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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

**Seventh Session of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the  
Adjacent Island States**  
Nairobi, 15-17 March 2023

## **SUMMARY REPORT**

This document contains the narrative report of the discussion prepared by the Secretariat during the session, as well as the decisions and resolutions adopted in the plenary sessions.



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## 1. OPENING

1. The Seventh session of the IOC's Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA-VII) was held in hybrid format from 15-17 March 2023, in Nairobi, Kenya and attended by more than 45 participants representing 20 Member States and other partners. The session was preceded by an informal meeting of the delegates to deliberate on how to strengthen the Sub Commission.
2. The session was called to order by the IOCAFRICA Chair, Prof Kouadio Affian, who welcomed the delegates to the session, on behalf of the IOCAFRICA. He noted that Kenya has distinguished itself as a champion in the blue economy, including the co-hosting, together with Canada and Japan, the first ever Global Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in November 2018, which was attended by more than 10,000 delegates from 150 countries.
3. He reminded the delegates that science is the engine of ownership of the blue economy, as you cannot manage what you do not know. It is no secret that the ocean is of great cultural, military, and economic importance. In addition to the undeniable advantages of the ocean, it should be noted that globalization has made the coastal line, places of exchange between the world's major economic partners. He highlighted the following points that justify the importance of oceans for Africa:
  - Africa is one of the geographical entities with the longest coastline in the world (26,000 km).
  - 38 countries of the African continent are bordered by the ocean or the sea, but for 70% of them the exclusive economic maritime zones are largely under-exploited.
  - The maritime areas under African jurisdiction cover about 13 million km<sup>2</sup> and about 6.5 million km<sup>2</sup> of continental shelf.
  - The fisheries sector alone employs over 12 million people and represents the largest sector of the African blue economy, ensuring food and nutritional security for more than 200 million Africans, and generating an added value estimated at 24 billion US dollars, which represents nearly 1.26% of Africa's gross domestic product
4. He pointed out that the blue economy is also dependent on technological innovations and scientific advances to both create greater economic prosperity and preserve the quality and functionality of the waters for future generations.
5. He concluded by noting that IOCAFRICA must play its full role by promoting international cooperation and coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity development, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of African countries and Adjacent Islands States.
6. In his welcome address, the UNESCO Regional Director for Eastern Africa Prof Hubert Gijzen noted that the session provided an opportunity to reflect on how Africa and the Adjacent Island States can harness ocean science and research to optimally utilize their substantial Blue Economy potential, which is the new frontier for sustainable development. He highlighted some of the important regional and global processes, as well as UNESCO priorities that provide a framework for this. This included: (i) the UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2022-2029 that aims at achieving the SDGs via the Organization's fields of competence by 2030; (ii) the visionary AU Agenda 2063 that outlines the continent's aspirations and the actions required to achieve its vision of "An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and

representing a dynamic force in the global arena”. The agenda recognises that ‘Africa’s Blue Economy, shall be a major contributor to continental transformation and growth.’; and (iii) the 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS2050) and the African Blue Economy Strategy, which together provides a roadmap for increased wealth creation from Africa’s oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving Blue Economy. He emphasized that this session should explore how the Sub-Commission can support the region in harnessing its oceans resources and environment through these frameworks.

7. Prof Gijzen noted with concern that the current science output from Africa was very low with the continent accounting only for 2% of global publications on oceans when it hosts 17% of the global population. When we look at patents registered the figure is even much lower (below 0.04 % of global output). He pointed out that the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which commenced in January 2021, provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to mobilise ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure that ocean science can fully support countries in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He encouraged the Sub-Commission to take into account the nine priority areas for action, identified in the recently launched Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap through a comprehensive assessment of the challenges that needs to be addressed in the region when developing its programmes.
8. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of strengthening the Sub-Commission to enable it to achieve the objectives for which it was established. Member States could for instance consider the possibility of seconding staff, to support the work of the Sub Commission. In this regard, he thanked the Government of Kenya, which has already loaned a staff to the Secretariat of the Sub Commission for an initial period of two years.
9. The session was officially opened by Dr Davis Makilla on behalf of Ms Betsy Njagi, Principal Secretary, State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs (Government of Kenya), who highlighted the significant contribution of the Blue Economy sector to Kenya’s Gross Domestic Product, and in particular to food security and employment. He noted that the optimal potential for the Blue Economy is yet to be attained due to inadequate investment in deep sea fishing and the related infrastructure, inadequate capacity in knowledge and entrepreneurial skills, climate change related effects that have affected productivity in the aquatic spaces, and pollution amongst other challenges. The Principal Secretary reiterated the importance of international cooperation in addressing these challenges and reaffirmed the Government of Kenya’s commitment to supporting the development of ocean sciences in the region to enhance investments in the management of our oceans and coastal regions. As part of this commitment Kenya has seconded an expert to the IOCAFRICA Secretariat for an initial period of 2-years and continues to offer its facilities, including the RV Mtafiti for regional programmes.
10. The opening session was also addressed by the Chair of IOCAFRICA, Prof Kouadio Affian, the UNESCO Regional Director for Eastern Africa, Prof Hubert Gijzen, and the IOC Executive Secretary, Vladimir Ryabinin. The opening addresses are available in Annex III.

## **2. ADMINSTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

### **2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

11. The IOCAFRICA Chair informed the Session that the Provisional Agenda sent with the IOC Circular Letter No 2927 dated 16 January 2023 had been revised based on responses received from IOCAFRICA Member States and the IOCAFRICA Officers.
12. The Sub Commission adopted the agenda and timetable as set out in document IOCAFRICA-VII/2

## 2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

13. On a proposal of South Africa seconded by Madagascar and Morocco, Dr Nina Wambiji of Kenya was designated Rapporteur for the session.

## 2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION

14. The Chair informed the Sub Commission that the preparatory meetings of the IOCAFRICA Officers had proposed that the session will work in plenary as much as possible. The IOCAFRICA Officers had also recommended the establishment of six sessional working groups to deliberate on the different agenda items and present reports in plenary for consideration.

15. The Chair invited the Sub Commission to constitute the six sessional working groups as follows:

WG1: OCEAN OBSERVATIONS AND DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (Chaired by Dr. Suzan M. El-Gharabawy)

WG2: OCEAN SCIENCE AND APPLICATION TO MANAGEMENT (Chaired by Dr. Ir. Zacharie SOHOU)

WG3: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR MARINE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Chaired Prof Amr Hamouda)

WG4: OCEAN LITERACY PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY (Chaired by Ms Candida Sete)

WG5: IOCAFRICA WORK PROGRAMME & BUDGET 2023-2025 (Chaired by Dr Karim Hilmi)

WG6: IOCAFRICA-VII RECOMMENDATIONS (Chaired by Prof. Kouadio Affian)

16. The Sub Commission adopted Decision IOCAFRICA-VII/2.
- Adopts the agenda and timetable for the session
  - Designates Dr Nina Wambiji (Kenya) as the rapporteur
  - Establishes the six sessional working groups which would deliberate on the agenda items and report back to the plenary.

## 3. INTERSESSIONAL REPORTS

### 3.1 STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

17. The Chair of IOCAFRICA Prof Kouadio Affian informed the session that the IOCAFRICA Officers had actively engaged the Secretariat during the intersessional period, providing advice and guidance on the implementation of programmes. He highlighted the progress that had been made in the development of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap, the strong partnership developed with the African Union Commission – especially its GMES and Africa project which has supported the revitalization of GOOS AFRICA, and the resource limitation that impacted on implementation of programmes. Prof Affian emphasized the importance of mobilizing extra-budgetary resources to support the accelerated development of ocean sciences in the region. He thanked the Senior researchers from the region who had been co-opted to support the IOCAFRICA Officers in their

assignments for graciously accepting and providing very useful contributions. This included: Dr Kwame Koranteng (Ghana), Prof Cherif Sammari (Tunisia), Prof Amr Hamouda (Egypt) and the IOC Vice Chair Group V, Dr Karim Hilmi (Morocco).

18. The Chair congratulated the IOCAFRICA Technical Secretary, Mika Odido, for his contribution to the development and Implementation of the IOCAFRICA programmes and wished him well in his future undertakings.
19. The full text of the Statement is available in Annex IV

### 3.2 REPORT ON IOCAFRICA ACTIVITIES 2021-2023

20. The IOCAFRICA Technical Secretary introduced this item.
21. The reduction in the budgets during the current biennium, had adversely impacted on the implementation of the IOCAFRICA programmes adopted during the sixth session that was held online from 13-15 April 2021. This resulted in some activities not being implemented as planned. The following is summary of some of the activities that were implemented.
22. The Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap was prepared through an inclusive consultative process, starting with a Regional Gap Analysis undertaken in collaboration with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) in 2021, a series of virtual workshops from 24-26 January 2022 bring together a wide range of regional stakeholders from UN agencies, private sector, NGOs, private foundations and other stakeholder groups during which 9 priority themes were identified to form the basis of the roadmap, and the “African Conference on Priority Setting & Partnership Development for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development” hosted by the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries in Cairo, Egypt from 10-12 May 2022 during which the roadmap was presented and opportunities for partnerships discussed. National Ocean Decade workshops were held in Ghana, Madagascar and Tanzania in 2022. IOCAFRICA and WIOMSA supported the Early Career Ocean Professionals from the region to prepare the regional Ocean Decade booklet entitled: “United Nations Ocean Decade for Africa”. The Africa Ocean Decade Task Force comprising 14 experts and representatives of 6 organizations was established in October 2022 and commenced its assignment of supporting the development of regional Ocean Decade Actions. Special sessions on the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap were organized at various fora, including: the UN Ocean Conference (June 2022, Lisbon, Portugal), the GeoBlue Planet Symposium (24-28 October 2022, Accra, Ghana); 12th Scientific Symposium of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (October 2022, Port Elizabeth, South Africa), the Workshop on Blue Economy and Innovation organized by the Africa Union Commission (October 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), the 27th Conference of Parties to UNFCCC (Oct/Nov 2022, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt).
23. Collaboration with the African Union Commission was strengthened, in particular with the GMES and Africa project, and the AUC’s Division of Blue Economy.
24. The joint GOOS Africa and GMES and Africa workshop was held from 24-28 October 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda on the side-lines of the 13th Biennial International Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE). The focus was on developing partnerships between GOOS AFRICA and GMES & AFRICA, including support for the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap. The areas of collaboration that were identified include: (i) Strengthening partnerships to improve the delivery of observations to end-users through scientific forecasts, services and assessments. (ii) Strengthening knowledge and exchange around the creation of value from ocean observations, enabling the dissemination of end-user applications at the local level, (iii) Maintaining, strengthening and expanding the coordination of observations through the GOOS AFRICA network. (iv) Promote standards and best



- practices, (v) Ensuring that ocean observing data and information in Africa are accessible, interoperable and reusable with quality assurance, (vi) Supporting innovation in observation technologies and networks, (vii) Developing capacity to ensure that a wider range of stakeholders participate and use the data for their benefit, (viii) Expanding systematic observations to understand human impacts on the ocean; and (ix) Playing a leading role in establishing effective governance for in situ and satellite observations in Africa, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders.
25. The AUC's Division for Blue Economy actively participated in the development of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap and is represented on the Africa Ocean Decade Task Force. Activities organized with the Directorate include: a session focusing on Harnessing the potential of the oceans for sustainable development and peace during the Luanda Biennale (November 2021, Luanda, Angola), side event focusing on women and youth during the UN Ocean Conference (June 2022, Lisbon, Portugal), and workshop on Ocean Science and Innovation in Africa (October 2022, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia-hybrid). With the AU-IBAR the Sub Commission has participated in the workshops for the project on Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in the Africa Blue Economy, as well as the Marine Spatial Planning initiatives.
  26. The workshop on Ocean related hazards for the Gulf of Guinea was organized in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine research, virtually from 13-14 October 2022. Presentations covered a myriad of topics, including: Impacts of coastal pollution in the GoG; The role of ocean literacy in preparing for ocean-related threats; Partnering for safe and sustainable oceans and; Use of high-resolution models in predicting extreme weather events. Sequel deliberations outlined the need for the region to develop and adopt multi-hazard early warning systems, to address several hazards and/or impacts of similar or different type in situations where ocean-related hazards may occur alone, simultaneously, cascading or cumulatively over time.
  27. The National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF) in Egypt was an active partner of IOCAFRICA during the intersessional period and co-organized the following workshops: International Workshop "Resilient and Safer Coasts" (11 May 2022); International workshop for Celebrating World Ocean Day (8 June 2022); International workshop for Celebrating International Beach Cleaning Day (19 Sep 2022); The International Workshop "Algal blooms indicate under climate change" (3 October 2022); International workshop for Celebrating the World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November 2022); COP27: Ocean Decade African Roadmap session at the Ocean Pavilion (8 November 2022); International Workshop "Ocean Acidification as an indication for climate change " (5 December 2022); The International Workshop "World wetlands and seagrass day" (15 February 2023); and The International workshop for Celebrating the World Recycling Day (15 March 2023).
  28. A comprehensive survey of the status of the ocean observations platforms in Africa and the Adjacent Island States was undertaken and a webinar organized to review the report on 23 March 2022. The participants agreed on the publication of the report on the African Ocean Observations Network, taking into account the discussions during the session. Recommendations were made on developing a strategy of marine processes observations for each LME, enhanced studies for coastal processes, installation and maintenance of ocean observation platforms and catalysing research and data sharing partnerships between different players in the ocean observation domain.
  29. The workshop on the reactivation of the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA) was held on 24 March 2022. Participants agreed on the reactivation of ODINAFRICA to contribute to the Ocean Information Hub - OIH as a regional and multi-thematic node that will improve online access to and synthesis of existing regional and national data, information and knowledge resources, including existing clearinghouse mechanisms. More importantly, ODINAFRICA will help meet the knowledge needs of national and regional requirements for sourcing marine data and information, as well as assist countries in their reporting

requirements for the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly goals 4, 9, 14 and 17), contribute to key aims of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. A Steering Group comprising 6 experts from the region and supported by the IOCAFRICA and IODE secretariats has already held 5 meetings to deliberate on priority activities for the reactivated network and resource mobilization opportunities. The migration of the African Coastal and Marine Atlas to the new Geonode software is almost complete, and discussions have commenced on further development and updates of the Atlases.

30. IOCAFRICA continued to work with the African Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES) in enhancing integration of ocean-based adaptation and mitigation actions in addressing climate change. The implementation of the project on building capacity for ocean acidification research and observation, and detection and early warning for HAB is ongoing with the institutions in Cote d'Ivoire, Namibia, Nigeria, Madagascar and Morocco already participating.
31. The implementation of the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) continued with case studies on gender and poverty perspectives in Kenya, Madagascar and Tanzania implemented in collaboration with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM). The results of the comparative Analysis of Gender and Poverty Perspectives in MSP in Kenya, Madagascar and Tanzania has also been finalized. National Marine Spatial Planning workshop was organized for Comoros and a report on Marine Spatial Planning and the Blue Economy in Kenya published. Many IOCAFRICA Member States also benefited from the MSP Global activities, including the 3rd International Conference on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning (22-23 November 2022, Barcelona, Spain). The Regional Marine Spatial Planning forum for Africa and the Adjacent Island States was established and held its first meeting in December 2022. The Regional MSPforum will be a mechanism to reinforce existing transboundary management frameworks at regional level, support a dialogue process on MSP including its links to the priority areas of the MSP Roadmap, and obtain better mutual understanding of marine spatial planning processes undertaken within specific regional contexts.
32. Capacity development for marine science and technology continues to be a key area of focus for IOC in Africa. The development of the portal on training facilities and opportunities in the region is completed (<https://africa.marinettraining.org>) with continuous updates ongoing.
33. The following training courses were organized:
  - IOC/OTGA/RTC Ghana: Earth Observation data and techniques for fisheries management (online); 24 January - 4 February 2022, Ghana (17 participants from 14 countries: Algeria, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa and Uganda)
  - IOC/IODE/OTGA & VLIZ: Ocean Data Management (online training course), 28 March - 6 May 2022, Belgium (10 out of the 60 participants were from 6 African countries: Angola, Kenya, Libya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Africa)
  - IOC/OTGA – RTC Mozambique (CePTMar-UEM & INAHINA), Técnicas de recolha de dados oceanográficos e acesso a dados online gratuitos (curso de formação online), 9 May - 31 October 2022, Mozambique. The course had 6 out of the 28 participants from 3 African countries: Angola, Cabo Verde, Mozambique.
  - EAF-Nansen Programme of FAO & IOC/OTGA: Vessel-based ocean monitoring with applications to R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen surveys, 30 May - 17 June 2022. There were 13 participants from 8 African countries: Angola, Cabo Verde, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania.

- Remote sensing applied to oceanography at the Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, in Côte d'Ivoire (21-25 November 2022) attended by 15 participants from Benin, Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo.

34. The Sub Commission adopted **Decision IOCAFRICA-VII/3.2** on the Report of IOCAFRICA Activities 2021-2023:

- Congratulated the IOCAFRICA Officers and the Secretariat for the achievements during the intersessional period and thanked the experts from the region who had been coopted to join the IOCAFRICA Officers for their contributions.
- Requested the Secretariat to provide additional information on projects implemented in the region but coordinated from outside the region in future reports. This includes the Ocean Acidification and the Harmful Algal Bloom projects.
- Requested the Secretariat to follow-up on the development and implementation of the project on Coastal Vulnerability for the Central Africa sub-region that has been discussed at various fora, including the previous IOCAFRICA sessions.
- Requested the Secretariat to work with the IOCAFRICA Officers to explore the possibility of establishment of a regional network for scientists from Africa, similar to the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA).
- Emphasized the need for greater focus on resource mobilization, and increase in both in-kind and financial support from member states.
- Stressed the importance of increased awareness of the IOCAFRICA activities and requested the Secretariat, working with the IOCAFRICA Officers to develop and implement a Communications plan to support this.

### 3.3 OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL OCEAN PROGRAMMES AND PLANS

35. The IOCAFRICA Member States were requested through IOC Circular Letter No. 2927 to submit national reports covering their ocean programmes and plans. Seven (7) Member States had submitted their national reports before the session commenced: Angola, Gabon, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, and Tunisia. Additional reports received during the session were not included in the overview.

36. Mr. Joseph Mahongah from the IOCAFRICA Secretariat, presented an overview of the ocean programmes and plans as submitted by Member States. Some of the key issues and corresponding recommendations outlined by the national reports include:

- (i) IOCAFRICA should dedicate more effort towards strengthening oceanographic data collection by collaborating with regional blocks like ECOWAS, ECCAS among others.
- (ii) There is need for strengthening of IOCAFRICA by enhancing its human resources for increased visibility and traction.
- (iii) IOCAFRICA should work towards establishing or revamping National Commissions of the IOC in Member States to enhance visibility and coordination of national organizations that implement activities related to IOC-UNESCO.

- (iv) With regards to the establishment of National Decade Committees; there is need for clarity on the establishment, roles and financing of these committees alongside other national committees responsible for Blue Economy implementation.
- (v) Further, with regards to the Decade Implementation Committees and Institutions, there is need for clarity on the sustainability of these committees post the Decade in addition to the potential coordination duplication challenges.

37. The delegates from Benin, Egypt and Ghana informed the Sub Commission that they were completing their national reports and will shortly submit them.

38. Several delegations requested for clarification on the roles of the IOC National Committees and the National Ocean Decade Committees.

39. The Sub Commission adopted **Decision IOCAFRICA-VII/3.3** on the Overview of National Programmes and Plans.

- Requested Member States that had not submitted their reports to do so to provide a comprehensive baseline for preparation of a detailed implementation for IOCAFRICA activities in the region.
- Requested the Secretariat to improve the reporting template provided for future reports to cater for reporting of activities under the main programme areas of the IOCAFRICA work plan.
- Requested the Secretariat to give details of the Terms of Reference of the IOC National Committees and the National Ocean Decade Committees.
- Urged Member States from the region to strengthen national coordination mechanisms for IOC activities.

#### 3.4 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UNESCO AND IOC.

40. This agenda item was introduced by the IOC Executive Secretary Mr Vladimir Ryabinin

41. The IOC Executive Secretary, Vladimir Ryabinin, gave a global perspective on oceans and how these impact on the IOC. This included the coming meeting of the UNFCCC in June 2023 where oceans have been given greater prominence, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework, the recently adopted High Seas Treaty (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction - BBNJ) in which IOC is mentioned in the final text, Sustainable Ocean Planning and the massively increasing needs for/of sustainable ocean economy. He informed the Sub Commission that moving forward, the Ocean Decade provides the framework for addressing some of these issues.

42. The IOC Executive Secretary noted that there is growing respect for IOC's work within UNESCO. He reported that IOC has established cooperation with other sectors at UNESCO such as Culture (World Heritage Centre and the Under Water Cultural Heritage), Natural Science (Man and Biosphere and the International Hydrology Programme), and Education (Ocean Literacy). He informed the Sub-Commission that Member states have also shown interest in the work of IOC and provided support during meetings of the UNESCO governing bodies. UNESCO is currently working on two budget scenarios for 2023-2024: the Base Case versus Zero Nominal Growth. The Base Case, which implies an increase in funding will also result in the budget allocated to the IOC. There is also perspective for the United States of America (USA) returning to UNESCO with a possible impact on the budgets.

43. He recalled that following the IOS Evaluation of the Strategic Positioning of IOC, the 55th session of the IOC Executive Council had requested the Executive Secretary to estimate need budget and resources to run IOC sustainably. Further to this, the Circular Letter no 2912 was sent to Member States to seek their input in October 2022. The conclusions of the assessment were that: the IOC workforce should be increased from the current 60 to 90, the staff engaged outside the Regular Programme budget require greater stability, the total budget (Regular Programme and extrabudgetary) should be increased from the current 30 million USD to 50million USD, and there is greater need for stable “core voluntary contributions” from the Member States.
44. The Executive Secretary informed the Sub Commission that IOC is the strongest organization in Ocean Capacity Development globally. Programmes contributing to this include: the Ocean Data Information System (ODIS), the Ocean Capacity Development portal, Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), the Ocean Teacher Global Academy, and the Decade Capacity Development Facility. There are also significant CD elements in the eDNA, HABs and Ocean Acidification programmes. IOC is currently developing a new Capacity Development Strategy.
45. Regarding the work of IOC in the regions, the Executive Secretary noted that there has been change of guard at the IOCARIBE Secretariat where Ms Lorna Innis has taken over from Cesar Toro who retired in 2022, while the process for selecting a replacement for Mika Odido who will be retiring in 2023 is ongoing. The proposals on potential conversion of IOCINDIO into a Sub-Commission will be presented to the 32nd session of the IOC Assembly in June 2023. This will include suggestions on how it will interact with IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC. He noted that major positive global developments can help to energise regional work and good seeds for growth.
46. Mr Ryabinin informed the Sub Commission that when he departs IOC in December 2023, he hopes to leave IOC: (i) leading the Worlds Oceanography (through the Decade) and have a more important role in the UN System (the UN Ocean Conference 2025 will decide on a common plan for ocean action in the UN system); (ii) with perspectives to initiate sustainable ocean management (climate smart SOP for a healthy and sustainably used ocean); (iii) with increased budget (from UNESCO’s 42nd General Conference and Extrabudgetary funding); (iv) with a strong, healthy and motivated secretariat; and (v) working through the whole value chain (again SOP and its Functions).
47. He concluded by thanking the Head of the IOCAFRICA Secretariat, Mika Odido who will be retiring at the end of August 2023 for his multiple years’ service to IOC and UNESCO.
48. The Sub Commission adopted Decision IOCAFRICA-VII/3.4.
49. The Sub Commission
- Thanked the IOC Executive Secretary for the very comprehensive presentation that will be very useful during its deliberations.
  - Agreed that the weakness of science-policy interface in many countries impacts negatively on the use of the science for ocean management, and IOCAFRICA should be at the forefront of linking science to governments.
  - Noted that this will be the last session of the Sub Commission that Vladimir Ryabinin is participating in as the IOC Executive Secretary and thanked him for his contribution to the development of ocean science in the region and wished him the very best in his retirement.

#### **4. IOCAFRICA PLANNING FRAMEWORKS**

##### **4.1 OCEAN DECADE AFRICA ROADMAP.**

50. Mr Julian Barbière, Head of the Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section, who is also the Head of the Decade Coordination Unit introduced this agenda item by highlighting the progress that has been made in implementing the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the future plans.
51. He informed the Sub Commission that many stakeholders are actively engaged in the Decade with the number of endorsed actions reaching: 45 programmes, 214 projects, 69 contributions and 420 activities. The Decade Advisory Board had been established with 15 members from 14 countries with 8 being women and 7 men, three of them from the region.
52. The regional and national coordination structures have continued to grow with the following already established: 7 regional taskforces (including one for Africa), 9 Decade Collaboration Centres, 8 Decade Implementation Partners (including NIOF in Egypt), and 32 national Decade Committees (4 from Africa). The Decade also has so far had 10 patrons, 16 institutional members of the Ocean Decade Alliance, 5 informal working groups, more than 20 members of the Foundations dialogue and 6,000 members on the Ocean Decade network. These structures enable stakeholders to meet and discuss societal and environmental impacts of the oceans.
53. The focus of 2023 will be to start documenting the scientific impacts of the Decade. In 2024 the community will be brought back together during the UN Ocean Decade Conference in (10-12 April 2024, Barcelona, Spain) to review the collective vision and whether we need to adjust them or bring in new ideas.
54. He emphasised the need for African partners and experts to be in the Working groups as they set the priorities. He informed the Sub Commission that Government of Flanders, Belgium has provided a two-year grant to support the establishment of a Decade Capacity Development facility which will focus on demand driven capacity development. The objective is to identify specific needs for capacity development in the Decade and to meet those needs through existing and new initiatives.
55. Mr Barbière reminded the Sub Commission that the IOC Executive Council had in 2022, through the IOC resolution EC-55/1 invited IOCAFRICA to consider being a Decade Coordination Office. The Secretariat had subsequently undertaken a scoping study and prepared a report with proposal for a structure and terms of Reference for the Decade Coordination Office (DCO) to be hosted by IOCAFRICA and work as the technical secretariat for the Africa Ocean Decade Task Force. The proposal also outlines how the proposed DCO would work together with other regional coordination structures, including the thematic Sub Regional Decade Collaborative Centers, the Decade Implementing Partners, and the National Ocean Decade Committees.
56. Dr Jacqueline Uku, the Chair of the Africa Ocean Decade Task Force gave a presentation on the establishment, Terms of Reference and progress that has been made by the Task Force. The Task Force is a multi-stakeholder body composed of 14 individual members and 6 representatives of institutional/organizations (NORAD, WIOMSA, Africa Union Commission, UNEP Nairobi and Abidjan Commission and the Africa Development). The Task Force was established in October 2022 to oversee and promote the implementation of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap, and the enabling environment necessary for its success.
57. The Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap was launched in May 2022 at the Africa Conference for Priority setting & Partnership Development as the framework document for the Ocean Decade in Africa. The Roadmap provides a vision and plan for diverse stakeholders (government, industry, philanthropy, UN agencies, civil society and the scientific community) to convene around a common set of priorities for the implementation of the Ocean Decade in Africa. The Roadmap has

clear links and synergies with other regional frameworks (AU agenda 2063, 2050 AIMS, 2019 Africa Blue Economy Strategy). The Roadmap identifies nine priority actions for Africa during the Decade: 1. Sustainable Ocean Management in Africa; 2. Ocean and Human Health; 3. Unlocking the Blue Carbon potential of Africa; 4. Fisheries and IUU in Africa; 5. Strengthening multi-hazards early warning systems and community resilience; 6. Ocean Observations and forecasting systems for Africa; 7. Digital twin for Africa 8. Strengthening capacities and skills for marine science and technology and 9. Regional Ocean literacy programme.

58. The Task Force will play 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. More specifically, this support will: (i) provide a strategic vision, direction, and coordination of specific actions, (ii) create the appropriate enabling environment for translating the Africa Roadmap into co-designed Decade Actions at multiple levels from coordination to research and policy initiatives, (iii) facilitate the development of co-designed programmes, projects and initiatives for submission in response to Calls for Decade Actions, (iv) continue socialization/communication on the Ocean Decade in Africa and Africa Roadmap with existing networks, institutions, experts and stakeholders, (v) Identify multisector/multistakeholder engagement and outreach activities to engage further regional stakeholders outside the Task Force and raise awareness of the Decade. This will include specific mechanisms to engage priority groups, including indigenous and local knowledge holders, Early Career Ocean Professionals, ports authorities and maritime services, business and industry or philanthropy, and (vi) Establish specific/thematic working groups as deemed necessary.

59. The Task Force will meet at least four times a year (once every quarter), with the first in-person meeting planned for 3-4 April 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

60. The Sub Commission adopted Decision IOCAFRICA-VII/4.1

The Sub Commission:

- Welcomed the proposal to set up the Decade Coordination Office, within the IOCAFRICA Secretariat, as this will provide the mechanism to support the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade in the region and the establishment and empowerment of National Ocean Decade Committees.
- Requested the Africa Ocean Decade Task Force to report regularly to the IOCAFRICA Officers as provided in the TORs.
- Urged Member States from the region to work towards developing regional/national actions for endorsement as Decade Actions and address the current very limited number of submissions from Africa.

61. The Sub-Commission adopted Recommendation **IOCAFRICA-VII.1** on the regional Implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

#### 4.2 IOCAFRICA STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2025

62. The IOCAFRICA Technical Secretary introduced this agenda item. He noted that there were overlaps between the six thematic areas that had been proposed for the IOCAFRICA Strategic Plan and the nine Priority areas of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap. He noted that the Roadmap can therefore provide a basis for development of the Strategic Plan.

63. The Sub Commission adopted Decision IOCAFRICA-VII/4.2.

The Sub Commission

- Noted that regardless of the overlaps between the thematic areas for the IOCAFRICA Strategic Plan and the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap, the two documents are separate.
- Emphasised that there is need to set clear goals for the Strategic Plan away from the priorities of the Decade Roadmap. IOCAFRICA should include activities that may not fit within the Decade but incorporates priorities defined in the regional frameworks such as the Agenda 2063, 2050AIMS, and the Africa Blue Economy Strategy.
- Welcomed the offer of Egypt to lead the development of the IOCAFRICA Strategy 2023-2029 and requested the IOCAFRICA Officers and Secretariat to commence the process of establishing the team and ensure that it is inclusive and representative.

## **5. DEVELOPMENT OF THE IOCAFRICA WORK PLANS FOR 2023-2025**

64. The sessional working groups that had been established to deliberate on the different thematic areas for the IOCAFRICA work plans presented the reports of their deliberations, including proposals for activities for 2023-2025 to the plenary as follows:

### **5.1 OCEAN OBSERVATIONS AND DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

65. The sessional working group on Ocean Observations and Data & Information Management was Chaired by Dr Suzan El-Gharabawy of Egypt who is also the Vice chair of IOC-AFRICA (Group C). The rapporteurs were Dr Nina N. Wambiji (Kenya) and Mr. John Ngatia Ndarathi from the IOCAFRICA secretariat.

66. In their deliberations, the group started by asking what we have, what we need and what are the future plans to reach our goals. Each Member State represented in the group was requested to respond to these questions.

67. The report of the sessional working group was presented by Dr. Suzan El-Gharabawy:

68. Kenya has two tide-gauge stations, which transmit data to the international sea level data centre at the University of Hawaii and Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning Centre. The data is used locally to prepare tide tables. Data is also collected regularly on SST and phytoplankton. The RV Mtafiti vessel collects CTD data, bathymetry, nutrients data, plastic, coring of sediments, frequent fishery monitoring activities. Many NGOs also work on artisanal fisheries data. The SOLTSTICE Project deployed gliders. Kenya has ARGO floats deployed with assistance from various partners. The Kenya National Oceanographic Data Centre receives all this data and is mainly used for research and policy formulation. Kenya plans to enhance partnership to collect more and improved data. Kenya has submitted three proposals to Decade Calls Action, focussing on (i) Enhanced Sea floor mapping; (ii) understanding the oceanography of the north Kenya Banks (rich for fisheries); and (iii) blue carbon i.e. understand carbon sequestration in seagrass meadows.

69. Nigeria had a tide gauge installed at the Lagos GLOSS station which transmitted data to the international sea level centre at the University of Hawaii till 1998 when it was washed away by a storm surge. Nigeria has collected high resolution off-shore seismic data. Since 1999 Nigeria has organized regular joint oceanographic cruises on the Gulf of Guinea. These include a: research cruise in 2014 for bathymetry, coring and sampling in territorial waters, use the data for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies; Collaboration with China in 2011 for offshore sampling using echo sounders; Work on fisheries monitoring and Stock assessment in offshore waters; and recent collaboration with POGO – where scientists from Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin and Ghana were trained. Nigeria is planning additional joint cruises in the Gulf of Guinea,



though there is need to ensure security (piracy). Nigeria proposed collaboration on this initiative with the African Development Bank (financing) and the Nigerian Navy (security). Nigeria stated that it will explore the possibility of organizing regional oceanographic cruises on board its research vessels. Details of this will be discussed with the IOCAFRICA Secretariat.

70. South Africa has 5 tide gauges installed along its coastline that transmits real-time data to the Naval Hydrographic Office. The data can be accessed by the public. South Africa also has 3 oceanographic research vessels that undertake comprehensive monitoring of water column, in addition to biodiversity cruises; Deep Sea mooring stations (monitoring current, salinity, temp etc); and three weather stations at the coast. The data from these platforms are largely available to researchers through the Marine Information Management System (MIMS) at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). South Africa plans to deploy gliders for oceanographic surveying. South Africa stated that it will provide space on its Oceanographic Research vessels to experts and students from other African countries, selected in consultation with IOCAFRICA.
71. Cote d'Ivoire monitors coastal regions, including bathymetric surveys and physical chemical parameters. There is a tide gauge installed at San Pedro and connected through ODINAFRICA network. Remote sensing tool is used for sea colour and SST studies. Other surveys include fisheries monitoring and assessment of pelagic fish stocks.
72. Egypt has two RV research vessels, one for fisheries studies and environmental monitoring and the other for marine exploration. The research vessels are equipped with multibeam echosounder, single beam echosounder, side scan sonar, sub bottom profiler, seismic streamer and sparkler, magnetometer, gravimeter and a set of ROVs, AUV and Doppler current meter, water quality system, core sampler, grab sampler and rosette CTD. Two tide gauges, with one connected to the NEAM Tsunami Early Warning System. There is a data centre to collect and manage data information. Future plans include the installation of two tide gauges on the Egyptian Mediterranean coast and one on the Egyptian Red Sea coast.
73. Morocco has long coasts on both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, and has research vessels (offshore and coastal) that undertakes regular research cruises for fisheries and environmental monitoring. Morocco has submitted a project under the Ocean Decade for monitoring the marine environment and established its National Ocean Decade Committee. Morocco is a part of the Coastwave project for installing tide gauges for sea level measurement and connected to the NEAM Tsunami Early Warning System via the "Foundation Mohamed VI pour la Protection de l'Environnement" which is very involved in the preservation of the ocean resources. Morocco is a member of the Ocean Decade Alliance.
74. Angola and Namibia reported that they have acquired vessels for fisheries surveys and environmental monitoring.
75. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) invested in the Argo program which includes both deep sea and biogeochemical observations. NOAA will discuss the gaps in ocean observations in Africa and will be interested in supporting the deployment of ARGO floats. The number of Argo floats and locations for deployment will be discussed with the IOCAFRICA Secretariat. NOAA can also support and host a workshop on cooperation with GOOS-Africa. This is discussed further under the agenda item on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization (Agenda 6,2)
76. The UNEP GEMS Ocean Programme was presented by Ms Joana Akrofi from UNEP. The Global Environment Monitoring System for the Ocean and Coasts (GEMS Ocean) Programme is a multi-stakeholder partnership bringing together experts from earth observation, monitoring and modelling communities, together with end users and stakeholders to provide fit-for-purpose information for policy-making. The Programme seeks to enhance the capacity of all sectors of society to access, analyse, use, and communicate information to protect and sustainably use

marine and coastal resource and feed global, regional and national processes especially regarding Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), Ocean Forecasting and Sustainable Blue Economy Developments.

77. The Chair of GOOS Africa made a presentation on GOOS Africa. It exists to serve as a platform for coordination of transboundary observing networks. GOOS Africa is working closely with the African Union Commissions GMES and Africa project, and the two initiatives have identified the following gaps that GOOS Africa can fill:

- Governance and Coordination issues (linked to Policy and Institutional frameworks pillar of GMES & Africa)
- In-situ measurements competencies (linked to Data Access pillar of GMES & Africa)
- Technical and scientific assistance (linked to Services pillar of GMES & Africa)
- Promoting Capacity Development (linked to Capacity Development pillar of GMES & Africa)

78. The future plans of GOOS Africa include: survey of regional ocean data requirements (data types, data quality and instrumentation required by Member States in the region for ocean observations); reflection on the importance of ocean observations and data management to stakeholders in order to help them take actions and manage the resources (including fisheries) and the environment; and and setting up a data base for Africa to collect all the available oceanographic data.

79. The project Manager for the Ocean Information Hub (OIH), Ms Lucy Scott presented the status of implementation of OIH In Africa. The Ocean InfoHub aims to build a sustainable, interoperable, and inclusive digital ecosystem for all ocean stakeholders. Existing and emerging data systems are linked, with the ultimate goal of coordinating action and capacity to improve access to ocean data and knowledge. The Project is funded by the Government of Flanders, Kingdom of Belgium and implemented by IODE, project office of the IOC of UNESCO. OIH has supported the development of a new online database for research vessels, expeditions and projects: <https://ioc-africa.org/dbs/displayData.php>. A new African Database of Marine Training Opportunities as an OIH node, has been established and populated with the support of co-financing from NORAD, and may be found at: <https://africa.marinettraining.org/>. It currently hosts details of 278 courses from 18 countries. It has also championed the revival of ODINAFRICA and the African Marine and Coastal atlas. Partners include GMES and Africa, AU, Marco South, ODINAFRICA, WIOMSA and CORDIO-EA.

80. The Sub Commission adopted Decision IOCAFRICA-VII/5.1.

The Sub Commission:

- Emphasized on the importance of conducting oceanography surveys for strengthening ocean observations in Africa and the Adjacent Island States and welcomed the offer from Nigeria and South Africa of supporting oceanographic surveys.
- Proposed the establishment of additional regional (and national) OBIS nodes, to address the current gaps on biodiversity data in the region.
- Agreed on having regional trainings instead of localized sub-regional trainings. Regional trainings are important in building networks, sharing experiences, and sharpening skills and expertise among Africans.
- Noted the need for adoption of new technologies in ocean observations and data management systems. It stressed on the importance of the usage of gliders, ARGO

floats, and other updated equipment to improve the status of ocean observations in Africa and the Adjacent Island States.

- Welcomed the offer of partnership to improve ocean observations with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and instructed the Secretariat to follow-up on this offer.
- Agreed on the importance of installation and maintenance of tide gauges around Africa, and proposed that countries without functional tide gauges will be prioritized when embarking on this exercise.
- Stressed the need to revitalize and strengthen the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA), to improve data collection, as well as update the inventory of ocean observation platforms, data sets and expertise available in the region, including information collected during the session. This should include the reactivation of the National Oceanographic Data and Information Centres.
- Expressed the desire to strengthen and link the natural hazard early warning system around the continent and expand it to areas where it is currently not existing.
- Requested the Secretariat to explore continued collaboration with other partners from the region and beyond to support the strengthening of the Ocean Observations, Data and Information Management in Africa.

81. The Sub-Commission adopted Recommendation **IOCAFRICA-VII.2** on GOOS AFRICA.

## 5.2 OCEAN SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS TO MANAGEMENT

82. The sessional working group on Ocean Science and Application to Management was Chaired by Dr Ir. Zacharie Sohou (Benin) who is also the IOCAFRICA Vice Chair Group A. The rapporteur for the group was Mr Edwin Mwashinga from the IOCAFRICA Secretariat.

83. The report of the sessional working group was presented by Dr Ir. Zacharie Sohou (Benin)

84. In their deliberations, the group reviewed the implementation status of the activities that were in the work plan for the 2021-2023 period and proposed the following activities:

- Assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems in Africa (All Large Marine Ecosystems): their diversity, their ecological functionality and their biological production. Replicating the work that has been done by IOC-UNESCO on the production of an Oceanographic Assessment Manual in the Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystem (LME).
- Assessment of the vulnerability and adaptation of Africa's marine and coastal ecosystems to climate change taking into account regional ecosystems threats including coastal flooding and erosion, review of availability of long time series ocean and climate data, and identification of data gaps that need to be addressed.
- Implementation of IOCAFRICA project on building capacity for Ocean Acidification research, observation and detection, and early warning for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).
- Survey and assessment of marine pollution and related parameters (such as micro and macro plastics, oxygen depletion etc.) including the development of technologies and/or processes for waste reduction and ecosystem recovery.

- Support Member States in use of Marine Spatial Planning in balancing the requirements of different industries and sectors such as shipping, marine tourism, fisheries and aquaculture production etc.
- Support Member States in the establishment and/or update of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and in the use of marine management planning tools.
- Preparation of policy briefs and advocacy on relevant goals of Africa Agenda 2063, Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050, Africa Blue Economy Strategy, UN Agenda 2030 and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), working with regional institutions and networks.

85. The Sub Commission adopted Decision IOCAFRICA-VII/5.2:

The Sub Commission:

- Proposed that discussions on the coastal vulnerability project should resume and a way forward on it to be decided. There was a consensus among the member states on the importance of the project.
- Noted with concern the vulnerability of Africa to the impacts of climate change like Ocean Acidification, Harmful Algal Blooms, Marine Pollution etc. It stressed the importance for capacity building, survey and assessments, and early detection of these issues and events.
- Emphasised the importance of supporting the implementation of Marine Spatial Planning, including transboundary MSP initiatives. The initiatives should also contribute to the creation of Marine Protected Areas and EBSAs and the improved governance and policies for oceans and coastal areas.
- Noted that enormous amounts of data that had been collected within the framework of the IOC/UNESCO Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystems project and proposed that such initiatives should be replicated in other LME regions.

### 5.3 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR MARINE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

86. The sessional working group on Capacity Development for marine Science and Technology was Chaired by Prof. Amr Hamouda (Egypt). The rapporteurs were Dr Suzan El-Gharabawy (Egypt) and Mr. John Ngatia Ndarathi from the IOCAFRICA Secretariat.

87. The report of the sessional working group was presented by Prof. Amr Hamouda (Egypt):

88. In their deliberations, the group identified the following as the main targets for capacity development: improved ocean observations, improved tsunami warning systems, human resources, and efficient communications network.

89. The group reviewed the implementation status of the activities that were in the work plan for the 2021-2023 period and proposed the following activities:

***Undertake comprehensive survey of capacities available for marine science and technology in the region (including human resources and facilities/equipment), building on previous surveys.***

Details should be provided on the capacities available in each country, including experts and equipment/facilities. The IOC national focal points should be actively involved in the survey and spearhead the collection of information in their respective countries.

***Engage countries in improving and building on the existing Ocean Information Hub, through the organization of training on data processing, archiving, and sharing.***

The aim should be to improve discoverability and access of the OIH by Member States – especially information on research infrastructure and expertise.

***Strengthening of the linkages and collaboration between ocean programmes in universities and research institutions in the region to facilitate capacity development and transfer of marine technology (including sharing of facilities, exchange visits/sabbaticals, and exchange of publications);***

***Organize training courses and workshops on priority topics identified by IOCAFRICA. (Operational oceanography, shipboard training, application of remote sensing to marine sciences; ocean modelling and forecasting, science communication etc.)***

***Support regional centers (Ocean Teacher Global Academy RTCs, UNESCO Chairs and Centers of Excellence) to provide continuous professional development.***

Some delegates emphasized the need for to organize a training for trainers, and engage partners such as OTGA, NOAA and ITEC to develop a training on Tsunami ready.

***Develop and maintain an online schedule of national cruises and programs to facilitate collaboration.***

90. The group recommended the increase in OTGA regional training centres, and in particular the establishment of a centre to cover Northern Africa.

91. The Sub Commission adopted Decision IOCAFRICA-VII/5.3.

The Sub Commission:

- Proposed the organization of workshops for training researchers on-board research vessels, regional training workshops on remote sensing marine applications, training workshops on modelling, observations and forecasting, training workshop on data acquisition, data processing, interpretation and data archiving, and training workshop on eDNA as activities of focus for 2023-2025. The scope of the training on e-DNA for marine biology should be expanded to cover genetic materials of pharmaceutical importance.
- Emphasised the importance of maintaining, updating and improving the regional training portal for the benefit of African countries.
- Reiterated the importance of improving the ocean observation systems of the African countries and fill the gaps.
- Emphasize, strengthen and support the role of the NIOF Decade Implementation Partner to organize training for African researchers and ECOPs
- Welcomed the offer of Egypt to cover 50% of the total cost that will be required for the activity on “Capacity building workshops for training African researchers on-board the research vessels,” Egypt will provide their Research Vessel and provide other additional support for the training.

- Invited the IOCAFRICA Secretariat to initiate discussions on the details of the training with Egypt.

## **6. MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION**

### **6.1 OCEAN LITERACY, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY**

92. The sessional working group on Ocean Literacy, Public Awareness and Advocacy was Chaired by Ms Cândida Inês Sete (Mozambique) who is also the Vice Chair Group B.
93. The report of the sessional working group was presented by Ms Cândida Inês Sete (Mozambique).
94. In their deliberations, the group reviewed the implementation status of the activities that were in the work plan for the 2021-2023 period and proposed the following activities:
- Organize and support outreach programs, training courses and workshops, using regional and national training centres (Ocean Teacher Global Academy RTCs, UNESCO Chairs and Centres of Excellence) on priority topics identified by IOCAFRICA and the respective Member States to increase ocean knowledge within the general populace (fishers, coastal community inhabitants, learners and students, media practitioners and local and national authorities.
  - Have an African special session at the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Conference (April 2024, Barcelona, Spain); and organise the African Conference on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
  - Organize activities to improve ocean literacy/awareness during the World Ocean Day, African Day of Seas and Oceans, World Environment Day, World Fisheries Day, World Water Day, World Hydrography Day, World Tsunami Awareness Day and national marine related days..
  - Organize open days to promote ocean literacy and awareness. Organise art and photo competitions, and essay writing among learners.
  - Share related IOC Ocean Literacy toolkits (Ocean literacy for all toolkit etc.) with IOCAFRICA Member States and support their implementation.
  - Promote the mainstreaming of ocean literacy in education curriculums (Primary, secondary and Tertiary). Implementation of the Blue Curriculum Toolkit.
  - Use social media to enhance ocean literacy and awareness among the public e.g., conducting social-media surveys.
  - Promote innovative research on ocean literacy among IOCAFRICA member states.
  - Increase monitoring and evaluation of activities and the impacts of the ocean literacy programmes among the IOCAFRICA member states.
  -
95. The Sub Commission adopted Decision IOCAFRICA-VII/6.1.

## The Sub Commission:

- Emphasized on the importance of creating an ocean literate society. It noted that most of the public was aware of the influence of the ocean on them and their impact on oceans.
- Stressed the need of raising awareness and promoting advocacy through holding activities on designated global and/or Africa marine related days, training of learners, usage of innovative information sharing methods, and among others.
- Noted the importance of organizing and supporting relevant events (conferences, symposia etc.), and activities to mark World Ocean Day and African Day of Seas and Oceans.
- Propose a new conference for IOCAFRICA be held every two years, possibly in conjunction with the regular sessions of the Sub Commission.
- Proposed the organization of ocean literacy and public awareness activities for the students and society for improving their knowledge about ocean science.
- Requested the Secretariat to improve the website of IOCAFRICA by adding a calendar of important ocean related events and dates and a data base of the regional groups.
- Requested Member States from the region to develop and actively implement ocean literacy programmes.

## 6.2 PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

96. The presentation on China-Africa collaboration in marine science and technology was made by Professor Xu Xuewei, the Director of Science and Technology Department at the Second Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources. He recalled that four Sino Africa Forum in marine Science and technology forums have been held since the establishment of the Sub Commission, with one held in Kenya in 2015. China has established bilateral collaboration with several countries on the region such as Zanzibar (Tanzania), Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Cape Verde, and Seychelles. The collaboration ranged from establishment of ocean research centres, joint research programmes and cruise, to capacity development including MSc and PhD scholarships.
97. When comparing the China Ocean Decade Action framework and the Ocean Decade African Roadmap, many actions overlapped thus a plus for collaboration. China would like to collaborate with African countries in understanding the deep-water habitats, finding out the connectivity, predicting any oceanographic trends and capacity enhancement. A China-Africa Marine Science and Blue Economy Cooperation seminar will be held mid-year 2023 to discuss the Protocol on Establishment of China-Africa Marine Science and Blue Economy Cooperation centre. The China-Africa Marine Science and Blue Economy Cooperation Center will have an office in China and Africa with the following negotiated chapters: (i) Capacity building training centre, (ii) Marine disaster prevention and mitigation centre, (iii) marine blue carbon potential assessment centre, (iv) continental shelf collaboration research centre and (v) Blue Economy development and demonstration centre
98. The presentation on the programmes of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was made by Joseph Naughton (Program Analyst, Office of International Activities, NOAA) He stated that NOAA values robust international partnerships in order to support and promote national policies and interests in ecosystem-based management, climate change,

Earth observation, and weather forecasting, while also seeking to maximize the mutual benefits of international exchange with its global partners. The new NOAA Strategic Plan puts an emphasis on the value of international activities and recognizes it as a priority across NOAA. Within the IOC, NOAA supports a number of activities, including instrumentation and data processing for GOOS, funding for the International Tsunami Information Center and Global Teacher Ocean Academy as contributions to Global Tsunami Early Warning Systems, developing standards and best practices for Tsunami Evacuation Maps, Plans, and Procedures in support of the IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme, continued promotion of free and open data exchange, to name a few.

99. For Africa, he reiterated NOAA's support for IOC and GOOS Africa. NOAA is interested to partner with GOOS Africa in the following tangible ways: (i) Training on instrumentation and other observing platforms; (ii) Supporting early career professionals with exchange programs; and hosting a workshop to discuss best practices and regional gaps. Other areas of interest include: Expanding partnerships within Africa in support of the sustainable Blue Economy (in collaboration with the Blue Belt initiative efforts) and Ocean Acidification and scientific capacity building. NOAA recently became GOA-ON's Pier2Peer coordinator. There are a lot of African mentees in the Pier2Peer program and a growing number of new mentors, so it would be helpful to be able to plug them into existing regional efforts. NOAA is also very interested in developing a relationship with WIOMSA, OA Africa and other key partners of IOC Africa so that we can grow relationships and further support scientific capacity building. Lastly, NOAA will be launching the U.S. node for early career ocean professionals soon and is always looking for ways to connect with young scientists across Africa.

100. The Sub Commission adopted Decision IOCAFRICA-VII/6.2.

The Sub Commission:

- Welcomed the strengthening of collaboration with China and requested the IOCAFRICA Officers and secretariat to engage China in finalizing the arrangements for the China-Africa seminar to be held in mid-2023.
- Requested the IOCAFRICA Officers and the Secretariat to explore commonalities between the China Ocean Decade Action Plan and the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap as a starting point for developing collaboration in the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
- Welcomed the offer of collaboration from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and requested the IOCAFRICA Officers and Secretariat engage NOAA on specific activities proposed, including the Gap Analysis Survey to identify where are there coverage gaps for GOOS Africa and what are your priority actions to address the gaps.
- Expresses its thanks to partners that have provided support for implementation of IOCAFRICA programmes, especially the Governments of Flanders (Belgium), China, Norway, Sweden, the African Union Commission, and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and invited other Member States and organizations to partner with IOCAFRICA.
- Requested the IOCAFRICA Officers and Secretariat to work with NOAA on the organization of a workshop to review the gaps and explore opportunities for collaboration in addressing the gaps, identify instrumentation that needs immediate maintenance, and develop a calendar of research vessel cruises by IOC Africa Member States that will support instrumentation deployment.



- Request the IOCAFRICA Officers and Secretariat to map other potential partners and explore opportunities for collaboration with them in the development of ocean sciences in Africa.

101. The Sub-Commission adopted Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.3 on PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

## 7. ELECTION OF IOCAFRICA OFFICERS

102. The Sub-Commission unanimously re-elected the following members of the Bureau for the Sub Commission to serve for the next inter-sessional period and the Eighth session of the IOCAFRICA:

Chair : Prof Kouadio Affian (Côte d'Ivoire)

Vice Chair Group A: Dr Ir. Zacharie Sohoun (Benin)

Vice Chair Group B: Cândida Inês Sete (Mozambique)

Vice Chair Group C: Dr Suzan M. El-Gharabawy (Egypt)

103. The re-elected IOCAFRICA Officers thanked the Sub-Commission for giving them an opportunity to serve for another term and reassured the delegates of their commitment to fulfil the vision of the Sub-Commission.

## 8. DATES AND PLACE OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IOC'S SUB COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND THE ADJACENT ISLAND STATES

104. The Sub-Commission decided to hold its next (Eighth) session in the first quarter of 2025 (preferably in February 2025) and welcomed the offer of Egypt to explore the possibility of hosting the session. The Sub-Commission requested the Secretariat to ensure that the dates of the eighth session do not overlap with those of the UNESCO governing bodies and other relevant meetings.

## 9. ADOPTION OF THE IOCAFRICA WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2023-2025

105. The Sessional Working Group on Work Plan and Budget 2023-2025 was Chaired by Dr Karim Hilmi (Morocco) who is also the IOC Vice Chair Group V.

106. The Sub-Commission reviewed and revised the work plans that were presented by the sessional working groups on: (i) Ocean Observations and Data and Information Management; (ii) Ocean Sciences and Application to Management, (iii) Capacity Development for Marine Science and Technology, (iv) Ocean Literacy Public Awareness and Advocacy, and (v) Partnerships and Resource Mobilization.

107. The Sub-Commission adopted a work plan and budget for the activities identified to provide a guide for resource mobilization as the funds from the regular budget is limited. The Sub Commission requested the Secretariat and the IOCAFRICA Officers to focus on building partnerships and resource mobilization as the funds available from the Regular Programme budget will be limited.

108. The Sub-Commission adopted Recommendation **IOCAFRICA-VII.4** on **IOCAFRICA WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2023-2025**

## **10. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND MODALITIES FOR FINALIZING THE SUMMARY REPORT**

109. The Chair of the sessional working group on Recommendations, Prof. Kouadio Affian of Cote d'Ivoire, who is also the IOCAFRICA Chair presented the draft recommendations to the Sub Commission.
110. The Sub-Commission adopted the following four Recommendations of the session:
- Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.1: REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
- Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.2: GOOS – AFRICA.
- Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.3: PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION
- Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.4: WORK PLAN AND BUDGET 2023-2025
111. The IOCAFRICA Chairperson then invited the Sub Commission to adopt, in plenary, four Recommendations in addition to the decisions already adopted under each agenda item.
112. The IOCAFRICA Technical Secretary informed the Sub Commission that as is now customary, the Secretariat is drafting the narrative part of the summary report for the session in English only. The text will only be available shortly after the session, together with the compilation of adopted decisions and recommendations, and translated for the consideration of the delegates.
113. The Sub Commission requested the Secretariat to work with the rapporteur and the IOCAFRICA Officers in finalizing the draft summary report and circulate it to the delegates for final approval.
114. The Sub-Commission requested the Chair to present the Executive Summary report and recommendations to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session (21–30 June 2023, UNESCO HQ, Paris, France).

## **11. CLOSURE**

115. In their concluding remarks, the IOCAFRICA Chair and several delegates commended the Secretariat for the arrangements they have made for the session.
116. The Sub Commission thanked the Government of Kenya for the warm welcome accorded to the delegates and its continued support to the Sub Commission.
117. The delegates also thanked the IOCAFRICA Technical Secretary, Mika Odido for the service that he has rendered in the establishment and management of the IOCAFRICA secretariat since 2012 and wished him the best in his future undertakings as he proceeds on retirement later in 2023.
118. The Chair of IOCAFRICA Prof Kouadio Affian closed the seventh session of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA-VII) at 17h00 on Friday 17 March 2023.

## ANNEX I: **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.1

#### **REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

**Notes that** the Secretariat, working together with the IOCAFRICA Officers had developed detailed terms of reference and initiated a process for identification and selection of experts and agencies/organizations to join the Africa Ocean Decade Task Force.

**Congratulates the** members of the Africa Ocean Decade Task Force on their appointment and requested them to provide advice and guidance to the Sub Commission on the implementation of the Decade in the region.

**Adopts the** report of the Scoping Study developed jointly by the Decade Coordination Unit and the IOCAFRICA Secretariat for strengthening the IOCAFRICA secretariat to act as a regional Decade Coordination Office.

**Urges** IOC Member States and other organizations/agencies to provide support to ensure the development and implementation of regional programmes and projects in the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

**Encourages** Member States from the region to establish broad based National Decade Coordination mechanisms, incorporating institutions working in ocean related fields;

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to support:

- (i) the mobilization of resources to enable the establishment and running of the regional Decade Coordination Office to provide logistic and technical support for the implementation of the Ocean Decade activities in the region.
- (ii) the organization of a special session on Africa at the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, Spain, in April 2024.
- (iii) the organization of the African Ocean Decade Conference in 2025 to mark the mid-point of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the end of the African Decade of Oceans and Seas

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.2

**GOOS – AFRICA**

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

**Noting** the progress that had been made in the reactivation of GOOS AFRICA.

**Expresses its gratitude** to the African Union Commission and Côte d'Ivoire for the full support provided for the re-activation of GOOS AFRICA and its Coordinating Committee, as the Pan African platform for Ocean Observations, Monitoring, Forecast and Services in Africa with a dedicated secretariat based at the Centre Universitaire de Recherche et d'Application en Télédétection (CURAT), Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

**Further expresses its gratitude** to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for hosting the GOOS AFRICA secretariat at the Centre Universitaire de Recherche et d'Application en Télédétection (CURAT), Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

**Notes the excellent** cooperation between GOOS AFRICA and the AUC's Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES & Africa), including the organization of the workshop on "Collaboration between GOOS AFRICA and GMES and Africa" in Kigali, Rwanda from 24-28 October 2022 where a joint work plan was agreed on.

**Emphasises the importance** of increasing the resources available to GOOS AFRICA to facilitate the implementation of the joint work plan.

**Encourages** GOOS AFRICA to reinforce cooperation and develop joint programmes with IOGOOS, MONGOOS, OceanPrediction DCC, Coastal Resilience DCC and Mercator Ocean International

**Urges the** GOOS AFRICA Coordinating Committee to work with the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA) towards the establishment of an African Ocean Data Centre

**Welcomes the efforts** of the IOC Executive Secretary and the GOOS Project Office to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to support the implementation of GOOS AFRICA activities, including the strengthening of the secretariat hosted by CURAT.

**Agrees on the importance of** organizing joint regional research cruises in the context of the African Decade of Oceans and Seas and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and **welcomes** the offers of Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa to accommodate experts and trainees from the region during the surveys in their oceanographic research vessels.

**Requests:**

- (i) The IOCAFRICA Secretariat to work with GOOS Africa in the implementation of the GOOS Africa work plan.
- (ii) The IOCAFRICA Secretariat and the GOOS Africa Coordinating Committee to work together towards the establishment of GOOS National focal points in Africa and the Adjacent Island States.
- (iii) Member States from Africa and the Adjacent Island States to allocate sufficient resources to their national operational centres to ensure that they are fully equipped, and the ocean observing systems, including the national tide gauge networks are fully operational

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.3

**PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

**Noting** that funding and staffing for IOCAFRICA continues to be a challenge,

**Stresses the importance** of partnerships as a mechanism for joint planning and implementation of programmes, transfer of technology and exchange and sharing of resources,

**Welcomes the** collaboration that has been established with various organizations, programmes and projects, including the African Union Commission, the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Associations, the secretariat of the UNEP Abidjan and Nairobi Conventions, the Benguela Current Commission, the FAO/NANSEN programme, the Second Institute of Oceanography in China and others ...

**Requests** the Secretariat to explore the formalization of such collaboration through appropriate instruments such as memorandum of understanding or aide memoire.

**Requests** the IOCAFRICA Officers and Secretariat to:

- (i) Follow-up on the organization of the China-Africa seminar in mid-2023 to deliberate on the establishment of "China-Africa Marine Science and Blue Economy Cooperation Center".
- (ii) Follow-up with NOAA on the strengthening collaboration to improve ocean observations in Africa and the Adjacent Island States.
- (iii) Focus on developing and strengthening collaboration with other organizations/programmes as well as resources mobilization during the intersessional period and report on the progress made during the eight session of the IOC's Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States.

Recommendation IOCAFRICA-VII.4

**WORK PLAN AND BUDGET – 2023-2025**

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

**Noting** the progress made in the implementation of the IOCAFRICA-VI work plan,

**Expresses its appreciation** to the Member States, regional and international partners who have provided financial and technical support for implementation of activities in the region, especially the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium), China, Norway, Spain and Sweden.

**Thanks** the Member States from the region who have provided substantial in-kind support for the development and implementation of programmes of the Sub-Commission, including hosting and covering costs of training programmes and providing research vessels for regional training and surveys.

**Taking into account** the priorities identified during the regional consultations on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the regional codesign workshops.

**Adopts** the programme of work for the Sub-Commission for the period 2023–2025 as outlined in the Annex to this Recommendation.

**Welcomes** the offer of Egypt to lead the IOCAFRICA team during the budget discussions at the 32nd session of the IOC Assembly.

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to:

- (i) explore opportunities for additional regular programme budget and extra budgetary resources for the implementation of these activities, in line with the Global Priority status of Africa.
- (ii) strengthen the IOCAFRICA Secretariat through the provision of additional staff.

**Urges** Member States to continue and increase their support to IOCAFRICA and its Secretariat through financial and in-kind contributions, including the secondment of staff.

**Stressed the** importance of Member States from the region providing support in cash and in-kind for implementation of regional activities.

Annex to Recommendation IOCAFRICA VII.4

ACTIVITY	BUDGET ESTIMATE	TOTALS
<b>Ocean Observations and Data and Information Management</b>		<b>USD 380,000</b>
Activity 1.1: Oceanography survey (travel support for participants to join oceanographic expeditions on South Africa and Nigeria research vessels)	USD20,000	
Activity 1.2: Installing more tide gauges and maintenance the old ones	USD50,000	
Activity 1.3: Strengthen and update the ocean data and information network for Africa	USD10,000	
Activity 1.4.: Install more marine technology (gliders, Argo floats etc) for surveying (5 floats @40,000)	USD200,000	
Activity 1.5: Establish an African natural hazard Warning System, building on existing networks and with linkage to the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System for DRR	USD100,000	
Activity 1.6 Strengthening of the GOOS Africa coordination office at CURAT, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire		
<b>Ocean Sciences and Application to Management</b>		<b>USD 640,000</b>
Activity 2.1: Assessment of the vulnerability and adaptation of Africa's marine and coastal ecosystems to climate change taking into account regional ecosystems threats including coastal flooding and erosion, review of availability of long time series ocean and climate data, and identification of data gaps that need to be addressed.	USD20,000	
Activity 2.2: Implementation of IOCAFRICA project on building capacity for ocean acidification research, observation and detection, and early warning for Harmful Algal Blooms.	USD100,000	
Activity 2.3. Survey and assessment of marine pollution and related parameters (such as micro and macro plastics, oxygen depletion etc.) including the development of technologies and/or processes for waste reduction and ecosystem recovery.	USD200,000	
Activity 2.4. Support Member States in use of Marine Spatial Planning in balancing the requirements of different industries and sectors such as shipping, marine tourism, fisheries, and aquaculture production etc.	USD300,000	
Activity 2.5. Preparation of policy briefs and advocacy on relevant goals of Africa Agenda 2063, Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050, Africa Blue Economy Strategy, UN Agenda 2030 and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), working with regional institutions and networks (e.g. FARI, RAFISMER & COMHAFAT, UNEP Regional Seas Convention programmes in some of the countries).	USD20,000	
<b>Capacity Development for Marine Science and Technology</b>		<b>USD 800,000</b>
Activity 3.1: Building capacity workshops for training African researchers on-board the research vessels of Egypt (NIOF Decade	USD400,000.	

Implementation Partner).		
Activity 3.2: Training workshop on remote sensing marine applications (2 Trainings @ USD 50,000 )	USD100,000	
Activity 3.3: Training workshop on Modelling, Observations and forecasting (2 trainings @ USD 50,000)	USD100,000	
Activity 3.4: Training workshop on data acquisition, data processing, interpretation and data archiving (2 trainings @ USD 50,000)	USD100,000	
Activity 3.5: Training workshop on eDNA for marine biology (2 trainings @ USD 50,000)	USD100,000	
Activity 3.6: Training courses and workshops, using regional and national training centres (Ocean Teacher Global Academy RTCs, UNESCO Chairs and Centres of Excellence) on priority topics identified by IOCAFRICA and the respective Member states		
<b>Ocean literacy, Public Awareness and Advocacy</b>		<b>USD 140,000</b>
Activity 4.1: Organize and support outreach programs, to increase ocean knowledge within the general populace (fishers, coastal community inhabitants, learners and students, media practitioners and local and national authorities.	USD20,000.	
Activity 4.2: Organise a special session on Africa at 2nd UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, Spain	USD50,000	
Activity 4.3: Organise the African Conference in 2025 to mark mid-point of UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the end of the African Decade of Oceans and Seas	USD100,000	
Activity 4.4: Organize activities to improve ocean literacy/awareness during the World Ocean Day, African Day of Seas and Oceans and national marine related days, World Environment Day, World Fisheries Day, World Water Day, World Hydrographic Day, etc e.g. The National Marine Week in South Africa	USD20,000	
<b>5. Organization of the Eight session of IOCAFRICA</b>	<b>USD100,000</b>	<b>USD100,000</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>		<b><u>USD 2,060,000</u></b>



**ANNEX II : IOCAFRICA-VII AGENDA**

1. WELCOME AND OPENING
2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
  - 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
  - 2.2 DESIGNATION OF RAPPORTEUR
  - 2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION
3. INTERSESSIONAL REPORTS
  - 3.1 STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON
  - 3.2 REPORT ON IOCAFRICA ACTIVITIES 2021-2023
  - 3.3 OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL OCEAN PROGRAMMES AND PLANS
  - 3.4 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UNESCO & IOC
4. IOCAFRICA PLANNING FRAMEWORKS.
  - 4.1 OCEAN DECADE AFRICA ROADMAP
  - 4.2 IOCAFRICA STATEGIC PLAN 2023-2030
5. DEVELOPMENT OF IOCAFRICA WORK PLAN FOR 2023-2025 (SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS.REPORTS)
  - 5.1 OCEAN OBSERVATIONS AND DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
  - 5.2 OCEAN SCIENCE AND APPLICATION TO MANAGEMENT
  - 5.3 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR MARINE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
6. MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION
  - 6.1 OCEAN LITERACY PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY
  - 6.2 PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION
7. ELECTION OF IOCAFRICA OFFICERS
8. DATES AND PLACES OF THE 8th SESSION OF THE IOC-AFRICA SUB COMMISSION
9. OTHER BUSINESS
10. ADOPTION OF THE IOCAFRICA WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2023–2025
11. ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
12. CLOSURE

**ANNEX III : OPENING ADDRESSES****ANNEX III.A: OPENING ADDRESS PROF KOUADIO AFFIAN**

Ms. Betsy M. Njagi, Principal Secretary, State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries

The IOC Executive Secretary, Dr Vladimir Ryabinin

UNESCO Regional Director for Eastern Africa, Prof Hubert Gijzen

Distinguished delegates from different countries

Dear colleagues

Distinguished guest

All Protocols observed

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to take the floor as IOCAFRICA chair to deliver this speech on behalf of the IOCAFRICA Sub Commission.

Ladies and gentlemen

It would be pretentious for me to come and talk about the importance of the ocean in a country that has distinguished itself as a champion in the Blue Economy.

Let's remember that it was here in Nairobi that Kenya co-hosted with Canada and Japan, the first ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in November 2018. Which conference was attended by nearly 10,000 delegates from 150 countries.

But we scientists, who experience the lack of financial support over the continent, we would be remiss not to indicate that science is the engine of ownership of the Blue Economy, indeed we cannot manage what we do not know.

It is no secret that the ocean is of great cultural, military and economic importance. In addition to the undeniable advantages of the ocean, it should be noted that globalization has made the coastal line, places of exchange between the world's major economic partners.

Ladies and gentlemen, Honourable Principal Secretary, a few figures alone are sufficient to justify our presence this morning to address the issue of the oceans in Africa:

- Although its coastline is not very indented, Africa is one of the geographical entities with the longest coastline in the world (26,000 km);
- 38 countries of the African continent are bordered by the ocean or the sea, but for 70% of them the exclusive economic maritime zones are largely under-exploited.
- The maritime areas under African jurisdiction cover about 13 million km<sup>2</sup> and about 6.5 million km<sup>2</sup> of continental shelf.
- The fisheries sector alone employs over twelve million people and represents the largest sector of the African Blue Economy, ensuring food and nutritional security

for more than 200 million Africans, and generating an added value estimated at 24 billion US dollars, which represents nearly 1.26% of Africa's gross domestic product

There is a need to remind you that a Blue Economy is also dependent on technological innovations and scientific advances to both create greater economic prosperity and preserve the quality and functionality of the waters for future generations.

Despite all these advantages, difficulties remain. They were pointed out by the President of the African Development Bank (ADB), Dr Adesina, whom I quote: "The Blue Economy is facing challenges related to the weakness of policy and regulatory frameworks, unsustainable human activities such as overfishing, pollution and coastal erosion. This compromises human health and food security,

Faced with all these challenges, IOCAFRICA intends to play its full role by promoting international cooperation and coordinate programmes in Research, services and capacity development, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of African countries and Adjacent Islands states.

It is on this note of hope that I wish everyone a successful session.

#### ANNEX III.B: OPENING ADDRESS PROF HUBERT GIJZEN.

Ms. Njagi, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy, and Maritime Affairs

The IOC Executive Secretary, Dr Vladimir Ryabinin

Chair of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, Professor Affian

Distinguished delegates from African Coastal and Island States

Distinguished Scientists and academicians

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this Seventh session of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States. This session provides an opportunity to reflect on how Africa and the Adjacent Island States can harness ocean science and research to optimally utilize their substantial Blue Economy potential, which is the new frontier for sustainable development.

Let me therefore highlight some of the important regional and global processes, as well as UNESCO priorities that provide a framework for this. Starting with UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2022-2029 that aims at achieving the SDGs via the Organization's fields of competence by 2030. The Strategy has identified a number of contemporary global challenges, such as:

- Extreme poverty and growing inequalities, particularly in terms of gender, but also in terms of unequal access to quality education and sustained learning opportunities;

- Effects of climate change on the environment and society at large, as well as the degradation of biodiversity;
- Depletion of ocean resources and access to water;
- Increasing frequency and impact of natural disasters and hazards; and
- Impact of frontier technologies in all areas of life and the digital divide;

The work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO is especially important as it contributes to most of these challenges, through actions related to tsunami early warning systems, Capacity development in the field of marine science and technology, and the reinforcement of cooperation to address the specific challenges posed by sea-level rise, ocean pollution and acidification, loss of marine biodiversity, and coastal erosion.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Within the region, the visionary AU Agenda 2063 outlines the continent's aspirations and the actions required to achieve its vision of "An Integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena". The agenda recognises that 'Africa's Blue Economy, shall be a major contributor to continental transformation and growth."

The AU has also adopted the 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS2050) and the African Blue Economy Strategy, which together provides a roadmap for increased wealth creation from Africa's oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving Blue Economy.

This session should explore how the Sub-Commission can support the region in harnessing its oceans resources and environment through these frameworks.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which commenced in January 2021, provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to mobilise ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure that ocean science can fully support countries in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. But there is much work to do for Africa: Currently the SC output from Africa is very low with the continent accounting only for 2% of global publications on oceans when it hosts 17% of population. When we look at Patents registered the figure is even much lower (below 0.04 % of global output)

In the last two years, Africa has undertaken significant steps in planning its collective engagement in the Decade. Notably, in May 2022 UNESCO-IOC organised the African Conference on Priority Setting & Partnership Development for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development', which was hosted by the government of Egypt. The conference saw the launch of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap, which is a culmination of an extensive stakeholder engagement process on the identification of nine priority future Decade Actions. The Roadmap provides a comprehensive assessment of the challenges that needs to be addressed in the region and proposes nine priority areas for action. We would like to encourage you to take these into account as you develop programmes for the Sub Commission.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In concluding I would like to emphasize the importance of strengthening the Sub-Commission to enable it achieve the objectives for which it was established. Member States could for instance consider the possibility of seconding staff, to support the work of the Sub Commission. In this regard, we would like to commend the government of Kenya, which has already loaned a staff to the Secretariat of the Sub Commission for an initial period of two years.

I invite you all to make the very best out of this event, to share best practices, forge partnerships and most importantly, initiate actions that will harness ocean science and research to optimally utilize Africa's substantial Blue Economy potential

I wish you all the very best in your deliberations.

Thank you

### ANNEX III.C: OPENING ADDRESS MS BETSY NJAGI

The IOC Executive Secretary, Dr Vladimir Ryabinin

The Regional Director and Representative, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Professor Hubert Gijzen

The Chairman, IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, Professor Kouadio Affian

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to join you today in this forum, the Seventh Session of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa, and the Adjacent States. This forum is of great importance for it enables us share experiences and learn from each about sustainably science to support the optimal harnessing of the Blue Economy and the wider space of management of coastal ecosystems in our respective countries. Here in Kenya, the Blue Economy sub-sector significantly supports food security and nutritional uptake for most vulnerable members of riparian communities, rural incomes and employment creation. The sub-sector contributes about 0.6% of Kenya's Gross Domestic product (GDP) and supports over 2 million people directly and indirectly along the various fish value chains.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya has embraced the Blue Economy Model, a marine-based economic development that leads to improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. This has been necessitated by the drive to be in conformity with United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA) approach which advocates for a paradigm shift from the current sectoral approach to policy formulation for the marine environment to a multi- sectoral, integrated, participatory and science informed approach at multiple levels. This has been exemplified in the development of Kenya's Blue Economy Strategy, initiative is expected to result generate maximum benefits for the country while protecting our Ocean spaces and resources therein.

Kenya has a coastline of about 650 km long, which borders with Somalia in the North and Tanzania in the South. This presents Kenya with an enormous maritime area with a huge potential to contribute to the socio-economic development of its citizens. The marine fishery is estimated to have a potential of between 150,000 – 450,000 MT per year with an

annual value of over Kshs 7.5 billion. However, the optimal potential is yet to be attained due to inadequate investment in deep sea fishing and the related infrastructure, inadequate capacity in knowledge and entrepreneurial skills, climate change related effects that have affected productivity in the aquatic spaces, pollution amongst other challenges. Solving these challenges will require evidence-based management that are informed by science. In this regard, the government of Kenya has invested heavily in the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute as a vehicle to deliver the requisite scientific knowledge.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the international level, Kenya has demonstrated its commitment to supporting international collaboration to support the development of the by hosting the Global Conference on the Sustainable Blue Economy here in Nairobi in 2018, and co-hosting with Portugal the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon in June 2022.

Kenya is also a member of the High Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economy - A unique global initiative led by serving heads of state and government from around the world who are building momentum for a sustainable ocean economy, informed by leading global experts and practitioners. The President of Kenya also serves as one of the Patrons for the Ocean Decade Alliance which is comprised of eminent partners whose mandate is to catalyse support for the Ocean Decade through targeted resource mobilization, networking and influence, leveraging and multiplying financial and in-kind resource commitments.

These actions demonstrate Kenya's commitment to mobilizing international cooperation to address ocean related challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Kenya was one of the founder members of the IOC's Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States and hosts one of the regional training centre for the Ocean Teacher Global Academy at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute. We have also offered the use of our oceanographic research vessel, the RV Mtafiti for use in regional surveys and training programmes.

I wish to reaffirm the Government of Kenya's commitment to the strengthening of the IOCAFRICA secretariat. As part of this commitment, the government responded to the request for secondments of staff made during the last session of the IOC Assembly in 2021 by deploying a member of staff to enhance the manpower at the Secretariat. We therefore look forward to a robust Secretariat capable of advancing the Sub-Commission's agenda.

Finally, ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to conclude by reiterating our commitment to supporting the development of ocean sciences in the region in order to enhance investments in the management of our oceans and coastal regions.

We look forward to this session serving as a place for reinvigorated ideas, that will support our collaborative efforts towards the optimization of our Blue Economy potential.

Thank you and God bless us all.

## ANNEX IV: STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR

According to the Rule of Procedure of IOCAFRICA, I am required to present to this Assembly a view on the state of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in Africa and Adjacent Island state.

First of all I want to pay a tribute to the Officers,

- Dr Suzan El-Gharabawy from Egypt representing the Group C ,
- Mme Cândida Inês Sete, from Mozambique representing the Group B
- Dr Zacharie Sohou from Benin representing the Group A and of course
- M. Mika Odido coordinator of IOCAFRICA.

I will not forget to thank the senior researchers, namely

- Dr Kwame Koranteng from Ghana,
- Dr Cherif Samari from Tunisia,
- Pr Amr Hamouda from Egypt, President of National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries and
- Dr Karim Hilmi vice-chair of IOC from Morocco

All these seniors accepted, despite their busy schedule to spend time to assist the Officers of IOCAFRICA by providing wise advice during our first mandate.

We have never met all together during the mandate but each of them, online, carried out the work that they were supposed to do with professionalism.

Our role has been to give advice and guidance to the Coordinator of IOCAFRICA in the implementation of IOC Programmes in Africa and Adjacent Island States, planning monthly meeting and preparing the current session of IOCAFRICA

In planning the agenda for this session in addition to the regular topics, we have included issues of major importance, such as:

- N° 1 The UN decade of ocean Science for sustaining development. It is without doubt the event which has most impacted the IOCAFRICA activities in the past two years. we have spent a lot of time and energy to build a road map for Africa with regard to that decade. The secretariat will make a presentation on it.
- N°2 The strong partnership with the Africa Union: Indeed, through GMES project which and the support of Côte d'Ivoire Government GOOS-AFRICA was revitalized in 1999 in Abidjan. A co-design project is being developed after the Kigali meeting.
- N° 3 The budget issue. For the first time during this session, we are going to discuss on the budget. The reason is as the following. When the Officers of the IOCAFRICA met to prepare this session, we were made aware of the reduction of the budget from the former biennium to the current one. As result we were not able to bring all the national representatives here

So during this session one of the expected result will be to identify and actively find out substantial alternative additional sources of funding. And also to identify possible mechanisms for attracting substantial extra funding

If this is not done, the work of our Commission during the next biennium will be severely limited.

We have been continuing to implement the sovereign programs of IOC in Africa and Adjacent Islands States by promoting International cooperation and coordinate programmes in Research, services and capacity development, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of African countries and Adjacent Islands states.

To achieve his goal IOCAFRICA works with appropriate partners. (some countries and programmes (MonGOOS, Coplan etc.)

GOOS-AFRICA has been revitalized. The process of co-designing project with African Union through GMES & Africa is in progress. The development of the Global Ocean Observing System requires minimum infrastructure and facilities such as research vessels that few African countries are provided with. Some effort needs to be done not only to increase the number of research vessels but to establish frank collaboration to mutualize the resources

This is an outstanding issue that we must resolve. Therefore, I urge Member States to make progress on this issue.

We plead for the development of vigorous regional programmes, based on common interest of the countries involved. This would constitute opportunities for frank collaboration and the need to pool resources

During this session through the national reports, we will hear more, particularly the possible connection between programmes

Ladies and gentlemen, during this Assembly you will hear of many achievements by Member state and the coordination office led by Mika Odido.

We did not fail in implementing IOC activities in African countries and Adjacent Islands States. But we can do more if as representatives of our countries we work together to empower IOCAFRICA for the success of Oceanography in Africa

What is the "State of the IOCAFRICA? In brief, we have ongoing achievements and

programmes of which we can be justly proud. We expect a lot from UN decade which should be understood as an opportunity to better develop oceanography in Africa and Adjacent Island state. Once again let's stress on the fact that there a need to attract additional resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been informed by the Head of the IOCAFRICA secretariat that this will be last session of IOCAFRICA that he will be attending as the Head of the Secretariat. I would like to thank him for his efforts in the establishment of the Sub Commission and setting up its secretariat here in Nairobi.

On behalf of all the Officers, I welcome you, and wish for us all a fruitful 7<sup>th</sup> Assembly.



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