Draft Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
7, place Fontenoy
75352 Paris07SP
represented by Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General
hereinafter referred to as “UNESCO”

and

The Regional education and research Centre on Oceanography for
West Asia (RCOWA) as a category 2 Centre under the auspices of
UNESCO

at the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and
Atmospheric Science
No. 3, Etemadzadeh St., Fatemi Ave.
Tehran, 1411813389, Iran
Represented by the Director of the Centre hereinafter referred to as
“RCOWA”

UNESCO and RCOWA together hereinafter referred to as “the Sides”.

Having regard to Resolution 37 C/Res. 36 (2013), whereby the UNESCO General Conference seeks to favour international cooperation in respect of capacity development in ocean sciences, observations, services, data management and information, and ocean related disasters; with the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran, designating the Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia (RCOWA) as a category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO,

Recalling Decision […], by which the Executive Board decided to renew the designation of Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia as a category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO and authorized the Director-General to sign the corresponding Memorandum of Understanding, and

Desirous of defining the terms and conditions governing the framework for cooperation between the Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and UNESCO in this Memorandum of Understanding,
HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 – Definitions

b. “Centre” refers to Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia under the auspices of UNESCO (Category 2).
c. “Sides” refers to UNESCO and the Centre.

Article 2 – Operation

The Centre shall take any measures that may be required for its continued operation as a category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, as provided for, under this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 3 – Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to define the terms and conditions governing collaboration between UNESCO and the Centre and the benefits and commitments stemming therefrom for the Sides.

Article 4 – Legal status

a. The Centre shall be independent of UNESCO.
b. The Centre shall enjoy the autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and has the legal capacity to:
   i. contract;
   ii. institute legal proceedings;
   iii. acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

Article 5 – Constitutive Act

The Centre shall ensure that the Constitutive Act of the Centre include provisions describing precisely:
a. the legal status granted to the Centre, within the national legal system, the legal capacity necessary to exercise its functions and to receive funds, obtain payments for services rendered, and acquire all means necessary for its functioning.
b. a governing structure for the Centre allowing UNESCO representation within its Governing Board.

Article 6 – Objectives and Functions

The objectives of the Centre shall be to:
a. facilitate all aspects of the ocean dimension of sustainable development agendas and effective management of risks and opportunities related to the ocean, in connection to the climate change, protection of marine biodiversity, and ocean economy.
b. support training, education, and capacity development in ocean research and technology, promote integrated management of the coastal and marine environment, create public awareness in ocean-related matters.
c. strengthen and broaden regional cooperation in ocean observations, research, data and information management, oceanographic services, and productive work at the ocean science – policy interface.
d. contribute to the rise of ocean literacy with a view to creating more harmonious relations between humans and the ocean.

These objectives will be achieved through the following functions of the Centre, namely to:

i. act as a regional hub in Western Asia for education, training, marine technology transfer in marine sciences;

ii. organize conferences, workshops, seminars, both in presentational and in online mode, provide opportunities for scientific mobility;

iii. promote the United Nations, UNESCO, IOC of UNESCO, and the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) programmes and activities in the region, including the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030),

iv. strengthen and engage regional networks of action in ocean sciences and activities, connect academic, private, non-governmental and governmental communities, and structures;

v. identify issues of priority for the region and recommend actions to address them capitalizing on new scientific knowledge;

vi. co-design proposals for projects, help to mobilize resources and implement proposed actions;

vii. facilitate the use of standards and best practices in ocean research and related activities, advocate for the open access and free exchange of ocean data and support standardization in the processing of ocean data and information; and

viii. communicate efficiently via a website and newsletters.

Article 7 – Governing Board

a. The Centre shall be guided and overseen by a Governing Board renewed every 4 years, which includes:

i. One (1) representative of the Government concerned or his/her appointed representative.

ii. representatives of Member State(s) and or Associate Member State(s), which have sent to the Centre notification for membership, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 11.b. and have expressed interest in being represented on the Board.

iii. a representative of the Director-General of UNESCO.

b. The Governing Board shall:

i. approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;

ii. approve the annual work plan and budget of the Centre, including the staffing table;

iii. examine the annual and evaluation reports submitted by the Director of the Centre, including reports of the Centre’s contribution to UNESCO’s approved programme and budget (C/5), global strategies and action plans as well as sectoral programme priorities, and develop response strategies for strengthening such contribution;

iv. examine the periodic independent audit reports of the financial statements of the Centre and monitor the provision of such accounting records necessary for the preparation of financial statements;

v. adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country;

vi. decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre.
c. The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year; it shall meet in extraordinary session if convened by its Chairperson, either on his/her own initiative or at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or of a majority of its members.

d. The Governing Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 8 – Contribution by the Centre

The Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia shall:

a. assume all costs related to the maintenance of the premises, equipment, facilities, utilities, and communications.

b. provide, in cooperation with the Government, all necessary financial resources, as well as the staff necessary, for performance of its functions as a category 2 Centre.

Article 9 – Financial Contribution to UNESCO

With a view to recovering costs incurred by UNESCO in administering, monitoring, reporting and other operational processes vis-à-vis category 2 institutes and centres, the Centre will make an annual contribution to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO equivalent to at least US$ 1,000 by 31 December of every year from the entry into force of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 10 – UNESCO’s Contribution

a. UNESCO may provide technical assistance, as needed, for the actions of the Centre, in accordance with UNESCO’s Approved Programme and Budget (C/5), including global strategies and action plans, as well as sectoral programme priorities by:
   i. providing the assistance of its experts in the specialized fields of the centre;
   ii. engaging in temporary staff exchanges when appropriate, whereby the staff concerned will remain on the payroll of the dispatching organizations; and
   iii. seconding members of its staff temporarily, as may be decided by the Director-General on an exceptional basis if justified by the implementation of a joint activity or project within a strategic programme priority area.

b. In all the cases listed above, such assistance shall not be undertaken except within the provisions of UNESCO’s Programme and Budget, and UNESCO will provide Member States with accounts relating to the use of its staff and associated costs.

Article 11 – Participation

a. The Centre shall encourage the participation of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which, by their common interest in the objectives of the Centre, desire to cooperate with the Centre.

b. Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO wishing to participate in the Centre’s activities and to be represented on the Governing Board as a member, as provided for under this Memorandum of Understanding, shall send to the Centre notification to this effect. The Director shall inform the Parties to the Agreement and other participating Member States of the receipt of such notifications.

Article 12 – Responsibility

As the Centre is legally separate from UNESCO, the latter shall not be legally responsible for the acts or omissions of the Centre and shall also not be subject to any legal process, and/or bear no
liabilities of any kind, be they financial or otherwise, with the exception of the provisions expressly laid down in this Memorandum of Understanding.

**Article 13 – Evaluation**

a. UNESCO may, at any time, carry out an evaluation of the activities of the Centre to be funded by the Centre in order to ascertain whether:
   
i. the Centre makes a significant contribution to UNESCO’s prevailing Approved Programme and Budget (C/5) at the time in which it was renewed, including global strategies and action plans as well as sectoral programme priorities.
   
ii. the activities effectively pursued by the Centre are in conformity with those set out in this Memorandum of Understanding.

b. UNESCO shall, for the purpose of the renewal of this Memorandum of Understanding, conduct an evaluation of the contribution of the category 2 Centre to UNESCO’s prevailing Approved Programme and Budget (C/5) at the time in which it was renewed, including global strategies and action plans, as well as sectoral programme priorities. This evaluation, managed by UNESCO, shall be financed entirely by the Centre.

c. UNESCO undertakes to submit the conclusions of the renewal evaluation to the Centre and Member State(s) concerned and to make available the renewal evaluation report on the relevant Programme Sector(s)’ website.

d. Following the conclusions of a renewal evaluation, each of the Sides shall have the option of requesting a revision of the contents of the Memorandum of Understanding or of denouncing the Memorandum of Understanding, as envisaged in Articles 17 and 18.

**Article 14 – Use of UNESCO’s name and logo**

a. The Centre may mention its affiliation with UNESCO. It may therefore use after its title the mention “under the auspices of UNESCO”.

b. The Centre is authorized to use the UNESCO logo or a version thereof on its letterheaded paper and documents including electronic documents and websites in accordance with the conditions established by the governing bodies of UNESCO.

c. Use of UNESCO’s name and logo including in the name, on letterheaded paper and documents, including electronic documents and websites of the Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia are strictly prohibited in the absence of a valid agreement with UNESCO.

**Article 15 – Entry into Force**

This Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force, after its signature by the Sides, on the date of entry into force of the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia as a category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

**Article 16 – Duration**

This Memorandum of Understanding is concluded for a period of eight years as from its entry into force. The Memorandum of Understanding shall be renewed or terminated on the basis of a decision by the Executive Board following a recommendation of the Director-General of UNESCO.

**Article 17 – Denunciation**

a. Each of the Sides shall be entitled to denounce this Memorandum of Understanding unilaterally.
b. The denunciation shall take effect 30 days following receipt of the notification sent by one of the Sides to the other.

c. Should the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the Centre be terminated, the present Memorandum of Understanding will terminate on the same date.

**Article 18 – Revision**

This Memorandum of Understanding may be revised by written consent between the Centre and UNESCO, further to, and taking into account the recommendations of a renewal evaluation.

**Article 19 – Settlement of disputes**

Any dispute arising from this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled by mutual understanding of the Sides. In the absence of an amicable settlement, the dispute will be referred to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) Arbitration Rules.

**Article 20 – Privileges and immunities**

Nothing in or relating to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be deemed a waiver of any of the privileges and immunities of UNESCO.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding,

DONE in 3 copies in English.

Place, date and signature

Place, date and signature

For the
Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO

For the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization