



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

Resolution XXIX-1

International (UN) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development¹

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

Recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular SDG 14 ‘Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development’,

Further recalling the cross-cutting role of ocean science in SDG 14 and particularly target SDG 14.a that *inter alia* calls for Member States to “increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer of marine technology taking into account the *IOC Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology* [IOC CGTMT] (...)”, and IOC’s custodianship role for SDG 14, particularly under targets 14.3 and 14.a,

Acknowledging the role of IOC in providing technical and scientific support to Member States in achieving commitments towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Bearing in mind the ‘Call for Action’ agreed in New York in June 2017 by the *United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (The UN Ocean Conference)* regarding *inter alia* the need to further increase marine scientific research and to encourage scientific and technological innovation to promote decision-making based on the best available science (Para. 10 and 13.f),

Recalling IOC’s Voluntary Commitments made for the UN Ocean Conference and its follow-up, including the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (#OceanAction 15527),

Considering the internationally agreed frameworks such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recognizing the need to address existing gaps in ocean scientific knowledge, and that a global and multi-stakeholder framework of concerted and cooperative actions is needed to support ocean research, its applications and links to policy-making, sustained observations and services, with related capacity development and in accordance with the IOC CGTMT, in order to meet the 2030 Agenda,

Considering Document IOC/EC-XLIX/2 Annex 9 Rev. entitled “Contribution to the future of the IOC Executive Roadmap” and its Appendix II – Concept Note on a Second International Decade of (Integrated) Ocean Exploration, 2021–2030, presented at the 49th Session of the IOC Executive Council,

Recalling IOC Executive Council Decision EC-XLIX/5 that endorses the course of action on the “Roadmap” including the Concept Note for a Second International Decade,

¹ Resolution adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 29th Session, Paris, 21–29 June 2017, on 29 June 2017

Having further considered documents IOC-XXIX/2 Annex 9 and IOC/INF-1341 Rev. Prov.,

Endorses the proposal for an International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (herein after the Decade), to be established for the period 2021–2030, with the following preliminary objectives:

- (i) stimulate international cooperation regarding marine science requirements needed to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- (ii) understand the impacts of cumulative stressors and seek sustainable solutions for sustaining benefits from the ocean;
- (iii) share knowledge and enhance interdisciplinary marine research capacities leading to benefits for all Member States, particularly for SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDC);
- (iv) gain a better quantitative knowledge of ocean dynamics, ecosystems and their contribution to society, through the whole ocean column, from the surface to the bottom, and from the perspective of both natural and anthropogenic forcings;
- (v) complete the map of the ocean floor and its resources to support their sustainable management;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to:

- (i) convey this resolution to the UN General Assembly for consideration at its 72nd Session, with a view towards the establishment of the Decade under the auspices of the United Nations for the period 2021–2030 and to offer the IOC as coordinator;
- (ii) bring this resolution to the attention of the Director-General of UNESCO for inclusion of the Decade as a specific item in the agenda of the UNESCO General Conference for consideration at its 39th Session (Paris, 30 October–14 November 2017) with the view of its endorsement by UNESCO;
- (iii) encourage UN agencies and programmes, international scientific and academic organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to join the Decade, to refine the objectives and expected outcomes, and to prepare the draft implementation plan of the Decade, for further consideration by the UN General Assembly in 2019;
- (iv) present a progress report thereon to the IOC Executive Council at its 51st session;

Urges Member States to express support to the establishment of the Decade under the United Nations auspices and to contribute to the development of the Decade implementation plan;

Further urges Member States to provide voluntary contributions for the implementation of the Decade, preferably to the IOC Special Account, and through in-kind support such as staff secondments to the Secretariat.
