



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

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(Available in English and Spanish)

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17 July 2023

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC/IOCARIBE  
UN, International and Regional Organizations Co-operating with IOC/IOCARIBE

C.c. : Other Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC  
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States  
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States  
Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies  
(Scientific, Technical and Regional)  
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission

**Subject: IOCARIBE Coordination of the Ocean Decade United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) in the Tropical Americas and the Caribbean (TAC): Ocean Decade Task Force and Decade Coordination Office**

In the Ocean Decade preparation and initial implementation phase (2018–2022), the IOCARIBE Secretariat assumed the responsibility and coordination role for the Decade in addition to its core functions without additional resources. The IOC Executive Council at its 55th session in 2022 invited the IOCARIBE Secretariat to consider acting as a Decade Coordination Office (DCO) in the region, to develop terms of reference for the DCO and to identify resources needed to strengthen its Secretariat. At its 17th session in May 2023, the Member States of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE-XVII), UN and regional agencies and partners in the region strongly expressed their support for the Ocean Decade and recognised the important role of the IOCARIBE Secretariat in its implementation.

At IOCARIBE-XVII, the Terms of Reference for the 'Tropical Americas and the Caribbean (TAC) Region Ocean Decade Task Force' presented in document IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/5.4 Prov. (<https://oceanexpert.org/document/32401>) were approved, including the selection process of its members. The TAC Ocean Decade Task Force will be a multi-stakeholder technical advisory body that will provide strategic advice to the secretariat and governing bodies of IOCARIBE. It will comprise up to 15 expert members serving in their individual capacity drawn from government, private sector, philanthropy, civil society, and the scientific community, as well as six members representing regional organizations (UN agencies, regional intergovernmental organization and NGOs) to be identified through consultations with the IOCARIBE Officers. The IOCARIBE Secretariat

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will be the interim Secretariat for the TAC Decade Task Force until the establishment of the DCO within the IOCARIBE Secretariat.

Nominations must be submitted by 15 August 2023 at 23.59 hrs UTC using the online nomination form at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tac\\_nomination\\_form](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tac_nomination_form).

IOCARIBE-XVII also invited Member States, partners and organizations active in the region to further review the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the establishment of a Decade Coordination Office (DCO) within the IOCARIBE Secretariat, as presented in document IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII/5.3 Prov. (<https://oceanexpert.org/document/32408>), before the end of September 2023. The Decade Coordination Office (DCO) for IOCARIBE will focus on supporting the effectiveness and impact of the Ocean Decade in the TAC region in the following areas: (i) coordination and support of approved Decade actions operating in the region and catalysing new actions; (ii) facilitation and engagement of stakeholders; (iii) resource mobilisation and communications; and (iv) monitoring and reporting efforts.

Comments and recommendations on the DCO Terms of Reference should be communicated to the IOCARIBE Secretariat by email to [i.inniss@unesco.org](mailto:i.inniss@unesco.org) cc: [p.wills-velez@unesco.org](mailto:p.wills-velez@unesco.org) by 30 September 2023.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*[signed]*

Vladimir Ryabinin  
Executive Secretary