in New York this week.

Document 5 : Operationalizing the High Seas Agreement: Ongoing developments and next steps - IDDRI article (IDDRI is an international think tank based in Paris, dedicated to sustainable development), 17 March 2026

Adopted in 2023 and in force since January 2026, the Agreement on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) is now entering its operationalization phase, with the first Conference of the Parties (COP) scheduled to take place before 17 January 2027. This period will combine formal negotiations with parallel initiatives aimed at making the governance framework for this vast area, which represents half of the planet, fully operational.

The BBNJ Agreement entered into force on 17 January 2026 following its 60th ratification, and now counts 86 Parties. Universal participation is still not within immediate reach, yet there is a clear positive momentum. More countries are ratifying or preparing to ratify, and all regions are well represented among the Parties. Under the Agreement, the first COP must be held within a year of entry into force, thus before 17 January 2027.

Third Meeting of the Preparatory Commission

To prepare for this next stage, the UN General Assembly established a Preparatory Commission (PrepCom), supported by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), which is acting as the interim secretariat. The PrepCom is tasked with drafting recommendations on the agreement's institutional and financial arrangements, which will be submitted to COP1 for consideration to adopt. So far, discussions have focused on three clusters: (i) governance issues, (ii) issues pertaining to the operation of the clearing-house mechanism (CHM), and (iii) financial rules, and financial resources and mechanisms. Two PrepCom meetings were held in 2025, allowing States to exchange initial views. The third meeting, scheduled for 23 March to 2 April 2026, aims to finalize the recommendations, some of which are still in early draft form. Beyond the technical details, several issues will draw particular attention because of their direct impact on the Agreement's effectiveness (IDDRI, 2026a). These include the composition and working methods of subsidiary bodies (notably the Scientific and Technical Committee), the roadmap for rapidly operationalizing the CHM, and the voting rules. On this last point, the ongoing negotiations on the global plastic pollution treaty (IDDRI, 2025c) and the first meeting of the "Chemicals Panel" demonstrate that overcoming the traditional consensus approach—which seems particularly necessary in the current context to prevent cooperation systems from being paralyzed by a handful of countries—remains a source of tension between States.

Transparency will also be a central issue, as some countries wish to restrict observer participation in certain meetings. Delegates attending PrepCom 3 therefore face a substantial workload.

Coalitions for the creation of the First High Seas Marine Protected Areas

Alongside these formal discussions, an increasing number of countries are exploring the rapid implementation of the treaty's flagship provisions for establishing high seas marine protected areas (MPAs). Supported by scientists and NGOs, coalitions are forming around specific sites that could become the first generation of high seas MPAs. Examples include the Salas y Gómez and Nazca ridges in the Pacific, and the Canary-Guinea Current Convergence Zone in West Africa. The BBNJ Agreement sets out a dedicated procedure for submitting MPA proposals, including the preparation of a draft management plan.

Experience from existing MPAs, and from high seas governance more broadly, shows that a key factor in ensuring the implementation of management plans and associated regulations is the effective monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) of human activities. Implementing a compliance strategy in future high seas MPAs raises substantial challenges, particularly due to their remoteness and the

practical impossibility to place a law enforcement officer behind every high seas user. However, solutions exist thanks to technological tools that have become more accessible due to falling costs, widespread availability of satellite data, and recent investment in artificial intelligence and related services. This is highlighted in a recent IDDRI guide (IDDRI, 2026b), which offers concrete recommendations to States and stakeholders supporting high seas MPA proposals on how to integrate these MCS tools in their draft management plan. The effectiveness of future high seas MPAs will undoubtedly be closely scrutinized, making it essential for States and coalitions to anticipate implementation challenges carefully.

On the Road to COP1

Therefore, PrepCom 3 is expected to be a pivotal moment, ideally concluding its work and laying the foundations for the Agreement's operational rollout. Beyond the formal negotiations on the three clusters, States will likely use the opportunity to exchange views on early MPA proposals, as well as on the future location of the BBNJ Secretariat, which must be decided at COP1. Three countries have submitted bids so far: Chile (Valparaíso), Belgium (Brussels), and China (Xiamen). More broadly, it remains to be seen whether, and how, the current geopolitical context will influence the discussions. It is already clear that, due to visa constraints and potential travel difficulties, some countries will likely be represented solely by staff from their permanent missions to the UN, who generally do not possess the same technical expertise on BBNJ matters as national experts.

Document 6 : 15 countries in Kenya adopt the Mombasa Declaration to fight illegal fishing - Associated Press article, 17 June 2026

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP) — Fifteen countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific adopted a declaration on Wednesday to step up efforts to combat illegal fishing, a practice that experts say costs the world economy up to \$50 billion annually.

The Mombasa Declaration, named after the Kenyan city hosting the 11th Our Ocean Conference, calls on governments to improve access to information on fishing vessels, ownership and licensing, and to strengthen data sharing to better track fishing activities and enforce regulations.

Out of the more than 30 countries represented in the summit, Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, the Dominican Republic, France, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Republic of the Congo, Somalia and South Korea signed the agreement.

The signatories said in a statement the measures are intended to curb illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, also known as IUU fishing, which threatens marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of millions of people who depend on fisheries.

"In my country, our very existence depends on fish," said Ghana's fisheries minister, Emelia Arthur. "Over 60 % of our animal protein comes from fish, and 10 % of our population depends on the fisheries value chain for livelihood."