



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
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МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

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**IOC Circular Letter No 2913**  
(Available in English, French, Russian and Spanish)

IOC/VR/JB/AC  
14 October 2022

- To** : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC (IOC Member States)
- cc.** : Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO and  
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States  
Partner organizations  
Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC  
Officers of Major Subsidiary Bodies of IOC

**Subject: Update of status of implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030**

This Circular Letter provides an update on the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development with a specific focus on: (i) most recent endorsements of Decade Actions resulting from the Call for Decade Actions No. 02/2021; (ii) an overview of submissions received to the recently closed Call for Decade Actions No. 03/2022; (iii) information on the upcoming Call for Decade Actions No. 04/2022; and (iv) a specific request for Member State support for the operationalization of the recently established Decade Coordination Offices for data sharing and ocean observing.

**i. Recent Endorsements of Decade Actions from Call for Decade Actions No. 02/2021**

On 1 September 2022, in my capacity of IOC Executive Secretary, I endorsed 52 Decade Actions (50 Decade projects and two Decade contributions) that were submitted by lead institutions from 24 countries in response to Call for Decade Actions No. 02/2021. The majority of these projects will be hosted by existing endorsed Decade programmes and thus contribute to the collective impact of the Decade. I also acknowledged the registration of two UN-led Decade Actions. A full list of the most recent endorsed and registered Decade Actions is included as [Annex 1](#) to this Circular Letter. With these endorsements, there are now in total 44 endorsed Decade programmes, 193 endorsed Decade projects and 62 Decade contributions (including those led by UN entities).

**ii. Overview of submissions received to the recently closed Call for Decade Actions No. 03/2022**

Call for Decade Actions No. 03/2022 was open from 15 April to 30 August 2022 and solicited programmes contributing to Ocean Decade Challenge 3 (Sustainable Blue Food) and Ocean Decade

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Challenge 4 (Sustainable Ocean Economy) and projects contributing to all existing endorsed Decade programmes. Twenty-five (25) programme and 35 project submissions were received in response to the Call from lead institutions in 26 countries. The submissions are currently being reviewed by volunteers from the Ocean Decade Expert Roster (for programme submissions) and the relevant endorsed Decade programmes (for project submissions). A meeting of the Decade Advisory Board in November 2022 will consider the programme submissions and a first set of announcements is expected in early 2023.

### **iii. Information on the upcoming Call for Decade Actions No. 04/2022**

Call for Decade Actions 04/2022 will be open from 15 October 2022 to 31 January 2023 to solicit:

- Ocean Decade Programmes that contribute to Challenge 6 (Coastal Resilience), with a focus on “green” and “grey” resilience and multi-hazard early warning systems, and Challenge 8 (Digital Representation of the Ocean), with a focus on critical datasets, interoperable digital infrastructure, capacity development and applications, tools and services to meet all Ocean Decade Challenges. Programmes that contribute primarily to other Ocean Decade Challenges can complete an Expression of Interest form to allow guidance to be provided on their suitability for the current Call for Decade Actions.
- Ocean Decade Projects to be associated with one of 25 endorsed Decade programmes that have indicated their interest to be part of the current Call.
- Ocean Decade Contributions of in-kind or financial resources to support Ocean Decade coordination or Action costs with a specific focus on operationalization of the recently created Decade Coordination Offices related to: (i) ocean data sharing and management; and (ii) ocean observations.

As in previous Calls, lead institutions in Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries or Small Island Developing States can request technical support for the development of their proposed Decade Actions.

### **iv. Request for Member State support for the operationalization of the recently established Decade Coordination Offices for data sharing and ocean observing**

Following IOC Resolution [EC-55/1](#) that supported the IOC Project Office for IODE (International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange, Ostend, Belgium) acting as the Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Data Sharing and the IOC-led GOOS (Global Ocean Observing System) Programme Office acting as the Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Observation, Member States are kindly requested to consider providing financial resources or in-kind support (for example in the form of loaned or seconded personnel) to start the work of these Offices.

Both Offices are essential components of the decentralised structure of the Decade and will work together in supporting foundational aspects of Decade coordination and implementation. They will play a critical role in connecting the observations and data facets of the ocean science value chain across all Ocean Decade Challenges, while helping avoiding duplication of efforts and optimize the use of resources across Decade Actions. The Offices have been designed to contribute to the strengthening and sustainability of the host IODE and GOOS Programmes throughout and beyond the Decade, but they require support to become operational.

The core focus of the Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Data Sharing will be on supporting the Ocean Decade Challenge 8: Digital Representation of the Ocean. The Office will coordinate across Decade Actions to support the development of the capacity, functionality and interoperability of the management of and accessibility to ocean data, information and knowledge. The Office aims to manage the Data Sharing component of the digital ecosystem needed for the Ocean Decade to be successful and it will also support, interact and overlap with the other components of the digital ecosystem and therefore enable Challenges 7 and 9.

The core focus of the Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Observing will be in supporting the Ocean Decade Challenge 7: Ocean Observations. This role is strongly aligned with the vision of the [GOOS 2030 Strategy](#) and the aims of the Ocean Decade. The Office will play a key role in coordinating across the numerous existing Decade Actions with a focus on observations, supporting connection with existing frameworks for sustainability and data flow, catalysing new Actions and partnerships, carrying out gap analyses to identify priority future needs, and supporting communications and resource mobilization.

Further information including a detailed Terms of Reference and a required budget and resource estimate for each Office can be found in [Annex 2](#) and [Annex 3](#), respectively.

For more information about the issues addressed in this Circular Letter please contact Mr Julian Barbieri, Head of the Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section and IOC focal point for the Decade at [j.barbieri@unesco.org](mailto:j.barbieri@unesco.org) or Ms Alison Clausen at [a.clausen@unesco.org](mailto:a.clausen@unesco.org).

I thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

*[signed]*

Vladimir Ryabinin  
Executive Secretary

