

## Format and content of applications

### A. Information about the organization

#### 1. Name of organization

**Opes Oceani Foundation, Inc.**

#### 2. Address of headquarters

**1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 600, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, USA**

#### 3. Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters

- **Opes Oceani Foundation Europe, Boulevard Louis Schmidt 24, 1040 Brussels, Belgium**
- **Fundación Opes Oceani, 43<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Oceania Business Plaza, Tower 2000, Street Punta Colon, Urbanizacion Punta Pacifica, Panama City, Republic of Panama**

#### 4. Telephone number

**+44 7596 222 571**

#### 5. Fax number

**N/A**

#### 6. Email address

**pauls@opesoceanifoundation.org**

#### 7. Name, title and contact details of focal point

**Mr Paul Seaman, Secretary General**

**+44 7576 222 571**

#### 8. Background information on the organization

**Opes Oceani Foundation promotes good governance of the oceans. This incorporates: an open process for regulation (transparency, accessibility, inclusivity and accountability); knowledge-based decision making (multi-disciplined inputs such as science, economics and indigenous knowledge); sustainable development; and functionality (ensuring that regulations adhere to treaties, are consensus driven and practicable).**

**Opes Oceani Foundation divides its work into six areas: advocacy for good ocean governance through participation in international meetings; partnerships with UN and international agencies, academia, etc.; regional seminars and workshops; education and capacity building; grants and contributions; and conducting/ collaborating/ commissioning research on ocean governance issues.**

**Opes Oceani Foundation seeks to improve understanding of ocean issues and the development of actions that address specific marine challenges. These actions aim to satisfy broader objectives, such as poverty reduction and environmental sustainability, which OOF considers to be a key element of responsible development.**

**Opes Oceani Foundation is a nonprofit organization under the United States Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)4.**

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.**

11. Relationships with intergovernmental organizations

**Opes Oceani Foundation is an accredited observer to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES).**

**Opes Oceani Foundation has made financial donations to the IWC's Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Fund to assist indigenous communities' compliance with regulations. Opes Oceani Foundation made a grant to researchers conducting an on-site survey in Bequia that was commissioned by the IWC to inform decision-making on indigenous whaling. Opes Oceani Foundation attends biennial meetings of the Commission and contributes to IWC decision-making processes.**

**Opes Oceani Foundation made a financial donation to the CITES CoP19 Sponsored Delegates Project, which assists delegates from developing countries to attend Conferences of the Parties. The Foundation plays an active role within the CITES community in respect of marine fisheries.**

**Opes Oceani Foundation attends the annual Our Ocean conferences that were initiated by the United States Department of State in 2014 to promote sustainable development. This includes Our Ocean 2024 in Greece (15 - 17 April 2024) at which OOF made a commitment to invest USD100,000 over five years to research stakeholder perceptions of the artisanal fishing sector in Panama. This initiative will gather information, especially regarding the impact of externalities such as climate change on target fish captures, directly from fishers, families, seafood processors, wholesalers and retailers. The objective is to enhance consensus-based rules, regulations and procedures (RRPs), to facilitate blue economy initiatives and improve the sustainable management of marine resources.**

12. List of publications and/or other relevant documentation

**Relevant work includes funding research to improve understanding of Blue Bonds to protect large ocean areas. Opes Oceani Foundation organized and hosted two webinars on the Blue Economy, one for a Pacific Island audience and a second for a Caribbean Island audience in January 2021. The webinars were virtual events due to the Covid pandemic. They discussed**

**financial issues related to promoting the blue economy in small island developing states. The outcome of the webinars was an increased understanding among participants about the pros and cons of issuing blue bonds to fund ocean management.**

B. Interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly

13. Briefly outline how your organization intends to demonstrate its interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, including by answering questions 14 to 17 and by providing any other relevant information related to the application for observer status.

**It is the intention of Opes Oceani Foundation to play a constructive and active role in supporting the work of the ISA, as outlined in our answers to questions 14 – 17 that follow.**

14. Briefly outline whether and how the purposes or activities of the organization relate to the work of the Authority.

**Opes Oceani Foundation facilitates and fosters informed engagement in international discourse and improved decision-making in issues related to the utilization of ocean resources, with a particular emphasis on providing assistance to those whose culture or traditions may be significantly impacted, or those in developing countries who are economically disadvantaged or disempowered. Opes Oceani Foundation advances scientific and economic knowledge and public policy through research, intellectual enquiry and academic examination of issues and developments related to the utilization of ocean resources, such as conservation control mechanisms, environmental impacts, economic assessments and other relevant issues and topics.**

**Opes Oceani Foundation engages with stakeholders involved in or affected by the utilization of ocean resources by participating in UN and multilateral Conferences of the Parties (CoPs) that bring together diverse stakeholders to devise practical, enforceable rules, regulations and procedures (RRPs) of good ocean governance. Opes Oceani Foundation also attends and contributes to third party scientific and technical forums or gatherings organized by regulatory and scientific institutions, national governments, the private sector or other NGOs, at which the knowledge-base, standards, processes and compliance implications of managing oceanic resources are considered.**

15. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the work of the Authority, for example by providing specialized information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants.

**Opes Oceani Foundation intends to participate in meetings of the ISA in Jamaica and, when appropriate and invited to do so, nominate or sponsor members of its team or network of experts to participate in committee work or social research or scientific investigations. Opes Oceani Foundation will:**

- **Contribute to the development of the mining codes and other regulations to ensure that they are technically sound, feasible and durable, and based on best available knowledge.**
- **Support ISA efforts with capacity building in developing states. This includes assisting with outreach to small island states in the Caribbean and Pacific regions.**

- **Organize, sponsor and participate in stakeholder workshops which gather information on the needs of developing states - including small island developing states - and indigenous and other marginalized communities.**

16. Briefly outline whether and how your organization has the expertise and the capacity to contribute, within its field of competence, to the work of the Authority, in particular in connection with the law of the sea, the protection of the marine environment, the offshore and deep-sea mining industry, technology, minerals processing and marketing, activities in the Area and marine scientific research in the Area.

**Opes Oceani Foundation personnel have considerable experience in working with member states to assist in drafting regulations related to international resource management treaties and conventions and in engaging and working with member states on a wide range of ocean issues. These resource management treaties include the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as individual and organizationally through the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO).**

17. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the capacity-building programs and initiatives of the Authority (e.g., Secretary-General's award, voluntary commitments of the Authority). ISBA/25/A/16 5/5 19-13155

**Yes, please see the answer to question 15 above.**