

IGC 2026 General Assembly Background Guide

Cooperation and Competition: The Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean

Student Preparation Guide | General Assembly Committee | IGC 2026

Category	Details
Committee Type	General Assembly-style diplomatic committee
Format	Full 2.5-3 hour committee, not subdivided
Student Limit	Up to 40 students per age division
Topic	Cooperation and Competition: The Geopolitics of the Indian Ocean
Student Task	Represent a country, negotiate with allies and rivals, and produce a practical resolution on maritime order, regional stability, economic connectivity, and sustainable development.

Note to Students

This guide introduces the Indian Ocean as a political, economic, environmental, and strategic space. The committee is a General Assembly-style simulation: students will represent national interests, negotiate blocs, draft clauses, and respond to new information introduced during the session. Unlike a crisis committee, students do not command militaries or issue secret directives. Their main tools are diplomacy, coalition-building, public speaking, amendment-writing, and negotiated compromise.

The Indian Ocean matters because it connects the Middle East, East Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australia. It links the Persian Gulf to the Strait of Malacca, the Red Sea to the Cape of Good Hope, and island states to the global economy. It is both a highway for trade and a contested arena for major-power competition.

Source note: This guide uses public-source background, including UN Trade and Development on maritime chokepoint vulnerability and supply-chain resilience; public information on the Indian Ocean Rim Association priorities; open-source background on maritime domain awareness initiatives in the Indian Ocean; and public reporting on energy chokepoints, Red Sea disruptions, illegal fishing, and Indo-Pacific competition. Students should conduct country-specific research before committee.

- This simulation is a **Standard Committee**, and it will follow the [IGC Standard Committee Expectations and Rules as posted here](#).

1. Committee Mandate and Agenda

The General Assembly has convened to debate cooperation and competition in the Indian Ocean. Students must address how states can preserve open sea lanes, reduce conflict risk, protect vulnerable island and coastal states, respond to climate and piracy threats, and manage major-power competition without militarizing the entire region.

The committee should aim to produce a resolution that is practical, geographically informed, and politically realistic. Students should avoid generic speeches about peace and instead propose mechanisms that could actually be supported by states with different interests.

- Protect freedom of navigation and lawful maritime commerce.
- Improve maritime domain awareness and information sharing.
- Support small island developing states and vulnerable coastal economies.
- Address piracy, armed robbery, trafficking, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.
- Balance port development, debt concerns, and infrastructure needs.
- Reduce escalation between major powers operating in the Indian Ocean.
- Strengthen disaster response, climate resilience, and environmental protection.

2. Why the Indian Ocean Matters

2.1 Geography and Strategic Position

The Indian Ocean is not a single political region. It is a vast maritime system connecting the eastern coast of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australia. The shores of the Andaman Sea, where IGC 2026 is being held, sit near one of the most important gateways between the Indian and Pacific Oceans: the Strait of Malacca.

For students, geography is strategy. A country located near a chokepoint, a naval base, an undersea cable route, a fishing ground, or a disaster-prone coastline will view the topic differently from a landlocked energy importer or a distant naval power.

2.2 Maritime Chokepoints

Several chokepoints define the Indian Ocean security environment:

Chokepoint	Connects	Why it matters
Strait of Hormuz	Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman / Arabian Sea	Critical for oil and LNG exports from Gulf producers to Asia and global markets.
Bab el-Mandeb	Red Sea to Gulf of Aden	Links the Indian Ocean to the Suez Canal and Mediterranean trade route.
Strait of Malacca	Andaman Sea / Indian Ocean to South China Sea / Pacific	Key route between the Indian Ocean and East Asian economies.
Lombok and Sunda Straits	Indian Ocean to Indonesian archipelago and Pacific alternatives	Potential alternatives to Malacca, but longer and strategically sensitive.
Cape of Good Hope	Southern Africa route between Atlantic and Indian Oceans	Major rerouting option when Red Sea/Suez routes are disrupted.

2.3 Trade, Energy, and Supply Chains

The Indian Ocean is essential to oil, LNG, container shipping, food imports, fertilizer, raw materials, and manufactured goods. Disruptions in one chokepoint can raise freight rates, redirect shipping, strain ports, and increase prices far beyond the region. UN Trade and Development reported that Red Sea and canal disruptions had already forced costly rerouting around the Cape of Good Hope, reduced Suez-related tonnage, increased vessel demand, and raised fuel, insurance, wage, and emissions costs.

2.4 Security and Competition

The Indian Ocean is increasingly shaped by competition among India, China, the United States, Australia, France, Gulf states, and other actors. Competition appears through port investment, naval deployments, arms sales, logistics agreements, maritime surveillance systems, undersea cables, and diplomatic forums. At the same time, most coastal and island states want investment, jobs, climate resilience, and security assistance without being forced into a rigid bloc.

3. Historical and Strategic Context

For centuries, the Indian Ocean has linked civilizations through monsoon trade, migration, religious exchange, and commercial networks. Today, older patterns of commerce coexist with modern geopolitics. Ports such as Singapore, Colombo, Mumbai, Chabahar, Gwadar, Djibouti, Mombasa, Salalah, Jebel Ali, and Durban are not only economic nodes but strategic signals.

The committee should understand the difference between cooperation and competition. Cooperation includes search and rescue, anti-piracy patrols, information sharing, disaster relief, fisheries management, scientific research, and climate adaptation. Competition includes base access, military exercises, port leverage, surveillance, sanctions, rival infrastructure projects, and attempts to define the rules of regional order.

4. Regional Theaters

The Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf approaches

Energy exporters, Iran-Gulf tensions, Hormuz vulnerability, naval escort operations, and insurance risk.

The Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and western Indian Ocean

Bab el-Mandeb, Suez access, piracy history, Yemen-related insecurity, East African port dependence, and European-Asian trade routes.

South Asia and the central Indian Ocean

India-Pakistan rivalry, Sri Lankan ports, Maldives politics, Bay of Bengal connectivity, and major sea-lane protection.

The Andaman Sea and Strait of Malacca

ASEAN maritime geography, Singapore's port role, Thai-Malaysia-Indonesia coordination, and the narrow link between the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The Southern Indian Ocean

Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, French territories, Australia, climate risk, fisheries, marine conservation, and remote surveillance challenges.

5. Core Issues Before the Committee

Issue	Questions for Students
Freedom of navigation and maritime law	How should states defend lawful navigation while respecting coastal-state sovereignty and UNCLOS?
Maritime domain awareness	Should the UN, IORA, ASEAN, IFC-IOR, or regional centers share more data on ship movement, piracy, weather, trafficking, and illegal fishing?
Major-power competition	How can the region avoid becoming a battleground between China, India, the United States, and their partners?
Ports, debt, and infrastructure	How should states attract investment without losing control of strategic assets or accepting unsustainable debt?
Piracy, trafficking, and maritime crime	What cooperation is needed against piracy, narcotics, arms trafficking, people smuggling, and maritime terrorism?
Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing	How can states protect fisheries while managing foreign fleets, surveillance gaps, and food security?
Climate resilience and disasters	How should the international community help ports and island states prepare for cyclones, sea-level rise, coral loss, and oil spills?
Energy security and chokepoints	How can importers and exporters reduce vulnerability to Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb, Malacca, and Suez disruptions?
Blue economy and development	How can maritime security be linked to fisheries, tourism, seabed resources, research, and coastal livelihoods?

6. Student Task and Committee Deliverables

Students should arrive prepared to state their country's interests and negotiate language that other delegations can accept. The committee may pass one comprehensive resolution or several shorter frameworks. Productive resolutions should include concrete programs, funding mechanisms, reporting timelines, partnerships, and safeguards for sovereignty.

- A maritime safety and deconfliction framework.
- A regional information-sharing and early-warning proposal.
- A support package for small island developing states and least developed coastal states.
- A plan to combat illegal fishing, piracy, trafficking, and maritime environmental crime.
- Principles for responsible port and infrastructure financing.
- A climate-resilient ports and disaster-response initiative.
- A diplomatic code of conduct for external military presence and exercises.

7. Suggested Country Assignments and Research Bios

The committee can accommodate up to 40 students. The following country briefs are designed to help students begin research. They are not scripts. Students should look up current policy, recent statements, trade dependence, naval capacity, port projects, alliances, and voting patterns.

1. India

India sees itself as a central Indian Ocean power with major interests in sea-lane security, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Bay of Bengal, Gulf energy imports, and balancing China. It will favor regional ownership, maritime domain awareness, and anti-piracy cooperation while resisting any arrangement that sidelines New Delhi.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

2. China

China depends on Indian Ocean routes for energy imports and trade with Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. It promotes port investment and the Maritime Silk Road, but many states worry about strategic leverage. China will oppose language that targets its infrastructure diplomacy or military presence.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

3. United States

The United States is an external naval power with global interests in open sea lanes, Gulf security, counterterrorism, and strategic competition with China. It will support freedom of navigation, allied cooperation, and transparent infrastructure finance, while avoiding language that limits U.S. military access.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

4. Australia

Australia is both an Indian Ocean and Pacific power. It cares about maritime security, undersea cables, climate resilience, fisheries, and Chinese influence near its approaches. It may work closely with India, the United States, Japan, France, and island states.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

5. Indonesia

Indonesia straddles the Indian and Pacific Oceans and controls key archipelagic routes. It will defend sovereignty over its waters, seek recognition of ASEAN centrality, and support anti-IUU fishing and disaster response without inviting excessive great-power military competition.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

6. Singapore

Singapore depends on maritime trade and the Malacca-Singapore Strait. It will focus on rules, port efficiency, freedom of navigation, digital shipping, and deconfliction. Singapore often pushes practical, technical mechanisms that preserve stability without dramatic political language.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

7. Malaysia

Malaysia has interests in Malacca, the Andaman Sea, ports, offshore energy, fisheries, and ASEAN cooperation. It will favor balanced language that respects sovereignty, protects trade, and avoids forcing states into U.S.-China rivalry.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

8. Thailand

Thailand's Andaman Sea coast gives it a direct connection to the Indian Ocean. It may emphasize regional connectivity, disaster preparedness, tourism, environmental protection, and ASEAN consensus while avoiding confrontation with major powers.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

9. Myanmar

Myanmar's Bay of Bengal coastline and port projects make it strategically important, though its internal conflict complicates diplomacy. It may emphasize sovereignty and non-interference, and it may resist human-rights or sanctions language unrelated to maritime cooperation.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

10. Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a Bay of Bengal state with major interests in ports, climate adaptation, fisheries, disaster response, and trade connectivity. It may support capacity-building, blue economy development, and protection for vulnerable coastal populations.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

11. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka sits near major east-west sea lanes and has become a symbol of port finance debates, especially around Hambantota and Colombo. It will seek investment and strategic autonomy while avoiding being framed as a pawn in China-India competition.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

12. Maldives

Maldives is a small island state with outsized strategic geography in the central Indian Ocean. It will prioritize climate security, tourism, fisheries, maritime surveillance, and sovereignty while balancing India, China, and other partners.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

13. Pakistan

Pakistan's interests center on the Arabian Sea, Gwadar, energy imports, rivalry with India, and China-Pakistan connectivity. It will support development finance and oppose language that strengthens India's regional leadership at Pakistan's expense.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

14. Iran

Iran sits near the Strait of Hormuz and views maritime issues through sovereignty, sanctions, deterrence, and Gulf security. It will resist U.S.-led security frameworks and seek recognition that regional states, not outside powers, should control Gulf security.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

15. Oman

Oman sits at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz and has a tradition of mediation. It will support de-escalation, safe passage, port development, and balanced diplomacy that does not force it into a confrontational bloc.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

16. United Arab Emirates

The UAE is a major port, logistics, aviation, and energy actor with interests stretching from the Gulf to East Africa and the Red Sea. It will support secure trade routes, port investment, and commercial stability, while protecting its strategic autonomy.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

17. Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia depends on secure oil exports, Red Sea development, and access to Asian markets. It will support energy security, protection of shipping, and infrastructure resilience, while watching Iranian influence and Red Sea instability closely.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

18. Yemen

Yemen's geography gives it influence near Bab el-Mandeb, but conflict has made it a source of regional insecurity. A Yemeni delegation may seek reconstruction, humanitarian access, sovereignty, and reduced foreign intervention, while others focus on maritime threats from Yemeni territory.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

19. Egypt

Egypt is not an Indian Ocean littoral state, but the Suez Canal makes it deeply affected by Red Sea and Indian Ocean disruptions. Egypt will support safe passage through the Red Sea and measures that restore shipping confidence and canal revenues.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

20. Djibouti

Djibouti sits near Bab el-Mandeb and hosts multiple foreign military facilities. It may emphasize its role as a logistics hub and security partner while seeking development assistance and avoiding being overwhelmed by rival military presences.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

21. Somalia

Somalia remains central to anti-piracy debates and Gulf of Aden security. It will seek capacity-building for coast guards, fisheries protection, sovereignty over maritime resources, and international support that does not ignore domestic governance challenges.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

22. Kenya

Kenya is an East African port and trade hub with interests in Mombasa, the Lamu corridor, blue economy development, anti-trafficking, and regional stability. It may support practical security and development clauses.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

23. Tanzania

Tanzania's Indian Ocean coastline, ports, gas resources, and regional trade routes make maritime stability important. It will likely emphasize development, fisheries, infrastructure, and non-aligned diplomacy.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

24. Mozambique

Mozambique has long coastlines, offshore gas, northern insurgency concerns, and exposure to cyclones. It will support maritime security, counterterrorism assistance, climate resilience, and responsible resource development.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

25. South Africa

South Africa controls the Cape of Good Hope route, which becomes more important when Red Sea/Suez routes are disrupted. It will support open trade, African agency, port modernization, and non-aligned diplomacy.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

26. Madagascar

Madagascar is a large island state with fisheries, biodiversity, climate, piracy-adjacent, and development concerns. It may support blue economy protections, anti-IUU fishing, and assistance for maritime surveillance.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

27. Mauritius

Mauritius is a small island developing state and financial/logistics actor. It will emphasize maritime law, climate adaptation, ocean governance, fisheries, and equitable development for island states.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

28. Seychelles

Seychelles has been active on blue economy and maritime security issues. It will prioritize fisheries protection, anti-piracy cooperation, climate resilience, and fair support for small island states.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

29. Comoros

Comoros is a vulnerable island state near key western Indian Ocean routes. It may focus on development finance, fisheries, disaster relief, climate adaptation, and protection from illicit maritime networks.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

30. France

France is an Indian Ocean power through overseas territories such as Reunion and Mayotte, and maintains regional military and maritime interests. It will support maritime security, environmental protection, EU-aligned rules, and cooperation with India and island states.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

31. United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has strategic interests through Diego Garcia and broader Indo-Pacific policy. It will support freedom of navigation, secure sea lanes, and allied coordination, while facing scrutiny over colonial legacies and sovereignty disputes.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

32. Japan

Japan depends heavily on Indian Ocean energy and trade routes. It will emphasize rules-based order, infrastructure quality, capacity-building, maritime safety, and cooperation with India, ASEAN, the United States, and Australia.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

33. South Korea

South Korea relies on open sea lanes for energy imports and exports. It may support anti-piracy, secure shipping, green ports, digital maritime systems, and practical cooperation that avoids direct confrontation.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

34. Russia

Russia will oppose Western-dominated maritime security arrangements and present itself as a supporter of multipolarity and sovereignty. It may seek naval access, partnerships with Iran or African states, and language limiting unilateral sanctions.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

35. Turkey

Turkey has growing Red Sea, Gulf, and East African interests and may seek a larger role in maritime security and infrastructure. It will support sovereignty, trade routes, and diplomatic flexibility while competing for influence.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

36. Qatar

Qatar depends on LNG exports through the Strait of Hormuz and wants stable sea lanes without regional war. It may promote mediation, energy security, and humanitarian diplomacy while maintaining balanced relations.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

37. Vietnam

Vietnam is not an Indian Ocean littoral state, but it is tied to Indo-Pacific sea lanes and wary of coercion by larger powers. It may support maritime law, ASEAN relevance, and freedom of navigation while avoiding overly anti-China language.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

38. Ethiopia

Ethiopia is landlocked but highly dependent on Red Sea and Gulf of Aden access through neighbors' ports. It may focus on trade corridors, port access, regional stability, and infrastructure that lowers transport costs.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

39. Eritrea

Eritrea's Red Sea coastline places it near Bab el-Mandeb and major shipping routes. It will emphasize sovereignty, port access, and suspicion of external interference, while others may raise concerns about militarization and regional tensions.

Research starters: trade dependence, energy imports/exports, port projects, naval or coast-guard capacity, maritime disputes, alliances, climate exposure, and recent statements on Indo-Pacific policy.

8. Likely Negotiating Blocs

Bloc	Likely Interests
Major maritime powers	India, China, United States, Australia, France, United Kingdom, Japan. These states will debate who sets the rules, who provides security, and how much military activity is acceptable.
Chokepoint and port states	Oman, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Djibouti, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka. These states control or depend on narrow passages and major ports.
Small island and climate-vulnerable states	Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, and others. These states will emphasize climate, fisheries, blue economy, and support against high shipping costs.
East African and western Indian Ocean states	Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Madagascar, Djibouti. These states may stress piracy, fisheries, port development, and African agency.
Non-aligned / sovereignty-first states	Many delegations may resist turning the Indian Ocean into a formal military bloc. They will emphasize development, sovereignty, and balanced partnerships.

9. Resolution-Building Guidance

Strong resolutions should move from broad principles to specific mechanisms. Students should consider the following architecture:

- Preambulatory clauses explaining why the Indian Ocean matters for trade, energy, climate, and security.
- Principles on freedom of navigation, sovereignty, international law, and peaceful dispute settlement.
- A maritime domain awareness mechanism, including voluntary information sharing and respect for national data controls.
- Capacity-building for coast guards, search and rescue, and anti-IUU fishing enforcement.
- Support for climate-resilient ports, disaster early warning, and oil-spill response.
- Guidelines for transparent, sustainable port and infrastructure finance.
- Protections for small island developing states and least developed coastal states facing higher shipping costs.
- A reporting mechanism or annual review through the UN, IORA, IMO, or a voluntary contact group.

10. In-Session Updates

Although this is not a crisis committee, the chair may introduce new information during debate. Updates may involve shipping disruptions, port investment announcements, piracy incidents, climate disasters, naval encounters, sanctions, insurance spikes, or new infrastructure proposals. Students should respond through speeches, amendments, caucus strategy, and revised resolution language rather than crisis directives.

11. Research Questions for Students

1. Where is your country located in relation to Indian Ocean trade routes and chokepoints?
2. Does your country import or export energy through the Indian Ocean?
3. Does your country have a navy, coast guard, or major port interests in the region?
4. How does your country view China, India, the United States, and Australia in the Indian Ocean?
5. Is your country more concerned with sovereignty, trade, security, climate, or development?
6. Would your country support maritime data sharing? Under what safeguards?
7. What position would your country take on foreign military bases and port access?
8. How vulnerable is your country to piracy, illegal fishing, trafficking, or maritime terrorism?
9. What kind of funding or technical assistance would your country request or provide?
10. What language could your delegation support in a final resolution?

12. Glossary

Term	Meaning
Blue economy	Use of ocean resources for economic growth, livelihoods, and jobs while preserving ocean health.
Chokepoint	A narrow passage through which major trade or energy flows must pass.
Freedom of navigation	The principle that ships may lawfully move through international waters and relevant straits under international law.
IUU fishing	Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.
Maritime domain awareness	The ability to detect, understand, and share information about activities at sea.
Sea lines of communication	Major maritime routes used for commercial, energy, and military movement.
Small island developing states	Island states with special vulnerability to climate change, import dependence, and limited economic scale.
UNCLOS	The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the core treaty framework for ocean governance.

13. Selected Sources for Student Research

- UN Trade and Development, Review of Maritime Transport 2024: Navigating maritime chokepoints.
- Indian Ocean Rim Association, official priority areas and focus areas.
- U.S. Energy Information Administration, background on the Strait of Hormuz as a critical oil chokepoint.
- International Maritime Organization, maritime safety, security, and shipping regulation resources.
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea text and explanatory materials.
- Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region public materials and maritime security updates.
- Country foreign ministry, defense ministry, and port authority websites for current national positions.