



DMUN Foundation

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Request for Observer Status with the International Seabed Authority

H.E. Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho

Secretary-General
International Seabed Authority
14-20 Port Royal Street
Kingston, Jamaica

Excellency,

The Office of the Executive Director of the DMUN Foundation presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Seabed Authority and has the honour to formally submit this request for observer status for the DMUN Foundation in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and the guidelines outlined in ISBA/25/A/16.

The **DMUN Foundation** is a politically independent, non-profit youth organization headquartered in South Korea, working globally to advance youth engagement in multilateral diplomacy, science-policy interface, environmental governance, and human rights through educational programs, policy research, and international participation.

We aim to contribute to the Authority's efforts by supporting awareness-raising initiatives, developing science-policy tools tailored for youth, and engaging with the broader public on the sustainable management of the seabed and the Area. In support of this request, please find enclosed the information required under **Enclosure 1** of ISBA/25/A/16, including organizational background, relevant expertise, and our intended contribution to the Authority's work. We confirm that the DMUN Foundation receives no financial support from governments and operates independently to promote youth perspectives and inclusive international cooperation.

We respectfully request that this application be reviewed for consideration at the upcoming session of the Assembly. The Foundation stands ready to provide any additional information and remains committed to contributing to the responsible governance of the ocean and deep-sea resources.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Mr. Jaewon Choi
Executive Director
DMUN Foundation
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Application for Observer Status – Enclosure 1

Submitted by: DMUN Foundation

Date: 12th June 2025

A. Information about the organization

1. **Name of organization:** DMUN Foundation
2. **Address of headquarters:** 4th Floor, 12 Gangnamdaero 156-gil, Gangnam, Seoul, Republic of Korea
3. **Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters:**
The Liaison Office of the DMUN Foundation in the Americas
Unit 1814, 50 Causeway St., Boston, MA, USA 02114
4. **Telephone number:** +82-10-5696-8302
5. **Fax number:** Not applicable
6. **Email address:** enquiries@dmun.org
7. **Name, title and contact details of focal point:** Mr. Jaewon Choi, Executive Director. Email: jaewonchoi@dmun.org
8. **Background information on the organization:** The DMUN Foundation is a youth-led, non-profit, civil society organization committed to fostering youth engagement in international governance through education, advocacy, and multilateral participation. Registered in the Republic of Korea, it operates through member organizations and regional networks. Its programs focus on international relations, diplomacy, UN systems, sustainability, human rights, and inclusive global policy development.
9. **Is the organization a member of, affiliated to or otherwise associated with another organization that has been granted observer status with the Authority?:** No.
10. **Is the organization affiliated to consultants of the Authority, contractors with the Authority, entities in connection with the law of the sea, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, research institutes or the mineral marketing and processing industry?:**
No direct affiliation; however, DMUN Foundation collaborates with academic institutions and civil society groups that work on law of the sea and marine governance education.
11. **Relationships with intergovernmental organizations:**
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - Observer Status
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons - Observer Status
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - Observer Status
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity - Observer Status
United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime - Observer Status
Ad Hoc Committee to Draft a Terms of Reference to the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation - Observer Status



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12. List of publications and/or other relevant documentation:

Recent publications include: Annual Report of the Foundation, Financial Statement of the Foundation (Affixed below)

B. Interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly

13. Demonstration of Interest in the Work of the Assembly

DMUN Foundation intends to demonstrate sustained interest in the work of the Assembly by actively integrating ocean governance and seabed-related issues into our global youth education and advocacy programs. Through policy-focused simulations, workshops, and outreach, we aim to engage young leaders in discussions on international seabed governance and the protection of the marine environment. Our organization will follow the Assembly's work closely, seeking opportunities to participate in relevant dialogues, share insights from youth networks, and support broader awareness of the Authority's mandate.

14. Relevance of DMUN Foundation's Purpose to the Work of the Authority

DMUN Foundation's mission is closely aligned with the core objectives of the International Seabed Authority. As a youth-led organization committed to multilateral education, we regularly address themes central to the Authority's work, such as international legal frameworks (including UNCLOS), sustainable development, and the responsible management of shared global resources. These themes are integrated into our Model UN programs, policy training, and public engagement initiatives.

15. Anticipated Contributions to the Work of the Authority

DMUN Foundation seeks to contribute to the work of the International Seabed Authority by fostering youth awareness and education on the sustainable use of the deep seabed, developing learning materials on seabed governance, and facilitating intergenerational dialogue on marine scientific research. Through policy simulations, youth-led advocacy, and engagement with academic partners, the Foundation aims to promote informed, inclusive participation in the global conversation on the common heritage of humankind. We are also open to supporting outreach efforts and awareness campaigns in partnership with the Authority.

16. Expertise and Capacity to Support the Mandate of the Authority

While DMUN Foundation does not engage in deep-sea mining or marine technology development, it brings relevant expertise in international policy education, legal literacy, and youth capacity-building with a strong emphasis on ocean governance. Through a global network of young professionals and collaborators with backgrounds in marine law and environmental science, we have developed learning tools and organized dialogues focused on the law of the sea and the governance of the Area.

17. Support for Capacity-Building Initiatives of the Authority

Aligned with the Authority's capacity-building priorities, DMUN Foundation is committed to promoting ISA training opportunities. We are also developing youth programs on ocean literacy and seabed governance, which could serve as complementary tools to strengthen intergenerational engagement and promote inclusive education aligned with the Authority's objectives.