

Global Youth Perspectives on Sea Level Rise

We, the **One Ocean Youth Panel**, convene during One Ocean Week to confront the escalating crisis of sea level rise—a threat that endangers ecosystems, coastal communities, and our shared future.

This is not just a call to action; it is a demand for urgent, collective response.

Our Vision

Sea level rise is a test of global solidarity.

We must:

- Elevate inclusive policies that center Indigenous peoples, island nations, and frontline communities.
- Invest in nature-based solutions—restoring mangroves, wetlands, and coral reefs—while advancing technologies to protect vulnerable coastlines.
- Hold governments and industries accountable, demanding they exceed climate commitments and prioritize the most at-risk populations.
- Integrate Indigenous knowledge and leadership into all decision-making.
- Fuse science, policy, and art to drive systemic, interdisciplinary change.

Our Principles

The ocean is a global common, demanding multilateral cooperation and intergenerational justice.

We insist on:

- Climate finance that reaches those most in need, within and between nations.
- Justice-centered policies that dismantle systemic barriers for marginalized communities, especially in occupied and vulnerable territories.
- Indigenous sovereignty and the recognition that all life is interconnected—our fate is tied to the ocean's health.

Our Demands

The root of this crisis lies in human exploitation and environmental degradation.

We must:

1. Lower greenhouse gas emissions—immediately and aggressively.
2. Restore coastal ecosystems to buffer against rising seas.
3. Amplify the voices of small island states - which can also be called big island states given their importance, low-lying regions, and marginalized groups in adaptation strategies.

4. Reject profit-driven exploitation in favor of conservation and restoration.
5. Strengthen global agreements like the Paris Agreement—holding power to account.

Our Movement

This is not a distant threat—it is happening now.

Despair is not an option; action is.

- We demand legally binding commitments, transparency, and accountability.
- We call for ocean and climate literacy, using art and storytelling to ignite global mobilization.
- Inaction is complicity.

Join Us. The time for half-measures has passed.

To every single individual: Rise with us against the rising seas.

No one has to be left behind.

The time to act is NOW.

Tomorrow's world depends on today's courage.

One Ocean Youth Panel, 2025.

