



DMUN Foundation

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Application for Observer Status to Intergovernmental Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations to the Helsinki Commission

26th June, 2025.

Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)
Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission
Katajanokanlaituri 6 B
00160 Helsinki, Finland

Excellency,

The Office of the Executive Director of the DMUN Foundation presents its compliments to the HELCOM Secretariat and has the honor to submit this formal application for observer status to the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), in accordance with the *Guidelines on Granting Observer Status*.

The DMUN Foundation is an international, politically independent, youth-led non-governmental organization committed to advancing youth engagement in international policy processes. Through youth programs, policy research, advocacy, and global youth capacity-building initiatives, the DMUN Foundation promotes awareness and action in the matters of sustainable development, including environmental and marine protection issues.

Our network includes members and partners across multiple countries in the Baltic Sea catchment area and Member States of the Helsinki Commission, including Germany, Poland, and Denmark.

We believe our work aligns closely with HELCOM's objectives, particularly in fostering informed, intergenerational dialogue and supporting youth contributions to marine environment protection and sustainable use of the Baltic Sea region. We are confident that our participation could meaningfully contribute to HELCOM's mission, especially through communications, outreach, and capacity-building efforts tailored to young people and future decision-makers.

In particular, participation is one of the four core principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Consistent with the CRC, children and youth's rights to be heard, their views considered and given due weight must be a basic tenet of all civil society engagement mechanisms in the intergovernmental system, not willfully excluded.

We believe that our participation in the Commission as an Observer would allow for greater representation of youth and children in the works and decision-making processes of the Commission, allowing the Commission to be in line with the principles established by the CRC.

Looking beyond children and youth merely as a vulnerable population group, children and youth's views and voices are ambition-raisers in the decision-making processes, bringing new perspectives, knowledge and innovative solutions to the work of the Commission. This has already been a feature of the children and youth engagement across other intergovernmental bodies addressing similar areas



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of concern to the Commission, with children contributing to written policy submissions, drafting of interventions as well as attending meetings of such bodies.

Should this application be approved, we are fully committed to complying with HELCOM's rules, maintaining active participation in relevant meetings, and supporting the goals of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area.

We thank you for considering this request and look forward to the opportunity to collaborate toward a healthier and more just future for the Baltic Sea and its communities.

The Office of the Executive Director avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Shurabe Danae Mercado Guido

Shurabe Mercado,
Coordinator, Intergovernmental Relations

DMUN Foundation

On behalf of Mr. Jaewon Choi, Executive Director.