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اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO – 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP, France
<http://ioc.unesco.org> - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 03 18
E-mail: v.ryabinin@unesco.org

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To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC (IOC Member States)

C.c. : Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC
Officers of Major Subsidiary Bodies of IOC

Subject: Update on Ocean Decade Implementation, including process for registration for 2024 Ocean Decade Conference (Barcelona, April 2024)

This Circular Letter has been prepared to provide an update on key information on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in relation to: (i) registration for the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference (Barcelona, April 2024); (ii) appointment of new expert members of the Decade Advisory Board; and (iii) invitation to participate in the review of the draft White Paper of the Vision 2030 process.

Registration for the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference

Hosted by Spain and co-organized with IOC-UNESCO in its role as the coordinating agency of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference will take place in Barcelona (Spain) between 10 and 12 April 2024. This three-day, in-person event will be a key moment for a wide range of stakeholders to take stock of the achievements of the first three years of the Ocean Decade and formulate a shared vision for the years ahead. The Conference will be preceded by a diverse range of Satellite Events that will take place throughout Barcelona on the 8 and 9 April 2024, and that will feed into discussions at the Conference. Requests for registration for the Conference are now open and will close at 23:59h UTC on 10 February 2024. Please note that, unfortunately, due to the high expected demand and the limited number of places in the Conference venue, not all requests for registration will be confirmed and participants are recommended to wait for confirmation of their registration before proceeding with travel plans. In order to ensure optimal participation within the above constraints, the plenary sessions of the conference will be livestreamed. Requests for registration can be made via the Conference website: <https://oceandecade-conference.com/home.php>.

Chairperson

Dr Yutaka MICHIDA
Professor
Atmosphere and Ocean Research
Institute, The University of Tokyo
Kashiwanoha 5-1-5
2778564 Kashiwa
JAPAN

Executive Secretary

Dr Vladimir RYABININ
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Dr Marie-Alexandrine SICRE
Directrice de Recherche
Centre national de la recherche scientifique
(CNRS)
3 rue Michel Ange
75016 Paris
FRANCE

Dr Nikolay VALCHEV
Director
Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
40 Parvi May Str.
9000 Varna
BULGARIA

Mr Juan Camilo FORERO HAUZEUR
Executive Secretary
Colombian Ocean Commission (COO)
Avenida Ciudad de Cali No. 51 – 66
Edificio WBC, Oficina 306
111071 Bogotá, D.C.
COLOMBIA

Dr Srinivasa Kumar TUMMALA
Director
Indian National Centre for Ocean
Information Services (INCOIS)
Pragathi Nagar (BO), Nizampet (SO)
Hyderabad 500090
INDIA

Prof. Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA
President
National Institute of
Oceanography and Fisheries
(NIOF)
Qaitbay, Al-Anfوشي
Alexandria
EGYPT

Appointment of new Expert Members of the Decade Advisory Board

At the 31st session of the IOC Assembly (UNESCO, 14–15 June 2021), IOC Member States, UN agencies and partners approved the Terms of Reference for the Decade Advisory Board on the basis of Document [IOC-31/3.7.Doc\(1\)](#), including the selection process of its members. The Decade Advisory Board is a multi-stakeholder advisory body that assists the IOC Secretariat in performing its function as coordinator of the Decade. The Board reports both to the IOC Governing Bodies and the IOC Executive Secretary. The Decade Advisory Board comprises up to 15 expert members drawn from government, private sector, philanthropy, civil society, and the scientific community, as well as representatives of UN entities. Following a call for nominations via Circular Letter No. [2848](#) (2021), Circular Letter No. [2871](#) identified the first group of 15 selected expert members of the Decade Advisory Board who were nominated for a two-year term that commenced on 1 January 2022 and ended on 31 December 2023. A report of the work of the Board over this period was presented to the IOC Assembly (21–30 June 2023) at its 32nd session in [IOC/INF-1426](#). The Rules of Procedure for the Board that were presented in [IOC/INF-1414](#) to the IOC Executive Council at its 55th session (13–17 June 2022) envisage a process to stagger the terms of expert members of the Board. As per the Rules of Procedure, at least five currently serving expert members will be retained for a second term on the Board.

Between 23 August and 30 October 2023 a call for nominations was opened for the 15 expert members of the Board via the following channels:

- 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.

Via this process 300 nominations were put forward either by Member States of IOC-UNESCO, United Nations, United Nations entities, or intergovernmental organizations, as well as self-nominations.

A Selection Panel was convened by the IOC Executive Secretary and composed of the IOC Chair and IOC Officers representing the five IOC electoral groups. With the technical support of the Decade Coordination Unit, this Panel was tasked with the selection of the expert members of the Decade Advisory Board.

In its evaluation the Panel undertook to ensure that the expert 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. Diversity across sectors was a key consideration including a mix of members from the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropy and government. Expert members were also selected with due consideration to expertise, geographic, generational, and gender balance.

The list of selected expert members is attached as to this Circular Letter.

Review of the draft White Papers of the Vision 2030 process

The Vision 2030 process was initiated in early 2023 to identify a strategic ambition and common measures of success for each of the 10 Ocean Decade Challenges. Since May 2023, 10 multi-stakeholder Working Groups have been developing draft White Papers for each of the Challenges. These White Papers identify the user needs, priority datasets, residual gaps in science, as well as scientific knowledge, resources or infrastructure, partnerships, capacity development, technology

solutions and infrastructure required for each Challenge to ensure that it can be fulfilled by the end of the Ocean Decade in 2030.

An open review process for the draft White Papers will be open between 22 January and 22 February 2024. The draft White Papers can be downloaded here: <https://oceanexpert.org/document/33599>. Input to the review process should be made via the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WP_vision_2030.

In addition, four interactive webinars will be held between 12 and 16 February 2024 to collect additional comments and feedback on the White Papers. Details of the timing and registration links for these webinars can be found here: <https://oceandecade.org/news/vision2030-white-papers-review-process/>.

The results of the review process will be used to revise and update the White Papers, with the revised versions to be presented and discussed at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference (Barcelona, April 2024), before finalization and publication later in 2024.

For further information or questions on the above issues please contact Julian Barbière (j.barbiere@unesco.org) or Alison Clausen (a.clausen@unesco.org).

Sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: 1/ List of Expert Members of Decade Advisory Board

Annex 1/ List of Expert Members of Decade Advisory Board



Professor Donovan Campbell (Jamaica) is a Professor of Environmental Geography at the University of the West Indies. His primary scientific expertise is in climate change adaptation and food systems in the Small Islands. He has contributed to multiple intergovernmental scientific assessments, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the World Ocean Assessment, and the Global Environmental Outlook. At the regional level, he currently serves as Head of the Regional Centre for Caribbean Technology Needs Assessment and is the Co-Director of the Caribbean Resilience & Recovery Knowledge Network.



Awa Bousso Dramé (Senegal / Cabo Verde) is a researcher in coastal sciences, GIS and AI at University College London. She is also the CEO of 'GIS Research Institute'. Awa's expertise has been internationally recognised through the 2023 Forbes Africa 30 under 30s Class and the 2022 L'Oréal-UNESCO award for Women in Science: Sub-Saharan Africa, for her research on coupling AI and GIS for monitoring cross-border coastal/marine systems in West Africa, and promoting gender equality in STEM. Awa turns her research into social impact through different educational programs and supports policymaking within governments and international organisations. Awa is currently developing coastal research initiatives in Cabo Verde reaching 16 countries in West Africa and more than 150 women and girls.



Linda Faulkner (New Zealand) is currently Natural Sciences Commissioner of New Zealand's National Commission for UNESCO, Deputy Director for New Zealand's Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge, and Director of Tūtaiao Ltd. – a private consultancy focusing on people, policy and planning. Linda hails primarily from the tribal regions of Ngāti Rangī and Whanganui in Aotearoa New Zealand and has long advocated the opportunities and benefits possible through empowering indigenous knowledge and practice to work alongside contemporary science. Her work in the National Science Challenge arena has seen transformational change to the way indigenous knowledge contributes to multi and transdisciplinary research, and the significant benefits and impact that accrue from such approaches.



José Marie Figueres (Costa Rica) moved into Costa Rica's public service in 1987 when he was appointed President of the National Railroad System. He later served as Minister of Foreign Trade and then as Minister of Agriculture. José María was elected President of Costa Rica in 1994, at the age of 39. As President he led and implemented a comprehensive national development strategy combining environmental, social and economic policies. For his work he received numerous international environmental awards, including the first ever Leadership Prize from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). In 1999 he was appointed by Secretary General Kofi Annan to lead the first ever United Nations ICT Task Force. In 2000 he joined the Management Board of the World Economic Forum working with its founder Klaus Schwab, and later was appointed by the Board as its first CEO. As of 2013 José María was instrumental in launching the Global Ocean Commission, which he co-chaired with David Miliband (UK) and Trevor Manuel (SA). President Figueres also serves on the boards of 'Pristine Seas', the 'Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance' (ORRA) and is a founding member of 'Antarctica 2020'. He is also a participant in 'Friends of Ocean Action'.



Professor Gideon Henderson (United Kingdom) is Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra, UK), responsible for overseeing the quality of evidence that the Department relies on for policy decisions. He also provides ministers with scientific advice and sets the priorities for scientific research and evidence-gathering. He has been Professor of Earth Sciences at the Department of Earth Sciences in the University of Oxford since 2006. Gideon is also a Senior Research Fellow at University College, Oxford and an Adjunct Associate Research Scientist at the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. His awards include the 30th Annual Plymouth Marine Science Medal 2016, European Union of Geosciences outstanding young scientist award in 2001, and the Leverhulme Prize Fellowship in 2001. In 2013, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Gideon is completing a second term on the Decade Advisory Board.



Dr Michelle Heupel (Australia) is Director of Australia's Integrated Marine Observing system. She is a research scientist with over 25 years' experience working on ecology, conservation and management of marine predators, predominantly sharks and fish. Her career has spanned a range of sectors in marine science, including universities, public funded research agencies, private non-profit laboratories and joint ventures. Michelle has produced over 200 peer reviewed scientific publications, has held various editorial positions with several scientific journals and has previously or currently sits on several national and international committees relevant to science, conservation and management. She is a former member of the Commonwealth Threatened Species Scientific Committee and was a member of the Australian Delegation to the Convention on Migratory Species Sharks MOU meetings in 2016 and 2018.



Charlotte Hudson (United States of America) is the Project Director of the Lenfest Ocean Program, a scientific grant-making program based at The Pew Charitable Trusts (Washington, D.C., USA), that funds research projects that address the needs of marine and coastal stakeholders and supports grantees to engage with the people most likely to use the results. She is responsible for identifying thematic areas of research and overseeing the design and implementation of research projects that include purposeful engagement with those who might use the research. She also oversees the engagement with and communication of research results in ways that inform policy decisions and promote the sustainable management of the ocean. Charlotte has co-authored many papers on the role of science, philanthropy and policy in decision-making. She received a bachelor's degree in biology from Davidson College and a master's degree in environmental management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. Charlotte is completing a second term on the Decade Advisory Board.



Adrian Lema (Denmark) is Director of Denmark's National Center for Climate Research at the Danish Meteorological Institute. He has many years of experience in bridging knowledge and policy and now translates climate science and oceanography into public awareness, policymaking and practical applications. Adrian is also Chair of the Danish, Greenlandic and Faroese committee for UN Ocean Decade.



Angelique Pouponneau (Seychelles) is a lawyer in the Seychelles and UK. She holds an LLM in Environmental Law; specializing in the law of the sea and natural resources law. Angelique is also a trained climate change negotiator under the AOSIS Climate Change Fellowship Programme at the United Nations. She has worked in different countries in the Caribbean, Pacific and the Indian Ocean on a wide range of projects relating to sustainable fisheries, sustainable management of marine biodiversity within and beyond national jurisdiction, and climate change, in particular climate adaptation and climate finance. Further, she served as a legal expert of the African Group of Sixth Committee in works of oceans and law of the sea at the United Nations. Moreover, Angelique has experience working with civil society as a co-founder and board member for not-for-profit organizations in Seychelles and abroad. Angelique is completing a second term on the Decade Advisory Board.



Dr Julie Reimer (Canada) is a marine social scientist and Senior Policy Advisor in the National Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) program at Fisheries and Oceans Canada. In her various roles, she aims to amplify MSP as a pathway toward global conservation and sustainability goals. Julie holds a PhD in geography, a Master of Marine Management, and a Bachelor of Science in biology, and brings this interdisciplinary lens to her work across MSP practice and research. She has been recognized as a leader in organizational governance, youth empowerment, and science-based advocacy. In 2021, Julie was named a Top 30 Under 30 Sustainability Leader in Canada.



Professor Hiroaki Saito (Japan) is a professor and Advisor to the Director at the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute (AORI) at the University of Tokyo. Prior to this, Hiroaki spent more than 30 years at the National Fisheries Research Institutes at Hokkaido and Tohoku, Japan. Hiroaki's scientific interest is the role of organisms in marine ecosystem dynamics and biogeochemical cycles and how they respond to natural and anthropogenic perturbations. From 2018-2023 he served as Chair of the Integrated Marine Biosphere Research (IMBeR)-Japan National Committee, Science Council of Japan and he is currently Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Oceanography.



Marc Simon (France) is Innovation and Strategic Project Senior Vice President at Suez France and a member of the Scientific Council of H/OEHS Exposure Scenario Tool (IHEST). He has 30 years of experience in the water industry and circulation economy in France, Australia, China and Africa for large municipalities and industries. Marc has worked with diverse coastal communities for wastewater and storm management, urban cleaning services, sea water desalination, aquifer recharge, and centralized wastewater facility on industrial parks.



Dr Katy Soapi (Solomon Islands) is the Coordinator for the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science at the Pacific Community (SPC, New Caledonia). Before that, she was the Manager of the Pacific Natural Products Research Centre at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Fiji. She has worked with Pacific Island governments to assist with the development of guidelines and policy on access and benefit sharing. Katy is an adviser on marine genetic resources supporting Pacific Island countries on marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) process at the UN. Katy is passionate about developing the capacity of early career ocean professionals and is also active at the community level. Katy holds a bachelor's degree from USP, a master's from the University of Sydney, Australia, and a PhD from the University of East Anglia, UK. She grew up on the island of Rendova, Solomon Islands.

Katy is completing a second term on the Decade Advisory Board.



Dr Alexander Turra (Brazil) is a professor at the Oceanographic Institute of the University of São Paulo (IOUSP, Brazil) and coordinator of the UNESCO Chair on Ocean Sustainability, based at the Oceanographic Institute and the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of São Paulo. He is a biologist that exercises interdisciplinary and integrated research, focusing on themes such as marine biodiversity, governance, integrated management, marine conservation, environmental impact assessment, climate change and marine pollution (marine litter). Turra seeks to promote the integration between science and society, policy makers and the private sector to support public policies and technological development and innovation applied to the ocean. Alexander is completing a second term on the Decade Advisory Board.



Dr Nina Wambiji (Kenya) has worked at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) as a Senior Research Scientist for the last 19 years. Nina is the Assistant Director responsible for the Fisheries Section at KMFRI. Nina is also the Vice President of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), which promotes research into and extension of coastal and marine spaces, capacity building, knowledge sharing, science to policy linkages and improving awareness of research interventions. She has been WIOMSA's Country coordinator for Kenya since 2014.