

DRAFT RESOLUTION IOC-31/[3.7]

Submitted by India, USA, Colombia, Russian Federation, Germany, Brazil, Morocco.

Portugal, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Uruguay, Kenya and Philippines.

Agenda item 3.7.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

1. **Recalling** IOC Assembly [Resolution XXIX-1](#) proposing the establishment of an international (UN) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), the subsequent proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its 72nd session through Resolution [A/RES/72/73](#) (therein the Decade), and the invitation to the IOC to prepare an implementation plan for the Decade in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes, and bodies of the United Nations (UN), as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders,
2. **Further recalling** IOC Assembly [Resolution XXX-1](#) on Progress Report on the Preparation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the call on IOC by the UNGA through Resolution [A/RES/74/19](#) to:
 - (i) continue to provide information on the development of the implementation plan and present it to the UNGA at its 75th session,

- (ii) regularly consult with, and report to, (UN) Member States on the Decade and its implementation,
3. **Also further recalling** the consultation with IOC Member States in 2020 on the modalities of completion and submission of the Decade Implementation Plan (DIP) to the UNGA at its 75th session and that the UNGA through Resolution [A/RES/75/239](#) welcomed the steps taken by IOC in the preparation of the Implementation Plan and took note with appreciation of that Plan (para 304),
4. **Noting** [IOC Resolution EC-53/1](#) on Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030),
5. **Welcoming** the Report on the Implementation of the UN Ocean Decade (Document [IOC/A-31/3.7.Doc\(2\)](#)) and, in particular, the outcomes of the global consultation meetings, regional workshops, the inclusive review process of the DIP by Member States, members of UN-Oceans, and stakeholders, the engagement activities with UN and non-UN ocean stakeholders, as well as the launch of the 1st Call for Actions under the Decade;
6. **Expressing** confidence in the IOC Secretariat's ability to continue coordinating the Decade during its implementation phase (2021–2030) in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes, and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders;

Part I

Decade Coordination matters

7. **Takes note** of the DIP as the basis for launching the Decade and establishing the governance arrangements and engagement mechanisms described therein;

8. **Acknowledges** the outcome of the 1st Call for Action and the endorsed Decade Programmes as presented in Document [IOC/INF-1417](#);
9. **Supports** the establishment of the Decade Coordination Unit (DCU) within the IOC Secretariat as the primary mechanism to achieve orderly, impactful, inclusive and effective implementation of the Decade;
10. **Invites** institutional partners to act as Decade Collaborative Centres or Decade Implementing Partners on the basis of the guidance provided in Document [IOC/2021/ODS/23](#) and **requests** the IOC Secretariat to report to IOC Governing Bodies on the establishment of such arrangements;
11. **Invites** Member States and partners to:
 - (i) provide voluntary financial contributions to support the work of the IOC Secretariat in coordinating the Decade including in-kind support such as staff loans and secondments to the DCU;
 - (ii) offer to host and fund Decade Actions, Decade Coordination Offices, and Decade Collaborative Centres as described in the DIP;
 - (iii) establish national multi-stakeholder Decade coordination mechanisms with a view to stimulating national activities and international cooperation; and
 - (iv) host regional or international Decade stakeholders events, including in the context of the International Ocean Decade Conference Series.
12. **Further invites** UN-Oceans partners, UN Member States, international scientific and academic organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to support the Decade, and contribute to its implementation by proposing Decade Actions in accordance with the DIP;

13. **Thanks** the Governments of Canada, the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Kingdom of Belgium (Government of Flanders), Norway, Sweden, Portugal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, and the People's Republic of China as well as REV-Ocean for their financial contribution to the Decade and further **thanks** Germany for their hosting of the High Level Launch of the Ocean Decade – First International Ocean Decade Conference, and the UN Ocean Decade Laboratories;

Part II

Establishment of the Decade Advisory Board

14. **Thanks** members of the Decade Executive Planning Group for their work in supporting the preparation phase of the Decade in 2018–2020 and for acting as *Interim Decade Advisory Board* in 2021 in accordance with the revised terms of reference of the group adopted by IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session through Resolution EC-53/1;
15. **Approves** the terms of reference for the Decade Advisory Board as presented in the Annex therein, including the selection process of its members envisaged for the balanced constitution of such a group, to be established under the coordination of the IOC Executive Secretary;

Part III

IOC Contribution to the Decade

16. **Emphasizes** the unique position of IOC to make a substantial contribution to the Decade through the implementation of High-Level Objectives (HLOs) as reflected in its Draft IOC Medium Term Strategy for 2022–2029 (41 C/4) and Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 (41 C/5);
17. **Works closely** and in concert with IOCAFRICA Member States, the GOOS-AFRICA Regional Alliance, the African Union, and specialized African institutions, to ensure that

the implementation of the Decade in Africa contributes to the priorities of the Decade of African Seas and Oceans (2015–2025);

18. **Further works** through multi-stakeholder collaboration and IOC's regional subsidiary bodies to ensure that the tangible initiatives and endeavours that will be implemented will mobilize support towards Small Island Developing States (SIDS), enable them to achieve their ocean-related 2030 Agenda priorities and contribute to the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway;
19. **Invites** IOC Subsidiary Bodies, relevant IOC governance structures, and relevant UNESCO Category 2 Centres to continue identifying programmatic contributions to the Decade during the intersessional period;
20. **Welcomes** the active role of the IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies in facilitating Decade regional coordination and engagement activities;
21. **Supports** the registration or planned registration of IOC-led Decade Actions, specifically:
 - (i) "Ocean Observing Co-Design" Programme by the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), which will build the process, infrastructure and tools for ocean observing co-design necessary to support the Decade;
 - (ii) "Observing Together" Programme by GOOS, which will transform ocean data access and availability by connecting ocean observers and the communities they serve through enhanced support to both new and existing community-scale projects;
 - (iii) the establishment of a Decade Tsunami Programme aimed at achieving transformational advances in tsunami detection, observing and warning, including tsunamis generated by non-seismic sources, making 100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030

through the implementation of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Programme, as reflected in decision Dec. A-31/3.4.1 of the Assembly;

- (iv) the “Ocean Literacy With All (OLWA)” Programme to respond to priorities identified in the Ocean Decade Ocean Literacy Action Framework (Document [IOC/2021/ODS/22](#)); and
- (v) “Ocean Practices for the Decade” as a Programme connected to the IODE-GOOS Ocean Best Practices System;
- (vi) the registration of Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS), Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS), OceanTeacher Global Academy (OTGA), World Ocean Database (WOD), and Pacific islands Marine bioinvasions Alert Network (PacMAN) as Ocean Decade Actions;

22. **Further invites** Member States, partners, and donor organizations to support these Decade Actions including through allocation of extra-budgetary resources to relevant IOC programmes to achieve their transformative ambitions, guide their respective communities, and act as a catalyser of further actions within and beyond the Decade.

Annex 1 to [Resolution IOC-31/\[3.7\]](#)

Advisory Board of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the Decade Advisory Board)

Terms of Reference

The Advisory Board of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the “Decade Advisory Board”) is established as a technical advisory body to the Secretariat and Governing Bodies of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

Role of the Decade Advisory Board

The Decade Advisory Board is responsible for providing direct advice to the IOC Executive Secretary on the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (‘the Ocean Decade’) over its ten-year implementation phase (2021–2030) with a focus on the endorsement of Decade Actions and scoping of Calls for Decade Actions, and reports to IOC Governing Bodies on strategic matters related to implementation of the Ocean Decade. Specifically, and in accordance with the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan, the Decade Advisory Board will:

- (i) Review and make recommendations to the IOC Executive Secretary on the endorsement of Decade Programmes;
- (ii) Advise the IOC Executive Secretary on the scope of Calls for Actions under the Decade to support the mobilisation of proponents worldwide;
- (iii) Review the regular resource needs assessments prepared by the Decade Coordination Unit and recommend approaches for resource mobilisation and support outreach efforts to potential funders, including Member States, multilateral development banks, climate financing mechanisms, philanthropic foundations, and the private sector in order to help create the enabling environment needed to achieve the ambitions of the Decade;
- (iv) Advise on the engagement and outreach strategy of the Decade in order to help catalyse high-level interest and engagement among key stakeholders, including leaders from Member States, UN Agencies, business, civil society and academia to ensure that the scientific outputs of the Decade support the successful achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- (v) Advise on the regular reviews to be undertaken subject to decision by IOC Governing Bodies, during the implementation phase, including review of the scientific objectives and orientations of the Implementation Plan, annual progress reports, and the mid-term and final reviews, and make recommendations on the results of such reviews, as requested;
- (vi) Advise on the engagement of relevant communities regarding contributions to the objectives of the Decade, with priority given to engaging early career ocean professionals and disadvantaged groups and regions and to the science-policy interface;
- (vii) Monitor the progress and review the outputs of any working groups established by the IOC Secretariat related to structural and cross-cutting operational elements of the Decade Implementation Plan;
- (viii) Provide information to the IOC Executive Secretary to enable his reporting to the IOC Governing Bodies;
- (ix) Report as needed to the Governing Bodies in relation to strategic issues.

Chairing of the Decade Advisory Board

The Decade Advisory Board will appoint two Co-chairs amongst its members, ideally one representing the science fields and another one representing the societal end-users of the Decade. The Co-chairs will be appointed by the IOC Executive Secretary for one year with the possibility of a second one-year term.

Decision-making process and organization of work

The Decade Advisory Board will strive for consensus on all issues in providing recommendations and advice to the IOC Executive Secretary. The minutes of the meeting will record any instances when consensus was not reached.

The working language of the Board will be English. No interpretation will be provided.

Decade Advisory Board Composition

The Decade Advisory Board will comprise up to 15 expert members serving in their individual capacity drawn from government, private sector, philanthropy, civil society, and the scientific community, as well as representatives of UN Agencies. In total, the Decade Advisory Board should not exceed 20 members, including Expert members and UN representatives. Expert members will be nominated through open calls for nominations. The calls will be circulated through the following means:

- IOC Member States via IOC Circular Letters;
- Relevant UN bodies via UN-Oceans;
- Scientific networks using formal and informal communication mechanisms;
- Dedicated ocean policy, business, and sustainable development networks through announcements; and
- The Ocean Decade and IOC website.

Proposals for nominations can be made by IOC-UNESCO and United Nations Member States or United Nations entities, as well as intergovernmental organizations. Self-nomination will also be possible to encourage nominations from non-governmental entities.

Expert members will be selected with due consideration to expertise, geographic, generational, and gender balance and will serve on a voluntary basis in their personal capacities. Decade Advisory Board members do not represent their institutions or countries. They should be able to commit sufficient time to the work of the Decade Advisory Board and will take the responsibility to request the authorization of their employer to participate in this process.

Membership on the Decade Advisory Board will be for a two-year term, renewable for a second mandate. Members' terms will be staggered to ensure there is information exchange and mentoring between current and new Board members. Operational procedures for this process will be defined with the Board and its co-chairs.

Each Member shall comply with the Conflict of Interest guidelines to be prepared by the Secretariat and notify the Decade Coordination Unit with respect to any such potential conflicts.

A Selection Panel convened by the IOC Executive Secretary and composed of the IOC Chair and elected IOC Officers representing the five IOC electoral groups, with the technical support of the Decade Coordination Unit, will be tasked with selecting the members of the Decade Advisory Board.

The Selection Panel will ensure that the proposed members have sufficient skills, knowledge, influence and impartiality regarding the vision and objectives of the Decade and are able to undertake the work outlined in the terms of reference. Their skills and expertise should cover at least one of the following areas:

- (i) Intergovernmental processes and coordination;
- (ii) The ocean aspects of sustainable development;
- (iii) Ocean science (natural / social dimensions);
- (iv) Science-policy / decision / end-user interface and engagement;
- (v) Ocean Economy / finance/ partnerships;
- (vi) Innovation / technology/ infrastructure development;

- (vii) Capacity development, training and transfer of marine technology, education, communications and outreach; and/or
- (viii) Development of large-scale multi/inter-disciplinary international programmes / projects.

UN Agencies representation on the Decade Advisory Board

UN Legal Counsel/DOALOS, which is the Secretariat and focal point of UN-Oceans and the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea, will have one permanent seat on the Decade Advisory Board. The IOC Secretariat as coordinator of the Decade will also have a permanent seat on the Board. Three more seats will be reserved for UN Agencies and will be identified through consultations via UN-Oceans.

Secretariat of the Decade Advisory Board

The Decade Coordination Unit located within the IOC Secretariat will be the Secretariat for the Decade Advisory Board.

Meetings of the Decade Advisory Board

The Decade Advisory Board shall meet four (4) times per year, with at least one (1) in presentia meeting annually when possible. Additional in-person or virtual meetings will be held as necessary. The Co-chairs of the Decade Advisory Board will be primarily responsible for the development of the Board Meeting Agenda and directing the Decade Advisory Board meetings. All Decade Advisory Board Members can recommend agenda items. The Decade Advisory Board may invite external experts as needed to address specific issues or tasks. The decision to invite these external experts would be a decision of the Board.

Minutes of the Board meetings will be developed and distributed by the Secretariat for the Decade Advisory Board. These will be made public on the Ocean Decade website. Expert Members of the Decade Advisory Board are expected to attend all meetings of the Board in person, without replacement.