

Global Architecture of Ocean Governance: Ecological Challenges and Legal Frameworks

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The ocean plays a crucial role in regulating the climate, as well as in maintaining biodiversity and providing resources to people. The ocean faces challenges due to anthropogenic impacts – biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and overexploitation of resources contribute to the deepening of the biodiversity crisis. In this context, global governance frameworks, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the MARPOL Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), take on particular importance.

The paper examines the international legal and institutional architecture of ocean governance, its evolution and existing gaps, as well as the integration of the concepts of the blue economy and sustainable development. Key initiatives of the European Union and the United Nations are discussed, including the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ, 2023). The paper highlights the importance of science-based governance, balancing environmental sustainability and economic development within global ocean governance.