

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**PEACE
BOATUS**

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ABOUT PEACE BOAT US

Peace Boat US is a non-profit organization founded in 2006 in New York City that works for sustainability and peace around the world. Located next to the United Nations Headquarters, we are guided by the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) with emphasis on:

- #13 Climate Action
- #14 Life Below Water
- #16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- #17 Partnerships for the Goals



We focus our work on four areas:

- Ocean Conservation
- Climate Action
- Youth Engagement
- Disarmament

Our partner organization is the Japan-based International NGO Peace Boat, with whom we work on educational programs toward the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



GREETING

Dear Friends and Partners,

In 2023 Peace Boat US was able to create some incredible new programs that we are pleased to share here in our annual report. Peace Boat restarted its Global Voyages and Peace Boat US launched a new “Youth for the SDGs” scholarship program onboard, endorsed as an official contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Science and Sustainable Development. The programs were held in the Arctic Region as well as Latin America and engaged youth from around the world.

We are pleased to present to you in this report our extensive work in advocacy for ocean and climate health, building opportunities for young people to get involved in activism both local to global, and expanding partnerships for a more peaceful and sustainable world. In addition to our new programs, other highlights of 2023 included our participation in UN World Oceans Day, Climate Week NYC, Peace Boat’s 40th Anniversary celebration in New York, and our strong presence at the annual UN Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai, as well as our advocacy at the United Nations headquarters in New York City bringing the voice of civil society to the global stage.

Continuing in 2024, we are excited for our Youth for the SDGs program in Patagonia, as well as the ship’s visit coinciding with the annual UN World Oceans Day this coming summer.

We hope you find our programs and work inspiring, and most of all we would like to thank our partners who make it all possible!

Peace Boat US

OVERVIEW OF OUR WORK IN 2023

- Youth for the SDGs Scholarship Program with Arctic and Latin America Voyages
- Endorsement of the Youth for the SDGs Program as an official contribution for the IOC UNESCO UN Ocean Decade
- COP28 in Dubai
- UN World Water Week and 2023 Water Conference
- UN World Oceans Day
- Climate Week NYC
- Internship program and youth engagement

Of special note, we were proud to welcome the Peace Boat back to New York City after a four year hiatus at the end of Climate Week NYC in September. We hosted 500+ attendees onboard, including partners, leaders in climate and ocean advocacy, governmental and UN representatives, and many others to connect and celebrate.



PARTNERSHIPS

- Blue Planet Alliance
- Downtown Community Television (DCTV)
- Earth X
- EarthEcho International
- Friends of UN World Oceans Day
- Future Horizon
- Global Kids
- Google Arts and Culture
- March for Science
- Mission Blue
- NGO Major Group
- Ocean Decade U.S. Nexus Group
- OceanHub Africa
- Oceanic Global
- One Ocean Hub
- Peace Boat
- PROTEUS
- Pvblic Foundation
- Restore Coral
- Reverse the Trend
- The Explorers Club
- Sustainable Ocean Alliance
- It's Our Future
- Women and Climate
- Youth4Disarmament
- Youth for TPNW
- International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance)
- United Nations, including the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), SDG Action Campaign, and other UN agencies
- Academic Institutions include Hollins University, the University of Michigan Global Scholars Program, University of California San Diego, Rutgers University, UNC-Chapel Hill EcoStudio, Pace University, the SDG Academy at Columbia University, World Maritime University and others.

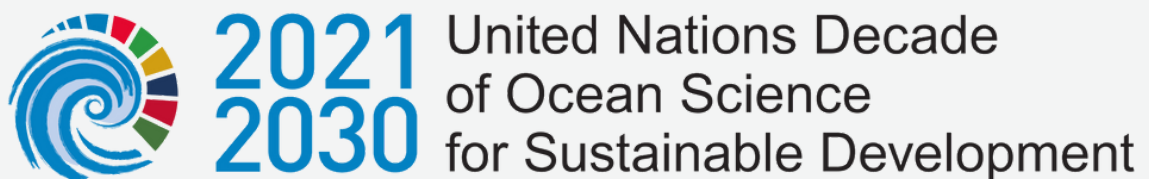
2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Select programs, projects, or activities from each of our four focus areas:
Ocean Conservation, Climate Action, Youth Engagement, and Disarmament.

Ocean Conservation

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ENDORSEMENT

We were honored to have our Youth for the SDGs Scholarship Program endorsed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC UNESCO) as an official contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Our programs create experiential learning opportunities for youth activists and community leaders from around the world who are advocating for the SDGs. These programs are conducted 2-4 times per year onboard Peace Boat voyages. The “Ocean Decade” is a 10-year, global initiative of IOC UNESCO to expand scientific partnerships to support science, ocean management, and sustainable development.



UN WORLD OCEANS DAY 2023

Since the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, UN World Oceans Day, held annually on June 8, brings states, communities, research centers, civil society and the business sector together to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable ocean stewardship through events in NYC and around the world.



Peace Boat US organized several events during the week of World Oceans Day, reflecting inclusivity, equity, and integrated approaches to ocean governance and human rights challenges.



“LALELA ULWANDLE” (LISTEN TO THE SEA) WITH OCEANHUB AFRICA JUNE 7

Peace Boat US and Empatheatre, a theatre group from South Africa, which highlights the importance of linking ocean research with Indigenous groups, presented an award-winning interactive theater performance highlighting the pressing need to respectfully engage with Indigenous and local knowledge in ocean research and equitable ocean governance.



INTERNATIONAL FILM PREMIERE “INDLELA YOKUPHILA: THE SOUL’S JOURNEY” AND DISCUSSION JUNE 7

Presented and moderated by Peace Boat US, in partnership with OceanHub Africa, the film is a transdisciplinary ocean research project involving artists, traditional healers, marine sociologists, and deep sea marine ecologists who collaborate on a more holistic alternative to predominant ocean mapping and decision making processes. After the screening, Empatheatre Director Dr. Dylan McGarry discussed the making of the film.



UNITED NATIONS WORLD OCEANS DAY JUNE 8

At the annual World Oceans Day celebration at United Nations Headquarters in New York City, Peace Boat US held a video exhibition on our recent Youth for the SDGs Scholarship Programs and presented sustainable fashion initiatives, raising awareness about the importance oceans have in our everyday lives.



ARTS-BASED RESEARCH AND SOLIDARITY PRACTICES WITH INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS IN PLURAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE - LEARNINGS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

JUNE 9

Peace Boat US and the Empatheatre team from South Africa presented a workshop that included a presentation in Zulu, a screening of the documentary “The Making of Umkhosi Wenala: the Festival of Adenbance.” The documentary presented a new theater-based research project co-developed with 13 young artists (Mbazwana Creative Arts) in the Northern KwaZulu-Natal region in South Africa, and a workshop for participants to explore strategies for more inclusive ocean-governance processes.



CONEY ISLAND BEACH CLEAN-UP

JUNE 10

Peace Boat US partnered with Blue Planet Alliance, Oceanic Global, and the New York Aquarium to host a beach clean-up on Coney Island joined by over 50 people.



Climate Action

CLIMATE WEEK NYC

Climate Week NYC, held every September for the past 14 years, is the largest climate event in the world, bringing together leaders and stakeholders from government, civil society, business and academia. This year, Peace Boat US was proud to organize or co-organize a number of important events with key partner organizations. In particular, we were especially happy to welcome the return of the Peace Boat to New York City after a four-year hiatus, and host a large partnership-building event onboard in celebration of Climate Week NYC.



Ahead of the United Nations 2023 SDG Summit, during the SDG Action Weekend, Peace Boat organized a side event “Collaboration and Cross-Sector Partnerships for Capacity Development and Youth Engagement on SDG14,” in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Kiribati to the UN, the Permanent Mission of Palau to the UN, the SIDS Global Business forum and United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS), Pvblic Foundation, Global Warming Mitigation Project, OCN.ai network, Blue Planet Alliance and youth leaders working towards the SDGs. The event brought together stakeholders from different sectors to contribute to discussions on SDG14, ‘Life Below Water’ in particular on capacity development and youth engagement.



NEW YORK CITY - MARCH FOR CLIMATE ACTION! SEPTEMBER 17

Peace Boat US representatives, Blue Planet Alliance and Youth for SDGs scholars joined around 75,000 others in the march to End Fossil Fuels and call for increased climate action.



EXPLORING BY THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS SEPTEMBER 20

Peace Boat US, along with Blue Planet Alliance and The Explorers Club, hosted “Traveling by the Seat of Your Pants,” a virtual event for more than 100 students. The event highlighted the Youth For the SDGs Scholarship Program, that invited 24 youth in total to join voyages to the Arctic and Latin America onboard the Peace Boat.



SDG MEDIA ZONE SEPTEMBER 21

Peace Boat US Director Emilie McGlone joined a panel discussion on raising awareness of both the vast resources in the oceans and the need for strong regulation and oversight. Peace Boat Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador Khadija Stewart discussed Peace Boat's educational and participatory programs for youth.



CLIMATE IMPACT TALKS SEPTEMBER 22

Peace Boat US co-hosted this event featuring climate talks with Blue Planet Alliance and the Hard Rock Hotel. Moderated by Emilie McGlone, panelists, including Ocean and Climate Ambassadors, NGO leaders, experts and Blue Planet Alliance ambassadors, discussed their projects and the goals they are working on to achieve them.





PEACE BOAT IN NYC: SAILING FOR CHANGE - BLUE INNOVATION RECEPTION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR SDGs EXPO & CELEBRATION SEPTEMBER 30

Following the UN General Assembly High-level Week 2023, and particularly the SDG and Climate Ambition Summits, Peace Boat made its first visit to New York City in four years on September 30, 2023 during its 115th Global Voyage, also marking the organization's 40th anniversary. Over 500 guests from New York and beyond came together to find innovative solutions to accelerate climate action, share best practices for responsible ocean stewardship, and build momentum for peace, nuclear disarmament, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Special remarks were presented by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Melissa Fleming.



COP28 - UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

At COP 28, held in Dubai between November 30 - December 12, Peace Boat US orchestrated over 20 side events in collaboration with sustainability-focused organizations on topics including mitigation, renewable energy, youth engagement, revolutionizing the maritime industry, and advancing educational programs for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science. These events aimed to propel progress aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Agreements. Through active engagement with other civil society partners including Peace Boat, Peace Boat US showcased how collaboration among diverse backgrounds and perspectives accelerates dialogue on global issues, fostering innovative approaches and solutions.

Of special importance, seven former participants of the Youth for the SDGs Scholarship Program, hailing from varied fields and professions, joined our delegation, engaging in negotiations, and leading their own side events. Their contribution showcased the transformative potential of Peace Boat US's experiential educational programs in connection with the UN Ocean Decade.



Disarmament

ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CLIMATE ACTION AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IN THE PACIFIC

MARCH 22

On the first day of the UN Water Conference, Peace Boat US co-organized the event “Addressing the Global Challenges for Sustainable Development through Climate Action and Nuclear Disarmament in the Pacific” together with partner organizations Reverse the Trend: Save our People, Save our Planet, EarthEcho International, Blue Planet Alliance, Sustainable Ocean Alliance, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, and the Marshallese Education Initiative. Speakers included Ambassador Teburoro Tito of Kiribati and Ambassador Amatlain Kabua of the Marshall Islands. The event emphasized the importance of collaboration within the Pacific Islands and ocean stewardship and sustainability, in light of both global sea level rise and the history of nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific.



G7 YOUTH SUMMIT

APRIL 25-27

Peace Boat US Youth Representative, Molly Rosaaen attended the G7 Youth Summit in Hiroshima, of which Japan-based partner organization Peace Boat was a main organizer. Ms. Rosaaen spoke at an open session held at the Peace Memorial Museum, urging representatives from the US to understand the significance of the G7 Summit being held in Hiroshima and to listen and learn from survivors of the atomic bombings.

“In Hiroshima, we call on the world to listen to the Hibakusha - the survivors of nuclear weapons - and recognize the moral imperative of nuclear disarmament. We urgently demand action on nuclear weapons to honor the lived experiences of the Hibakusha and other communities affected by nuclear weapons, and to secure a safer world free from weapons of mass destruction for generations to come.”

- Joint statement segment by G7 Youth Summit participants



ICAN ACADEMY

OCTOBER 23-27

Peace Boat US Youth Representative, Molly Rosaaen participated in the 2023 Hiroshima-ICAN Academy for Nuclear Disarmament and Global Security in Hiroshima, Japan from October 24 - 27,, 2023. The Academy provided a valuable opportunity to explore nuclear abolition in the context of issues such as climate change, ongoing and new conflicts, and heightened geopolitical tensions.



SECOND MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE UN TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 1

Peace Boat US had a strong presence at the Second Meeting of States Parties (2MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) disarmament conference, which took place November 27 - December 1, 2023, at the UN Headquarters in New York City. Peace Boat US joined the Peace Boat delegation, global leader in nuclear disarmament advocacy, in amplifying the voices of people and communities impacted by nuclear weapons at the conference. During the conference Peace Boat took a leadership role in coordinating the Japan NGO Network for Nuclear Weapons Abolition.



Youth Engagement

YOUTH FOR THE SDGS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The program provides young leaders from around the world with opportunities to enhance their knowledge of marine science and climate action. Participants engage in capacity building, citizen science programs, network-building activities, and educational opportunities both onboard the Peace Boat and at various port destinations. The overarching theme of the voyage was the UN Ocean Decade, with a focus on raising awareness about the importance of Life Below Water and inspiring positive actions to protect the oceans.

ARCTIC VOYAGE

MAY 24 - JUNE 14

The Arctic Voyage began in London, UK, with an Ocean and Climate Networking Reception, where participants connected with notable ocean innovation partners and like-minded individuals. A day was dedicated to environmental sustainability and ocean education allowed participants to deepen their understanding and engage in meaningful initiatives. The voyage then continued to Norway, where participants took part in outdoor exploration, marine science data collection, activities in Åndalsnes, Tromsø, and met with professors and students conducting cutting-edge research in extreme conditions of the Arctic. The voyage concluded in Iceland, where participants continued marine science data collection efforts, attended an onboard program on marine science and climate action, and explored Iceland's unique geothermal features.





Throughout the journey, participants actively contributed to preserving water bodies, combatting plastic pollution, and promoting sustainable economic practices. They conducted water testing, learned about biomimicry, integrated traditional knowledge into marine management discussions, and emphasized the importance of global collaboration in safeguarding the oceans. The Arctic Voyage provided an enlightening and awe-inspiring experience, fostering knowledge, action, and connections for the betterment of the oceans and the planet.

LATIN AMERICA VOYAGE JUNE 20 - JULY 5



Peace Boat US' second expedition of the Youth for the SDGs was held in Latin America, from June 20 to July 5, as the Peace Boat sailed from Panama, through the Panama Canal, to Guatemala and Mexico. This program brought together thirteen activists for a 16-day experiential learning journey focused on sustainable energy, climate action, and ocean conservation. During the program in Panama the participants experience the country's rich biodiversity with visits to partners in the BioMuseo, the Reef2Reef coral restoration program; and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute to learn about the monitoring of wildlife and environmental impacts in the region. A seminar was held in collaboration with governmental partners including the National Secretariat of Energy in Panama to learn about SDG 7, Affordable and Clean Energy.



In Guatemala, the Youth for the SDGs program partnered with local organizations to learn about marine life, mangroves, and conservation efforts taking place in the region. The Sustainable Ocean Alliance organized a program on mangrove exploration and turtle monitoring to evaluate migration habits and the general health of turtles coming to this region to nest.



In Mexico, youth scholars participated in the Annual Blue Economy Forum, co-hosted by Peace Boat US and Restore Coral, in collaboration with local government partners and NGOs who worked together to convene experts from various fields. The Blue Economy Forums have encouraged regional collaboration towards various topics from Marine Protected Areas to coral reef restoration programs, and decarbonization of the ports in Manzanillo. These forums provide an opportunity for stakeholder engagement and continue to support Latin American leadership for the UN Ocean Decade.



INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

A key program for engaging young people in SDG-related activities and for supporting Peace Boat US work is our internship program. In 2023, Peace Boat US hosted seven interns from the US and around the world, including from Hollins University through a special partnership. In 2023 interns were closely involved in supporting our Youth for the SDGs Scholarship Program, our events at the UN, communication with partners, social media management, and many other fields. Interns were able to attend many events at the UN, gain rich experience in the field of international advocacy and collaboration for the SDGs, and some were able to join the Youth for the SDGs Scholarship Program.

VOICES FROM INTERNS



Francisco Lara

“Collaborating with Peace Boat US for the past months has meant for me the opportunity to develop skills in the field that I’m professionally pursuing while they are trusting me to support UN Ocean Decade Programs and International Climate Conferences. The Internship program has been an opportunity to demonstrate how helpful the insights from young people can be and how much we can do when we have open doors, autonomy and responsibilities as interns! During my time at Peace Boat US, I was closely involved with Climate Week NYC and attended COP28 in Dubai. Right after that, I joined the Youth for the SDG Program in Patagonia as Communications Coordinator, which led to amazing experiences and strengthening the abilities and skills developed during the internship”.

Cecilia Fan

“Interning at Peace Boat US for 6 months has been enriching and eye-opening. During my second term of internship, I visited Peace Boat US’s office in New York, attended ECOSOC conferences at the UN, and presented in a few events as a Peace Boat US’s youth representative. I liked how this internship experience has introduced me to the multilateral work that governments and NGOs have done to achieve the UN’s 17 SDGs collaboratively. It has both provided me with better understanding of environmental preservation work and strengthened my ability of event-reporting, graphics design and organizational management through promoting Peace Boat’s events on social media.”





Molly Rosaaen

"The past few months of my internship with Peace Boat US has been a great opportunity to learn more about working for an NGO and the UN. Attending events and conferences as a Peace Boat US representative has taught me so many things and getting to see the role NGOs have within the UN. This internship has provided me opportunities to network with other NGOs and interns which has been one of the best experiences while interning with Peace Boat US. Climate Week NYC was one of my favorite parts of my internship. I was able to meet and listen to other organizations working towards the same goals as us and it was incredibly impactful for me."

Nuria Stojkovski

"As an intern with Peace Boat US I had a very valuable experience, because I got a glimpse at the inside-perspective of NGO work. While interning with PB US I also learned a lot about the importance of coalition building and how NGOs are interwoven within the UN. Thus it was exciting to encounter big events, such as Climate Week NYC or COP28, from the other side. My internship has taught me that the engagement around the UN's 17 SDGs really is of high relevance. In addition I had the chance to further develop my writing/reporting competence and explore my graphic design skills. I am positive that these skills as well as the NGO work-experience will be crucial and helpful for my future."



Phebe Ojomoses

"During my internship with Peace Boat US, I had the privilege to represent the organization as a Youth Representative at key international events, including the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Fourth Session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. These experiences were transformative, offering me firsthand insight into global disarmament efforts and the complexities of international diplomacy. As an intern, I was able to contribute to meaningful discussions, broaden my skills, and advocate for peace on a global scale. It was a truly rewarding experience that has enriched my understanding of peacebuilding and diplomacy."

2023 ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

ON THE MORNING YOU WAKE (TO THE END OF THE WORLD)

VR WORKSHOP

JANUARY 24

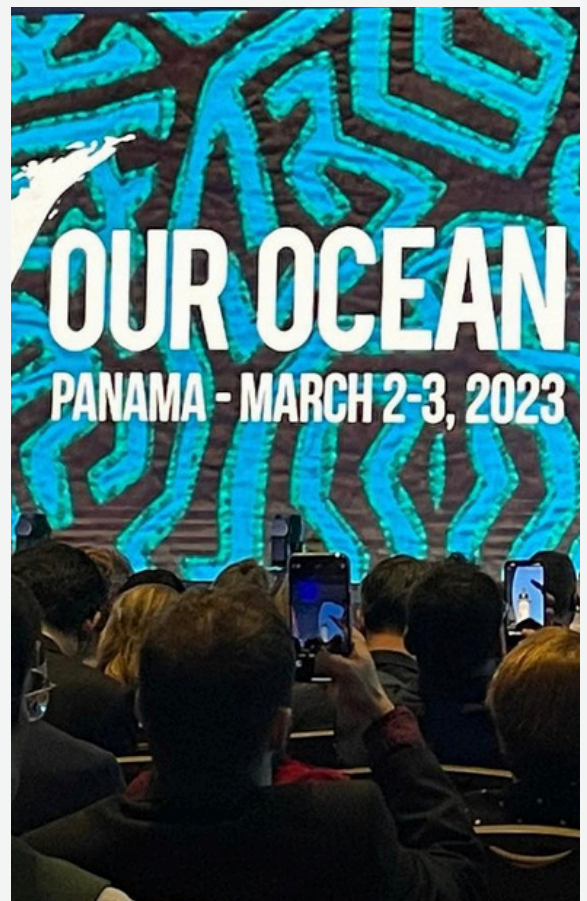
Peace Boat US hosted a workshop using the VR experience “On the Morning You Wake (To the end of the World)” to teach about nuclear disarmament. Developed by NYC-based Games for Change, the project is about the false missile alert in Hawaii in 2018. Having premiered at Sundance and SXSW, the experience continued to attract attention at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, the ICAN Nuclear Ban Forum, the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons Conference as well as the TPNW First Meeting of States Parties in Vienna.



OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE

MARCH 2-3

The Our Oceans Conference works to prevent further destruction of the ocean by making efforts to clean the ocean, restore climate and regenerate marine life. Due to global warming, unsustainable practices, illegal fishing, reckless pollution, and the loss of marine habitats the ocean is endangered. This year's conference focused on the critical importance of the implementation of well-connected systems of effective are-based management measures, including Marine Protected Areas, the development of the global blue economy and proposing innovative solutions to address marine pollution. The US government committed over 6 billion USD at the Our Ocean Conference 2023. Peace Boat US Director, Emilie McGlone, was also a Mentor at the Youth Summit taking place in connection with the Our Ocean Conference.



UN WATER CONFERENCE

MARCH 21-24

Peace Boat US co-organized or presented at four side events at the UN Water Conference 2023 at UN Headquarters in New York City. Events included:

- Addressing the Global Challenges for Sustainable Development through Climate Action and Nuclear Disarmament in the Pacific, held at UN Plaza
- Water and Peace Innovation: Uniting Local and Global Efforts for Sustainable Development, held at the Permanent Mission of Monaco to the UN
- Youth Attaining Water Sustainability for Building Peace, held at the Ford Foundation
- Art, Education, and the SDGs, held at the World Trade Center



OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

JULY 10-20



On July 18, Peace Boat US organized an official HLPF side event titled, “Youth for the SDGs Scholarship Program Report for the Ocean Decade,” sharing the experiences of two recent programs, the Arctic Voyage and Latin America Voyage, held in May and June of 2023 respectively.

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16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER

