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МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات  
政府间海洋学委员会

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**IOC Circular Letter No 3000**  
(Available in English, Spanish, French)

IOC/VH/FS/ss  
1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

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

C.c. : The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission  
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States  
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States

**Subject: Venice Declaration for Ocean Literacy in action – survey and dissemination**

The UNESCO-IOC Ocean Literacy World Conference, held in Venice (Italy) on 7 and 8 June 2024, organized in collaboration with the Government of Italy, the Municipality of Venice, and the Prada Group, as part of the SEA BEYOND project, recently brought together 131 participants from 80 Member States. Among the positive outcomes of the conference was the adoption of the '[Venice Declaration for Ocean Literacy in Action](#)', attached to this circular letter. This declaration by the ocean literacy community aims to support efforts to regenerate the ocean and sets a date for the next United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) to be held in Nice (France) in June 2025.

The Venice Declaration is intended to be a living document that will evolve through ongoing dialogue between stakeholders from around the world. In a symbolic gesture, on 8 June, World Oceans Day, Massimiliano De Martin, Councilor for the Environment for the City of Venice, symbolically handed over the Venice Declaration to Aurore Asso, Council Advisor (Nice Côte d'Azur) for Ocean Conservation & Marine Protected Areas.

The drafting of the declaration began in March 2024 with a consultation to collect information on Ocean literacy priority areas for ocean scientists, educators, and ocean literacy practitioners. The information gathered was examined by the 'Venice Declaration' working group—consisting of the IOC Ocean Literacy Group of Experts, the two co-chairs of the '[Challenge 10 Vision 2030 Paper](#)', the Advisory Board of the Decade Coordination Office on Connecting People and the Ocean, and the Steering Committee Members of the Ocean Literacy With All (OLWA) Programme, who developed a first version of the text. The text was then sent to the World Conference on Ocean Literacy in Venice, where it was further enriched.

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With this letter, the Secretariat is seeking the views from Member States on the content of the Venice Declaration.

The Declaration was developed by the Ocean Literacy community and includes the voices of a number of experts in the fields of ocean science and conservation, though it is also conceived as a living document which must evolve through dialog with a wider range of stakeholders, especially Member States, in order to bridge the gaps in the science-society-policy interface and ensure that the objectives of the Venice Declaration can be achieved. To this end, the Secretariat is seeking the input of Member States on the dissemination and implementation of the Venice Declaration, and invites Member States to respond to a dedicated survey (<https://forms.office.com/e/zuijgVqYvu>) by 5 August 2024.

If you need additional information on the content of this letter, please contact Ms Francesca Santoro ([f.santoro@unesco.org](mailto:f.santoro@unesco.org)), Senior Programme Officer for Ocean Literacy.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*[signature]*

Vidar Helgesen  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure (1): [‘Venice Declaration for Ocean Literacy in Action’](#)