

**OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA:  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (June 2025)  
CONTRIBUTION BY THE WMO**

**To the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 79/144 of  
12 December 2024**

**“Oceans and the law of the sea”**

***For Submission on the theme “Capacity building and the transfer of  
marine technology: New developments, approaches and challenges”***

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is the recognized competent United Nations authority on the state and behaviour of the Earth’s atmosphere, its interaction with the land and ocean, the weather and climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources. The ocean provides essential natural resources to humankind and regulates the global climate. WMO contributes to ocean-related issues through the observation and monitoring of the ocean and climate; research on the climate and connected Earth systems; development and delivery of services including forecasts and early warnings for reducing the risk of disaster caused by marine hazards; capacity development and training; and the provision of science-based information and tools for decision-making, including for policymakers and the general public at national, regional and global levels.

## **2. IMPLEMENTATION OF MARINE SERVICES COURSE**

In 2024, WMO continued the implementation of its global [Marine Services Course](#), delivering two Phase-II courses to Member States in Regional Associations (RA) III (South America) and IV (North America, Central America, and the Caribbean). These courses were conducted in English and Spanish and focused on enhancing technical forecasting skills, such as wave forecasting and impact-based forecasting, through a combination of online and face-to-face training.

The face-to-face component of the Course for Caribbean English-speaking Member States of RA III and IV was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, from 2 to 11 December 2024. Sixteen (16) participants representing fourteen (14) Caribbean countries attended the Course. During the training, participants engaged in interactive sessions with key marine stakeholders, including the Fisheries Division, Port Authority, and Coast Guard. These sessions provided valuable insights into stakeholder needs and enabled participants to refine their communication strategies. Additionally, the course emphasized collaboration with the METAREA IV Coordinator (USA-NOAA) and focused on practical applications, such as using visualization tools like Interactive Data Visualization (IDV) and WaveWatch three for generating marine forecasts.

The face-to-face component of the course for Spanish-speaking Member States from Regional Associations III and IV took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 4 to 8 November 2024. Sixteen (16) participants from five countries attended the course. The participants engaged with marine stakeholders, including Prefectura Naval Argentina, Marina Mercante, and Yacht Club Argentina. The programme also included a visit to the Prefectura Naval Argentina

facilities, offering an opportunity to better understand customer needs. Technical sessions covered forecasting tools, satellite imagery interpretation, and communication strategies, with regional case studies incorporated into practical, hands-on activities.

The key outcomes of Phase-II include strengthened technical capacity among marine forecasting personnel and enhanced collaboration between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS). These achievements can contribute significantly to improving marine services at both institutional and regional levels.