



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO – 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP, France
<http://ioc.unesco.org> - fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 58 12 - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 39 83/84
E-mail: v.ryabinin@unesco.org

IOC Circular Letter No 2671
(Available in English and French)

IOC/VR/JB
17 May 2017

To : IOC National Official Coordinating Bodies of IOC Member States

cc. : Permanent Delegates / Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Chair and Vice-Chairs of IOC and Major Subsidiary Bodies

Subject : IOC engagement in the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, the Ocean Conference, 5–9 June 2017, UN Headquarters, New York

By means of this circular letter, I would like to inform Members States of the main activities that the IOC will contribute to the UN Conference to be held from 5 to 9 June at the UN Headquarters. The UNESCO/IOC delegation will be led by the Director-General of UNESCO. As part of the delegation, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission will be represented by its Chairperson Professor Peter M. Haugan and myself as Executive Secretary.

Partnership dialogues

In parallel to the Plenary session, seven Partnership Dialogues (of a duration of half day each) will address specific issues. The following Partnership Dialogues are particularly relevant to the work of IOC:

- Partnership Dialogue 1 (Marine Pollution) – Monday 5th (p.m.)
- Partnership Dialogue 2 (Marine and coastal ecosystems) – Tuesday 6th (a.m.)
- Partnership Dialogue 3 (Ocean acidification) – Tuesday 6th (p.m.)
- Partnership Dialogue 6 (Scientific knowledge/research capacity) – Thursday 8th (p.m.)

Several experts engaged with IOC programmes will serve on the panels of these partnership dialogues, including myself in relation to Partnership Dialogue 6 (Scientific knowledge/research capacity). The full programme of the Conference is now available on the official Conference website: <https://oceanconference.un.org>.

Chairperson

Prof. Peter M. HAUGAN
Director, Geophysical Institute
University of Bergen
Allegaten 70
5007 Bergen
NORWAY

Executive Secretary

Dr Vladimir RYABININ
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Mr Stephen P. HALL
Chief Executive
Society for Underwater Technology
1 Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1BR
UNITED KINGDOM

Dr Alexander POSTNOV
Deputy Director
State Oceanographic Institute
ROSHYDROMET
6, Kropotkinsky Lane
119034 Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Ariel Hernan TROISI
Head, Oceanography Department
Navy Hydrographic Service
Av. Monte de Oca 2124
C1270ABV Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA

Dr Somkiat KHOKIATTIWONG
Senior Marine Biologist
Phuket Marine Biological Center,
Dept of Marine and Coastal Resources
51 Moo 8, Sakdhidej Rd.
Wichit, Mueang District
Phuket 8300
THAILAND

Dr Ashley S. JOHNSON
Director, Oceans Research
Department of Environmental
Affairs
Foretrust Building
M. Hammerschlagt Way
Foreshore
SW Cape 8000 Cape Town
SOUTH AFRICA

Voluntary commitments

All stakeholders are encouraged to register online [voluntary commitments](#) geared at driving implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its associated targets, in the Ocean Conference [Registry of Voluntary Commitments](#). These will be part of the conference outcomes. The IOC has registered several voluntary commitments such as the Global Ocean Science Report, and also in areas such as ocean observation, marine spatial planning, capacity development, Large Marine Ecosystem, ocean literacy amongst others. Information about these commitments can be found on an IOC dedicate webpage for the conference at: <http://en.unesco.org/ocean-conference>. All Member States are encouraged to register Voluntary commitments.

In particular, I would like to draw your attention on the fact the Proposal for an International Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development has been registered as #Ocean Action15527 on the UN Registry. In case your country or institution would like to express support for this commitment in the framework of the UN Conference, and be specifically mentioned, please contact the IOC Secretariat (c/o j.barbiere@unesco.org).

Side events

IOC will participate and contribute to 16 side events organized during the week. I would like to highlight in particular the lead IOC event entitled “Building ocean knowledge for sustainable development—How science will contribute to the achievement of SDG 14” on 8 June, 13.15-14.30. This event will be opened by the Prime Minister of Samoa, the UNESCO Director-General and the IOC Chairperson. This event will also be the occasion of the official launching of the Global Ocean Science Report and the presentation of the proposed International Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Secondly, IOC is organizing a media event —Ocean’s 8— celebrating global cooperation on ocean science, on 6 June (13.00-15.00). This event will be hosted by Sky News and organized in cooperation with UN Environment. All information related to IOC side events can be found at <http://en.unesco.org/ocean-conference>.

Conference outcome declaration: Call of Action

The Conference shall adopt by consensus a concise, focused, intergovernmentally agreed declaration in the form of a "Call for Action" to support the implementation of Goal 14. Attached to this circular letter, you will find the second version of the Draft Call for Action negotiated by UN Member States. A final consultation meeting will take place at the UN on 22, 23 and 25 May with the objective to finalize the Call for Action prior to its adoption by the Conference. Whilst some of the language proposed by IOC has been included in this version, the proposed reference to the proposed International Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development has not been retained. The Secretariat therefore propose the following amendment (text in Bold) with regards to para. 13 (f):

*Dedicate greater resources to marine scientific research, such as inter-disciplinary research and sustained ocean and coastal observation, as well as the collection and sharing of data and knowledge, including traditional knowledge, in order to increase our knowledge of the ocean, to better understand the relationship between climate and the health and productivity of the ocean, and to promote decision-making based on the best available science, to encourage scientific and technological innovation, as well as to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular SIDS and LDCs, **and in this respect welcome the proposed international decade on ocean science for sustainable development (2021–2030) under the auspices of the United Nations as a framework for concerted action for all States and relevant stakeholders to generate and consolidate the research and related capacity development needed to achieve SDG 14.***

We are therefore seeking the support of Member States to explicitly convey this amendment at the final consultation meeting next week (22–25 May 2017).

Further information on the proposal of an International Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development can be found at <http://en.unesco.org/node/268984>.

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Second Draft of the UN Ocean Conference “Call for Action”

marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, so that the General Assembly can, before the end of its seventy-second session, taking into account the report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly, decide on the convening and on the starting date of an intergovernmental conference.

(t) Welcome the follow-up on the partnership dialogues and commit to implement the voluntary commitments we have made in the context of the Conference.

(u) Contribute to the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda by submitting the results from the Conference as an input on the implementation of Goal 14 to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, including on opportunities to strengthen progress in the future.

(v) Consider further ways and means to support the timely and effective implementation of Goal 14.

14. We strongly call upon the UN Secretary-General to support the implementation of Goal 14, in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular by enhancing coordination and coherence throughout the UN system on ocean issues, building on the work of UN-Oceans.

* * *