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| Summary  This document provides information on outcomes and contribution of IOC to a number of UN processes relevant to ocean affairs that took place during the intersessional period. These are the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Conference for an International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ); and the preparations for the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon. The Final draft Declaration for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference of 25 May 2022 is annexed to this document (in English only).  Decision proposed: The Executive Council is requested to take note of these developments and further encourage IOC Member States to engage in these intergovernmental fora, highlighting the role of ocean science and contribution of IOC. The draft decision on this item is referenced as Dec. EC-55/4.2 in the Provisional Action Paper (IOC/EC-55/AP). |

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## **Introduction**

1. IOC enjoys a recognized role in the UN system, in accordance with its Statutes. As a competent international organization in the fields of Marine Scientific Research and Transfer of Marine Technology, IOC contributes to various UNCLOS processes, including the emerging international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction known as BBNJ.
2. The IOC also contributes to major UN global agreements and frameworks including: the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the stand-alone Goal 14 on the ocean, also acting as a custodian UN agency for reporting on SDG Targets 14.3 and 14.a; the UNFCCC Paris Agreement by advocating for the increasing role of the ocean; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the SIDS SAMOA Pathway.
3. Whilst the COVID situation impacted the convening of several of these international processes, a number of advancements have been achieved in the last two years, which are reported in this document.
4. Building on the guidance of Member States, IOC plays a pivotal role in these processes in bringing together the scientific communities, the governmental decision-making system, and a broader set of stakeholders within our Member States, including the private sector and the civil society, to generate authoritative knowledge and develop efficient, science-based integrated ocean management and corresponding solutions.

**Contribution to the UNFCCC process – COP 26, Glasgow, UK**

1. The UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP 26) brought together 120 world leaders and over 40,000 registered participants. For two weeks, the world was riveted on all facets of climate change—the science, the solutions, the political will to act, and clear indications of action. The outcome of COP 26—the [Glasgow Climate Pact](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma3_auv_2_cover%2520decision.pdf)—is the fruit of intense negotiations among almost 200 countries over the two weeks, strenuous formal and informal work over many months, and constant engagement both in-person and virtually for nearly two years.
2. Specifically relevant to the Ocean-climate nexus, Article 60 of the final decision (1/CP.26) invites the relevant work programmes and constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to consider how to integrate and strengthen ocean-based actions in their existing mandates and workplans. Article 61 introduces the organization of an annual “ocean-climate” dialogue held by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, known as the SBSTA, from June 2022. This decision was warmly welcomed by the ocean community, which was calling for such a measure to be taken at this COP to formally anchor the ocean within the climate negotiations.
3. The Secretariat ensured strong representation at the UNFCCC COP 26 with the participation of the IOC Executive Secretary, IOC Chair and Secretariat. IOC was represented at the Earth Info Day during the main session and corresponding poster session (focus areas) ocean acidification and ocean deoxygenation. IOC further led the organization of several side events focusing on the Ocean Decade, ocean acidification, ocean observations, blue carbon and marine spatial planning, and UN inter-agency cooperation. On 5th of November, during the Marrakech Partnership’s Ocean Action Day, co-organized by the Ocean & Climate Platform and the High-level Climate Champions, over 40 experts took part in discussions on scaling-up ocean-based climate solutions to ensure a resilient, nature-positive and net-zero future. The IOC Executive Secretary took part in the High-Level Opening and delivered a keynote speech on the opportunities and challenges of ocean science in support of ocean and climate change. In preparation of the Ocean Action Day, IOC co-lead together with IUCN the preparation of the Marrakech Partnership pathway focusing on ocean and coastal zones.
4. Key messages conveyed by the IOC Secretariat at COP 26 included:
5. Increasing the global recognition that a healthy and productive ocean is a key source of solutions both for climate mitigation and adaptation, and that rigorous and immediate action, based on ocean science and observation, needs to be scaled-up to preserve marine ecosystems, ensure resilient aquatic food production and support adaptation and resilience-building for coastal communities;
6. A sustainably and equitably-managed ocean is recognised as the necessary condition to create the enabling environment to accelerate the implementation of ocean-based climate solutions for a net-zero and resilient world;
7. Call for implementing the necessary conditions for increased action and support, and in particular the scaling-up of research within the ocean-climate nexus, and public and private funding for ocean-based climate solutions, in line with the objective of and challenges identified by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).
8. The IOC Secretariat plans further engagement in both:

* the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue taking place on 15 June 2022. IOC proposed topics for the Dialogue to address in March 2022 and the IOC Executive Secretary will deliver a statement in the opening segment.
* Dr Margaret Leinen, Co-chair of the Decade Advisory Board will also address the Research Dialogue under UNFCCC SBSTA on 9 June 2022. In addition, IOC presents two posters during the Research Dialogue presenting IOC’s work on ocean acidification and blue carbon.

**Contribution to the International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)**

1. In its [resolution 72/249](http://undocs.org/en/a/res/72/249) of 24 December 2017, the UN General Assembly decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, with a view to developing the instrument as soon as possible.
2. The first session was convened from 4 to 17 September 2018, the second session from 25 March to 5 April 2019 and the third session from 19 to 30 August 2019. The fourth session, which was postponed by decisions 74/543 and 75/570 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, was convened from 7 to 18 March 2022. A fifth session of the Conference is being convened from 15 to 26 August 2022 pursuant to General Assembly decision 76/564 (available as [A/76/L.46](http://undocs.org/en/a/76/L.46)).
3. IOC actively contributed to the negotiation process. In September 2020, the Secretariat prepared a Non-Paper on existing and potential future services of the IOC-UNESCO in support of a future ILBI for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) ([IOC/INF-1387](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000374421.locale=en)). During the intersessional work, IOC participated in two webinars organised by the ICG President Rena Lee (Singapore) on the Clearing-House Mechanism (14 October and 2 November 2021), and presented the work of IOC in relation to capacity development and data and information management, as well as the IOC Clearing-House mechanism currently in development as part of the Ocean InfoHub project.
4. The IOC Secretariat was unable to participate in person at the 4th ICG because of COVID restrictions. At ICG-4, further consensus was reached on the management and modalities of the Clearing-House Mechanism, with some convergence stating that the Clearing-House Mechanism foreseen will be managed by the BBNJ Secretariat, potentially with support from other bodies (including IOC). A new text of the draft ILBI was released on 31 May 2022 by the President of the ICG and is available [here](https://www.un.org/bbnj/sites/www.un.org.bbnj/files/igc_5_-_further_revised_draft_text_final.pdf).

**Contribution to the UN Ocean Conference, Lisbon, Portugal**

1. Preparations are well underway for 2022 UN Ocean Conference planned to take place in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022. The central theme of the Conference is “Scaling up Ocean Action based on science and innovation for the period 2020–2030: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”. The Conference will also provide input to the review of SDG 14 by the High-Level Policy Forum that will meet in July 2022.
2. IOC directly supported the conference by leading the preparation of concept papers of Interactive Dialogue #4 (Ocean acidification) and #6 (scientific research). The 8 Interactive Dialogue will be organised around high-level panels taking place during the week. The IOC Executive Secretary will be a panellist in ID#6 on 30 June.
3. The 8 Interactive Dialogue will address:

ID#1 Addressing Marine Pollution.

ID#2 Managing, protecting, conserving  
and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems

ID#3 Minimizing and addressing ocean  
acidification, deoxygenation and ocean warming

ID#4 Making fisheries sustainable and  
providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine  
resources and markets

ID#5 Promoting and strengthening  
sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for small  
island developing States and least developed countries

ID#6 Increasing scientific knowledge and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology.

ID#7 Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

ID#8 Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1. The Conference will adopt the “Lisbon Declaration” which has been negotiated by UN Member States and is available in Annex to this document. The Declaration in paragraph 12, refers to:

*the importance of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and its vision to achieve the science we need for the ocean we want*

and expresses support towards

*the Decade’s mission to generate and use knowledge for the transformational action needed to achieve a healthy, safe and resilient ocean for sustainable development by 2030 and beyond.*

Finally, the Declaration expresses

*full support for the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in* *implementing the Decade and commit to supporting these efforts.*

The Declaration further emphasizes other important areas of work of the Commission. It stresses the importance of science-based and innovative action in relation to integrated ocean management, planning and decision-making, climate change adaptation, and reducing disaster risk and enhancing resilience. Paragraph 14 calls *inter alia* to:

*strengthen international, regional, sub-regional and national scientific and systematic observation and data collection efforts, including of environmental and socio-economic data, especially in developing countries, and improve the timely sharing and dissemination of data and knowledge, including by making data widely accessible through open access databases (…)*

1. IOC will lead the organisation with other partners of several high-level events related to the Decade, as well as IOC programmatic areas.
2. Key planned events include:

* High level Meeting of the Ocean Decade Alliance, 27 June 2022, 11.30-13.00 (Blue Zone), under the auspice of the Presidents of Kenya and Portugal and UNESCO Director-General.
* Accelerating Action Tackling Tsunami Risk: Partnerships and Solutions for A Safe Ocean Resilient to Tsunamis, 27 June 17:30-18:45 (Blue zone).
* UNESCO-UN/DOALOS Regular Process side event: Ocean Science and Its Policy Interface: from Knowledge to Sustainable Ocean Solutions, 28 June 17:30-18:45; where the pilot edition of the IOC *State of the Ocean Report* will be presented.
* The Ocean Decade Forum, 30 June, 14.30-17.00, Cienca Viva Museum.
* Taking Action to address Ocean Acidification and Implement SDG 14.3, 29 June, 15.00-16.00 (Blue Zone).
* Seabed 2030: Mapping for People and Planet, 29 June, 18.00-20.00, Myriad Hotel.

1. The full programme of IOC engagement will be available on the UNESCO and IOC websites: <https://www.unesco.org/en/un-ocean-conference-2022>.

**Annex: Final draft Declaration for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference,   
Lisbon, 27 June–1st July 2022**

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