

**State Protocol and  
Diplomatic Events Directorate**

**Ceremonial Department**

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

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**United Nations Ocean Conference – UNOC 3  
Nice, France**

**Monday, 9 June to Friday, 13 June 2025**



**UNITED NATIONS  
OCEAN CONFERENCE  
NICE, FRANCE 2025**



France, working with its co-chair, Costa Rica, will hold the third United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (UNOC3) in Nice from Monday, 9 to Friday, 13 June 2025.

Ahead of this Conference, the State Protocol and Diplomatic Events Directorate wishes to draw your attention to the following practical information.

## 1 - PROGRAMME INFORMATION

### Monday 9 June 2025 - 9:00-13:00: Opening of the United Nations Ocean Conference and first plenary session

1. **Official opening segment** by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the two co-Chairs, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, and the Mayor of Nice;
2. **Election of the 13 vice-chairs**, who will chair the plenary sessions on a rotating basis over 5 days;
3. **Start of the first plenary session**: the Heads of State and Government present will speak first. The registration list for speakers in the general debate will open on 21 April on the e-deleGATE platform. The speaking order will be communicated by the United Nations ahead of the Conference;
4. **In addition to the plenary meeting, 10 "Ocean Action Panels"** will be held across the five days of the Conference, the themes of which were adopted by consensus at the UN and specified on the UN DESA website: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025/programme>

## 2 - ZONING: BLUE ZONE AND GREEN ZONE



## BLUE ZONE: PORT LYMPIA, CONFERENCE VENUE

The Blue Zone, situated at **Port Lympia**, will be the venue of the third **United Nations Ocean Conference**. The conference venue will have a plenary room and annex meeting rooms for the 10 Ocean Action Panels and high-level side events selected by the UN.

The venue will also have bilateral rooms that delegations can reserve under the terms outlined in Paragraph 14 of this memo.

**N.B.: From 9 June until 13 June, the main Conference venue will be restricted to those with Blue Zone accreditations issued by the UN.**

## GREEN ZONE: LA BALEINE + PALAIS DES ROIS SARDES + CENTRE UNIVERSITAIRE MÉDITERRANÉEN

The Green Zone includes the following spaces at various venues in the city of Nice:

- **La Baleine**: located in the **Palais des Expositions de Nice**, (parvis de l'Europe) will be open to the general public upon registration from 2 June. **La Baleine will host side events** (political, cultural, scientific and educational) and **thematic pavilions**, including a "France, maritime regions" pavilion;
- The **Centre Universitaire Méditerranéen** (65, promenade des Anglais, 06000 Nice);
- The **Palais des Rois Sardes** (place Pierre Gautier, 06000 Nice).

## 3 - FORMAT OF DELEGATIONS - CONFERENCE OPENING

### PASSES AND OVERLAY PASSES IN THE BLUE ZONE

In the blue zone, overlay passes are mandatory to access certain areas, including:

- The Plenary Room
- The Ocean Action Panel conference room

Specific overlay passes will also be issued to interpreters and the press.

Lastly, solely for the opening of the United Nations Conference, a limited number of overlay passes providing access to the Blue Zone may be issued by the United Nations.

## PLENARY ROOM FORMAT

The format is as follows in the plenary room:

- For all Member States: **4 seats** (2 at the table and 2 back seats)
- For international organizations: **2 seats** (1 at the table and 1 back seat)

Access to the plenary room will not be possible without the appropriate overlay pass (Plenary Hall overlay).

## 4 - ACCREDITATION OF DELEGATIONS AND ISSUANCE OF PASSES

### FOREIGN DELEGATION REGISTRATION

**Foreign delegations are responsible for ensuring their participants hold the correct accreditation** for the United Nations Ocean Conference. They are required to register, **between Monday, 5 May and Friday, 16 May 2025**, at the following addresses:

1. <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025/participate> via their Permanent Representation in New York. Delegations must ensure that they record the unique registration identifier, which is required for the next stage, so that the registration can be completed correctly.
2. <https://www.unoc-registration.fr> (unique registration identifier issued on completion of UN registration)



**The United Nations alone is responsible for the registration of participants and the printing of passes and overlay passes at the Conference.**

### ISSUANCE OF PASSES

Passes and overlay passes will be issued **from Wednesday, 4 June and until 13:00 on Friday, 13 June 2025**, at the United Nations accreditations centre located at the Quai des Deux Emmanuels (Port Lympia).

Passes can be collected by:

- **Participants in person:** upon presentation of the approval emails issued by the United Nations and their passport or photo I.D.
- **Representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in France** upon presentation of:
  - o a note verbale from the permanent mission of the delegation to the United Nations in New York, the embassy or consulate general, mentioning the name and mobile

telephone number of the representative authorized to collect the Conference passes and overlay passes;

- the passport or photo I.D. of the representative;
- copies of passports of the delegation.

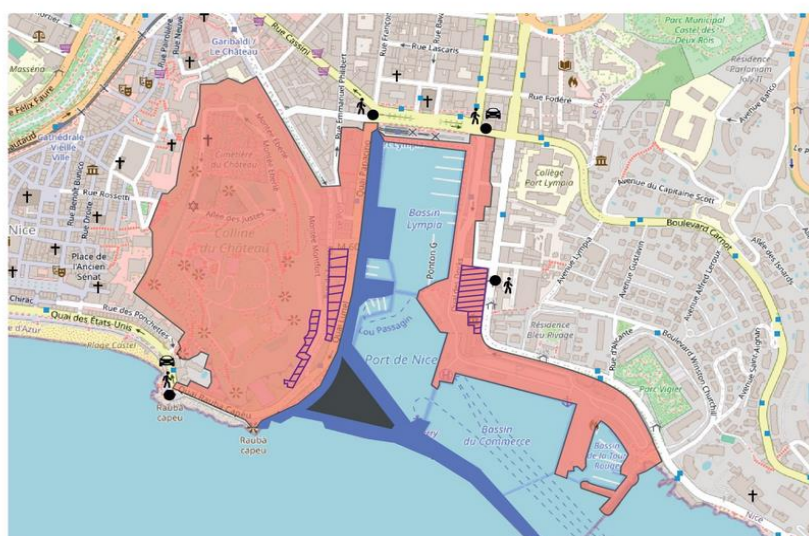
## 5 - ACCESS AND DROP-OFF AT THE BLUE ZONE



**France will not be providing vehicles for official delegations during the Conference.**

Depending on the level of your head of delegation, the procedure for drop-off and access will be as follows:

- Sovereigns, Heads of State and Government, Vice Presidents: **drop-off by motorcade inside the Blue Zone (maximum format: 2 vehicles)**
- Deputy Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers: **drop-off by motorcade outside the Blue Zone (maximum format: 2 vehicles)**
- Ministers and heads of international organizations: **drop-off outside the Blue Zone (maximum format: 1 vehicle). Only heads of international organizations with close protection may be dropped off by motorcade in the Blue Zone.**
- Ambassadors and lower: **access to the Blue Zone by tram (Line 2, Port Lympia stop)**



Dispositifs de sécurité

05/06 au 13/06

- Emprise du site
- Zone sous responsabilité de l'ONU du 7 juin à minuit au 13 juin à minuit inclus :
  - 🚗 Accès véhicules interdit sauf délégations officielles.
  - 🚶 Accès piétons contrôlé et réservé aux personnes munies d'une accréditation ONU.
- Périmètre de protection (SILT) du 5 juin 8 h 00 au 13 juin à minuit :
  - 🚗 Accès véhicules interdit sauf dérogations limitativement précisées, sur présentation d'un justificatif et contrôle de sécurité.
  - 🚶 Accès piétons contrôlé et réservé aux riverains et dérogations limitativement précisées, sur présentation d'un justificatif.
- /// Accès soumis à enquête administrative de sécurité.
- Points de contrôle et d'accès aux périmètres du 5 juin à 8h00 au 13 juin à minuit.

## 6 - SECURITY DURING THE CONFERENCE

### FIREARM AUTHORIZATION

In France, firearms authorization is only granted upon prior request to Protocol at [kenza.saibi@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:kenza.saibi@diplomatie.gouv.fr) and [notesverbales-visites.protocol@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:notesverbales-visites.protocol@diplomatie.gouv.fr), specifying in the note verbale the following details:

- Full details of the holder of the firearm
- Nationality of the holder of the firearm
- Type of weapon
- Make
- Model
- Calibre
- Serial no.
- Number of cartridges

### CLOSE PROTECTION

The French Police High-Profile and State Assets Protection Department (SDLP) will provide a security officer to:

- Sovereigns;
- Heads of State;
- Heads of Government;
- Foreign Ministers;
- Heads of the UN, the main European institutions, the Council of Europe and NATO.

### MOTORCYCLE ESCORTS

A motorcycle escort will be provided for delegations headed by:

- Sovereigns;
- Heads of State;
- Heads of Government;
- Foreign Ministers;
- Heads of the UN, the main European institutions, the Council of Europe and NATO.

### SUMMARY TABLE - PROTECTION & ESCORT

	SOUVERAINS, CHEFS D'ETAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT	CHEFS D'ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE	MINISTRES DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES	MINISTRES	INFRA
Protection rapprochée	Protection rapprochée française (SDLP)	Pas de protection rapprochée <i>sauf : UE, CE, OTAN, ONU</i>	Protection rapprochée française (SDLP)	Pas de protection rapprochée	Pas de protection rapprochée
Escortes motocyclistes	Escorte motocycliste	Pas d'escorte motocycliste <i>sauf : UE, CE, OTAN, ONU</i>	Escorte motocycliste	Pas d'escorte motocycliste	Pas d'escorte motocycliste

## 7- VISA INFORMATION

**Registration for a UNOC event does not exempt participants from applying for a visa in order to enter France. Before travelling to France**, participants are asked to check visa requirements at a French consular service or on the France-Visas website: <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en/web/france-visas/>

Guests and participants are also not exempted from completing the visa application form and providing the supporting documents required by the regulations. Late submissions may make it impossible to process the visa application in time.

Visas are free of charge for participants registered by the United Nations for the Conference from 9 to 13 June, but fees may apply for the use of approved local agencies providing logistical support for the application process.

## 8 - ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The delegation head's travel arrangements – including for commercial flights – must be sent by note verbale to France's State Protocol at the following address:

⇒ [notesverbales-visites.protocole@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:notesverbales-visites.protocole@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

All of the following information must be provided:

- Name of the head of delegation
- Official position/title
- Full list of delegation members accompanying the head of delegation
- Arrival and departure date and time
- Name of the arrival and departure airport/train station/port or border post
- Flight/train number or aircraft registration number if private/special flight
- City departed and destination of flight/train
- Request for close protection or other security aspects
- Specific protocol requests (reservation of VIP lounges, etc.)
- Place of residence in Nice of the dignitary
- Name and phone number of a permanent contact
- Full names and dates of birth of the persons greeting the dignitary
- If tarmac access requested:
  - Registration number and model of vehicles
  - Name of drivers + date/place of birth + telephone number

## STATE FLIGHTS AND PRIVATE OR CHARTER FLIGHTS

**Conference attendees who are arriving or departing on private or charter flights can use the ground handling services provided by charter airlines at Nice Côte d'Azur Airport.** Services offered can vary

from one airline to another and all details must be confirmed with the charter airline concerned before departure.

⇒ **3 handlers operate at Nice Côte d'Azur Airport:**

- SFS Signature - [nce@signatureflight.fr](mailto:nce@signatureflight.fr) : +33 (0)4 93 21 82 18
- DCG G-OPS - [nice.ops@dca-gops.com](mailto:nice.ops@dca-gops.com) : +33 (0)4 93 21 58 12
- AVP Aviapartner - [nce.executive@aviapartner.aero](mailto:nce.executive@aviapartner.aero) : +33 (0)4 93 21 37 37

Delegations arriving in Nice on **state flights** must inform the **Bureau des Survols et Escales Navales (BSEN/Overflights and Naval Stopovers Office)** at the following address: [bsen.dgp-dcsd@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:bsen.dgp-dcsd@diplomatie.gouv.fr) by note verbale together with the diplomatic clearance form.

Should a delegation wish to be granted diplomatic flight status for a **chartered aircraft**, a diplomatic authorization request must be submitted to the **BSEN** ([bsen.dgp-dcsd@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:bsen.dgp-dcsd@diplomatie.gouv.fr)) following the same procedure.

## AIRCRAFT PARKING

Due to the high levels of traffic expected at Nice Côte d'Azur airport and in the other national civilian airports, **parking of aircraft carrying Heads of State and Government must be planned in advance**.

- Nice airport **cannot guarantee parking for any state aircraft for more than one hour, from 5 to 14 June 2025**. Attendees will be responsible for taking the necessary steps with another airport that can host their aircraft for an extended period of parking.
- **Châteauroux Centre (CHR)** airport has sufficient capacity to offer parking to state aircraft during the period from 5 to 14 June.
- Delegations are therefore invited to communicate their overflight request including turnaround of one hour at most to Nice Côte d'Azur airport two weeks prior to the event, to be sent to [bsen.dgp-dcsd@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:bsen.dgp-dcsd@diplomatie.gouv.fr) for diplomatic overflight clearance (state aircraft or chartered aircraft with diplomatic status)
- Arrival and departure times may be suggested by the French authorities in order to minimize the impact on commercial aviation.

## IMMIGRATION, CUSTOMS, BAGGAGE AND PASSPORT CONTROL

So that the diplomatic missions accredited in France may assist their delegations upon arrival at the airport, particularly in restricted zones of the airport mentioned below, the identities of their officials must be mentioned in a note verbale, sent to [notesverbales-visites.protocol@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:notesverbales-visites.protocol@diplomatie.gouv.fr).

### Passport control and immigration formalities:

Upon arrival at Nice Côte d'Azur Airport, the Heads of State and Government, the Heads of Delegation and other delegation members as well as Conference attendees will follow dedicated procedures to carry out the immigration and customs formalities.

**It is the responsibility of the diplomatic missions accredited in France to take care of all formalities relating to passport control, at the immigration desk and at customs.**

Depending on the number of attendees arriving, **two separate lines** dedicated to conference attendees may be set up at the airport to check passports and for immigration formalities.

#### **Baggage collection and check-in:**

Delegations are responsible for collecting their baggage upon arrival and checking it in upon departure.

One or more technical Embassy staff, or delegation members, accompanied by an official from the **Police aux Frontières (border police/PAF)'s Official Visit Unit (UDO)** may collect baggage for the delegation. **A request for this must be made by note verbale** in advance, so that the designated officials may be authorized to temporarily access the international zone of Nice Côte d'Azur Airport.

Upon departure, baggage must be checked in at least an hour and a half before take-off for a commercial flight.

#### **Tax refund:**

Passengers must arrive at the airport at the latest **two hours before their flight takes off** in order to carry out tax refunds at customs services.

#### **Carrying cash:**

Under European regulations, foreign dignitaries, with the exception of Heads of State and Government, and those accompanying them, are obliged to declare to the French customs authorities any sums of cash they are carrying for a value of €10,000 or more, or the equivalent in other currencies. This obligation applies irrespective of the place of residence of the carrier or owner of the cash. It applies also in the event of transit through France. The procedure is free of charge ([www.douanes.gouv.fr/dalia](http://www.douanes.gouv.fr/dalia))/.

## **VIP LOUNGE AND DIGNITARIES' LOUNGE**

**Heads of State and Government** travelling on a **special flight** (private, state or military flight) may, if they wish, be provided access to the **VIP lounge** upon arrival and departure.

**All costs for the reservation of other VIP lounges at Nice Côte d'Azur Airport (Canopy, Library and Infinity Lounges) are to be paid by the foreign delegations.**

Requests to reserve the VIP lounge for a head of delegation at the level of Head of State or Government must be indicated on the note verbale sent to [notesverbales-visites.protocol@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:notesverbales-visites.protocol@diplomatie.gouv.fr), at least three working days in advance.

For the **Heads of State and Government and Foreign Ministers** travelling by **commercial flight**, a dedicated **Dignitaries' Lounge** will be set up to welcome them, and their delegation (**limited to 8 people**), upon arrival and before departure. VIPs and/or their entourage may be greeted off the plane

by one embassy official at most, in coordination with State Protocol and the Border Police (PAF), from the Dignitaries' Lounge.

## FLIGHT DEPARTURES

**Passengers must arrive at the airport at the latest two hours before the scheduled departure of their flight.**

Queues at check-in counters, security screening, baggage inspection and passport control may cause delays in reaching the departure terminal.

**Please note that no assistance can be provided to departing delegation members.**

## 9 - TRANSPORT IN NICE AND TO CONFERENCE VENUES



**France will not be providing vehicles for official delegations during the Conference.**

Conference attendees are strongly encouraged to use public transport:

- The tram Line 2 connects Nice Côte d'Azur Airport (Terminal 1 and 2) to Nice city centre (Jean Médecin stop) and the port of Nice (Port Lympia stop).
- The journey between Nice Côte d'Azur Airport and the city centre takes around 30 minutes.
- Approximate ticket prices:
  - o Trip including connection to other lines/transport means: €1.70
  - o Airport return trip: €10
  - o Multi-day passes are also available (7-day pass: €20)

## 10 - CATERING IN THE BLUE ZONE

Throughout the conference, official delegations are invited to make provisions for their delegations' meals. There are no lunch restaurants in the Blue Zone for the heads of delegations and official delegations.

Tea and coffee areas will be provided for the delegates.

## 11 - ACCOMMODATION



**France will not cover the cost of accommodation for official delegations.**

Please note that the bnetwork agency has been appointed by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs to facilitate reservations of participants at every level. We recommend that you reserve your accommodation by contacting the agency at: [unoc@bnetwork.com](mailto:unoc@bnetwork.com).

## 12 - INTERPRETING

The official languages of the Conference are **Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish**.

Speakers may also make a statement in a language other than the official languages. In this event, the delegation in question must provide an interpreter of the non-official language into an official language and inform the staff responsible for managing meetings sufficiently ahead of time via email to the address [tongx@un.org](mailto:tongx@un.org) copied to [kochetkov@un.org](mailto:kochetkov@un.org).

To facilitate the provision of interpreting services, delegations are requested to submit their statements (in PDF format) by email to the address [estatemts-ocean@un.org](mailto:estatemts-ocean@un.org).

## 13- OFFICIAL PRESS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

All matters relating to media accreditation and media coverage are handled by the United Nations during the Conference. The necessary information is available at the following links.

- Media accreditation to UNOC: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025/participate>
- Media coverage during UNOC: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025/media>

## 14 - BILATERAL MEETINGS ON THE SIDELINES OF THE CONFERENCE

For bilateral meetings between Member States at the level of Heads of State or Government or at ministerial level, **12 meeting rooms (max. capacity 12 pax)** will be available at the conference venue from 9 to 13 June 2025.

- ➔ **To reserve: electronic reservation for bilateral meetings will be activated via gMeets** (<https://conferences.unite.un.org/gMeets>) in June 2025 to ensure fair and efficient use of the facilities.
- ➔ **To create a gMeets account:** please contact [sfernandes@un.org](mailto:sfernandes@un.org), [dilanzot@un.org](mailto:dilanzot@un.org) and [gmeets-helpdesk@un.org](mailto:gmeets-helpdesk@un.org).

For more information, please contact the following addresses with “Ocean Conference-bilats” in the subject line: [gmeets@un.org](mailto:gmeets@un.org), [tongx@un.org](mailto:tongx@un.org).

## 15 - DELEGATION FOLLOW-UP – FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTACTS

Each representation has a **follow-up agent within the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs State Protocol team**, identified as follows:

PAYS et OI	RÉFÉRENT PROTOCOLE D'ÉTAT – MEAE
AFRIQUE DU SUD à BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	M. William AHOUNOU <a href="mailto:william.ahounou@diplomatie.gouv.fr">william.ahounou@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
BRÉSIL	M. Gaspard VIGNAL <a href="mailto:gaspard.vignal@diplomatie.gouv.fr">gaspard.vignal@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
BULGARIE à EL SALVADOR	Mme Grâce GOUZIT <a href="mailto:grace.gouzit@diplomatie.gouv.fr">grace.gouzit@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
ÉMIRATS ARABES UNIS à HONDURAS	M. Guillaume BLIN <a href="mailto:guillaume.blin@diplomatie.gouv.fr">guillaume.blin@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
HONGRIE à LETTONIE	Mme Joséphine JEAN-ORTIZ <a href="mailto:josephine.jean-ortiz@diplomatie.gouv.fr">josephine.jean-ortiz@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
LIBAN à NAMIBIE	Mme Lucie PLASSE <a href="mailto:Lucie.plasse@diplomatie.gouv.fr">Lucie.plasse@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
NAURU à QATAR	Mme Victoria YELL <a href="mailto:victoria.yell@diplomatie.gouv.fr">victoria.yell@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO à SRI LANKA	Mme Diane Stéphanie D'ALMEIDA <a href="mailto:diane.dalmeida@diplomatie.gouv.fr">diane.dalmeida@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
SUÈDE à ZIMBABWE	Mme NASSEREEN MIRZA <a href="mailto:nassereen.mirza@diplomatie.gouv.fr">nassereen.mirza@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>

Organisations internationales	M. Enzo GERAUD <a href="mailto:enzo.geraud@diplomatie.gouv.fr">enzo.geraud@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a> & Mme Margaux BRIVOAL <a href="mailto:margaux.brivoal@diplomatie.gouv.fr">margaux.brivoal@diplomatie.gouv.fr</a>
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**For any other questions**

**[unoc-frenchprotocol.pro-cer@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:unoc-frenchprotocol.pro-cer@diplomatie.gouv.fr)**