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**Concept Note for the Second In-person Africa Ocean Decade Taskforce Meeting**

**Dates:** 31 January- 2 February 2024

**Venue:** INRH; Casablanca, Morocco

**Background**

The Ocean Decade Africa Taskforce was established in October 2022 with a primary objective of convening regional stakeholders to coordinate and advance the implementation of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap while ensuring the ownership of the Africa Roadmap is systematically reconfirmed and strengthened among African nations, regional organizations, indigenous organizations, and fora.

The mandate of the African Ocean Decade Taskforce is to oversee and promote the implementation of the Africa Roadmap and the enabling environment necessary for its success. The Taskforce plays a critical role in supporting and contributing to the coordination of stakeholders as they come together to implement the Africa Roadmap, co-design and co-deliver Decade Actions.

Since its establishment, the Taskforce has held regular monthly meetings to discuss on communications, partnerships, resource mobilization and capacity development for the successful implementation of the Africa Roadmap. Despite facing many challenges in realizing its mandate, the Africa Taskforce has succeeded in committing to a number of Ocean Decade Actions, led by Africa, for Africa. These include Plastic Mop Up, Nigeria; the Sustainable Ocean Management Education Programme, Cabo Verde; Strengthening the Blue Economy Project, Seychelles; the West Africa Marine Science Symposium in Accra, Ghana; and the WASCAL Cabo Verde School. African researchers and organizations are also involved in numerous other projects (including early warning implementations, regional MSc programs, Essential Ocean Variables (EOV) measurements and regional modelling) not necessarily endorsed by the Ocean Decade Advisory Board due to lack of information and this is something the Taskforce is addressing. Additionally, Africa has, to date, seven (7) operational National Decade Committees (NDCs). Furthermore, the Taskforce has played a major role in enhancing the visibility of the Ocean Decade within Africa and the Adjacent Island States. In addition, the Taskforce is also in the final stages of developing an umbrella African program for the Ocean Decade, entitled, “Science and Knowledge for a Resilient and Sustainable Ocean Economy in Africa,” while its proposal for an African Satellite Event at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona has been approved by the organizing committee.

**Objective**

This second Taskforce in-person meeting will bring together members of the Africa Ocean Decade Taskforce, the Decade Coordination Unit and the Secretariat of the UNESCO/IOC’s Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA) to finalize the development of the Ocean Decade umbrella program for Africa and structure the proposal for the Africa Satellite Event at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference. The meeting will also focus on developing action plans on communication, resource mobilization and National Decade Committees.

**Expected Meeting Outcomes:**

1. Finalised draft Ocean Decade umbrella program document
2. Concept note of the Africa Satellite Event at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference which will be held in Barcelona, Spain.
3. Framework for communication strategy
4. TF workplan including Resource Mobilization, National Decade Committees, Monitoring & Evaluation of Roadmap

**Preliminary Meeting Agenda:**

| **Time** | **Activity** | **Responsible** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day 1: 31 Jan 2024**  **Output:** *Finalized Draft Programme Document* | | |
| 0830hrs-0900hrs | Arrival and Registration |  |
| 0900hrs-09.30hrs | Welcome and Introductions   * Opening and welcome by host INRH Director * Welcome by IOC Sec / DCU (possibly by video) * Opening remarks by Chair of the Taskforce and meeting Agenda * Members introduction | Dr. Abdelmalek Faraj  TBC  Dr. Jacqueline Uku  All |
| 0930hrs – 1020hrs | -Updates on Ocean Decade Implementation and discussions | Alison Clausen |
| 1020hrs-1045hrs | -TF ToRs and progress made for their achievement  -What we accomplished to date SWOT analysis and Agenda.  Priorities for Day 1. | Jacqueline  Amel/Hassan |
| ***1045hrs-1100hrs*** | ***Tea break*** |  |
| 1100hrs-1130hrs | Presentation on the OD Program | Tony Elliot |
| 1130hrs-1230hrs | Breakout Groups discussion   1. Sustainable Management of Marine Resources 2. Climate Change and Marine Biodiversity |  |
| ***1230hrs - 1330hrs*** | ***Lunch Break*** |  |
| 1330hrs-1500hrs | Continue Breakout Groups discussions including cross-cutting components:   1. Tackling Ocean Pollution for Enhanced Human Health 2. Extreme Events and Disaster Risk Reduction |  |
| 1500hrs-1530hrs | Presentations by the Breakout Groups and discussion (7-8 min each presentation with Q/A) |  |
| 1600hrs-1730hrs | Discussion on programme implementation strategy and coordination, next steps for finalization of programme |  |

| **Time** | **Activity** | **Responsible** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day 2: 1 February 2024**  **Output:**  *2. Satellite Event Concept Note* | | |
| 0800hrs-0930hrs | Travel to Rabat (Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training) – Arrival |  |
| 0930hrs-1000 hrs | Welcome and Introductions   * Opening and welcome by host Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training Director * Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment | Ayman Cherkaoui  TBD??? |
| 1000hrs-1015hrs | Day 1 Recap & Day 2 Agenda. | Chair |
| ***1015hrs-1045hrs*** | -Updates on the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference  -Presentation of the Satellite Event proposal for 2024 OD Conference | Alison Clausen  Edwin Mwashinga/ TF member |
| ***1045hrs – 1100hrs*** | **Tea break** |  |
| 1100hrs – 1200hrs  1200hrs-1230 hrs | Finalization of Satellite Event planning  Discussions with ECOPs Morocco | Chairs (Amel/Hassan)  Chair and Ecop Coordinator |
| ***1230hrs -1330hrs*** | Lunch Break |  |
| 1330hrs-1400hrs | Presentation on Capacity Development Facility and discussions on the role of the TF | Mary Frances + TF member |
| 1400hrs – 1500hrs | Breakouts discussion on developing a capacity Action Plan | Chairs (Jaqueline/Amel/Hassan) |
| ***1500hrs – 1515hrs*** | ***Tea break*** |  |
| 1515hrs – 1615hrs | Continue breakouts and  Presentations by the breakouts Groups and discussion (7-8 min each presentation with Q/A |  |
| 1615hrs-1700hrs  1700hrs | Vision 2030 process – input to White Paper review and approach to translate to regional priorities  Travel back to Casablanca | Alison |

| **Time** | **Activity** | **Responsible** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day 3: 2 February 2024**  **Outputs:**  *3.**Framework for comms strategy*  *4. TF workplan including Resource Mobilization, National Decade Committees, Monitoring & Evaluation of Roadmap* | | |
| 0830hrs-0900hrs | Arrival |  |
| 0900hrs  0915hrs  0915 hrs  1000hrs | Day 2 Recap & Day 3 Agenda.  Discussions on RM including presentation by Belmont Forum TBC | Chair  Alison |
| 100hrs – 1030hrs  1030hrs-1100hrs | National Decade Committees – strategy to develop new NDCs  Discussions on a Communication Strategy for Africa – development of framework strategy | Olivier Dufourneaud + TF member  Aya Khalil + TF member |
| 1100hrs-1115hrs | ***Tea break*** | All |
| 1115hrs-1230hrs | Breakouts to discuss 2024 TF work Plan | Chairs (Amel/Hassan) |
| ***1230hrs – 1330hrs*** | ***Lunch*** |  |
| 1330hrs-1430hrs | Continued Breakout groups  Presentations by the breakouts Groups and discussion (7-8 min each presentation with Q/A |  |
| ***1430hrs-1500hrs*** | ***Tea break*** |  |
| 1500hrs-1600hrs | Interaction via video with IOCAFRICA Officers (TBC) | Chairs |
| 1600hrs-1630hrs  1630 hrs | How it went  Final reflections on work of TF and priority actions for 2024  Adjournment | Chairs |