Objectif Sciences International
35 YEARS AÑOS ANS NGO 1992 2027

Written Statement
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In max 700 words

Participatory Science Everywhere, All the Time, for Everyone

Objectif Sciences International (OSI) affirms the transformative power of **participatory science** to advance sustainability, justice, and ocean resilience.

Since 1992, OSI has engaged citizens of all ages and backgrounds in real-world research across **education, community development, science, environmental monitoring, and policy co-design.**

We now call for the **broad integration of participatory science across all sectors**, **in all environments**, and at all times of life.

Systemic Gaps, Why Participatory Science is the Solution

Across regions and age groups, key barriers remain:

- Disconnection from nature
- Limited access to science
- Skepticism toward citizen data
- Exclusion of women, youth, elders, and marginalized groups
- Centralized governance and lack of civic ownership

Participatory science counters these barriers by:

- Building capacities through experiential learning
- Empowering communities to produce and use data
- Recognizing local, empirical, as academic knowledge
- Ensuring long-term, inclusive participation

Political Recommendations / Practical Illustrations

We call on UN Members and Agencies to implement following recommendations:

A. Institutionalize Ocean Participatory Science

1. Integrate participatory science into national ocean and climate strategies.
Example: Set up coastal observatories with all to monitor ocean health using basic tools.

2. Recognize citizen-generated data in UN and national reporting mechanisms.
Example: Adopt validation standards for citizen data in SDG tracking.

3. Secure long-term funding for citizen science programs.
Example: Allocate climate finance or blue bonds to participatory regeneration actions co-led by NGOs, resilient tourism and local communities.

B. Reform Education for Ocean Stewardship

4. Make ocean literacy and citizen science part of curricula at all levels.
Example: Include real water testing in science classes submitting results to databases. Force schools to address chemistry and microbiology via participatory science.

5. Develop intergenerational and intercultural training programs.
Example: Create “Ocean Campuses” where elders, scientists, and students co-design marine projects.

6. Use art, media, and storytelling to engage broader audiences.
Example: Produce community media mixing fishing knowledge and ocean science to explain ocean changes, using art and student performances to engage locals.

C. Ensure Inclusivity and Equity

7. Prioritize participation from marginalized groups.
Example: Fund women-led community labs in coastal villages to monitor fisheries and discuss results with policymakers via WhatsApp-based civic science forums.

8. Remove socio-economic and linguistic barriers to participation.
Example: Translate ocean science tools into local languages; use tactile maps and visual kits for inclusive training with low-literacy or disabled groups.

9. Launch civic service programs for youth in ocean conservation.
Example: A UN-endorsed "Blue Civil Service" offering 12-month placements in participatory science hubs across coastal and island nations.

D. Reform Research Governance and Incentives

10. Fund scientists’ time to engage in participatory approaches.
Example: Create fellowships giving researchers time and support to guide citizen teams in estuary monitoring, data analysis, and community-focused reporting.

11. Mobilize retired scientists and citizen mentors.
Example: Create a UN roster of retired scientists to train citizen scientists and coordinators, alongside researchers, to strengthen data quality and local capacity.

12. Establish clear frameworks for participatory science.
Example: Publish UN guidelines defining participation levels and quality standards by domain, clarifying training, supervision, and validation needed to ensure scientific rigour in participatory science projects.

E. Foster Interdisciplinary Ocean Solutions

13. Connect ocean science with land-based urban and economic systems.
Example: Create a UN list of retired scientists to support training of citizen scientists and coordinators, improving data quality and local capacity with researchers.

14. Hold extractive industries accountable using citizen evidence.
Example: Use citizen data on reef damage and fish decline to enforce legal action and demand reparations from polluters.

OSI's Ongoing Commitments

OSI currently runs over 40 programs worldwide, all based on **impact-based participatory research**. These programs:

- Train citizens to gather, interpret, and apply scientific data
- Link local and global knowledge
- Enable public input into policy through evidence
- Offer lifelong learning and civic eco-engagement platforms

From Occasional Input to Permanent Inclusion

Participatory science is not optional but essential for a just transition and must be **structurally embedded.** It makes science a shared tool for resilience, peace, and action.

We call on the UN and partners to **recognize PS as key** to democratic ocean governance and **support its global expansion**.

Inclusion, not delegation. Empowerment, not substitution. Engagement, not consultation.
We are all the ocean. — let participatory science be our vessel.

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