



Assembly

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Agenda item 6

**Consideration of requests for observer status in
accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules
of procedure of the Assembly**

Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly on behalf of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Note by the secretariat

1. On 19 August 2020, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, requesting observer status in the Assembly of the Authority, pursuant to rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly. The applicant also submitted an application form, which was prepared in the format prescribed in enclosure 1 to the guidelines for observer status of non-governmental organizations with the International Seabed Authority adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session ([ISBA/25/A/16](#), annex). The text of the letter and the application form provided by the applicant are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present note.
2. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly that have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly may participate as observers in the Assembly.
3. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same rule also provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of the rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly and, upon the invitation of the President and subject to approval by the Assembly, may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of the rule within the scope of their activities that are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are submitted.

* Original dates. The meeting has been postponed sine die.



Annex I

Letter dated 19 August 2020 from the President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and of the Ocean Policy Research Institute addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

On behalf of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, I would first like to express my compliments to you on the excellence that you continually demonstrate in governing mineral resources-related activities in the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole and ensuring effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep seabed-related activities.

Given that the rule-making process for the mining code is at an important stage, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation would like to obtain observer status in the International Seabed Authority and attend the upcoming twenty-sixth session in order to contribute to the work of the Authority.

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation is a “public interest corporation” under Japanese law. The Foundation strives to address globally the diverse and complex issues that human society is encountering in the twenty-first century. Work linked to ocean policy-related issues is conducted by the Ocean Policy Research Institute within the Foundation.

The Ocean Policy Research Institute is at the forefront of ocean policy research and relevant policymaking processes in Japan and plays an active role globally with its partners in addressing the integrated management and sustainable development of oceans and coasts. Conservation of marine environment issues are among our key research areas. We firmly believe that the Ocean Policy Research Institute, with its expertise in sustainable ocean governance, could contribute actively to the work of the International Seabed Authority, and so hope that you will give full consideration to the present request.

(Signed) Atsushi **Sunami**
President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation
President of the Ocean Policy Research Institute,
Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Annex II

Application for observer status

A. Information about the organization

1. Name of organization

Sasakawa Peace Foundation

2. Address of headquarters

1-15-16 Toranomom Minato-ku Tokyo 105-8524, Japan

3. Addresses of all branches and/or regional headquarters

None

4. Telephone number

+81-3-5157-5210

5. Fax number

+81-3-5157-5230

6. Email address

m-fujii@spf.or.jp

7. Name, title and contact details of focal point

Primary point of contact: (Ms.) Mai Fujii, Research Fellow, SPF-OPRI

E-mail: m-fujii@spf.or.jp

Secondary point of contact: (Mr.) Yuta Kakudate, SPF-OPRI

E-mail: oceanpolicy@spf.or.jp

8. Background information on the organization

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) was established in 1986 and approved as a “public interest corporation” under Japanese law in October 2011. SPF merged with the Ship and Ocean Foundation in April 2015. The new umbrella organization has continued to use the name Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF). Work linked to ocean policy-related issues continues and is being expanded by the newly established Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI) within SPF.

The Ship and Ocean Foundation is the predecessor of OPRI. It was established as the Japan Foundation for Shipbuilding Advancement in 1975. In 1990, the name of the foundation was changed to “Ship and Ocean Foundation” and, from 2005, began operating under the name “Ocean Policy Research Foundation”. Following its merger with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, in April 2015, it became the Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF-OPRI). It actively works towards the comprehensive management and sustainable development of the ocean. SPF-OPRI now carries out research and think-tank activities from both policy and science perspectives, aiming at the comprehensive management and sustainable development of the ocean so as to address a wide range of ocean problems and issues in a comprehensive and cross-disciplinary manner.

9. Is the organization a member of, affiliated to or otherwise associated with another organization that has been granted observer status with the Authority?

SPF has been granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council as a result of the merger of the Ship and Ocean Foundation (which had obtained special consultative status in 2008) and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (which had been placed on the Roster in 1996) (see [E/2018/INF/5](#)).

SPF has been granted observer status in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change since 2015 and in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change since February 2020.

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

SPF has been granted special consultative status in the Economic and Social Council and observer status in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

SPF-OPRI staff members have actively participated as observers in meetings of various United Nations-related bodies, such as the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; the 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; the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

12. List of publications and/or other relevant documentation

SPF-OPRI has published a number of books, journals, reports, policy briefs and articles regarding ocean-related issues in Japanese and English, such as:

- The annual *White Paper on the Oceans and Ocean Policy in Japan*, since 2004
- *Selections: White Paper on the Oceans and Ocean Policy in Japan – 2020* (June 2020)¹
- *Selections: White Paper on the Oceans and Ocean Policy in Japan – 2019* (June 2019)²
- *Ocean Policy Studies* (Nos. 1–14 as of June 2020)
- The “Ocean Newsletter” (474 issues as of May 2020)³

¹ Available at www.spf.org/en/global-data/opri/whitepaper2020-en.pdf.

² Available at www.spf.org/en/global-data/opri/whitepaper2019-en.pdf.

³ Available at www.spf.org/en/opri/newsletter/.

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.

SPF considers the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Agenda 21, the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference “The future we want” and, more recently, the 2030 Agenda as guiding principles for its work. In particular, among the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda, Goal 13, on climate change, and Goal 14, on the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, are of primary concern for our organization’s activities. SPF-OPRI is undertaking a wide array of activities to promote the achievement of those Goals, including (a) ocean-related research activities and policy analysis activities; (b) ocean-related capacity-building activities; and (c) ocean-relevant information dissemination activities.

SPF-OPRI aims to contribute to the work of the Authority in promoting the sustainable use of mineral resources and the protection of the marine environment in the Area by providing cross-disciplinary expertise in both social and natural sciences, encouraging capacity-building in developing countries and enhancing public awareness of activities of the Authority in Japan and abroad.

SPF-OPRI has participated as an observer in the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national since 2018, providing information, advice and expertise as reference for negotiations. SPF-OPRI has conducted research on capacity-building and technology transfer, which is one of the key areas under negotiation, and has hosted a series of side events with partner organizations to provide information to the negotiators.⁴ SPF-OPRI intends to contribute to the activities of the Authority by providing analytical information as a result of the research activities that SPF-OPRI is conducting (and will conduct in the future), including the research mentioned above.

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

The purposes of the Foundation are to promote research activities, policy analysis activities and international cooperation, exchange and other activities as may be necessary or appropriate for human society to cope with the global changes caused by human activities in the natural and social environments. We also intend to develop a new governance system for human society, which is becoming increasingly multilayered and complicated, thereby enabling human society to develop on this planet composed of land and sea in a sound and sustainable manner, with a view to contributing to the welfare of humankind and sound advancement of human society.

As our mission statement “Toward new ocean governance” indicates, we make proposals for better ocean governance and promote policy implementation to protect our ocean. Through international cooperation and coordination, we promote research on comprehensive ocean management and sustainable development. As an organization located in a country surrounded by the sea, we pursue a model of a new ocean state that maintains a balance between the development and utilization of marine

⁴ See <https://globaloceanforum.com/2019/09/03/informal-meeting-of-friends-of-bbnj-capacity-development-and-related-capacity-development-efforts/>.

resources and environmental protection. We make efforts to enhance cooperation with the international community to establish the ocean governance of the future.

SPF-OPRI considers the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Agenda 21, the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference “The future we want” and, more recently, the 2030 Agenda as guiding principles to pursue its work. In particular, among the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda, Goal 13, on climate change, and Goal 14, on the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, are of primary concern for the organization’s activities. SPF-OPRI is undertaking a wide array of activities to achieve those goals, including (a) ocean-related research activities and policy analysis activities; (b) ocean-related capacity-building activities; and (c) ocean-relevant dissemination activities (e.g., holding public symposiums, seminars and other events in Japan and abroad).

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.

SPF-OPRI aims to contribute to the work of the Authority in promoting the sustainable use of mineral resources and the protection of the marine environment in the Area by providing cross-disciplinary expertise in social and natural sciences.

SPF-OPRI has participated as an observer in the intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national since 2018, providing information, advice and expertise as reference for negotiations. SPF-OPRI has conducted research on capacity-building and technology transfer, which is one of the key areas under negotiation, and has hosted series of events with partner organizations to provide information to the negotiators.⁵ SPF-OPRI intends to contribute to the activities of the Authority by providing analytical information as a result of the research activities that SPF-OPRI is conducting (and will be conducting in the future), including the research mentioned above.

In 2019, Miko Maekawa, senior research fellow at SPF-OPRI, was invited by the Authority to join the Advisory Committee in charge of the preparation of the Authority’s workshop on capacity development, resources and needs.

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.

SPF-OPRI is a think tank in Japan that conducts comprehensive research on ocean policy issues. SPF-OPRI has over 30 experts in both social and natural sciences that enable it to conduct cross-disciplinary projects. Researchers’ areas of expertise include international law, the law of the sea, economics, marine biodiversity conservation and physical oceanography.

As part of our research activities, we have actively participated as an observer in international discussions on the conservation and use of biodiversity beyond national

⁵ See <https://globaloceanforum.com/2019/09/03/informal-meeting-of-friends-of-bbnj-capacity-development-and-related-capacity-development-efforts/>.

jurisdiction and led international and national discussions by publishing policy recommendations and hosting seminars and conferences. One of our research topics for the financial years 2019–2020 is focusing on marine capacity-building, and we, together with our partners, have published a policy brief on capacity-building as a key aspect of a new international agreement on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.⁶

SPF-OPRI itself has contributed to marine human resource development around the world for more than 30 years. The Institute supports people involved in maritime administration from developing countries to study at the World Maritime University (WMU) as Sasakawa fellows, providing scholarships (awarded to date to 669 people from 77 countries) and operating the alumni association “Friends of WMU Japan”, to build cooperative relationships among maritime authorities around the world.

17. Briefly outline whether and how your organization intends to contribute to the capacity-building programmes and initiatives of the Authority (e.g., Secretary-General’s award, voluntary commitments of the Authority).

SPF-OPRI intends to contribute to the capacity-building programmes and initiatives of the Authority by providing specialized information, advice or expertise as stated above.

As mentioned above, Miko Maekawa, senior fellow at SPF-OPRI, has been a member of the Advisory Committee in charge of the preparation of the Authority’s workshop on capacity development, resources and needs since 2019.

⁶ Available at <https://globaloceanforumdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2019/03/policy-brief-2-aug-15.pdf>.