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UNESCO IOC REGIONAL SUBCOMMISSION FOR THE  
CARIBBEAN AND ADJACENT REGIONS – IOCARIBE

SUBCOMISIÓN REGIONAL DE LA COI (UNESCO) PARA EL  
CARIBE Y REGIONES ADYACENTES – IOCARIBE

SOUS-COMMISSION RÉGIONALE DE LA COI (UNESCO)  
POUR LA MER DES CARAÏBES ET LES RÉGIONS ADJACENTES – IOCARIBE

Barrio Torices, Edificio Chambacu Oficina 405, Cra. 3B # 26-78, Cartagena de Indias - Colombia

E-mail: [iocaribe@unesco.org](mailto:iocaribe@unesco.org); [L.inniss@unesco.org](mailto:L.inniss@unesco.org); [p.wills-velez@unesco.org](mailto:p.wills-velez@unesco.org);

X: @IOCaribeOcean - Instagram: [iocaribeocean](https://www.instagram.com/iocaribeocean) – Website: <http://iocaribe.ioc-unesco.org/>

IOCARIBE of UNESCO-IOC Circular Letter No. 029-24/LI/pw

Cartagena, September 29, 2024

To: IOCARIBE Member States  
(Official National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with  
IOC/IOCARIBE)  
IOCARIBE Board of Officers

cc: The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC  
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States  
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

**Subject: Invitation to Nominate Experts to serve on the IOCARIBE-GOOS Working Group**

Dear Colleagues,

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO's Regional Subcommittee for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE), supports the development and implementation of a regional IOCARIBE-GOOS Program Working Group. IOCARIBE's Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Program is part of the [Global GOOS network](#), which aims to provide a truly global ocean observing system that delivers the essential data and information for sustainable development and security. It is led by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and co-sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Science Council (ISC). As we re-invigorate the regional IOCARIBE-GOOS Program under the leadership of our new Program Coordinator, Dr. John Cortinas (United States), our first priority is to establish the IOCARIBE-GOOS Working Group. This group will be instrumental in shaping the strategic direction of the regional GOOS Program, promoting collaboration among stakeholders, and ensuring the successful implementation of ocean observation initiatives across the Caribbean.

The Secretariat is pleased to invite Member States to nominate experts to serve on the IOCARIBE-GOOS Working Group. Members will contribute to the formulation and operation of a much-needed regional ocean observing and forecasting governance system. Members will play an important role in guiding the

**IOC**

**Yutaka MICHIDA, Prof.**  
Special Presidential Envoy for UN Ocean Decade  
The University of Tokyo  
(Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute)  
Kashiwanoha 5-1-5, 2778564 Kashiwa  
JAPAN  
E-mail: [ymichida@aori.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:ymichida@aori.u-tokyo.ac.jp)

Executive Secretary - Secretario Ejecutivo

**Mr Vidar HELGESEN**  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic  
Commission — UNESCO  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP  
FRANCE

**IOCARIBE**

Chairperson - Presidente (Aruba)  
**Dr. Marck Oduber**  
Science Liaison  
Aruba National Commission for UNESCO  
Stadionweg 37 Oranjestad  
Aruba  
Tel: (297) 528 3528  
E-mail: [m.oduber@unesco.aw](mailto:m.oduber@unesco.aw)

Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (USA)  
**Dr. John V. CORTINAS**  
Director, NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic and  
Meteorological Laboratory, Miami  
NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological  
Laboratory,  
4301 Rickenbacker  
Causeway, Miami, FL, 33133, USA  
Phone number: +1 305 361-4301  
E-mail: [john.cortinas@noaa.gov](mailto:john.cortinas@noaa.gov)

Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (Brazil)  
**Dr. Roberto de Pinho**  
Senior Science and Technology Analyst  
General Coordination of Sciences for the Ocean and Antarctica  
Department of Thematic Programs  
Secretariat for Strategic Policies and Programs  
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation - Brazil  
Brasília, DF, Brasil.  
E-mail: [roberto.depinho@mcti.gov.br](mailto:roberto.depinho@mcti.gov.br)

Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (Venezuela)  
**Dr. Soraya J. Silva**  
Researcher  
Instituto Venezolano e Investigaciones Cientificas  
Km 11, Carretera Panamericana, Altos de Pipe,  
Estado Miranda, Venezuela  
E-mail: [soraya.j.silva@gmail.com](mailto:soraya.j.silva@gmail.com)

**Dr. Lorna Inniss**  
Head UNESCO-IOC Regional Secretariat for  
IOCARIBE  
Jefe Secretaria Regional UNESCO-COI para  
IOCARIBE  
E-mail: [L.inniss@unesco.org](mailto:L.inniss@unesco.org)

**Ms. Patricia Wills Vélez**  
Secretariat Assistant  
E-mail: [p.wills-velez@unesco.org](mailto:p.wills-velez@unesco.org)

**Ms. Bianis Palacios**  
Administrative Assistant  
E-mail: [b.palacios@unesco.org](mailto:b.palacios@unesco.org)

development and implementation of regional cross-collaborative technical projects and ensure that regional and national needs are considered across key areas such as weather and forecasting, climate change, coastal and ocean health, coastal adaptation, ecosystem services, safety, and sustainable ocean planning.

Nominees are invited based on relevant technical expertise and/or an understanding of priorities of national stakeholders. Relevant technical expertise may include areas such as ocean observing (both in situ and satellite), data management, operational services, risk management, governance, technological/human resource capacity and management, technology development, and outreach and communications. IOCARIBE-GOOS is committed to equitable representation in the Working Group and encourages gender balance, indigenous and historically underrepresented communities, geographic diversity, and a broad range of expertise reflected in the Working Group. Our goal is to strengthen the Working Group by ensuring its membership reflects diverse perspectives and skills.

Nominations will be evaluated by criteria that promote gender balance, geographic representation, and a broad spectrum of expertise within the field of ocean observation and its governance, in order to enhance the strength, breadth, and diversity of our WG.

The WG will initially take on the development of the IOCARIBE-GOOS Work Plan. These and any other recommendations will initially go to all GOOS National Focal Points in the region before being presented at IOCARIBE Assembly. To nominate a GOOS NFP, please see Circular Letter [2931](#).

Kindly send your nominations, including the nominee's resume, via email to Ms. Patricia Wills-Velez (p.wills-velez@unesco.org) no later than **Friday October 11th, 2024**. The Secretariat, Program Coordinator, and the IOCARIBE Board will review and select submissions well in advance of the first Working Group meeting.

Please save the date for the Working Group's first virtual meeting on Friday, **November 8th, 2024 at 9:00 - 11:00 AM Colombia Time (COT)**. We also propose to hold our first in-person annual meeting in the spring of 2025, at a date to be determined by the Working Group. Additional virtual meetings will be held as needed or on a quarterly basis.

We will contact you regarding next steps upon receipt of all nominations and approval from the IOCARIBE Board. Thank you for your consideration. Looking forward to your earliest reply and participation in this process. Should you have any questions or require further information, do not hesitate to reach out.

Your early responses are welcome. Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,



**Lorna Inniss**  
**Head UNESCO-IOC Regional Secretariat for IOCARIBE**