

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)

Fourteenth Intergovernmental Session of  
the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIV)

4–7 April 2023, Jakarta, Indonesia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 48.3, [the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific](#) (WESTPAC), as a primary Subsidiary Body of the IOC, is required to report to a Governing Body on its sessions.

The IOC Assembly at its Thirty-second Session will be invited to consider this Executive Summary. For more detailed information on the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Session of [WESTPAC](#), please refer to its website at <https://ioc-westpac.org/event/westpac-xiv/#/>

1. [The Fourteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific](#) (WESTPAC-XIV) was held onsite from 4 to 7 April 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia, with the Agenda given in **Annex I**. The Session was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, through its National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), and attended by more than 100 delegates from 14 Member States in the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas.
2. H.E. Laksana T. Handoko, Chairman of the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia, addressed and officially opened the session. Mego Pinandito, Deputy Chairperson for Policy Development, BRIN; Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC Executive Secretary & Assistant Director-General of UNESCO; and Kentaro Ando, Co-Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, delivered their remarks. A keynote about the blue economy by H.E. Vivi Yulaswati, Deputy Chairperson of the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning, set the stage for the subsequent session discussions.
3. It was the first in-person Intergovernmental Session that the Sub-Commission convened since the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020. Considering the central role of the ocean in the post-pandemic recovery effort, and that [the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-2030\)](#) (hereinafter referred to as “Ocean Decade”) enters its third year, the session brought together national competent authorities, marine scientific communities and other relevant ocean stakeholders in the region, aiming to further foster ocean science-policy interface, advance ocean science and innovative technologies in the post-pandemic era, and ultimately accelerate the development of ocean-based solutions for a sustainable ocean and economy.
4. Member States reviewed the major advances that the Sub-Commission has made in the past intersessional period, deliberated the Sub-Commission’s engagement and contributions to the

UN Ocean Decade, established new initiatives addressing the emerging ocean issues, and agreed to take concerted actions over the next intersessional period in the region.

5. On 5 April 2023, the Sub-Commission convened [A Senior Governmental Officials Roundtable](#) (SGOs Roundtable), as a follow-up to [the high-level commitments at the UN Ocean Decade Regional Kickoff Conference for the Western Pacific](#) (25–26 November 2021). The senior officials from national competent agencies in the region came together, shared their progress, and exchanged views on the development and implementation of the Ocean Decade in the region. The SGOs Roundtable finally culminated in the adoption of [an SGOs Joint Statement](#) (2023 SGOs Jakarta Statement). In addition, a side event - [National Decade Committees Forum](#) was held to share experiences and lessons learned in the NDC development and discuss how NDCs could further demonstrate their value in the Ocean Decade.

6. Throughout the session, Member States expressed their immense support for the tireless effort of the Sub-Commission in assisting countries to address their development challenges, and for its leading role in the region in mobilizing support and actions for the Ocean Decade. Recognizing the pivotal role of the WESTPAC Office in the overall development, implementation, coordination, and organization of the WESTPAC activities, **the Sub-Commission expressed its deep concern over the understaffed and overstretched situation of the Office.** It strongly encouraged Member States to consider the possibility of providing human or financial resources to the Office in order to sustain the momentum of the Sub-Commission and provide impetus for the Ocean Decade.

#### **Part I. WESTPAC major advances over the last intersessional period**

7. It has been evidenced that the Sub-Commission has been co-designing and co-implementing with its Member States a wide range of programmes and activities over the last intersessional period, to address the IOC High-Level Objectives and commonly identified ocean priorities of Member States in the region, namely: ocean and climate change; marine biodiversity conservation, ecosystem and public health; and capacity development.

8. Its key programmes include two regional GOOS (NEAR-GOOS and SEAGOOS), a regional network of Training and Research Centers on Marine Sciences (RTRCs) including five Regional Training and Research Centers (RTRCs), sixteen programmes/projects, and four working groups. They focused on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions, Asian marginal seas, Indo-Pacific Convergent Center, ocean acidification, ocean deoxygenation, coastal upwelling, fluvial sediment to the South China Sea, coral reef restoration and conservation, harmful algal blooms, remote sensing application, marine toxins and seafood safety, marine plastic pollution, harmful jellyfish, gas hydrates and methane fluxes, respectively.

9. Some of them have formed concrete regional components of the IOC and related global programmes and efforts, such as GOOS, IP-HAB, GOA-ON, GO2NE, as well as the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015-2023). The major accomplishments over the last intersessional period could be summarized below:

#### **Mobilizing support and actions for the UN Ocean Decade**

10. The Sub-Commission has been taking the lead in the region, motivating and engaging experts, institutions, and countries in the preparation and development of the Ocean Decade. In addition to providing technical and strategic support to Member States, the Sub-Commission develops, coordinates, mobilizes, and implements the Ocean Decade related Actions and activities, including the Ocean Decade Kick-off Conference for the region.

11. [The UN Ocean Decade Kick-off Conference for the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas](#) (25-26 November 2021, online), organized by the Sub-Commission and hosted by the Government of Thailand with the participation of nearly three thousand participants coming from

various ocean communities, featured high-level [commitments from national governments and UN agencies](#), ocean stakeholder roundtable dialogue, and [seventeen Decade Action Incubators](#). The event represented the beginning of the region-wide efforts in the development of substantive Decade Actions.

12. Following the Sub-Commission's decision made at [the last session](#) (WESTPAC-XIII, 27-29 April 2021, online), the Government of Thailand officially made an offer to IOC to host a Decade Coordination Office, as an extension of the current WESTPAC Office which they have been hosting since 1994, with a mandate to develop, coordinate and implement Decade Actions in the region. The Offer was accepted in June 2022 as reflected through the IOC Resolution EC-55/1 at the 55th Session of the IOC Executive Council (UNESCO, Paris, 14-17 June 2022).

13. Meanwhile, the Sub-Commission co-developed with the Member States four proposals which were officially registered in April 2022 as UN Decade Actions. The four Actions include three Decade Projects: UN 21-“Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific”; UN 22-“Stem the tide of Asia's riverine plastic emission into the ocean”; and UN 23-“Accelerating capacity development transformations in the Western Pacific - Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science”; and one Decade Programme: UN 24- “Second Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions – from its sciences to human well-being.” The four Actions have started their implementation in consultation with interested countries, institutions, and partners.

### **Delivering knowledge and services to serve the needs of Member States to address ocean sustainability challenges**

14. The prolonged pandemic presents an opportunity for the Sub-Commission to demonstrate its value in taking an adaptive approach to programme implementation. Considering the varying COVID-19 development and preventive measures in different countries, WESTPAC deployed and further intensified its effort in developing and implementing country-specific activities to serve the needs of IOC Member States in the region for ocean sustainability. Positive progress in the past intersessional period could be demonstrated by:

- *Minimizing and addressing the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels; with [an international calibration exercise on pH and Total Alkalinity Measurement](#) conducted in May-November 2022 involving 19 laboratories from 9 countries in the region, and tailored national ocean acidification technical training and stakeholder engagement workshops developed and organized in Malaysia (Penang, 20-22 September 2022), Vietnam (Nha Trang, 13-15 October 2022), and Thailand (Phuket, 2-4 November 2022);*
- *Advancing the application of remote sensing for sustainable development, with [an International Webinar Series on “Advancing the application of remote sensing for sustainable development of ocean, marine and coastal resources”](#) organized from 22 November to 20 December 2022 to explore the possibility of developing a long-term cooperative programme, and the demonstration of remote sensing application to coastal habitat mapping for Thailand authority in 2021-2022;*
- *Delivering knowledge and outreach services on harmful jellyfish for public health, with a Field Guide to the Jellyfish of Western Pacific published in March 2021, and a [General Management Guide for Harmful Jellyfish Stings in the Western Pacific and Adjacent Areas](#) published in December 2022 as a practical knowledge collection about the occurrence of harmful jellyfish and first-aid practices for jellyfish stings in the Western Pacific;*

- *Accelerating marine spatial planning in the Western Pacific*, with the first-ever [Regional MSPforum](#) organized on 16 December 2022, together with IOC Paris, marking the beginning of the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade Action 21: Accelerating MSP in the Western Pacific and adjacent areas;
- *Supporting coral reef marine protected area (MPAs) management*, with the development of an integrated coral reef monitoring manual to improve Vietnam's monitoring and assessment capacity for MPA management effectiveness in supporting fisheries recruitment and tourism services.

### **Bolstering institutional and human capacity for sustainable development of ocean, marine, and coastal resources**

15. To assist Member States in achieving SDG 14 and contribute to the implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015-2023), the Sub-Commission endeavors to accelerate transformations in capacity development through the integration of training and research, enhancement of endogenous capabilities and ownership of Member States, and the well-established mutual assistance and cooperation in the region. Due to the prolonged pandemic, WESTPAC continued its adapted capacity development modality focusing on tailored training at local/national levels.

16. The Sub-Commission continues to implement the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2023), and fulfill its voluntary commitment to the UN Ocean Conference-“Develop research capacity and transfer of marine technology through the UNESCO/IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science” (#OceanAction15266), and the UN Decade Action 23: “Accelerating capacity development transformations in the Western Pacific - Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science”. Over the last intersessional period, the Regional Training and Research Centre on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (RTRC-MarBEST) in Indonesia organized its [6th International Training on Mangrove Monitoring](#) (29 October- 6 November 2021, virtual), in partnership with the Coral Reel Rehabilitation and Management Program -Coral Triangle Initiative (COREMAP-CTI), UNDP, and the Archipelagic & Island States (AIS) Forum. The Regional Training and Research Centre on Ocean Dynamics and Climate (RTRC-ODC) conducted its 10th International training on the regional application of coupled climate models online from 5–16 July 2021. The Regional Training and Research Center on Coral Reef Restoration and MPAs in the Philippines just organized [a training workshop on Coral Larval Reseeding](#), 1-11 April 2023. Meanwhile, another two RTRCs, namely on Marine Toxin and Food Security, and Plastic Marine Debris and Microplastics, have taken the pandemic as an opportunity to co-design with other stakeholders and partners their training modules and plans. They shall soon receive young scientists from within and outside the region.

17. The RTRCs initiative gained wide recognition and support from Member States in the region. In mid-2022, a proposal was made by the City University of Hong Kong for a Regional Training and Research Centre on Marine Pollution Monitoring and Assessment. The Sub-Commission conducted a feasibility study to assess the host institution's technical and operational capacities. Once the evaluation is completed with satisfactory results, the new RTRC will provide new training and research opportunities to other developing countries in the region, and even beyond.

18. Meanwhile, the Sub-Commission continuously demonstrates its unique value for IOC in turning COVID-19 into an opportunity to address Member States' specific needs. Since June 2021, technical assistance has been provided to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Viet Nam to enhance their research capacity for ocean acidification, coastal habitat mapping, coral reef restoration and monitoring, and jellyfish identification.

19. To improve the regional and national capacity for molecular techniques for resources management and biodiversity conservation, in late 2019 the Sub-Commission [kicked off the third phase of a UNESCO/Korean Funds in Trust project “Enhance the Capacity for Species Identification and Genetic Analysis on Marine Organisms in the Coral Reef Ecosystems in the Western Pacific.”](#) In addition, WESTPAC has been implementing a UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust project aiming to accelerate the transfer of marine technology for marine biodiversity conservation and seafood safety, particularly on coastal habitat conservation, marine toxins and seafood safety, and other hotspot biodiversity-related issues, such as the impact of ocean acidification and climate change, and coral reef restoration.

20. **The Sub-Commission expressed** its appreciation to various national and international partners, including research communities/academia, governments, business and private sectors, international organizations, NGOs and civil society, youth, and foundations, for their active engagement in, and contribution to a number of activities that the Sub-Commission conducted, in particular to:

- The Government of Thailand, through its Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, for the provision of office space and facilities for the WESTPAC Office and Decade Coordination *Office*, and for having hosted the UN Ocean Decade Kick-off Conference for the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas;
- The Government of Indonesia, through its National Research and Innovation Agency, for hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> *Intergovernmental Session*, 4-7 April 2023, and the Regional Training and Research Center on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health with annual training having been provided since 2016;
- The Government of China for hosting the Regional Training and Research Center on Ocean Dynamics and *Climate* (Ministry of Natural Resources and its First Institute of Oceanography) with its annual training having been provided since 2011, and the Regional Training and Research Center on Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics (East China Normal University);
- The Governments of the Philippines and Vietnam for hosting the Regional Training and Research Center on Coral Reef Restoration and MPAs (University of the Philippines Diliman), and Marine Toxin and Seafood Safety (Institute of Oceanography), respectively;
- Member States for their in-cash support, such as China via its voluntary contribution to the IOC Special Account, Japan via the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust, and the Republic of Korea via the UNESCO/Korean Funds-in-Trust. Significant in-kind support was also provided by *China*, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, the USA, and Viet Nam for various WESTPAC programmes and activities;

<p><b>Part II. Key results from the 14th Intergovernmental Session</b>  <b>(4–7 April 2023, Jakarta, Indonesia)</b></p>
---

### **WESTPAC Programme Enhancement and New Working Groups**

21. While underscoring the need for the Sub-Commission’s programmes and activities to assist Member States in addressing their sustainability challenges, Member States expressed their support for the ongoing endeavors of the Sub-Commission to “make ocean science more relevant.” **The Sub-Commission decided** to continue its programme enhancement efforts to further enhance programme quality delivery, efficiency, and impacts. **It was, therefore, decided** that the evaluation

of the “stakeholder engagement” and “findings into actions” be incorporated as part of its future programme enhancement efforts.

22. Recognizing the importance of ocean data and information exchange among Member States in the region and beyond, the Sub-Commission actively participated in the revision of the IOC Oceanographic Exchange Policy, and will continuously take a pragmatic approach to facilitate data and information exchange and implement the revised IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy, which is expected to be approved at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IOC Assembly in June 2023.

23. **The Sub-Commission highlighted** the development success of the “WESTPAC Working Group” as an effective mechanism for facilitating experts, institutions, and countries in the region to deliberate on emerging ecological, social, and economic concerns/issues. In response to the growing interest in the issues emerging over recent years, **the Sub-Commission decided** to establish four Working Groups as follows, with a lifetime of two to four years.

- Working Group on Small Island Research and Development (SIRaD). Given the urgent need to understand the present state of the unique island ecosystems and the impact of development, the Group aims to analyze the impacts of development activities on ecosystem services of small islands in the Western Pacific and share good practices for small island development and conservation. The Sub-Commission further designated Zainal Arifin from the National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia to serve as the WG Chair;
- Working Group on Blue Carbon Actions in the Western Pacific. Given the increasing role of coastal blue carbon ecosystems in climate change mitigation and adaption, and disparate research in the region, the Group will promote blue carbon research and practices, and further advance the understanding of blue carbon among policymakers, specialists, and the public. The Sub-Commission designated Peng Zhao, an Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP), from Hainan University, China to serve as the WG Chair;
- Working Group on Advancing Marine Citizen Science: Act Local to Go Regional. It aims to promote citizen science and raise ocean literacy amongst the general public. The Sub-Commission designated Yuki Minegishi from the University of Tokyo, Japan, and Abe Woo Sau Pinn from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia to serve as the WG Co-Chairs;
- Working Group on Traditional and Local Knowledge. It aims to promote and incorporate traditional and local knowledge of the ocean, particularly in coastal communities, into Ocean Literacy Actions. The Sub-Commission designated Tukul Rameyo Adi from the National Decade Committee, Indonesia to serve as the WG Chair.

24. While noting with great satisfaction that our ECOPs from the region have begun to play an active role in advancing ocean science development and cooperation, **the Sub-Commission encouraged** all Member States to engage their appropriate experts and institutions in the development of the four new working groups and to consider utilizing the WG mechanism to address national and international concerns.

25. In consideration of the regional characteristics and common interests of the Member States, **the Sub-Commission has decided** to continuously employ adaptive and integrated approaches to capacity development, with guiding principles tailored to suit national and regional needs and co-design and co-develop activities with the Member States.

26. The Initiative of “the Development of an IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers on Marine Sciences in the Western Pacific” has gained wide recognition and support from Member States in the region, **the Sub-Commission expressed** sincere appreciation to the City University of Hong Kong for its willingness and the proposal it submitted to host a Regional Training and Research Center on Coastal Contaminant Monitoring and Marine Innovative Technologies (RTRC-Coastal COMMIT). The proposed RTRC aims to support countries, particularly the developing nations in the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas, in enhancing their research capacities in monitoring coastal contaminants through knowledge exchange and technology transfer. Its key focus areas include chemical contaminant monitoring, phycotoxin-producing algal species monitoring, and underwater survey technologies.

27. The proposal was received in mid-2022 and further revised upon the preliminary review by the WESTPAC Advisory Group in October 2022 in consultation with relevant partners and stakeholders in the region. A fact-finding mission was conducted in early 2023, with an evaluation summary presented to the current session. Having reviewed the excellent evaluation results, **the Sub-Commission expressed** its overall satisfaction with the host institution’s outstanding scientific competence, research and training facilities, and operational and management capacity. Therefore, the Sub-Commission unanimously approved the City University of Hong Kong to host the RTRC on Coastal Contaminant Monitoring and Marine Innovative Technologies (RTRC-Coastal COMMIT).

28. Meanwhile, **the Sub-Commission took note** with appreciation of the offer by Indonesia to host a Regional Training and Research Center on Ocean Literacy. Further communication will be conducted with Indonesia regarding pertinent requirements, processes, and feasibility studies with the progress to be reported to the next Session in 2025.

29. Member States highlighted the important role of the WESTPAC Advisory Group in providing scientific and technical advice on the development, planning, and implementation of the activities of the Sub-Commission. While recognizing the ever-increasing demands for the Group against the rapid development of the Sub-Commission, **the Sub-Commission decided** to recruit more suitable experts to the Group shortly after the session, taking into account gender balance, geographical representation, and the involvement of ECOPs.

#### **WESTPAC efforts in the UN Ocean Decade and SDG 14**

30. Member States highly commended the tremendous efforts and great progress that the Sub-Commission has made in assisting member states towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the SDG 14: Life below water. Considering that globally SDG 14 is one of the most difficult goals to achieve, **the Sub-Commission decided to** form an informal and open-ended Task Force on SDG 14, comprised of national experts, in particular those who have been involved in the monitoring and review of SDG 14 implementation at the national level, with a general mandate to conduct a synthesis on national SDG 14 implementation status, challenges and constraints for achieving the Goal, and, if possible, come up with concrete suggestions on what the Sub-Commission can do to further assist Member States in the region to achieve the SDG 14. Shortly after the Session, a circular letter with a clearly-defined Terms of Reference will be sent out for identification and nominations.

31. Member States expressed their unanimous support to the Sub-Commission for taking the initiative to establish the “Senior Governmental Officials Roundtable” (SGOs Roundtable), as a regular mechanism among national competent agencies in the region to strengthen ocean science-policy interface, review the progress, exchange perspectives, and discuss challenges and opportunities related to the development and implementation of substantive Ocean Decade Actions in the region.

32. **The Sub-Commission welcomed** the adoption of the first-ever [SGOs Roundtable Joint Statement \(SGOs Jakarta Statement\)](#), and **further decided** to form an informal and open-ended

Discussion Group on SGOs Roundtable, comprising the 2023 SGOs Roundtable chair country, the chair country for the next SGOs Roundtable, WESTPAC Advisory Group, WESTPAC Office, and any other countries who are interested, to discuss the preparations and organization of the next SGOs Roundtable, which is supposed to take place in early 2025.

33. Regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Decade Regional Conference in conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference, **the Sub-Commission expressed** its appreciation to the Government of Thailand for its firm commitment to hosting the two events on 22-25 April 2024, Bangkok, as well as the preparations made so far. The 1<sup>st</sup> Announcement is expected to be made in early May 2023, and an International Planning Committee is to be formed as soon as possible.

34. **The Sub-Commission noted with great pleasure** that four WESTPAC-led Decade Actions have taken a co-designed, solution-oriented approach to their development and implementation, and expected more Decade Actions could be developed over the next intersessional period based on the common interests of Member States. Furthermore, **the Sub-Commission is encouraged** to establish, if needed, meaningful partnerships with other UN Decade Actions (programmes and projects), especially those which have a focus on the region and are willing to join the collective efforts addressing priority issues in the region.

35. To share its efforts and gain valuable experience in Ocean Decade from others, **the Sub-Commission decided** to organize a side event on WESTPAC in the Ocean Decade, during the upcoming 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IOC Assembly (21-30 June 2023), subject to the availability of the venue and the overall logistical arrangements by IOC Paris.

#### **WESTPAC Programme and Budget (May 2023–April 2025)**

36. The Sub-Commission has been conducting most of its activities via extra-budgetary support from Member States in the region, either in kind or in cash. The draft Programme and Budget for May 2023 to April 2025, with a total budget estimate of USD3.4 M, was prepared based on the preliminarily planned activities by the WESTPAC Office, programmes/projects, working groups, and Regional Training and Research Centers. The budget estimate was presented in three forms: (a) regular budget allotted from IOC; (b) in cash extra budget to be raised from Member States, and (c) in-kind contribution from Member States in support of WESTPAC programmes and activities.

37. Given the limited regular budget from IOC, the WESTPAC Programme and Budget has served in practice as a guide on the activities that the Sub-Commission would like to jointly promote and seek funding from various sources in support of their implementation. It was informed that only USD100K will probably be secured from the IOC Regular Budget for the Sub-Commission over the next biennium, 2024–2025. Despite the UN Ocean Decade, there is no prospect for the Sub-Commission to receive an increased regular budget from IOC and UNESCO. In this regard, as before, most of the activities of the Sub-Commission from May 2023 to April 2025 will have to be carried out via extrabudgetary support from Member States, either in cash or in kind.

38. **The Sub-Commission expressed** its great gratitude to the WESTPAC Office for its unwavering efforts in resource mobilization and programme development, **and further urged** all Member States to consider any possibility of providing and increasing their financial or human resource support either for programme delivery or for the operation of the Office,

39. **The Sub-Commission adopted** [the WESTPAC Programme and Budget for May 2023 to April 2025](#), with an understanding that the workplan will likely be subject to further adjustments due to the ever-changing situation brought about by funding opportunities. (reference document IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIV/10)



### **Election of WESTPAC Officers**

40. **The Sub-Commission elected**, by acclamation, Kentaro Ando from Japan as Chairperson; Aileen Tan Shau Hwai from Malaysia as the first Vice-Chairperson, and Faldi Syamsudin from Indonesia as the second Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Commission for the next intersessional period.

### **Date and place of the next session**

41. **The Sub-Commission accepted** with great appreciation the kind offer of Japan to host the 15th Intergovernmental session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) in March or April 2025.

## ANNEX I

### AGENDA

#### 1. OPENING

- 1.1 WELCOME REMARKS
- 1.2 KEYNOTE

#### 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

- 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- 2.2 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION

#### 3. STATUTORY REPORTS

- 3.1 STATEMENT OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS
- 3.2 REPORT BY THE HEAD OF WESTPAC OFFICE ON INTERSESSIONAL PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING THE OPERATION OF THE WESTPAC OFFICE AND DECADE COORDINATION OFFICE
- 3.3 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UNESCO, THE IOC, AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO WESTPAC-UPDATE BY THE IOC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

#### 4. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 CONTRIBUTION OF WESTPAC TO COUNTRIES' IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs, IN PARTICULAR, SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER
- 4.2 CONTRIBUTION OF WESTPAC TO THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE.
  - 4.2.1 **UN Ocean Decade global development**
  - 4.2.2 **WESTPAC led Decade Actions and Decade Coordination Office**
    - WESTPAC effort and the Decade Coordination Office for the region
    - UN21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas
    - UN22: Stem the tide of Asia's riverine plastic emission into the ocean
    - UN23: Accelerating transformations in capacity development in the Western Pacific - Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Sciences
    - UN 24: Explore the strongest ocean current in the Western Pacific: the 2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions
- 4.3 PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND UN OCEAN DECADE REGIONAL CONFERENCE & THE ELEVENTH WESTPAC INTERNATIONAL MARINE SCIENCE CONFERENCE (SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 2024, BANGKOK, THAILAND)
- 4.4 SENIOR GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS ROUNDTABLE ON THE UN OCEAN DECADE

- 5. REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS, AND WORKING GROUPS FOR MAY 2021–APRIL 2023**
  - 5.1 OCEAN-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE
  - 5.2 MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, OCEAN ECOSYSTEM AND HUMAN HEALTH, AND BLUE ECONOMY
  - 5.3 KNOWLEDGE FOR EMERGING ISSUES/DEMANDS OF MEMBER STATES
  - 5.4 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
- 6. RECOMMENDATION OF THE WESTPAC ADVISORY GROUP ON THE PROGRAMME/PROJECT/WORKING GROUP TERMINATION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION**
- 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROGRAMME/PROJECT/WORKING GROUP**
- 8. EVALUATION OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON A NEW PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE ON MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING (CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG)**
- 9. FURTHER ENGAGEMENT IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)**
- 10. WESTPAC WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD MAY 2023–APRIL 2025**
- 11. ELECTIONS**
- 12. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**
- 13. OTHER MATTERS (INCLUDING BRIEF REPORTS BY SGO ROUNDTABLE, AND NDCS FORUM)**
- 14. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 15. CLOSURE**