

BRIEF REPORT of RUSSIAN FEDERATION

to the 31st SESSION of the UNESCO IOC ASSEMBLY

The Russian delegation thanks the UNESCO IOC Leadership and Secretariat for the great organizational work on holding the 31st Session of the IOC Assembly.

The Russian Federation supports UNESCO's IOC programs on ocean observation, data management, tsunami early warning and mitigation, ocean mapping and capacity building very actively.

Russia welcomes the launch of the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and expresses the state's strong interest in participating in the implementation of the Decade Implementation Plan. We appreciate the tremendous work of the IOC secretariat and the EPG in preparing this plan.

In Russia, the role of the **National Committee** for the UN Decade is taken out by the Interdepartmental National Oceanographic Commission (https://minobrnauki.gov.ru/colleges_councils/kollegialnye-organy/mnok/). The Marine Board under the Government of the Russian Federation (<http://marine.gov.ru>), (minutes of May 18, 2021 No. 1 (30) and the Interdepartmental National Oceanographic Commission (minutes of May 25, 2021) made decisions on the development of the National Action Plan on the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The Russian Federation is already carrying out activities aimed at expanding information among the general population about the problems of the World Ocean and the tasks to solve them.

These include

- Round table "Sustainable development of the marine / blue economy in the Azov-Black Sea region, the importance of marine spatial planning - 2020" in the framework of the Joint conference "Ecology. Economy. Informatics" (September 10, 2020, Dyurso, Krasnodar Territory).
- Round table "Prospects for scientific research of the Caspian Sea in the framework of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)" in the framework of the 2nd Caspian Economic Forum (11-12 August 2021, Moscow).
- Round table "National Action Plan for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)" in the framework of the All-Russian Scientific Conference "Seas of Russia: Year of Science and Technology in the Russian Federation - UN Decade of Ocean Science" (20-24 September 2021, Sevastopol).

- Scientific and educational program "OCEAN&I - school under sail", developed by the Museum of the World Ocean (Kaliningrad).

The most important capacity development program is the **Floating Universities** program, which was proposed by the Russian Federation in 1991, and since 1996, by decision of the IOC Assembly and the UNESCO General Conference (1995), is carried out within the framework of the IOC training programs, education and mutual assistance in the field of marine sciences. In the Russian Federation, the Floating Universities program has been developing very actively in recent years. Now more than 10 Floating Universities both in the European part of the country and in the Far East conduct training through research with the participation of foreign students and young scientists.

For its part, the Russian Federation, in addition to the IOC programs, conducts a wide range of scientific research on the World Ocean aimed at monitoring the state of marine ecosystems, analyzing the impact of climate change and anthropogenic impacts on the marine environment and its inhabitants, and improving the forecast of hazardous phenomena for humanity associated with ocean processes and much more.

To provide these studies with actual data from in-situ observations, regular marine multidisciplinary expeditionary studies are carried out in the marginal and inland seas, as well as in certain regions of the World Ocean. More than 60 marine expeditions are carried out annually by various departments of the country.

Marine expeditionary operations in the Far Eastern seas and the North-Western part of the Pacific Ocean are aimed at monitoring the state of marine ecosystems, the marine environment under conditions of climatic changes and anthropogenic impact. Many expeditions are of an international nature and are carried out with the participation of scientists from East Asian countries.

Much attention in the Russian Federation is paid to the study and development of the Arctic. In 2019, a large-scale scientific and technical project was implemented - a complex scientific expedition "Transarctic - 2019". The expedition was international in nature with the participation of scientists from Germany. The unique data allowed scientists to assess the patterns of the formation of the state of the natural environment in the Arctic and its likely changes in the context of modern global warming.

Large-scale expeditionary research is carried out annually in all Arctic seas from the Barents to the Chukchi, as well as in the inland European seas - the Baltic, Black and Azov.

In order to obtain high-resolution remote sensing data for the northern polar region, the Russian Federation launched the **Arktika-M** meteorological satellite into a highly elliptical orbit on February 28, 2021 for the first time in the world. The unique space system allows monitoring the ice situation in the Arctic seas, continuously receiving data on solar and geomagnetic activity, collecting meteorological data from ground platforms and transmitting them to forecast centers, which can significantly improve the quality of weather forecasts in the entire North hemisphere.

Since May 20, 2021, Russia assumed the chairmanship of the Arctic Council for two years. The main theme of Russia's chairmanship in the Arctic Council will be “Responsible Governance for a Sustainable Arctic”. Among the priorities of the chairmanship is the promotion of international scientific cooperation, in particular, the study of the issue of holding a scientific expedition within the framework of the Arctic Council in the Arctic Ocean water area on the ice-resistant self-propelled platform “**North Pole**”, which has no analogues in the world. This expedition will be an important contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). The full program of the Russian chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2021-2023 can be found at <https://arctic-council.org/en/about/russian-chairmanship-2/>.

In the Atlantic Ocean, the most important work is carried out on the transatlantic section at 59.5 ° N. annually for more than 20 years for the purpose of long-term monitoring of the structure of the waters and currents of the Subpolar Gyre of the North Atlantic and the variability of the meridional transport of waters, as well as the study of the spread of Antarctic bottom waters northward into the Atlantic through deep-sea faults.

Within the framework of the Russian National Project "Science and Universities" the construction of two unique multifunctional research vessels has begun, the launch of which is planned in 2024. These vessels are designed to carry out research of fundamental and applied importance in any area of the World Ocean, including the Arctic Ocean and Antarctica. The vessels will be equipped with the most modern scientific equipment.

In conclusion of this report, the Russian Federation invites scientists from the IOC member states to expand cooperation within the framework of the UN Decade using the Russian scientific fleet.