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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Thirty-second Session of the Assembly

UNESCO, Paris, 21–30 June 2023

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT

INFORMATIONAL ANNEX

Record of Member States' interventions at the 32nd session of the IOC Assembly that were provided to the IOC Secretariat by the respective Member States. Interventions are reprinted without review or verification.

3.1 Statement of the Chairperson

Brazil

As a result of your experience and of the way you conduct the works during the main IOC meetings, we can say that we have been in good hands throughout this period in which you have held the position of Chair of the Commission. We are sure that you will be an example and an inspiration for the next Chairperson, which we will choose soon.

Kenya

We highly appreciate your leadership, personal engagement and dedication in fostering the mandate of the IOC. We also appreciate the efforts to communicate on the role of the IOC as well as strengthen its visibility and impact including in the United Nations and international ocean related processes.

Kenya further commends the Chairperson and all the officers of the IOC for the exemplary work accomplished in steering the activities of the IOC. Kenya concurs on the importance of pursuing strategies that will further strengthen the IOC and expand on the IOC's ability to deliver.

Finally, Kenya appreciates the activities undertaken by the Chairperson and the IOC officers in the advancement of the IOC Functions as well as the contribution to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

Portugal

Portugal wishes to use this opportunity to congratulate and deeply thank you for the outstanding technical, as well as diplomatic leadership of the IOC, for the past 8 years, as IOC Chair and Vice-Chair.

Your vision has been inspiring and ensured a most successful continuity of the excellent work undertaken by our former Chair and dear colleague, Peter Haugan. We wish you the best successes for your future projects and endeavours.

3.2 Report of the Executive Secretary

Brazil

It is remarkable that the last report of his mandate, which brilliantly concludes at the end of the year, is even more detailed and didactic than usual. It reflects the clear and objective way in which Doctor Ryabinin has been conducting his work, always with great diligence.

In particular, we would like to highlight the following topics regarding the activities in the recent years:

- The proclamation and initial implementation of the Ocean Decade.
- The publication, in 2017 and 2020, of the "Global Ocean Science Report".
- The presentation in 2022 of the Pilot edition of the "IOC State of Ocean Report", whose revision we are examining here soon.
- The promotion of the concept of "Ocean Literacy" within numerous events and publications in several languages, including Portuguese.
- The improvement of the governance of the GOOS Program, including the formalization of the "National Focal Points".
- The proposals, submitted to this Assembly, regarding the "IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy" and the "IOC Strategic Plan for Ocean Data and Information Management (2023-2029)".
- Contribution to the development, by the United Nations, of the "World Ocean Assessment (WOA)," which is moving towards its third edition.
- The incentive for capacity development, a core activity of the IOC, including by means of a revised strategy on the subject for 2023-2030.
- And finally, the mention of the 40th anniversary of IOCARIBE, which is cause for great celebration for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In order to conclude, we would like to thank Dr Ryabinin for his excellent work as Executive Secretary and wish him all the best in his future plans for when his mandate concludes.

Canada

We would also like to take a moment to acknowledge that today, June 21, is National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada. As we celebrate the history, heritage, and resilience of First Nations, Inuit and

Metis across Canada, we note the importance of considering different knowledge systems in advancing our ocean science work.

Because today is also world hydrography day, it provides an opportunity to reflect and promote the value of hydrography, in particular, for coastal communities.

We appreciate the importance of information in support of the science-policy interface function. Canada is supporting a number of projects, with partners, in its contribution to the Ocean Decade and so wanted to also reflect, in addition to those previously mentioned, the recent Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5), that took place in Vancouver in February 2023, where we were pleased to host participants from numerous IOC member states.

The report from the Executive Secretary raised a number of priority areas. To that end, Canada would like to also highlight, for information, significant investments in new large-scale ocean related research initiatives through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) including:

- Transforming Climate Action: Addressing the Missing Ocean, led by Dalhousie University with numerous partners, that is further investigating the ocean's role in climate change; and,
- A Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative co-led by Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Inuit Circumpolar Council.

Finally, we would like to offer our thanks to the Executive Secretary for his leadership and dedication to the IOC over many years. We would like to congratulate the Executive Secretary on his efforts and recognize the many ways he has contributed to raising the profile of ocean issues, shaped the vision of the Ocean Decade and championed the value and societal impact of global ocean science.

Colombia

Inicialmente, el Gobierno de Colombia extiende un sincero agradecimiento y resalta el detallado informe presentado por el Secretario Ejecutivo, que sin duda ha orientado exitosamente el curso de la COI/UNESCO durante los últimos ocho (8) años

De la misma manera, nos permitimos destacar su compromiso y el desempeño de su equipo de trabajo en las distintas áreas de gestión de la COI/UNESCO, y pese a las restricciones presupuestarias, se lograron resultados muy relevantes que mostraron avances importantes y de alto impacto en beneficio de nuestros océanos.

Finalmente Colombia agradece las palabras de reconocimiento al hospedar la sede de la Subcomisión para el Caribe y Regiones Adyacentes de la COI en Cartagena y apoyar su reciente reunión ordinaria, y reitera su compromiso de país de continuar brindando los apoyos necesarios para la consolidación de la labor de la Comisión en la región.

Côte d'Ivoire

Ayant le même sentiment que l'assemblée, la Côte d'Ivoire félicite le Secrétaire exécutif et son secrétariat pour le travail fait malgré un environnement hostile imposé par la COVID.

La délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire a fortement apprécié la partie de la présentation du Secrétaire exécutif où parlant de l'Afrique et des états insulaires il a prononcé la phrase suivante : il faut passer des déclarations aux actions, faisant allusion à la proclamation de la « priorité de l'AFRIQUE par l'UNESCO et la COI » qui n'est pas traduit dans les actes.

La délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire soutient l'idée que l'Afrique a effectivement besoin d'action de la part de la COI.

La Côte d'Ivoire a par ailleurs retenu dans la présentation du Secrétaire Exécutif que dans le cadre des observations océaniques 8 pays africains sont engagées dans ce processus. C'est très peu cela amène à se poser des questions et Mesdames et Messieurs les membres des délégations ici présents, des pistes de réflexion seront scrutées lors de ma présentation du rapport de l'IOCAFRICA que je présenterai lors de cette assemblée.

Enfin le secrétaire exécutif a fait mention de l'appel à candidature au poste du secrétaire de l'IOCAFRICA. La Côte d'Ivoire demande que ce processus soit accéléré pour permettre à la commission de travailler dans de bonnes conditions

France

La France remercie le secrétaire exécutif pour son rapport et souhaite rappeler son engagement en faveur de la commission océanographique intergouvernementale, dont elle assure la vice-présidence du conseil exécutif depuis 2021 et pour laquelle elle a contribué à hauteur de 100 000 euros au titre de ses contributions volontaires et à hauteur de 150 000 euros en faveur de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour les sciences océaniques au service du développement durable pour 2022.

Nous avons pris note de la mention de l'UNOC à Lisbonne en 2017, nous rappelons l'organisation de l'UNOC 2025 à Nice que nous nous félicitons d'organiser avec le Costa Rica.

Iceland

Iceland has an enormous vested interest in the health of the ocean and the state of the marine ecosystems. We have a long-standing policy on science based environmental protection and sustainable use of marine resources.

In high-latitude regions we are observing rapid climate change and rates of ocean warming, degradation of the cryosphere affecting fresh water fluxes and sea ice, and ocean acidification. This is a major concern as these changes are significant and urgent threats to ocean circulation and marine ecosystems in this region - and on a global scale.

The challenges we all face are complex. We need to create knowledge of value, we need to ensure a global capacity to do the science we need for the ocean we want, and we need knowledge to be translated into policy and action.

The work of the IOC is therefore of high value to Iceland and I am pleased that Iceland has announced its' candidature to IOC's Executive Council for the period of 2023-2025. I hope we can count on the support of you all. If elected, this would be the first time Iceland takes a seat on the Executive Council.

Dear colleagues.

We need to invest more in ocean science and we need to work together in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the Ocean.

Allow me to touch up on a few points:

- Iceland places a great emphasis on gender equality. We commend the IOC's work on the topic, but we would like to highlight the necessity of focusing on real gender-transformative approaches, as this is necessary to speed up the process towards more gender-equal scientific societies.
- Iceland recognizes the need for capacity building on a global level to address both local and global challenges to marine ecosystems and coastal societies. In line with the IOC-objectives, Iceland operates the GRÓ- Fisheries Training Program under the auspices of UNESCO, providing experts working in both science and policy with knowledge and tools for sustainable ocean management.

Last but not least, Iceland recognizes the need for sustained ocean observations, data sharing and collaboration with partners like WMO (World Meteorological Organization) and celebrates the work of the IOC that contributes to increased sustainability of monitoring, data sharing and research.

India

We congratulate the Executive Secretary Dr Vladimir Ryabinin not only for a detailed report on the substantive progress made in the inter-sessional period across all functions of the IOC, but also a forward-looking vision for the IOC to achieve a sustainable ocean.

India also would like to place on record the special words of appreciation to the Executive Secretary for the excellent contributions made during his tenure as IOC Executive Secretary despite difficult situations including COVID, and great progress made towards implementation of programs across all IOC functions, more importantly getting Oceans in the centre of the conversation in all international frameworks, for putting UN ocean decade on the rails which we are sure will bring oceans into public discourse. In the context of the increasing responsibilities of the IOC, India welcomes the possible enhancement of IOC's budget, thanks to the proposal initiated by the UK at the UNESCO Executive Board.

India has been a key partner to the IOC in the full spectrum of activities spanning the end-to-end ocean value chain including Ocean Observations; Ocean Data & Information Services; Ocean Modelling & Forecasting; Tsunami and other Ocean & Coastal Hazards; Capacity Building and many more. India has been hosting the Secretariat for IOGOOS; Project Office of IIOE-2 providing key support to IndOOS, SIBER, IRF, amongst others. India hosted the International Indian Ocean Science conference (IIOSC) which came up with forward looking ideas for Indian Ocean science, that was also mentioned by the Executive Secretary in his address.

India has responded to the call for Decade Actions and its proposal to establish Decade Collaborative Centre for Indian Ocean Region (DCC-IOR) has been recently endorsed and we would like to thank IOC for guidance throughout the endorsement process that concluded successfully.

India would like to thank IOC for supporting the capacity building activities to Member States. The International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCO-Ocean) which is recognized as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre organised 13 International and 14 national training courses of 1 to 2-weeks duration. About 1978 (668 international participants) trainees (Male:1191, Female:787) from 58 countries were trained during June 2021-June 2023 in collaboration with IOGOOS, POGO and OTGA.

We initiated the process for extending the Category 2 Status of the centre in consultation with UNESCO and IOC and will continue to develop programmes that are relevant to the region in the context of the Ocean Decade.

Executive Secretary's report highlighted the important work being done under regional programmes such as the sub-commissions / sub-committees / GOOS Regional Alliances in implementation of the global programmes of the IOC. There is a need to strengthen these regional programmes and collaborative mechanisms to ensure that the IOC can leverage from the regional contributions more effectively and help in solving problems of regional nature.

Finally, India would like to specifically thank IOC, and the Executive Secretary for contributing important inputs to the Oceans20 Dialogue and discussions related to Marine Spatial Planning in the Ocean aspects of the India's G20 Presidency.

Kenya

Kenya is delighted that the IOC is set to benefit from additional resources following the recent decision of the Executive Board of UNESCO on the urgent financing for the IOC which Kenya supported. We are of the opinion that the resources should be used to support the core activities of the IOC as well as the Regional Subsidiary bodies.

- Kenya continues to closely collaborate with the IOCAfrica Sub-Commission including through secondment of a staff to support the activities.
- Kenya is pleased to host one of the academies of the OceanTeacher Global Academy which has been instrumental in fostering ocean literacy not only in Kenya but in the region.
- Strongly convinced of the importance of multilateral cooperation, the Government of Kenya continues to promote SDG-14 and related SDGs including through initiatives that contributed to the 2nd United Nations Ocean Conference to be co-hosted by Kenya and Portugal in Lisbon in June 2022.

Kenya appreciates the priority given to Africa and welcome efforts to strengthen capacity development as well synergies with the African Union initiatives. Kenya also welcomes the strengthened synergies with other UN agencies and partners. We view this collaboration as critical to developing a holistic and multi-stakeholder approach to the implementation of SDGs.

We particularly welcome the efforts to foster the engagement and participation of young scientists and young people. Fostering the engagement and participation of young people is critical to the design, ownership and implementation of solutions that for sustainable use and conservation of the Ocean.

Kenya further appreciates and urges for increased intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration between the IOC and UNESCO's programmes.

Finally, we have two questions for the Secretariat:

One: Could we please have more information on the ongoing and planned activities to increase participation of young people as well as Early career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) in the programmes and work of the IOC?

Two: With regard to Ocean Education, could the Secretariat kindly update us on the current or planned activities to support Member States include ocean literacy in their school curriculum?

New Zealand

It has been an extraordinary period for the IOC, and both Dr Ryabinin and Mr Troisi should be commended for their leadership and achievements.

New Zealand recognizes the importance of the IOC in advancing marine scientific knowledge, fostering international collaboration, and promoting the sustainable management of the ocean and its resources. We appreciate the organization's dedication to addressing the complex challenges faced by our oceans, including climate change, biodiversity loss, marine pollution, and the unsustainable use of its resources.

New Zealand is a Pacific nation. The Pacific Ocean covers one third of the Earth's surface. It plays a crucial role in regulating global climate patterns, supporting marine biodiversity and sustaining the livelihoods of millions of people. It is home to some of the world's most diverse ecosystems, supporting a wide array of marine species, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

The Pacific Ocean plays a pivotal role in global climate regulation, in part by controlling El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) pattern. Understanding its role is vital for predicting and adapting to the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise and ocean acidification, and mitigate the impacts of ocean hazards, including tsunami and storm driven coastal inundation.

Fishing remains important as a source of income and for food security in Pacific Island nations, but this resource is at risk. The Decade of Ocean Science can contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries in collaboration and consultation with other intergovernmental organizations working on this complex issue.

The Pacific region is home to more than 1,000 languages. This reflects the tremendous cultural diversity, rich cultural heritage and identity of the many indigenous communities. This also results in substantial traditional knowledge on the oceans and marine environment, such as we find with mātauranga Māori in New Zealand. Together with bio-geophysical sciences and humanities, they form an integral part of the knowledge system.

Hence, New Zealand remains committed to collaborating with, and supporting the IOC and its member states to address the challenges facing our oceans. We value the organization's expertise, knowledge-sharing platforms, and capacity-building programs. These are crucial for achieving our shared goals of sustainable ocean governance and a healthy marine environment.

Norway

Norway sees IOC as a trustworthy key partner, in the science endeavour and in policy development, and certainly in promoting a sustainable ocean economy globally, not least in cooperating developing countries.

We particularly note your strong references to the action agenda of the Ocean Panel. A particularly interesting initiative will be discussed next week, that is the IOC-wide strategy on sustainable ocean planning and management. The Ocean Panel country leaders have committed to sustainable management of 100% of their ocean areas under national jurisdiction. By building upon the science, Marine Spatial Planning and related activities, this initiative from the IOC is welcomed as an opportunity to apply the vision of 100% sustainable management to the entire world ocean, supported by practical planning activities and competence.

As the Executive Secretary underlined himself, IOC has acquired a crosscutting position as an authoritative source of ocean science and knowledge. This has clearly contributed to bringing the ocean to the centre of climate attention and has underpinned the BBNJ-process. The Executive Secretary also emphasized the importance of cooperating with a wide range of stakeholders, from NGOs to governments to UN entities. We couldn't agree more. The solid knowledge base and the wide network of cooperating entities puts IOC in a unique position to bring this knowledge to use, as we need to translate scientific knowledge into practical policies and consequently action for protection and sustainable use of the ocean. Without common action, we will not reach our common goals.

Philippines

Significant milestones reached during the "super year" for the ocean underscores the tireless efforts undertaken by the IOC. The successful organization of key events such as the "One Ocean Summit,"

the 'Our Ocean Conference,' and the UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon, reflects the IOC's ability to mobilize diverse stakeholders and foster international collaboration.

As an archipelagic state, we acknowledge the IOC's instrumental role in the implementation of the Ocean Decade. The efforts to develop a common framework and promote the integration of ocean science in sustainable development planning are commendable. We applaud the establishment of the Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Observing and the progress made in the Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) development, which are instrumental in fostering data sharing and enhancing our understanding of the ocean.

Furthermore, the emphasis on capacity development, gender empowerment, youth engagement, and ocean literacy resonates deeply with the principles and aspirations of the Philippines. We recognize the importance of inclusivity and the involvement of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) holders in the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan as it demonstrates the IOC's commitment to harnessing the wisdom and expertise of diverse communities.

Lastly, we thank the Executive Secretary's dedication in mobilizing financial resources to support the IOC's initiatives. The increased funding from various donors is a testament to the growing recognition of the significance of ocean-related issues. We also commend the UK and all the cosponsors for their initiative in advancing a decision in the Executive Board to increase the share of the IOC in the UNESCO's budget which would further strengthen the IOC's impact and influence.

Portugal

First of all, many thanks for the rich and comprehensive report of the excellent work carried out by the IOC, not only in its core functions but also as concerns the UN Ocean Decade activities that it coordinates. The successes and accomplishments of your work and of the Officers, and the greater visibility of IOC, under your vision and leadership as Executive Secretary, were achieved in a scenario of great difficulties in terms of finances and human resources. These were overcome only through your unconditional dedication and that of the IOC team.

After many years of difficulties, IOC will now hopefully be able to continue to fulfil its mandate, strengthen its core functions and coordinate the UN Ocean Decade, in more adequate conditions. We thank the UK for leading the initiative that made this possible.

Dear Vladimir, your successes are the successes of all of us, the IOC Member States. It has been a pleasure and an honour to have worked with you.

You said "the IOC is the UN home of Ocean Science". Let me add, dear Vladimir that the IOC is, and will certainly continue to be, your home as well.

Russian Federation

It is noted in the report that the successful implementation of IOC programs required strengthening the budget of the Organization while maintaining a balance of funding sources. In this regard, the Russian Federation supported the proposal of certain countries at the 216-th session of the UNESCO Executive Board to increase the IOC regular budget by 1% of the UNESCO budget. A positive decision on this issue at the forthcoming UNESCO General Conference will provide an increase in the regular budget of the IOC by about 40%.

The Russian Federation supports all major programs of the IOC. Within the framework of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Russia conducts continuous observations of the hydrometeorological and ecological state of 13 seas belonging to 3 oceans.

In addition, more than 70 interdisciplinary marine expeditions are carried out annually in the seas of Russia and remote areas of the World Ocean.

The space system of 3 geostationary satellites "Electro" provides full coverage of tropical waters and waters of temperate latitudes of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans with satellite data with a frequency of 15 minutes.

Much attention is paid to the Arctic basin. An observation system based on drifting sea buoys is being created. Deep-sea research is carried out using the unique ice-resistant platform "North Pole". Five satellites will monitor the Arctic in 2024. These data make it possible to ensure safe navigation along the Northern Sea Route.

An international exchange of information is carried out within the framework of the IOC IODE program.

At present, a federal climate program on ecology and climate for the period up to 2030 is being developed in our country based on an integrated observing system for monitoring the state and dynamics of the ocean, including the fluxes of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. The surveillance system will consist of moored buoys, research vessels, drifting buoys and gliders.

The program "Learning through Research - Floating University" is being successfully implemented. Hundreds of students who want to connect their future with the study of the ocean pass through this training every year. We invite all IOC Member States to participate in this program.

Spain

España le está profundamente agradecida por su excelente labor durante estos 8 años. Le ha tocado liderar la COI en un momento complicado, con una situación financiera que ha impedido desplegar todo el potencial de esta organización y una pandemia cuyas consecuencias jamás habríamos imaginado. Sin embargo, la COI ha salido claramente reforzada bajo su mandato. Ha estabilizado y mejorado la situación financiera, reforzado muchos de sus programas y actividades, y por mencionar solo dos, la importancia que ha adquirido GOOS a nivel internacional o la custodia de algunos indicadores de los ODS como el 14.3.1 sobre acidificación, e incrementado su visibilidad en procesos internacionales clave sobre el papel del océano en la biodiversidad marina, el carbono azul y el cambio climático. Esto no se ha conseguido solo por una mejor estrategia de comunicación, sino, y sobre todo, por un mejor trabajo en los servicios y productos que genera la Secretaría de la COI en su labor de coordinación de múltiples programas y procesos a través de sus diferentes secciones, y queremos por supuesto enfatizar el enorme éxito que ha supuesto la propuesta de la Década y el que está suponiendo su implementación. Mañana tendremos oportunidad de hablar de la Conferencia de la Década en Barcelona y tan solo destacar el continuado compromiso de España financiando de forma consecutiva varios proyectos en la Corriente de Canarias y como ejemplo de nuestro compromiso con las ciencias del océano en general, la próxima botadora el 5 de julio de un barco oceanográfico de 80 metros de eslora con capacidad polar.

Todo esto ha sido posible por su entrega y liderazgo sobre la Secretaría y por la magnífica coordinación con el actual y anterior Presidentes.

Sí nos gustaría destacar, y lo decimos para su sucesor, que bastante ya ha tenido usted, que los enormes retos que tiene la CIO por delante, sobre su papel en la interacción entre Ciencia y Política o sobre la sostenibilidad de los océanos, no nos puede dejar de tener presente que la Ciencia, las Ciencias Oceánicas, son el eje central de esta organización y la base para todo lo demás. Además, los programas científicos han de dar servicio a las necesidades de los países miembros, pero también a todo el elenco de organizaciones de Naciones Unidas que intervienen en la sostenibilidad del océano. Si la situación financiera lo permitiera, por ejemplo a través de la resolución presentada por Reino Unido y que hemos apoyado, consideramos prioritario reforzar en papel de la COI en la coordinación y promoción de las ciencias oceánicas antes de abordar otros retos.

Señor Secretario Ejecutivo, ha sido un placer trabajar con usted, bajo su inspiración, bajo su liderazgo, bajo su atenta consideración de las iniciativas y los problemas planteados por los Estados Miembros. Es un orgullo haber estado a su lado durante este tiempo. Pero por encima de todo, destacar sus cualidades humanas, de cercanía, simpatía, ironía, cuando es necesaria, y por haberse convertido en un amigo de España, y por supuesto de quien ha tenido la suerte de representar a España durante su mandato.

Thailand

Thailand has made every effort to actively participate in various ocean-related platforms, including not only the IOC's but also in the interlinkage UN and global level initiatives.

Thailand reaffirms its commitment to continue our active roles in the IOC activities both directly and through WESTPAC Sub-Commission in scientific cooperation and ocean-related issues.

Distinguish delegates, I am pleased to announce that the Government of Thailand and the IOC/WESTPAC will co-organize the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference and the Eleventh WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference, under the theme "Accelerating Ocean Science Solutions for Sustainable Development" which will take place in Bangkok during the 22nd to the 25th of April 2024.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom welcomes the very full report of the Executive Secretary and expresses its sincere appreciation to him for his leadership of the IOC for more than a decade which has witnessed unprecedented increase in the visibility of the IOC and demands upon its expertise.

The IOC's current resourcing is not adequate for its growing responsibilities. A rapid rise in the prominence of ocean issues has driven a matching growth in expectations on the IOC to support solutions including targeted ocean actions with core science, observations, data and capacity development.

That is why the UK is grateful to the over 50 Member States of UNESCO who co-sponsored, and many others who supported, the decision at the 216th Executive Board of UNESCO under item 44 'Urgent requirement for increased and more stable resources to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). The decision was adopted which recommended the General Conference of UNESCO in November 2023 ensure: (a) an increase in the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC)'s share of the UNESCO regular budget of [1%] to ensure it has adequate human and financial resources in order to fully implement its responsibilities; (b) that for UNESCO's regular budget for 2024-25 (42 C/5), this increase be identified within existing regular budget resources. The very welcome outcome should be an increase of Regular Programme budget from a 2% to 3% share of UNESCO's regular budget (i.e. an approximately 50% increase in the IOC's regular programme budget).

The United Kingdom is of the view that, in preparing revised budget scenarios to take this uplift into account, the priority should be stabilizing the core functions of the IOC, several of which have fallen below critical levels of stable funding. By stabilizing core functions, this will provide a sustainable basis for IOC to engage with ambition and confidence in meeting new expectations being placed upon it. Care and attention to long-term sustainability will be needed in prioritizing new opportunities so as not to spread effort too thinly and risk the viability of core functions.

United States of America

Before I go further in my intervention, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the multilateral, ongoing search and rescue operations being undertaken in the hopes of finding five passengers aboard a commercial deep-sea submersible with which contact was lost just days ago.

A small complement of ocean enthusiasts from around the world, including from IOC member states, UK and France, found themselves called to explore the depths of the ocean at the site of the RMS Titanic as she herself lies in repose nearly 400 nautical miles off the shores of Newfoundland, in that way connecting her and the fate of these five lives to another IOC member, Canada, who I understand along with France are contributing to the response as well.

Indeed, the ocean connects us all, and I am certain that I speak for all of us in that our thoughts are with the passengers' loved ones and our hope for their safe return home.

With that, the IOC has important work to do. The United States is pleased to be here today. And, we look forward to a productive and collaborative meeting. And, personally, I am also pleased to be here - at my first IOC meeting.

Thank you to all delegates who have welcomed me here, and to all Member States who have supported the United States in the past, today, and in our aspirations for the future.

On behalf of the United States, I hope to bring fresh eyes, and perhaps, with the promise of the United States' fresh start in our collective minds, we can all see the work of the IOC anew.

I believe we must, as the global awareness of the importance of the ocean and coasts, and their contributions to our planet's health, becomes increasingly widespread.

And I note with respect the comments of our esteemed Chair and our Executive Secretary, I thank them for shepherding our work and for fostering a cooperative environment in which all IOC members may contribute not merely in the service of their individual interests, but in those of us all.

I am heartened to be in alliance with our Chair and our Executive Secretary and many others now in my belief that the IOC and its leadership and expertise must remain at the heart of international efforts to understand, predict, and convey to others what we know and - what we do not yet know - about our ocean, the rapid changes it is undergoing, and as well their present and future impacts on mankind.

With all of this in mind, I am sincerely grateful to be here today and to be able to begin, myself, contribute to this work with you.

And, I look forward to discussing the matters of 6.1., 6.2, and 6.3 at the Finance Committee later on the agenda.

3.3 Reports of Regional IOC Subsidiary Bodies

United States of America

The Regional Sub-Commissions are vital to the success of the IOC, and we would like to commend the regional leadership for the significant amount of work that has taken place during this past inter-sessional period.

The United States was pleased to participate in each of the regional body meetings these past few months and continue to offer our support.

With respect to IOCAFRICA, we would like to reiterate our offer to partner to improve ocean observations in the region and other capacity development needs.

In the Pacific, the United States supports priority WESTPAC topics identified at their recent meeting, including blue carbon, small islands development, citizen science, and traditional and local ocean knowledge, and we will be following up with expert nominations to participate in these working groups.

Lastly, in the Caribbean, we support the IOCARIBE targeted focus on increasing stakeholder and youth engagement; improving information, data, and communication sharing; revitalizing IOCARIBE-GOOS; and recognition of SIDS as a growing IOC priority.

We are also interested in the region's effort to streamline programs within the IOCARIBE structure to ensure efficiency and reduce duplication while ensuring progress and aligning them with the UN Ocean Decade.

Spain

España agradece los informes de todas las Subcomisiones, agradece la labor de todos los presidentes y vicepresidentes, así como de las Secretarías, con una especial mención para el Sr. Mika Odido y la más sincera bienvenida para la Dra. Lorna Inniss.

España quiere dejar notar nuestro compromiso de la observación del océano en la zona, y agradecer especialmente la colaboración que mantenemos con el Reino de Marruecos que permite que mantengamos un sistema de medición de corrientes y de presión parcial de CO2 en el estrecho de Gibraltar y de muestreos regulares de carácter multidisciplinar en una serie de estaciones en la zona de la Corriente de Canarias.

Así mismo nuestro compromiso en el desarrollo de capacidades dentro de la series de proyectos que viene financiando a través AECID sobre la CC y que en esta ocasión está centrado en el estudio de especies invasoras.

3.3.1 Report of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCFRICA)

Kenya

We also highly appreciate the exceptional work, dedicated service and invaluable contribution of Mr. Mika Odido who has very diligently served as the Secretariat of IOCAfrica. We wish him well in his retirement.

Kenya has been actively collaborating with IOCAfrica to promote the mandate of the IOC not only in Kenya but the region. As part of our support, we seconded an expert to support the sub-commission.

Kenya is convinced that IOC subsidiary bodies are important for the visibility and impact of the IOC at the global, regional and national levels. We therefore consider the IOCAfrica Sub-commission as essential in supporting African Member States achieve the goals set out in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development , the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Ocean Decade Africa Road Map.

Kenya also wishes to highlight the important set of recommendations coming from the recent IOCAfrica Assembly which met in Nairobi last March. We view these as key recommendations in ensuring that no one is left behind as we collectively seek to achieve the goals of the Ocean Decade.

Kenya thanks all the Member States and partners that continue to support the activities of IOCAfrica and calls for increased collaborations and support including through increased regular programme resources.

Kenya underscores the importance of IOC's capacity development function. We welcome and encourage the pursuit of the role of the IOCAfrica Sub-commission in bringing together existing capacities and promoting collaboration in the region. Capacity development remains a fundamental pillar as we continue to build synergies with the Africa Union's Blue Economy Strategy, the Decade of the African Seas and Oceans (2015 – 2025) and the 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS).

Finally, we note in all the presentations by the IOC Sub-commissions, opportunities to strengthen interregional collaboration. This is essential in order to harness the opportunities and also address the challenges.

3.3.2 Report of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

Japan

Japan congratulates Ken Ando and the IOC Sub-Commission for WESTPAC on the significant progress made during the intersessional period and its successful intergovernmental session held in Jakarta, with sincere appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for having hosted the session. Japan also extends its deep appreciation to the WESTPAC Secretariat in Bangkok headed by Mr Wenxi Zhu for their continuous efforts in active implementation of the programmes and projects in the region.

With regard to the implementation of the UN Decade at a regional level, we convened two events during the last intergovernmental session of WESTPAC, one for 'A Senior Governmental Officials Roundtable' and the other for 'National Decade Committee Forum' to further accelerate whole activities contributing to the Decade. WESTPAC plays a key role in promoting the Decade activities at the regional level, through which the WESTPAC is certainly an effective regional platform in promoting marine sciences and services.

In this connection, Japan, as a member of WESTPAC, appreciates the Government of Thailand for hosting the Decade regional office in Bangkok and organizing the second UN Decade Regional Conference in April 2024 in conjunction with the WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference.

Japan supports ongoing and newly planned activities of WESTPAC including CSK-2, Asia marginal Seas, NEAR-GOOS, citizen science in collaboration with ECOP, RTRCs, as well as ocean data and information management with enhanced cooperation with IODE.

Japan keeps its extra-budgetary contribution through Japan UNESCO Funds-in-Trust to support and strengthen activities of WESTPAC, and would be pleased to inform the Commission that Japan has offered to host the next intergovernmental session of WESTPAC in Tokyo in 2025.

In addition, Japan would like to emphasize the importance of inter-region communications among three Sub-Commissions as well as with IOCINDIO, for more harmonized implementation of the regional activities in view of global challenges in marine sciences and services.

Philippines

We commend the Sub-Commission for its tremendous efforts in assisting member states in addressing their development challenges and mobilizing support and actions for the Ocean Decade in the Western Pacific region specifically those aimed at minimizing the impacts of ocean acidification, advancing remote sensing applications, delivering knowledge on harmful jellyfish and marine spatial planning, and supporting coral reef marine protected area management. These endeavors have undoubtedly contributed to the sustainable development and conservation of the ocean in the region.

The successful UN Ocean Decade Kick-off Conference for the Western Pacific and the establishment of a Decade Coordination Office for the region are notable achievements. The capacity development initiatives led by the Regional Training and Research Centres, including Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, Ocean Dynamics and Climate, and the Philippines' Coral Reef Restoration and MPAs, are crucial in building the necessary expertise and knowledge base for the region.

The conduct of the Senior Governmental Officials Roundtable and its preparations for the 2nd UN Decade Regional Conference and the 11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference in 2024 provided valuable platforms for sharing experiences and fostering collaboration in the region.

Our delegation stands ready to further collaborate with the Sub-Commission and all member states to realize our shared vision of a sustainable and thriving ocean in the Western Pacific and we join the call for member states to consider providing additional resources to sustain the momentum of the Sub-Commission and to ensure the successful implementation of the Ocean Decade.

Republic of Korea

First of all, The Republic of Korea has supported the establishment of baseline information on the marine biodiversity and identification of the diverse marine species through the DRMREEF project since 2013. By summing up the activities of the project, the participants of the project are preparing for the publication of “Probing into Marine Life with DNA Barcode in the Tropical Indo-Pacific.”

And Korea is more than willing to provide professional support and advice in developing new working groups such as Small Island R&D Working Group, and Blue Carbon Working Group, as well as supporting RTRCs with the theme of marine biodiversity and ecosystem health. The Republic of Korea-Indonesia Marine Technology Cooperation Research Center (MTCRC) will play a pivotal role in developing and operating a more systematic capacity-building program in the field of oceans and fisheries.

Thailand

Continued support from IOC-WESTPAC contributes significantly to the advances in ocean science and yields the great benefits for the member states including Thailand, and we highly appreciate dedication and enthusiasm of IOC-WESTPAC member states and secretariat.

During the past intersessional period, IOC-WESTPAC plays the key role in pushing forward advance in ocean science in the region together with all member states. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, tireless efforts of IOC-WESTPAC were still recognized, and several achievements have been delivered.

For example, establishments of Regional Training Research Centers (RTRCs) are to be highlighted as one of the outstanding successes, and Thailand would like to express our appreciation to the host countries of all RTRCs, China, Indonesia, Philippine, and Vietnam for prioritizing the capacity development.

Thailand reaffirms our active cooperation with IOC-WESTPAC and all member states during the upcoming intersessional period in order to promote the UN Ocean Decade, SDG 14, and the sustainability of the ocean in the future.

3.3.3 Report of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE)

Brazil

Reconocemos el importante papel de IOCARIBE en la coordinación de acciones y el intercambio de conocimientos en la región que le toca. Aunque las acciones en relación con nuestro océano a menudo tengan un impacto mundial, y que la ciencia sea un esfuerzo global, es importante trabajar en estrecha colaboración con quienes están cerca de nosotros y que comparten muchos de nuestros desafíos y oportunidades. Constatamos que hay espacio para aumentar nuestra cooperación en Cultura Oceánica, datos y la coordinación de acciones hacia el Decenio del Océano. Compartimos la opinión sobre la importancia de trabajar (i) en el Decenio, (ii) en una red integrada de observación del océano, (iii) en la necesidad de comunicar de manera más efectiva el trabajo de la Secretaría y (iv) en el co-diseño y la co-ejecución de programas con la vinculación de jóvenes de la región.

Es un tiempo de renovación en IOCARIBE. Agradecemos el inestimable trabajo de la junta directiva anterior, que reunía el Sr. Arnulfo Sánchez, de Panamá, nuestra muy estimada Cláudia Alves de Magalhães, de Brasil, el Sr. Leo F. S. Brewster, de Barbados, y el jefe de la Secretaría, Sr. César Toro. Nos complace poder contar con el servicio continuo del Sr. John Victor Cortinas, de los Estados Unidos, como vicepresidente, ya que damos la bienvenida a mis compañeros, los nuevos miembros de la junta directiva, que están todos aquí, lo que demuestra la importancia de la subcomisión, y a la Sra. Lorna Innis como nueva jefa de secretaría. Agradecemos el apoyo de Colombia y Costa Rica a mi candidatura (Roberto de Pinho) como Vicepresidente de la Subcomisión.

Colombia

De la misma manera, consideramos pertinente destacar la labor de los Estados miembro de IOCARIBE en la XVII reunión de la subcomisión realizada en Bogotá el pasado mes de mayo, en la que se definió el curso de acción, se identificaron las necesidades y se establecieron las prioridades regionales, ante las cuales Colombia reafirma su compromiso y su disposición de cooperar y contribuir en beneficio de los objetivos de esta Subcomisión, de acuerdo con las capacidades de Colombia a través de la Dirección General Marítima (DIMAR) y el Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas (INVEMAR) que potenciarán la comprensión y gestión del océano mediante acciones concertadas y participativas con los demás Estados Miembro.

En ese sentido, cabe destacar que, uno de los principales logros es el fortalecimiento del marco de acción del grupo de planificación regional TAC y los avances realizados para establecer la Oficina de Coordinación del Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas, frente a lo cual, Colombia pone a disposición su voluntad y experiencia a través de su Comité Nacional del Decenio, con el fin de alentar a los países en la creación de tan importante mecanismo de gobernanza regional.

Por otro lado, Colombia recibe gratamente los agradecimientos de IOCARIBE por mantener la sede de IOCARIBE en Cartagena de Indias y el apoyo de los profesionales designados para apoyar su funcionamiento. Por ello, el país invita a los Estados miembro de la Subcomisión a contribuir y complementar este apoyo de recurso humano, en aras de aportar conjuntamente y de forma equitativa en estos procesos regionales.

Finalmente deseamos agradecer el apoyo del gobierno de Flandes para el desarrollo de la estrategia de capacitación OTGA que ha brindado oportunidades de entrenamiento por más de diez años a través del Centro Regional en INVEMAR e invita a mantener dicho apoyo dados los excelentes resultados alcanzados a la fecha.

3.3.4 IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

India

India continued strong collaborations and made contributions to the activities of the Regional Committee since the reactivation session in Chennai, India in 2016. India would like to appreciate the ongoing collaborations and strengthening synergies with other regional programmes such as Indian Ocean GOOS, IIOE-2, amongst others. India supported capacity building activities of the IOCINDIO through training programmes organised through the ITCOOcean Category 2 Centre at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS). India played significant role in developing the coastal vulnerability methodologies and approaches to assist member states to develop their national coastal vulnerability strategy plans. India engaged IOCINDIO stakeholders in the Indian Seas meeting of Ocean Predict DCC and in the subsequent formulation of the Ocean Predict - Regional Teams for the Indian Seas.

India supports the IOCINDIO Workplan including the plans to organize a Decade Regional Conference and World Conference on Coastal Vulnerability in 2024.

In conclusion, India reiterates its support to the IOCINDIO activities.

United States of America

The United States was pleased to see the IOCINDIO-VIII Report and welcomes the recommendations regarding the work program.

IOCINDIO is an active Committee and continues to have broad engagement from Member States in the region.

The United States is invested in the Indian Ocean, and is proud to work with India, Indonesia, and other Member States in the region to continue to support the important Indian Ocean Observing System (IndOOS) to include the RAMA-OMNI Array, Argo, surface drifters and Go-Ship lines.

3.4.1 Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards

Argentina

El Gobierno argentino rechaza las referencias a las Islas Georgias del Sur incluidas en la intervención del Reino Unido en relación con el ofrecimiento de proveer la información recolectada por sus

estaciones de medición en territorios de ultramar para un informe sobre los riesgos de Tsunami en el Atlántico Sur.

Al respecto, el Gobierno recuerda que las islas Georgias del Sur, junto con las Islas Malvinas y Sandwich del Sur y los espacios marítimos circundantes, son parte integrante del territorio nacional argentino y que, estando ilegalmente ocupadas por el Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte, son objeto de una disputa de soberanía entre ambos países, la cual es reconocida por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en su resolución 2065 (XX) y resoluciones subsiguientes de la Asamblea General y su Comité Especial de descolonización sobre la cuestión de las Islas Malvinas, en donde se reconoce la existencia de una disputa de soberanía y se exhorta a la Argentina y al Reino Unido a reanudar las negociaciones sobre soberanía a fin de alcanzar una solución pacífica.

Agradecería que la presente intervención sea debidamente registrada en el informe de la reunión.

France

La France remercie les présidents des groupes de coordination des Caraïbes et de l'Océan indien, ainsi que le Président du groupe de travail global TOWS pour leur excellent exposé et les rapports associés.

La France prend note du Plan de recherche, de développement et de mise en œuvre du programme relatif aux tsunamis de la Décennie pour les sciences océaniques. La France considère que dans le volet relatif à la détection et l'alerte, il est nécessaire d'installer et de maintenir des réseaux plus denses de stations sismologiques et de stations de mesure du niveau de la mer, en priorité et avec une densité accrue dans toutes les régions côtières habitées où la sismicité ou le volcanisme sont forts.

La France remercie le Pacific tsunami warning center et le groupe de coordination du système d'alerte du Pacifique d'avoir mis en place dès mars 2022 un système d'alerte tsunami provisoire du volcan de Hunga Tonga aux îles Tonga, système dont elle a participé à la mise en œuvre, aux tests et à l'organisation d'un exercice. La France soutient également l'initiative de surveiller et d'alerter les tsunamis d'origine volcanique, en particulier dans les régions fortement habitées. La constatation que très peu de volcans sont actuellement équipés incite à favoriser toutes les initiatives nationales, locales, institutionnelles dans ce domaine, pour améliorer l'efficacité des systèmes d'alerte.

Dans les Antilles, la commune des Deshaies en Guadeloupe a été reconnue Tsunami Ready.

Récemment deux très forts séismes de magnitude 7,7 et 7,2 qui ont secoué la région de la Nouvelle-Calédonie et des îles Loyauté ont engendré des tsunamis enregistrés et observés le long des côtes et des îles Vanuatu. Ces événements rappellent que seules les données de mesure du niveau de la mer permettent d'enregistrer et de mesurer avec précision le train d'onde de tsunami en temps réel. Ces enregistrements sont exploités lors de l'événement et servent à informer les autorités de sécurité civile de l'occurrence du tsunami et de son amplitude. Ces autorités peuvent modifier si nécessaire le niveau d'alerte et les actions afférentes.

Pour toutes ces raisons, la France salue et appuie le Groupe de travail de la COI sur les systèmes d'alerte aux tsunamis et autres aléas liés au niveau de la mer, et de mitigation (IOC-TOWS), ainsi que celui des deux équipes spéciales.

Republic of Korea

ICG/IOTWMS(The Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation system) and TOWS-WG.

The Republic of Korea supports the IOC tsunami program, specially RDIP(Research and Development Implementation Plan) for ODTP(Ocean Decade Tsunami Program), which is important for reducing damage to coastal areas caused by tsunamis.

The republic of Korea has not experienced any tsunamis in the past 30 years, but the Korea Meteorological Administration has developed and operated a warning and observation system in preparation for tsunamis. Also KMA disseminate tsunami information through GTS and WIS to support response to tsunamis.

We will continue to develop technologies to enhance the accuracy of tsunami predictions in the future and provide information that can actually help coastal residents respond effectively.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

We especially welcome the two high-level goals of the 10-year Research, Development and Innovation Plan

- First, to achieve capability to deliver actionable warnings within 10 minutes with the least possible uncertainty for tsunamis generated by all sources (particularly endorsing the inclusion of volcanic events and submarine landslides) and
- second, that 100% of at-risk communities be prepared and resilient to tsunamis by 2030.

The UK also welcomes the intention to investigate new technologies for tsunami detection and monitoring, particularly the use of submarine fibre-optic cables, and encourages frequent assessment of these capabilities considering the rapid advances in these technologies.

The UK supports the request of the Working Group that the IOC secretariat should develop a paper on the tsunami threat on coasts along the Southern Atlantic Ocean to assist concerned IOC Member States on the decision to be part of the global Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System.

The UK's South Atlantic Tide Gauge Network operated by its National Oceanography Centre (NOC) was established in 1985. It provides near real-time observations for coastal hazard warning purposes at seven locations in the South Atlantic, many in UK Overseas Territories. It has been an important operational resource in the absence of a dedicated regional tsunami warning system. In particular, the tide gauge at King Edward Point, South Georgia was a key observational tool for the South Sandwich Islands Tsunami of August 12th, 2021, recording peak-to-peak tsunami wave elevations of up to 1.2 m.

The UK would be willing to contribute the historical observations from the South Atlantic Tide Gauge Network to a regional tsunami risk assessment, as suggested by the Working Group.

United States of America

We thank and congratulate our fellow Member States and partners for making significant achievements in global tsunami warning and mitigation work.

In addition, the United States notes and applauds completion of the UNESCO/IOC UN Decade Tsunami Programme Research, Development and Implementation Plan.

As others have mentioned, the Plan ushers in a new generation of precise, high-density real-time in-situ measurements aimed at direct tsunami detection within 10 minutes of origin, and accurate forecasts for all at-risk coastlines.

The plan also focuses on Member States participation and Capacity Development and ensures tsunami awareness for all at-risk coastlines. through UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme.

The United States notes and appreciates work on non-seismic source tsunamis, both volcanic and meteo-tsunami.

We congratulate the TOWS Working Group for its dedicated work accomplished through the pandemic period and for establishing the IOC's UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme.

We welcome Mr. Gérard Metayer, newly elected Chair of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions.

We commend Tonga for its rapid response and demonstrated resilience during and following the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami in January 2022.

And thank Tonga for agreeing to host the upcoming Pacific Tsunami ICG meeting in September 2023.

Finally, Mr. Chair, the United States has suggested minor changes to draft Decision, 3.4.1 and has provided this change to the Secretariat.

3.4.1.1 Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards: Regional Services

Italy

Italy is contributing to the development of the global Tsunami Warning System coordinated by the IOC-UNESCO. In particular, the INGV Tsunami Alert Center is one of the Tsunami Service Providers of the NEAMTWS (North Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean and connected seas Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System), covering the whole Mediterranean basin and serving several Member States in the Euro-Med area. In the last few years more than 40 Information or Alert messages have been issued by the Italian CAT, for earthquakes in a magnitude range 5.5 to 7.8, including some Watch alert level at local (e.g., Kos-Bodrum 2017; Zakynthos 2018; Samos 2020; Crete 2020) or basin-wide range (Turkey 2023) mentioned also to day in the report.

This last event has accelerated the ongoing process of applying an innovative approach of Probabilistic Tsunami Forecast in real time, that provides more accurate estimates of the tsunami threat during an alert. In the last two years the Italian Tsunami Alerting System SiAM (established by a Prime Minister Directive in 2017 and composed of INGV, ISPRA and DPC, the national Dept. of Civil Protection) has also completed (perhaps first and unique in the NEAM region) to map the inundation areas for the whole Italian territory, based on the Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Assessment (PTHA).

Italy is one of the countries involved in the construction of the Tsunami TCS (Thematic Core Services) of EPOS.

Within the PNRR (National Plan for Research and Resilience) the CAT is engaged in the development of the first DART-like buoys in the Mediterranean, as well as in the deployment of deep-ocean cables for tsunami monitoring.

Besides earthquake-induced tsunamis, Italy is also characterized by volcano-generated tsunamis, in particular for Stromboli (but also for other insular or coastal volcanoes), where tsunamis were one of the very few local tsunami alerting systems worldwide is operating. Since 2022 the INGV is working, upon mandate of DPC and in cooperation with the University of Florence, to improve and strengthen the current experimental tsunami alerting system in Stromboli.

Italy is also involved in the seven Outcomes of the Ocean Decade, specifically the Safe Ocean target. Also, following Challenge 6 of the Ocean Decade "Increase community resilience to ocean hazards", Italy is heavily engaged in risk perception studies and in the target of implementing the IOC-UNESCO program "Tsunami Ready" (started in 2021 in some pilot sites located in different Italian seas).

Italy will continue to support and IOC tsunami and more in general warning and mitigation system for Ocean Hazards. Progress actions are envisioned particularly in the fields of rapid tsunami detection, measurement and forecasting capabilities, implementation of Tsunami Ready communities and related capacity development efforts, specifically targeting SIDS and LDCs).

Japan

Just as Japan has contributed to the capacity building of the Central America Tsunami Advisory Center (CATAC), Japan has contributed to the capacity building of Tsunami Information Centers not only in Nicaragua but also in other Member States of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS) through JICA projects. Japan welcomes the start of CATAC's full functionality in an interim manner.

New Zealand

New Zealand would like to thank the Intergovernmental Coordination Groups for their reports and insightful presentations today.

In 2021 we drew the Assembly's attention to the establishment of an Aotearoa New Zealand Tsunami Monitoring and Detection Network in the south-west Pacific Ocean. This network of 12 Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami Buoys, commonly known as DART buoys, is now well established and is providing increased capacity to detect and report tsunami of all sizes across the Pacific Basin. The network provides an important additional robust source of information for confirming the presence or absence of an impending tsunami or when any risk from a tsunami may arise to coastal communities.

Tsunami remains a real threat for coastal communities, those in the south-west Pacific region being particularly at risk as demonstrated unfortunately over the last few years. Studying tsunami sources beyond active faults is therefore crucial for coastal communities to enhance risk mitigation measures and ensure comprehensive preparedness against tsunamis.

Our network is improving. Prior to the dramatic 15 January 2022 Hunga Tonga/Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami, close to the Kingdom of Tonga, the world was not prepared to deal with volcanic eruption-triggered events capable of traversing the Pacific Ocean. However, our DART network measured the January 2022 tsunami within the first hour of its generation, that is prior to landfall in all but the most proximal coasts. Thanks to the DART network, circum-Pacific countries were made aware of the impending tsunami many hours before it arrived, thus preventing a very likely considerable loss of life.

Precise and accurate information from this network is being actively shared across the south-west Pacific through the IOC Pacific Tsunami Warning Service so that all states in the region can benefit from it.

New Zealand will continue to support this network as well as the work of the sub commissions as a contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development.

Finally, New Zealand would like to stress the importance of including indigenous and local knowledge in the work tsunami hazard, risk mitigation and preparedness.

Türkiye

Tsunami Warning Systems are essential components of coastal community sustainable resilience and we are honoured to host one of the NEAMTWS Tsunami Service Providers, namely the Regional Earthquake and Tsunami Monitoring Centre of Boğaziçi University-Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute (KOERI), in Istanbul-Türkiye, which provides 24/7 tsunami warnings to Eastern Mediterranean, Aegean, Marmara and Black Seas since 2012. We would like to mention that 2022 marked the 10th anniversary of the operational NEAMTWS (Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas), when both CENALT (France) and KOERI (Türkiye) were candidates to be Tsunami Service Providers of the ICG/NEAMTWS (The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas) as of 1 July 2012. KOERI organized a workshop on the 5th of November 2022 World Tsunami Warning Awareness Day, to celebrate its first decade as a candidate Tsunami Service Provider.

KOERI's Regional Earthquake and Tsunami Monitoring Center (RETMC) operates both seismic & sea level networks and also multidisciplinary tsunami observation stations to support this system on a 7/24 basis. According to the occurrence of a tsunamigenic potential of the earthquake, the target time for issuing the initial tsunami warning is 7 minutes after the earthquake origin time for the assessment through a Decision Matrix based on the hypocentre and moment magnitude (Mw) of the earthquake. During its operational period, the KOERI tsunami early warning system disseminated 45 messages comprising 30 INFORMATION, 9 ADVISORY, and 6 WATCH alerts according to the Decision Matrix for the earthquakes in its monitoring area. In the last six months, three tsunami messages have been disseminated including the ones caused by catastrophic 06 February 2023 Gaziantep Mw7.7 and 20 February 2023 Hatay Mw6.3 earthquakes.

At the national level, 20 tide-gauge radar type stations operated by the General Directorate of Mapping. They are integrated into the KOERI-TSP (Tsunami Service Provider) operations. Four Inexpensive Sea-Level Devices (IDSLs) provided by European Commission-Joint Research Centre (EU-JRC) had already been installed in Fethiye, Bozcaada, Samsun, and Bodrum. KOERI continues establishing its own multi-hazard monitoring network in the Marmara Sea. Four systems including radar-type mareographs have been installed and operating successfully. In the framework of the Risk Mitigation Plan of Istanbul, there are plans to install 20 new multi-disciplinary sea level stations, as well as seismic and meteorological observation sensors (wind, air pressure, temperature, humidity, etc). A field assessment was carried out to identify the best locations to install the multi-sensor stations. A total of 17 locations have already been confirmed, the objective is to begin installations in 2023.

Lastly, Türkiye completed the establishment of the National Tsunami Ready Board (NTRB) with members from different institutes including Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), Middle East Technical University (METU), KOERI and Office of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography (ONHO). KOERI continues to enhance its monitoring capability not only with increasing the number of stations but also renewing bilateral agreements for real-time seismic and sea level data exchange. We are pleased to see the improvements in the collaboration among TSPs in recent years for the real-time sea-level and seismic station data exchange.

3.4.1.2 Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards: Global Coordination

Chile

Chile, miembro permanente del TOWS, quiere agradecer el trabajo realizado por el grupo de expertos, quienes llevaron a cabo la redacción del Plan de Investigación, Desarrollo e Implementación del programa de Tsunami para la Década del Océano, donde se identifican diferentes brechas y oportunidades para la investigación, mitigación, educación, detección y evaluación de la amenaza de tsunamis en las diferentes cuencas oceánicas y mares interiores. Este documento debe ser una guía

para la implementación de nuevas tecnologías, como el uso de los cables de comunicaciones submarinos para la detección tanto de terremotos como también variaciones del nivel del mar, las cuales, junto a otros sensores y metodologías permitirán seguir reduciendo los tiempos de respuesta. Asimismo, hace énfasis en un eslabón clave para la mitigación de estos riesgos, que es la educación y concientización de la población, con el fin de entregarle herramientas de autocuidado y de conocimiento de su entorno, en espera de información oficial de parte de las instituciones locales a cargo de la gestión de riesgo de desastres.

La reciente experiencia del tsunami generado por la erupción del volcán Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai ocurrida el 15 de enero del 2022, nos recordó cuan expuestos nos encontramos a este tipo de eventos, indicándonos que no sólo son producto de terremotos y que pueden afectar al mismo tiempo a una gran porción del planeta. La eficiente y eficaz respuesta de la mayoría de los centros nacionales de tsunami son la evidencia de la importancia de la contribución internacional y el avance logrado en los últimos años; sin embargo, sabemos que esto no es suficiente y aún tenemos que seguir trabajando en conjunto para hacer más segura la vida en las costas, tarea en la cual Chile se encuentra comprometido.

Colombia

Colombia celebra los progresos y las contribuciones de los Estados miembro en la Reunión No. 16 de ICG/Caribe-EWS y las capacidades adquiridas durante los ejercicios Caribe Wave 2023 que le permitieron al país, contribuir y mejorar la gestión del riesgo de tsunamis, así como las actividades relacionadas con los Sistemas de Alerta Temprana.

Igualmente, Colombia, con costas en dos océanos y con cerca de 5 millones de habitantes en sus zonas costeras, reitera el compromiso para el desarrollo y participación de actividades regionales orientadas al diseño de estrategias y lineamientos que busquen mejorar la gestión del riesgo por tsunami desde el monitoreo, detección, emisión de alertas y preparación de la población costera.

En virtud de lo anterior, Colombia reconoce con agrado las decisiones emitidas de este marco, especialmente las recomendaciones alusivas en el punto III "Grupo de trabajo sobre tsunamis y otros peligros relacionados con los sistemas de alerta contra el nivel del mar y atenuación de sus efectos (TOWS-WG)", ya que para el país es importante conocer las buenas prácticas asociadas a la ejecución de ejercicios de tsunami de los niveles sub-regionales desarrollados en el grupo de trabajo regional del Pacífico Sudeste; además de contemplar su implementación en los demás grupos de trabajo regionales. Del mismo modo, manifestamos nuestro deseo de continuar con el apoyo a la iniciativa de compartir información en tiempo real entre los Centros de Alerta de Tsunamis de la región durante la atención de estos eventos para la toma eficiente de decisiones.

Por último, expresamos nuestro interés para seguir contribuyendo en el Programa sobre Tsunamis del Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas y aunar esfuerzos en la implementación de las acciones contenidas en el Programa de Reconocimiento "Tsunami Ready".

India

India is an integral part of the Indian Ocean Tsunami warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS) and continues to provide services to the region as one of the Tsunami Service Provider, together with Australia and Indonesia. During the inter-sessional period, India sustained its observational networks (Seismic, Tsunameter, Tide Gauges and GNSS networks) despite challenges in taking up maintenance activities due to the Pandemic. India participated in the COMM Tests of ICG/IOTWMS and contributed to the UNESCAP project on "Strengthening tsunami early warning in the Northwest Indian Ocean region through regional cooperation", as mentioned by the Chair of the IOTWMS. India has 2 Tsunami Ready Communities and we continue to work on expanding the programme.

Mr. Chair, India supports the IOTWMS plan to undertake a full Capacity Assessment of Tsunami Preparedness in the Indian Ocean in 2024 as a follow up to the 2018 survey, as well as organisation of a Global Scientific Symposium by TOWS-WG in Indonesia in commemoration of 20 years of the Indian Ocean Tsunami. India appreciates the urgent priority by the TSPs to test and implement tsunami maritime safety products, the procedures for which were finalised under the guidance of the TOWS-WG in its earlier sessions.

Tsunami events such as Hunga Tonga Hunga Haapai, that were also highlighted by the TOWS-WG Chair, have highlighted the importance of enhancing the capabilities of tsunami warning systems to assess hazards, detect, warn and respond for tsunamis triggered by non-seismic sources. This is a capability we need to develop, and in this backdrop, we welcome the work of TOWS-WG Adhoc Teams

on Meteo tsunamis and Tsunamis Generated by Volcanoes. We welcome the report on the Adhoc Team on Tsunamis Generated by Volcanoes.

India would also like to congratulate the TOWS-WG and the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme – Science Committee and the Tsunami Secretariat, for developing the draft 10-Year Research, Development and Implementation Plan of the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme. India supports the plan and its aspirational targets for the decade - to reduce timeliness and uncertainty of the tsunami warning, and increasing the readiness of coastal communities. We also welcome the setting up the Tsunami Ready coalition which we trust will speed up the implementation of Tsunami Ready programme.

India will continue to be part of the IOC's tsunami programme.

Japan

Regarding the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (ODTP), Japan has made contribution toward developing the draft of the 10-Year Research, Development and Implementation Plan for the ODTP (RDI Plan) by sending a member to the Scientific Committee to share experiences and knowledge in tsunami prediction and disaster prevention which Japan has obtained taking long time. Japan appreciates hard works of the Scientific Committee and supports the RDI Plan.

Japan believes that cooperation within and among regions is essential to realizing the objectives of the ODTP.

The first objective of the ODTP is to establish a tsunami warning system for all tsunami sources, including volcanic tsunamis and meteotsunamis. Two Ad Hoc Teams for volcanic tsunamis and meteotsunamis were established under the TOWS-WG. Japan appreciates the work of the Ad Hoc Teams and kindly requests the IOC to publish the final version of their reports as soon as possible. Establishment of a tsunami warning system for all tsunami sources seems to be a difficult task common to all ICGs. Japan looks forward to further initiatives by TOWS-WG.

Regarding establishment of a warning system for meteotsunamis, Japan believes that cooperation between the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the IOC is one of key points on this issue. Therefore, Japan would like to invite the WMO Secretariat to share its thoughts on how the WMO intends to cooperate with the IOC in this area.

The second objective of ODTP is that 100 percent of communities at risk should have preparedness and resilience to tsunamis. Japan welcomes the increase in the number of Tsunami Ready communities recognized by the IOC, but since the number is still small, Japan would like to ask the IOC Secretariat to share its idea on how it intends to increase the number of Tsunami Ready communities.

Spain

España quiere agradecer el trabajo del programa de Tsunamis y de todos los informes presentados. Celebramos especialmente el trabajo realizado sobre el riesgo de tsunamis generados por erupciones volcánicas. Sin embargo nos gustaría que se realizara una pequeña modificación en el documento "Monitoring and warning for tsunamis generated by volcanos". Se trata de eliminar la cita Abadie et al. 2012 (page 16) que menciona la posibilidad de un colapso del flanco oeste de la isla de La Palma. Esta publicación generó en su día una importante venta de seguros en la costa Este de Estados Unidos y dicha posibilidad fue posteriormente refutada por varios trabajos científicos publicados por investigadores españoles y como se demostró con la reciente erupción de 2021. Durante la erupción, dicho artículo supuso un verdadero quebradero de cabeza para las autoridades españolas por la injustificada alarma que generó y hubo de realizar una importante labor informativa con la participación de la comunidad científica para tranquilizar a la opinión pública. Entendemos que es importante desarrollar las alertas y advertir a la población de los potenciales riesgos, pero igualmente es necesario evitar alertas innecesarias. Somos conscientes de que ese artículo se cita exclusivamente como ejemplo para la inicialización de un modelo, pero consideramos conveniente que se sustituya por otra cita.

Abadie, S. M., Harris, J. C., Grilli, S. T., & Fabre, R. (2012). Numerical modelling of tsunami waves generated by the flank collapse of the Cumbre Vieja Volcano (La Palma, Canary Islands): Tsunami source and near field effects. *Journal of Geophysical Research-Oceans*, 117. doi:10.1029/2011jc007646

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Addressing the TOWS-WG meteotsunami discussions, the WMO reminds Assembly, that meteotsunamis are unique waves, generated solely by weather events, usually localised, and forecast in national meteorological operational centres. They are distinguishable from tsunamis generated from earthquakes and other non-seismic sources.

Thus, WMO would like a substantive dialogue with the IOC regarding any proposed strategy or system intended to detect, predict, and warn for meteotsunamis. While acknowledging there are gaps, WMO's view is that National Meteorological Services - as the authoritative voice for coastal inundation events such as seiches and storm surge, are best positioned to provide meteotsunami forecasts and warnings as part of their 24/7 weather watch routine. A careful gap analysis must be jointly conducted before developing a global strategy for meteotsunamis. As stated at the TOWS WG, WMO has requested this for discussion at the next WMO-IOC JCB.

We appreciate the IOC's interest in this weather-generated phenomenon, and strongly agree there is benefit in working together on this issue. We look forward to discussing further, to ensure that any proposed strategies for the prediction of and warnings for meteotsunami align with existing alerting protocols and would result in the saving of lives and the protection of property.

In 2022, WMO published guidelines for coastal inundation forecasting and early warnings. The guidelines contribute to the Ocean Decade and the new UN Early Warning For All Initiative and include advice on the incorporation of tsunami warnings within national multi hazard early warning systems. WMO is strongly supportive of the recommendation that all coastal areas should, as soon as possible, be protected by a tsunami early warning system and encourages the engagement of Member States in this effort, including addressing the tsunami service gap in the Southern Atlantic.

3.4.2 International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange

Argentina

Argentina agradece la detallada presentación y quiere expresar su apoyo al Programa Internacional de Intercambio de Datos e Información Oceanográficos y a las decisiones que se proponen.

En particular, queremos reforzar el compromiso de Argentina en la participación del Sistema de Datos e Información Oceanográficos (ODIS). Entendemos que la experiencia acumulada en nuestro país con el Centro Argentino de Datos Oceanográficos, actualmente en un proceso de renovación y modernización, así como la iniciativa del Sistema Nacional de Datos del Mar son de utilidad para alcanzar los objetivos del ODIS.

Del análisis de los documentos presentados se destaca la necesidad de marcar un rumbo que sirva para atender la gestión de datos a lo largo del Decenio del Océano y queremos expresar nuestra voluntad de participar las acciones que puedan ser necesarias.

En otro orden, queremos destacar la evolución del proyecto OcenInfoHub que cataliza las aspiraciones y necesidades de la comunidad del océano en línea con lo indicado en las Directrices de la COI para la transferencia de tecnología marina. Este proyecto OceanInfoHub pone el foco inicial en América Latina y el Caribe, África y lo Estados Insulares del Pacífico y permitirá conectar capacidades y oportunidades con necesidades y requerimientos.

Desde el año 2020 se configuró en nuestro país un Centro Especializado del Ocean Teacher Global Academy y ya hemos impartido varias ediciones de cursos bajo modalidad virtual en dos áreas de conocimientos: por un lado la delimitación del límite exterior de la plataforma continental, y por otro las observaciones de hielo marino y témpanos, capitalizando y difundiendo la experiencia argentina, con una gran participación de los países de Latinoamérica. Los cursos han tenido un gran éxito de concurrencia y nos encontramos definiendo la oportunidad para repetirlo.

Finalmente, Argentina quiere expresar su agradecimiento especial a la oficina de proyecto IODE y al Gobierno de Flandes, Reino de Bélgica por el apoyo y gestiones en el mantenimiento de estas actividades.

Brazil

Brazil is working with dedication to ensure that its National Oceanographic Data Centre (BNDO) fully complies with the IODE accreditation requirements, in order to reaffirm its position as the Brazilian NODC. The Brazilian Navy Hydrographic Centre (CHM in Portuguese), which hosts our Data Center,

is already certified according to the ISO 9001 quality management standards. An annual indicator (IABNDO) monitors our progress regarding the IODE requirements, among which the most challenging ones concern the guarantee of regular budgetary sources for the Data Center (BNDO) activities. Recently, our Hydrographic Center restructured its website to better promote the use of its data and to reinforce its commitment to making its information available to the public, which corresponds to another requirement in the accreditation process.

For its part, IODE has done a remarkable job in consolidating the “IOC Ocean Data and Information System” project and in successfully conducting both the “Ocean InfoHub” project and the revision of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy. We are pleased to inform that the implementation of the Marine Data Infrastructure of our Navy’s Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation (DHN) represented a milestone in the process of accreditation above mentioned of the BNDO. It brings, among other instruments, a metadata catalogue, which follows the ISO 19115 standard and offers the initial requirements for the contribution of DHN to the Ocean Data and Information System and the Ocean InfoHub project.

It is worth mentioning, too, that the election of Doctor Paula Sierra, from INVEMAR-Colombia, strengthens IODE and is an important event for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Canada

The drivers and objectives of the proposed IOC Strategic Plan are fully aligned with Canada’s initiatives and efforts toward modernizing its data management infrastructure and practices, and making data available for scientific knowledge creation, decision making, and development of evidence-based solutions to existing and emerging challenges in the marine environment.

The proposed IOC Strategic Plan for Ocean Data and Information Management (2023-2029) is a timely and effective plan that would contribute to the development of an integrated and interoperable ocean data ecosystem by member states, and it is in alignment with Canada’s own initiatives and developments toward building modern ocean data and information systems.

Canada would like to note the importance of ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to ensure the successful development and implementation of the strategic plan. In particular, the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) provides support to several international processes and is a critically important component of the strategic plan, yet it continues to remain under-resourced.

Finally, Canada endorses the report of the 27th session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange including the recommendations and workplan for 2023–2024 contained therein. Furthermore, Canada supports the IOC Strategic Plan for Ocean Data and Information Management (2023-2029).

Chile

Chile reconoce la relevancia del programa sobre Intercambio de Datos e Información Oceanográfica (IODE) de la Comisión Oceanográfica Intergubernamental (COI), y esta Delegación agradece al país de Bélgica por albergar la Oficina de este proyecto.

IODE tiene incidencia tanto en el desarrollo del conocimiento científico, el monitoreo con fines sociales y comerciales, la elaboración de políticas públicas y nuestro país quiere en esta oportunidad destacar su empleo en la gestión del riesgo de desastres naturales.

El 15 de enero de 2022, el mundo fue testigo de un evento tsunamigénico generado por la erupción del volcán Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai, el cual se propagó por todo el Océano Pacífico, siendo necesario monitorear su evolución, a través del acceso a los datos de boyas oceanográficas y estaciones de nivel del mar disponibilizados por cada país. El desafío de contar con protocolos que permitan manejar situaciones como esta a futuro, motivó a nuestro país realizar un taller práctico orientado a desarrollar las capacidades de los Estados que integran el Grupo de Trabajo Regional del Sistema para la Alerta y Mitigación de Tsunamis en el Pacífico Sudeste (SEP-WG), para compartir en tiempo real los datos de sus estaciones de nivel del mar, logrando a la fecha la inclusión de 24 nuevas estaciones de nivel del mar en la plataforma Sea Level Monitoring operada por el Instituto Marino de Flandes (VLIZ). En esta actividad, destacamos el apoyo incondicional de UNESCO/COI y del VLIZ.

Finalmente queremos destacar la relevancia que adquiere el Sistema de Información de Biodiversidad del Océano (OBIS), en especial luego de la adopción por la Asamblea de las NN.UU, en Junio 2023, del acuerdo “sobre el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad marina situada en zonas más allá de la jurisdicción nacional de los Estados (BBNJ)”, texto en proceso de ratificación. Queremos informar que

Chile ha asumido la coordinación del Nodo OBIS del Pacífico Sur Oriental y solicitamos a la Asamblea considerar apoyo y financiamiento adecuado para que OBIS en su conjunto pueda cumplir su programa de trabajo.

Colombia

Colombia, a través del INVEMAR, participó activamente en la Reunión del Intercambio de Datos e Información Oceanográfica (IODE) realizada este año, en la cual se compartió la experiencia alcanzada y la coordinación de acciones nacionales como por ejemplo con la Autoridad Marítima Nacional - DIMAR como centro de datos en materia de gestión y oferta de datos oceanográficos. Colaboramos además con la traducción del documento donde se evidencian las principales decisiones y alcances de este encuentro internacional, siendo un insumo para la presente reunión. Asimismo, como resultado de esta reunión, Colombia, ejercerá la co-presidencia para el periodo Intersesional 2023-2025.

Del mismo modo, Colombia reconoce la importancia del repositorio Aquadocs y del directorio OceanExpert, por lo cual promueve su adopción como parte de los instrumentos clave del Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas, así como la alimentación desde los Centros Nacionales de Datos Oceanográficos (NODC) y la Unidades de Datos Asociadas (ADU), a nivel nacional, regional e internacional. Lo anterior, considerando que dichas herramientas promueven las buenas prácticas, control de calidad y uso de estándares para la gestión de datos e información del océano en Colombia.

En virtud de lo anterior, Colombia invita a los Estados miembro a considerar al directorio OceanExpert como estrategia enmarcada en el Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas, de modo que no se contemplen estrategias adicionales, las cuales duplicarían este esfuerzo existente y por el contrario se busque fortalecer el mismo, en aras de evitar los esfuerzos aislados o repetidos en un escenario de recursos limitados.

Asimismo, teniendo en cuenta que en mayo de 2023 en la reunión No. 216 del Consejo Ejecutivo de la UNESCO se adoptó la decisión de aumentar considerablemente el presupuesto del Programa Ordinario de la COI, Colombia manifiesta y reitera que se consideren las solicitudes formuladas en las reuniones del Comité sobre IODE para incrementar el recurso humano, de modo que invita a la COI/UNESCO a priorizar en materia financiera las actividades de IODE.

Por otra parte, Colombia ha fortalecido su conocimiento y liderazgo en el marco de las iniciativas de carbono azul a través del primer proyecto global en ecosistemas de manglar certificado por Verra, y ahora contribuyendo al Panel Internacional de Carbono Azul - IPBC liderado por la COI/UNESCO y Australia. En este sentido, Colombia ofrece su experiencia e invita a los Estados miembro a contribuir con datos e información biológica, fisicoquímica, socioeconómica, entre otros para avanzar en una visión global de la importancia de los ecosistemas marinos como repositorios de carbono en aras de respaldar los esfuerzos de la IODE-IOC-UNESCO y su contribución a las respuestas desde los ecosistemas marinos al cambio climático mundial.

Por último, Colombia reitera su ofrecimiento para acoger la próxima reunión de IODE-28 y ratifica su compromiso con la política de datos e información, enmarcando sus acciones en los propósitos de transparencia y acceso del decenio, esperando contribuir y seguir fortaleciendo tan importante iniciativa a nivel internacional.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

It is especially pleasing to see how the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development continues to provide a healthy focus for many IODE activities, both new and well established.

The UK notes with appreciation that the Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) and its Ocean Information Hub (OIH) will play an important role in IODE's contribution to the UN Decade. The UK has been looking for opportunities to contribute and has built contacts with the ODIS community. We are pleased to report that we are actively working on the design phase to enable metadata contributions to the ODIS digital ecosystem, under the guidance of ODIS technical partners. An implementation phase will follow soon with a proof-of-concept dataset. The UK is also working alongside technical colleagues in the EU SeaDataNet data infrastructure to share experiences and technical knowledge which can pave the way for their further participation in ODIS.

The UK notes the IODE Co-chair conveyed the concern of the Committee about the continued decline in UNESCO Regular Programme funds made available to IODE. The Committee stated that the current amount available now had IODE at a critical level, unable to implement its work plan and maintain the global network of data and information centres built over the past six decades. The current level of

funding no longer allows capacity development at the regional level through the regional Ocean Data and Information Networks (ODINs), with adverse consequences on the equitable participation of all Member States in IODE and the level of data and information management activities that is necessary to beneficially contribute to the Ocean Decade.

The work of IODE is a core function of IOC and its sub-critical Regular Programme budget to provide stability represents a major risk to it being able to provide an essential platform from which to build future ambition. For example, the OBIS data base will be important to underpin expansion of ecological parameters of GOOS, for ecosystem-based ocean management and supporting the new High Seas Agreement. The case of IODE was explicitly referred to in Decision 216 EX/44 to uplift IOC Regular Programme Budget adopted by the UNESCO Executive Board in May 2023. Whilst extrabudgetary contributions will remain a significant component of the IODE's Budget but should not be relied upon to secure its very existence.

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

PICES was pleased to participate in the 27th Session of the IODE Committee earlier this year with attendance by the Chair of the PICES Technical Committee on Data Exchange, or TCODE. We are also pleased that IODE continues to be represented on TCODE through an ex-officio member, as this provides an effective mechanism for PICES to contribute to the global IODE network. Furthermore, the objectives and Vision described in the draft IODE Strategic Plan align closely with the recently revised Action Plan of TCODE, and we support its endorsement.

PICES implemented a Study Group in October 2022, as proposed by TCODE, to assess and recommend ways for PICES to improve its contribution to the Ocean Decade digital ecosystem through improved data and information management and connectivity. A report will be produced, likely in 2024, and recommendations will then be considered by PICES Governing Council for endorsement. At its most recent meeting last month PICES Governing Council approved the use of Digital Object Identifiers for PICES products going forwards and the Secretariat has recently increased its efforts to archive the full PICES scientific report and article library within Aquadocs. Other actions, such as contributing to ODIScat will be discussed at the upcoming TCODE meeting later this year.

PICES would like to add its voice to the IODE Committee's concern at the decline in support of regular program funds from UNESCO that are available for IODE and agrees that such support is essential for capacity development and equitable participation in the Ocean Decade.

3.4.3 Harmful Algal Blooms

Chile

Chile forma parte activa del Panel Intergubernamental de Floraciones de Algas Nocivas (IPHAB) y a nivel regional del grupo de Floraciones de Algas Nocivas de Sudamérica (FANSA). La vinculación con ambos paneles nos permite enfrentar de manera coordinada todos los desafíos que emergen de las Floraciones de Algas Nocivas, especialmente en aspectos taxonómicos del fitoplancton, identificación de las toxinas, sistemas de monitoreo, sistemas pronósticos de las Floraciones de Algas Nocivas, manejo de recursos y en materia de regulaciones.

En nuestro país las Floraciones de Algas Nocivas son cada vez más frecuentes e intensas, representan un riesgo de intoxicación permanente para la población y generan efectos económicos graves para la actividad pesquera y para la acuicultura, estas últimas de enorme importancia social y económica para nuestra nación.

Como consecuencia el País ha implementado distintos programas de monitoreo de fitoplancton y toxinas marinas que permiten asegurar y dar garantías de la inocuidad de los alimentos pesqueros y acuícolas extraídos de nuestro litoral y también en fase preliminar se han desarrollado sistemas pronósticos que nos permite proyectar los distintos escenarios de dispersión de las Floraciones de Algas Nocivas dentro de nuestro territorio.

Colombia

Colombia agradece y celebra los resultados obtenidos en la reunión No. 16 del Panel Intergubernamental de la COI-FAO sobre floraciones de algas nocivas, y manifestamos nuestra voluntad de contribuir a las actividades previstas para el periodo 2024-2025, en aras de continuar con la colaboración conjunta entre los Estados Miembro.

En ese sentido, reconociendo la necesidad del presupuesto ordinario para materializar las actividades de esta iniciativa, se sugiere contemplar los recursos necesarios en la Resolución general sobre los asuntos de gobernanza, programación y presupuestación de la COI/UNESCO.

France

La France tient à souligner son engagement dans l'IPHAB, notamment en ayant pris la présidence de ce panel d'experts lors de la 16e session en mars dernier, en portant la Task Team « Biotoxin Monitoring, Management & Regulation » et la Task Team « Ciguatera » mais également en participant à différentes autres Task Teams (Taxonomy, Desalination, Fish-kills, Communication...).

La France appuie les décisions de l'IPHAB aux échelles internationale, européenne et française, et notamment son soutien aux décisions de la Task Team « Ciguatera » en raison de sa présence en Outre-mer. Elle souhaite mentionner le travail réalisé par son Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Souveraineté Alimentaire au sein du Codex Alimentarius.

La France se félicite également du récent soutien de la FAO pour le travail de l'IPHAB. Ainsi, la France pourrait proposer d'héberger un Centre de Référence FAO pour les toxines algales et les microalgues toxiques et nuisibles dont la mise en place sera confiée à l'Ifremer.

La France rappelle son soutien à la Décennie des Nations Unies pour les sciences océaniques au service du développement durable et par conséquent, soutient l'initiative HAB-Solutions.

Japan

It is obvious that impacts of HABs on marine biodiversity, ecosystem services and human health have been increasing, especially in the WESTPAC region.

Japan will continue to support IPHAB activities through WESTPAC by providing the Japanese Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) and sending specialists to the scientific and capacity building activities.

Japan welcomes the reunite of FAO to IPHAB. Japan expects further contribution of IPHAB to the UN Ocean Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development through HAB-Solution and other activities in collaboration with IOC member states and FAO.

United States of America

Thank you to Mr. Silke for your presentation and for reminding us that changes occurring at the ocean climate nexus are exacerbating existing environmental stressors including harmful algal blooms (or HABs), hypoxia, and ocean acidification.

I'd like to congratulate IPHAB's new Chair, Phillip Hess, of France, and the new Vice Chair, Dr. Maggie Broadwater, of the United States, on their new roles.

HABs increasingly impact coastal ecosystem services such as fish and shellfish aquaculture, desalination, tourism and fisheries on local and regional scales.

The United States recognizes the demand for novel and transformational science-based solutions for sustainable management and use of marine resources and ecosystem services affected by harmful algae in a changing world.

The IPHAB's proposed HAB Solutions Programme, under the UN's Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, will address the demands for improved data resources, innovative HAB observing instrumentation, and sound knowledge for decision-making to manage and mitigate HAB impacts to sustainably provide safe seafood, drinking water, and healthy coastal and marine ecosystems.

The United States looks forward to continuing to work across the IPHAB and UNEP to realize the UN Decadal vision and scientific outcomes including safe and sustainable seafood, a comprehensive ocean observing system, and a productive and resilient ocean economy.

4.1 Report of the GEBCO Guiding Committee and Outcomes of the GEBCO Governance Review

Brazil

Brazil has long supported the GEBCO program. We have contributed with bathymetric data collected by our research vessels and for many years we have compiled the bathymetry received by all ships in transit in the Brazilian jurisdictional waters into bathymetric maps.

More recently, Brazil has shared the bathymetric data available in its Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) to IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) and the bathymetry resulting from the Brazilian submission was approved by the UN's Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).

In 2021, Brazil, in addition to providing bathymetric datasets obtained by its ships to IHO, also provided a one-kilometre resolution bathymetric grid, covering Brazilian jurisdictional waters, to the Nippon Foundation-GEBCO-Seabed 2030 Project.

In 2022, Lieutenant Lorena da Fonseca Sampaio, from Brazilian Navy Hydrographic Center (CHM) was appointed to the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN).

This history attests to Brazil's resolution to continue contributing to the important international effort of mapping the oceans. We reaffirm our interest and commitment towards this end.

Canada

Considering the complexity of the GEBCO Governance Review, Canada is extremely pleased to see the progress made to date and looks forward to the final report. Canada supports the spirit of promoting fair and equal seabed mapping capacity building and project opportunities for all IOC Member States. The clarification of governance, including the sub-committees and their relationships to the parent organizations, will help Canada to continue to engage in GEBCO and its sub-committees, as well as Seabed 2030, in the most strategic and advantageous manner.

Chile

Chile apoya y felicita el encomiable esfuerzo que llevan a cabo el Comité de Orientación mixto OHI-COI sobre GEBCO y el Proyecto Seabed 2030 para procurar se complete el mapeo submarino mundial para el año 2030. Chile también quiere apoyar especialmente la decisión de elaborar un Plan Estratégico a Mediano Plazo de GEBCO que establezca claramente las conexiones entre los objetivos estratégicos de la COI y OHI, la dirección futura de la GEBCO y rol de sus subcomités, Plan que deberá ser sometido a la aprobación de ambos, la COI y la OHI.

Italy

Italy continues to support the activities of GEBCO through the vice chair of the Guiding Committee who led the works on the GEBCO charter and participated in the working groups for the governance review and the drafting of the new GEBCO strategy for the decade ahead of us in the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Italy shares GEBCO's vision that a comprehensive seabed information is made freely available in support for a sustainable ocean.

Italy is also in support of the metadata strategy of GEBCO, through the vice chair of the technical sub-committee on ocean mapping and the sub-committee on undersea feature names with the participation of a member appointed from the Hydrographic Office.

New Zealand

New Zealand would like to acknowledge the importance of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean and its Guiding Committee in leading ocean floor research, as this year marks the 120 year anniversary of this programme, now run under the joint auspices of the IOC and International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO). Arguably making it the oldest marine research programme.

GEBCO's work is supported by five sub-committees which each address a specific issues pertinent to innovation and technology, education and training, communication and outreach, and naming Undersea features. All these activities and initiatives contribute directly to achieving SDG 14 and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

New Zealand has supported GEBCO for many years and will continue to do so. New Zealand is also very active and supportive of GEBCO's flagship project Nippon Foundation - GEBCO SEABED 2030 project which has now mapped 25% of the ocean floor at an unprecedented resolution. New Zealand wishes to commend GEBCO for their effort and the success of its efforts to date.

New Zealand would like to reinforce to the General Assembly the importance of programmes such as GEBCO and encourages all members to support and participate to their subcommittees, contribute to the Nippon Foundation -GEBCO Seabed 2030 project and socialize the work and importance of the GEBCO program.

New Zealand would like to note the hard and delicate work that the Subcommittee for Undersea Feature Name (SCUFN) is undertaking and commend them for that work. We would like to see sub committed to continue under IOC and IOH support

We would like to commend GEBCO for developing its strategy and initiating a governance review. We very much look forward to the outcome of these initiatives.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

As the hosts of the 39th Meeting of the Guiding Committee the UK welcomes the outcomes that demonstrate a progressive move to ensure GEBCO's value is not only recognized more widely but that its products are able to deliver value money.

As the custodian agency responsible for maintaining and delivering GEBCO's global bathymetric grids and maintaining GEBCO's web site, as well as being the Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Global Data Assembly Center the UK's National Oceanography Center is acutely aware of the need to demonstrate why the GEBCO is an important component of marine scientific research.

We also wish to express our thanks to Mr Harper and the GEBCO Governance Review Task Team for instigating an initiative to review GEBCO governance. The UK recognizes the value of periodically challenging the ways of working such that initiatives keep up with the times. And we look forward with anticipation the outcome of the review.

International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

It is a privilege to be here and an honor for the IHO and GEBCO to address this audience on the latest GEBCO achievements – as you have just heard from the updates provided by the GEBCO Guiding Committee Chair and the Secretary of GEBCO. As IHO Director, I bring the IHO reflections on the growing importance of GEBCO and by extension Seabed information.

Ocean mapping is no longer the concern of a few scientists and researchers; rather, it is becoming "mainstream" and is driving the agendas of the international organizations.

Seafloor knowledge has become one of the primary strategic objectives of both the GEBCO parent organizations, IHO and IOC, as well as the role of the Ocean in our society and in the global Earth system has been increasingly understood and recognized, leading to global initiatives, such the Nippon Foundation Seabed2030 project.

For the IHO, Ocean knowledge – and GEBCO – is central to the strategic Goals 2 and 3 of the IHO Strategic Plan, respectively for "Increasing the use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society" and "Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the Ocean".

Hydrography and Oceanography cannot go separated in the future, as they provide – via their applications and the common GEBCO programme – a unifying framework for scientists and stakeholders from diverse sectors to develop the scientific knowledge and the partnerships needed to accelerate and harness advances in ocean science.

It is essential that we continue to work together to reveal the geometry of 71% of our planet, investing more if we want of GEBCO going forward, either financially, or in terms of human resources, or finally in innovation, such as the new S-100 "Universal Hydrographic Data Model", providing users with the tools needed to inform knowledge based decision making.

With all this in mind, I can re-affirm the IHO commitment to IOC as our co-parent organization in the evolution and delivery of GEBCO, and I would like to thank you all for joining the IOC and IHO in celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean and in particular the Principality of Monaco which has assured a continuous and undisputable support to GEBCO and its related initiatives and activities, since its creation in 1903.

4.2 Presentation of the Revised Pilot of the IOC State Ocean Report

Brazil

Brazil welcomes the consideration of the representation of the different electoral groups in the composition of the StOR Advisory Board in the revised concept note.

We expect the same consideration to be present in the selection of authors and peer reviewers, as it is the only way to assure the quality, global validity, and recognition altogether of the developed products.

According to the latest edition of the Global Ocean Science Report, at the regional level, in the reported period of 18 years we "have seen a significant change in the proportion of publication outputs in Ocean Science from the different SDG regions. The most obvious change has been a 10% increase in the output from the Eastern and South-Eastern Asia. Other regions have also increased their output, including Northern Africa and Western Asia, Central and Southern Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean." Taken together, these regions represent now almost a half of ocean science's output. And this is only a partial view of the output in ocean science, since, as stated in the report, "articles that are not written in English, or do not at least have an English abstract are not included in the database and are therefore not part of [that] study." Therefore, it is essential that all regions significantly participate in any major effort such as the StOR.

We also suggest having other relevant UN agencies, UN processes, and organizations participate in the development of the StOR.

Once we have a published edition, we believe that the periodicity of the publication should be reassessed in light of the experience gained in its development and taking note of the fact that the Member States revealed to be divided regarding this subject during the consultation for the development of the revised concept note.

We thank Spain for their initiative and able coordination in discussing the StOR.

Canada

Canada is supportive of the revised StOR objective and scope. In particular Canada appreciates that the StOR is meant to be complementary to the WOA and not duplicative and notes the recommendations made by Australia and other Member States in this regard. Canada welcomes the succinct format proposed with 2-3 storylines per Ocean Decade Outcome. This shortened, targeted document will be more palatable to decision-makers as it will be easier to navigate and comprehend. Recognizing the core principles of the Ocean Decade, we appreciate consideration be given to expanding the number of members of the StOR Advisory Board to ensure multi-sector and/or greater geographical representation to ensure storylines capture well the wide variety of innovative and transformative science.

Canada appreciates the efforts to ensure the use of plain language and accessible writing but suggests referencing specific target audiences in a strategic communications plan. We would recommend adding a review period with audience-specific interactions to determine the effectiveness of content and design of IOC State of the Ocean Report in communicating information.

Colombia

Colombia agradece el reconocimiento al país por la contribución en la primera consulta durante la edición piloto de este informe.

Teniendo en cuenta el enfoque del documento, el país celebra su orientación decisiva hacia la interfaz entre la ciencia y la política oceánica, considerando que esto contribuye a mejorar la adopción de medidas eficaces a cargo de los tomadores de decisiones.

Asimismo, Colombia reconoce la importancia de que el StOR se enfoque hacia los resultados del Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas y no en los desafíos, teniendo en cuenta la necesidad de una aplicación acertada de dicha visión sobre la interfaz entre la ciencia y la política oceánica.

Con este planteamiento, también es importante considerar que esta actividad no duplique los esfuerzos actuales a nivel global como el Proceso Regular de Presentación de Informes y Evaluación del Estado del Medio Marino a Escala Mundial, incluidos los Aspectos Socioeconómicos de las Naciones Unidas (Proceso Regular).

Por otra parte, es importante que el StOR y la participación de la COI/UNESCO en esos procesos, deben tener como eje transversal una sinergia y complementariedad durante la creación de los documentos en otros escenarios internacionales de las Naciones Unidas.

Finalmente, Colombia se encuentra a disposición y con el interés de contribuir en la Segunda consulta sobre el StOR.

Japan

Japan would like to share some thoughts with intention to maximize the StOR initiative. First, duplication with existing reports such as the GOSR and the WOA III should be avoided. Consideration should be given to the scope of the report, as well as the workload of the Member States, experts and the Secretariat. Second, while Japan supports the concept idea to structure the report according to the seven outcomes of the Ocean Decade, consideration should be given to ensuring that cross-cutting issues, such as storm surge, are adequately addressed in the report.

Kenya

Kenya concurs on the structuring of the report around the Ocean Decade outcomes. We further welcome the establishment of the Advisory Board and express appreciation for the updated State of the Ocean Report concept note. We look forward to the launch of the next edition in 2024.

Cognizant of the important contribution the StOR can make to informing policy action as well as foster the implementation of science-based ocean governance, Kenya will support this endeavour by strengthening awareness raising and knowledge on the importance of sustainable use and management of the ocean including through the StOR.

We will also continue to support through the provision of ocean science that will effectively contribute to ocean governance and utilization.

We also plan to foster greater local, regional and international collaboration to share good practices and strengthen the ocean science-policy interface.

Kenya highly appreciates the fact that the StOR will include contributions from IOC and other UN agencies and relevant organizations. This multi-stakeholder approach is highly essential in building synergies and avoiding duplication with other processes and reports.

Norway

We had some reservations concerning the first pilot version of the State of the Ocean Report, but now we think that the work is moving in the right direction.

As previously stated, we think that the report should be short, distinct and in a ready-to-use-format for policy makers and higher-level management. Ideally it should inspire, create debate and be an agenda-setter.

Choosing a structure according to the seven Decade Outcomes, makes the Report relevant for the Decade, but perhaps more importantly, also beyond the decade.

In conclusion, Norway endorses the concept note and look forward to the next State of the Ocean Report.

Portugal

Portugal considers that the IOC, as the UN body with a clear mandate on Ocean Science, can and should contribute with a focused and concise biannual IOC report on the state of the Ocean, highlighting the results of its core activities and the programs and actions it coordinates. This report should be complementary to, aligned with, and represent the IOC contribution to the World Ocean Assessment, as concerns global ocean science and observation. We also think it should have an associated very short policy brief with the key messages and infographics, directed to decision makers but also the general public. Following the presentation of the State of the Ocean Advisory Board, we believe the concept note is on a good track, and that taking into account member states suggestions and contributions, it will positively evolve and improve its focus in the next editions. We therefore endorse the concept note and the State of the Ocean Report as an evolving document, and look forward to its next version to be presented in 2024.

Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea would like to specifically acknowledge the work of Dr. Ikroh Yoon as one of the authors, and also part of the editing team composed of three professionals. Dr. Yoon is from the Korea Institute of Marine Science & Technology Promotion (KIMST), which is an organization, which is an organization with a vision of "Innovative growth partner realizing the future value of marine and fisheries."

The Republic of Korea Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries would like to take this moment to thank not just Dr. Yoon, but also the entire team of authors, editors, external reviewers, IOC Secretariat, and the Proofreader on this extraordinary achievement.

Spain

Agradecemos la contribución de Korea para el desarrollo del primer informe.

Agradecemos también la nueva información aportada sobre las posibilidades de financiación del siguiente informe.

España es plenamente consciente de la importancia que este informe tiene para elevar la atención de la labor de la COI sobre las políticas y la sostenibilidad del océano.

Sin embargo, consideramos que la nota conceptual del StOR todavía deja excesivamente abiertos el propósito, el contenido, la frecuencia, la orientación y la audiencia a la que va dirigido, así como sobre su adecuada integración en el actual contexto de otros informes relevantes que se generan sobre el océano, por ejemplo en el contexto del IPCC o de IPBES, y sobre todo respecto de la Evaluación del Océano Mundial (World Ocean Assessment). En este sentido agradecemos las conversaciones con DOALOS para evitar solapamientos y buscar su complementariedad.

La propuesta de decisión tal como está aprobaría de forma más o menos explícita el Informe del Estado del Océano de forma definitiva, y por lo dicho anteriormente consideramos que el estado de desarrollo del concepto del informe no presenta las condiciones necesarias para su aprobación definitiva.

En consecuencia, hemos propuesto una decisión alternativa que garantice la buena definición del Informe del Estado del Océano.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The UK has previously advocated greater clarity on the focus of the report and supported calls for it to be very brief and public-facing. And we reiterate this as it is still unclear to us whether the concerns we and others have raised today and in the past have been addressed, and these relate to content, target audience and its relationship with other major reports and other activities by UN agencies. Such issues were also highlighted when the StOR was first presented as a concept in 2021 through document IOC/INF-1393 Rev.

That said we welcome the timely provision of report IOC-32/4.2.Doc(1) and the outcomes presented. However we note that the updated concept note still speaks in an aspirational way, rather than as a matter of fact of what the report will be.

We also note paragraph 17 of IOC-32/4.2.Doc(1) refers to the lack of regular budget to support the production of the StOR and thanks the Republic of Korea for the extrabudgetary resources.

We hope that efforts to be undertaken by the newly established StOR Advisory Board will help address some of the remaining concerns and that more clarity is provided with regards to the nature of the report.

United States of America

We appreciate IOC's recent consultations with Member States both through the StOR Survey and during the Assembly last week, and we welcome the establishment of the Advisory Board.

We welcome the sustained interest of Member States in the StOR and welcome the comments made by our colleagues from Spain, Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, and others, noting suggestions from Australia with regard to minimizing duplication and in making the StOR accessible online for others to see.

We look forward to seeing their draft language on this.

We believe continued full engagement and consultation with Member States will be critical to ensure the report is fit for purpose moving forward.

We believe the StOR should continue in the pilot phase to allow further elaboration of how the Report can be realized while being concise, focused, and cost-effective, as well as reflect a distinct IOC niche while supporting other international and national reports and assessments of this type, such as the World Ocean Assessment.

Importantly, the concept note states that the allocated regular budget is insufficient to produce the StOR, a point which we believe underscores the need for careful consideration by IOC Member States before moving beyond the pilot phase.

We support the continued evolution of the concept note and we believe the Advisory Board should have Terms of Reference fully agreed upon by all Member States and reflective of all IOC electoral groups.

We recommend the Assembly Decision include such terms of reference.

We also note that there is still no consensus on the periodicity of the report, and we believe this matter should be revisited once the concept note and scope of the report have been further refined.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

We are honoured that WMO has contributed to the report last year. We note that the working document for this item, in its annex, identifies WMO as one, amongst other UN bodies, that could contribute information to the IOC-led State of the Ocean Report, in six of the ten Ocean Decade challenges. We look forward to contributing, largely through our joint programmes such as GCOS, GOOS, and the WCRP, to this report and therefore to the broad ocean management agenda, from a weather and climate perspective.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to inform the Assembly that the IOC has been a contributor to several WMO flagship reports in the past few years in the climate space, notably the WMO State of the Global Climate Report and the Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, both presented to the UNFCCC/COP. We are grateful for these contributions, which showcase the ocean as a key and integrated part a climate agenda.

4.3 Revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy

Brazil

Brazil coincides with the fact that capacity building is essential for all ocean-related activities, from science to the provision of goods and services. It is clear that both developed and developing Member States may be holders of valuable knowledge that can contribute to these efforts.

This is a crosscutting activity for all expected outcomes of the Ocean Decade. It is also not by chance that the Strategy that is now being submitted includes Ocean Literacy actions.

The document submitted for approval is comprehensive and detailed. We welcome its provision for the development of an implementation plan and work plans.

Canada

Le Canada reconnaît l'importance de la stratégie de développement des capacités et apprécie les efforts déployés par l'équipe de travail et l'examen complet qui a éclairé son élaboration.

Reconnaissant les liens entre certains domaines de la Stratégie et d'autres programmes de la CIO, nous espérons que la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie renforcera ces liens, tirera profit des initiatives en place et visera à contribuer davantage à briser les silos dans tous les programmes.

Le Canada se concentre également sur comment faire progresser l'accès aux données, éliminer les obstacles pour les personnes intéressées par les sciences océaniques, favoriser l'équité entre les sexes, identifier les opportunités pour les professionnels de l'océan en début de carrière, promouvoir la connaissance des océans et soutenir l'engagement des peuples autochtones dans les sciences océanographiques.

Ces actions concordent avec celle de la stratégie et nous offrent des opportunités de partenariat scientifique à l'avenir y compris à l'appui de la décennie des sciences océanographiques. Merci encore pour ce cadre important.

Colombia

Colombia reconoce y celebra la revisión de la Estrategia de Desarrollo de Capacidades de la COI/UNESCO para 2023-2030, así como de su Plan de Divulgación y Comunicación, ya que es una de las actividades principales de la organización y, por ende, podría ser una de las prioridades en materia presupuestal, teniendo en cuenta la importancia y el gran impacto que tienen las iniciativas como el OTGA.

En ese sentido, y dadas las necesidades internacionales en materia de desarrollo de capacidades, Colombia seguirá apoyando al Ocean Biodiversity Information System OBIS, y mantendrá sus aportes en el monitoreo de la química de carbonatos y el desarrollo de capacidades para la medición del ODS 14.3.

Conscientes de considerar las limitaciones que tenemos en materia de capacidades para el manejo de datos, estándares, metadatos e información, Colombia sugiere priorizar y tener en cuenta estas necesidades, con el propósito de alcanzar resultados sostenibles y efectivos en el uso del océano.

Igualmente, Colombia a través de las capacidades del INVEMAR, seguirá apoyando como Centro Regional de Entrenamiento para Latinoamérica y el Caribe en la estrategia Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) de la IODE-IOC-UNESCO. Desde 2014 y hasta la fecha, se han capacitado a más de 1200 personas, de más de 30 países, con más de 45 cursos en más de 15 temáticas diferentes. Vale resaltar las coordinaciones con otras agencias del sistema de naciones unidas como el Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica y la FAO acogiendo temáticas marinas para avanzar en las capacidades técnicas de la región.

De manera que, extendemos una invitación a los Estados miembro para continuar su apoyo a este Centro Regional, con miras a que siga siendo considerado como una plataforma para la estrategia de generación de capacidades en el marco del Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas al 2030.

Por último, extendemos un fraternal agradecimiento al Gobierno de Flandes (Reino de Bélgica), a la COI/UNESCO y a los Estados Miembro que han contribuido apoyando e identificando las necesidades en materia de desarrollo de capacidades.

France

Comme l'océan est interconnecté et affecte le système climatique de la Terre dans son ensemble, les programmes actuels et futurs de développement des capacités des enseignants en matière de changement climatique contribuera à renforcer l'action 1.4.1.

A cet égard, le Centre français OCE (Office for Climate Education), récemment placé sous les auspices de l'UNESCO en tant que Centre de Catégorie 2, intervient également en Afrique, en Amérique Latine et en Asie. Ce centre participe au développement des capacités et élabore des contenus pédagogiques pour la formation des enseignants ainsi que des méthodologies d'enseignement des sciences sur le changement climatique.

Indonesia

Indonesia would like to suggest to the IOC CD team to explore the possibility better link between global, regional and national capacity development. This is important because the need of the national and regional priorities of CD for early career oceanographer professional may differ among the countries. Therefore, cooperation between IOC capacity development needs to reach out the IOC-UNESCO regional office and Director of Regional Training Centre available at each member state, for example RTRC for Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, of Training for Tsunami Information system (BMKG), or RTRC for Marine Protected Area etc.

Japan

Japan welcomes the new CD strategy for 2023-2030 and Outreach and Communications plan to promote the visibility and reach of IOC CD strategy.

As the CD has been a core function of the Commission, a wide range of CD activities have been provided at regional levels as well as global level.

Japan actively contributes to these CD activities through several channels and for a variety of areas. The whole CD activities of the Commission should be even more enhanced, fully taking into account the priority aspects including gender equality, global priority Africa, inclusive society, ECOP, and SIDS, particularly towards the goals of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Kenya

We thank the Chair for the report and welcome the updated and shorter version of the strategy.

Kenya concurs on the need to take into account regional capacity development specificities and agrees on the importance of developing and implementing programmatic and regionally relevant work plans.

Kenya also welcomes the outreach and communication plan. We are convinced that this will facilitate an increased multi-stakeholder approach as well as strengthen the science-policy interface.

We further appreciate the emphasis on partnerships which is essential for effective capacity development. The Ocean Capacity Development Hub (Ocean CD-Hub) is in our view an essential tool in the promotion of these partnerships and the building of synergies in ocean science capacity development.

We hope to see more capacity development opportunities on the hub and take this opportunity to highlight the specific capacity development needs of Africa, the Early Career Ocean Professionals and young people in general.

New Zealand

New Zealand would like to support and emphasize interventions of Canada re their position viz a vis the importance of genuinely engaging indigenous and local communities in integrating indigenous and local knowledge in capacity development and that of the UK when saying that CD cannot be undertaken alone and independently from other initiatives and organizations.

Portugal

Portugal considers Capacity Development one of the key functions of the IOC. In this sense, we have established our OTGA Regional Training Center in September 2020, involving now 27 national institutions and 170 researchers.

This RTC devotes particular attention to Portuguese-speaking countries. Last year we lectured a course in Operational Oceanography (123 candidates, 25 selected). In 2023 we already delivered one course on Ocean Literacy (128 candidates from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde and Mozambique and Portugal; 65 selected) and will deliver two more courses: a course on Management and Mitigation of Coastal Erosion (September, 2023) and a 2nd edition of the Operational Oceanography Course (October/November, 2023). Already planned also a course on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs): environmental drivers, impacts, and prediction (February 2024).

Spain

España celebra la presentación de la nueva Estrategia de Desarrollo de Capacidades de la COI y agradece a la Secretaría General, especialmente al Señor Peter Pissierssens, así como al Grupo de Expertos, destacando así mismo la labor de coordinación y liderazgo en la redacción de la Estrategia del Señor Alan Evans del Reino Unido.

El Desarrollo de Capacidades uno de los principios básicos de la actividad de la COI y por lo tanto España considera esta Estrategia como un paso fundamental en la actividad de la COI.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

As a core component of IOCs purpose as reflected in the Statutes of the IOC, the UK would like to support some key points raised by the Chair of the Group of Experts.

First, the UK supports providing adequate and sustained Regular Programme Budget for capacity development, as explicitly referred to in Decision 216 EX/44 to uplift IOC Regular Programme Budget adopted by the UNESCO Executive Board in May 2023.

This would ensure the IOC is able to deliver capacity development in a robust manner, so the IOC can more confidently engage with other UN agencies who are already demonstrating their commitment to capacity development such as the new Partnership Fund established by the International Seabed Authority that has up to \$400K per year in grants to invest in capacity building initiatives relating to the deep sea.

Secondly, the UK encourages the IOC and its associated programmes and regional offices to deliver capacity development in a far more systematic manner by adopting the actions outlined in the strategy to secure greater consistency in the delivery of capacity development by the IOC.

And finally, the IOC cannot and should not undertake capacity development in isolation. Neither should there be duplication in an effort to raise profile or to compete with other initiatives. This is why it is imperative that investment in IOC capacity development enables collaboration with other agencies and initiatives. With sustained investment, the IOC can develop its strategic positioning within the broader UN Oceans family bringing its distinctive capability in coordinating programmes in ocean research and services.

United States of America

The continued work of the Experts Group is essential to scaling up IOC implementation of capacity development at global, regional, and national levels.

We recognize the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to ensure alignment of capacity development objectives with the Implementation Phase of the Decade among others.

We support the decision text, and in particular welcome the adoption of the IOC CD Strategy and Communications Plan, and launch of the Ocean CD Hub.

Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)

The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research, SCOR, appreciates IOC's leadership on promoting global and regional programmes and workplans for capacity development.

SCOR advances capacity development, technology transfer, training, and education by building on its ongoing activities and making use of existing training and education facilities. SCOR involves students and early career scientists in its projects and working groups. SCOR supports the visiting scholar and fellow programme jointly with POGO, the Partnership for the Observation of the Global Ocean. SCOR also supports the participation of scientists and early career professionals from developing countries in international scientific and training events. SCOR promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion in ocean sciences. SCOR will continue to support the capacity development strategy in marine science within the UN Ocean Decade.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

On behalf of the Secretary-General of WMO, I congratulate the experts who have developed the new IOC Capacity Development Strategy for their excellent work and note the desire to collaborate with UN partners, and especially to reinforce and amplify capacity development efforts in areas where common goals support countries to strengthen their ocean-climate-weather related activities.

Similar to the IOC, the Nineteenth World Meteorological Congress in May / June this year approved the WMO's Capacity Development Framework. It is worthy of note that Congress took a resolution to adopt a Capacity Development Framework, rather than a strategy, because of the need to set a basis for various options and approaches to capacity development across thematic and geographic areas of the Organization and partners. This way, there is hence necessary connectivity to the IOC and consideration of mutual WMO and IOC interests, and complementarity of the two Strategies. This indeed aligns with the intentions set out within the current WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy.

I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to the IOC and its experts who have continued to collaborate with WMO and render relevant support towards the success of various aspects of capacity development endeavours that are of common interest to both organizations.

WMO looks forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the capacity needed to improve for improved marine related decision-making in our common Members and Member States.

3.5.4 Revision of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy

Brazil

We note with satisfaction its convergence of purpose with the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, adopted by the General Conference at its 41st session, in November 2021. The Recommendation might be of use in the development of the guidelines for the development of detailed data and metadata sharing guidelines by all IOC programmes and projects.

We also recognize the importance of the adoption of FAIR & CARE principles to support the work of humans and machines towards knowledge discovery, science and innovation and to acknowledge indigenous data governance in the revised text.

Colombia

Lo anterior, considerando que esta labor dará alcance y generará un mayor impacto a los avances de los Estados en materia de datos oceánicos relacionados con el sistema OBIS, el proyecto Ocean InfoHub y el IODE con el sistema ODIS.

En lo relativo a Ocean InfoHub, se han tenido importantes logros y avances como el establecimiento de la arquitectura global de ODIS y el desarrollo de su prueba de concepto con varios socios, en donde

el aporte de Colombia se ha fortalecido con el desarrollo del nodo para la región Caribe del Hub de información del Océano (LAC Node).

Por ello, Colombia, en virtud de sus gestiones en el Proyecto Ocean InfoHub relacionadas con las capacidades en información y tecnologías a nivel internacional, invita a los Estados miembro a seguir contribuyendo activamente con datos e información de este proceso en el marco del Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas, con miras a que la COI/UNESCO sea la organización líder en el intercambio de datos e información oceanográfica, contribuyendo a la planificación sostenible del océano.

Japan

Japan expresses its highest appreciation to Ms. Lotta Fyrberg, Co-Chair of IODE, for her clear presentation including the background of the revision in IOC Data Policy. Japan also congratulates Mr. Taco de Bruin on his great leadership in the discussion at IWG-DATAPOLICY.

It is easily imagined that the discussion needed extensive considerations and careful facilitations, with a previous experience in joining the long and in some cases complicated discussions in 2001-2002, when the current version of IOC data exchange policy was drafted and adopted in 2003.

The new version is well considered, taking well into account recent development of data and information technology and concepts of FAIR and CARE principles.

While all the clauses are really important, Japan would like to emphasize again the importance of secure and long-term archive stated in Section 6. Japan welcomes and fully supports the new data policy proposed and annexed to Dec. A-32/4.4.

New Zealand

NZ thanks the government of Flanders - Kingdom of Belgium for their critical support in this important initiative.

NZ supports and actively contributes to the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE). Through the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and other research institutions, New Zealand plays an important role in sharing oceanographic data, contributing to international efforts in understanding and managing the world's ocean.

New Zealand welcomes and support a revision of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy integrating FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) and CARE (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, and Ethics) data management and governance approaches, and thanks the co-chair of the IODE programme for her report.

These approaches are essential to address the evolving landscape of data access and security. New Zealand would like to emphasize the importance of including robust mechanisms for considering the issues of data sovereignty, ensuring that individuals and organizations maintain control over their own data and have the right to determine how it is used and shared. By integrating data sovereignty principles for local communities into these frameworks, we can strike a balance between data accessibility and protection, fostering trust and empowering stakeholders to make informed decisions about their data.

Recognizing the importance of indigenous and local knowledge in data exchange policy and access is also crucial for fostering cultural preservation, knowledge sharing, and equitable collaboration. Incorporating these diverse perspectives enriches decision-making processes, promotes sustainable development, and respects the rights and contributions of indigenous communities. By embracing indigenous and local knowledge, we can ensure more comprehensive and inclusive solutions to complex global challenges.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom welcomes progress of the Intersessional Working Group in updating the 20-year-old "IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy (2003)" which underwent minor revision in 2019. The UK is in agreement with the aspiration of timely, open and unrestricted international sharing, in both real-time and delayed mode of ocean metadata, data and products, but understands that there may occasionally be a valid need for restricted access to certain datasets. Furthermore, the UK is encouraged to see the inclusion of the FAIR Guiding Principles, CARE principles and the potential use of Creative Commons licences. The UK strongly supports the long-term and secure archival of data and associated metadata in recognised, and ideally, accredited data centres or repositories.

The revised policy defines 'data' (representing ocean properties), 'metadata' (data about the data) and 'products' (value-added enhancement of data applied to a particular use). The United Kingdom notes that in Section 1 (pre-ambule), the scope of the policy is completely unconstrained regarding products. This is in contrast, for example, with:

- the previous IOC data policy where scope was confined to meta data, data and products generated under the auspices of IOC programmes but with encouragement it should apply to data from other programmes;
- the revised WMO data policy 2021 which is constrained by identifying 'core' and 'recommended' data (which by their definition includes meta data and products) to which the policy applies.

The United Kingdom is concerned that by not similarly constraining the scope of the policy, it is open to the interpretation that ALL added-value products should be available with minimal restriction, including charging stakeholders and customers for tailor made specialist products. This could undermine business models where part of the costs of generating data through observations and the costs of managing data and meta data to make them openly available are supported from revenues generated from sale of specialised products. Moreover, the policy could disincentivize investment in innovation for creation of new products and services based on them. Instead, provided data, meta data and possibly certain core products are openly accessible with minimal restriction, then investment in product innovation that generates a return on investment should not be discouraged.

The United Kingdom recognizes that sections 7 and 8 of the data policy could be interpreted as providing sufficient exceptional flexibility to permit charging for some products. However, the intention in Section 1 regrettably insufficiently recognizes the value of and possibly stifles product innovation.

The United Kingdom suggests minor revision of Section 1 could address the matter by either:

- (a) deleting the term 'product' at the end of the last sentence of section 1 or
- (b) restoring text from Clauses 1 and 2 of the previous policy that defined scope. The UK can provide proposed text amendments to Section 1, namely 'Metadata, data and products generated under the auspices of IOC programmes [Clause 1 of 2019 policy] should be accessible, interoperable and openly shared with minimum delay and minimum restrictions. Member States are encouraged to provide timely, free and unrestricted access to relevant data and associated metadata from non-IOC programmes [from Clause 2 of 2019 Policy].

United States of America

The United States appreciates the informative presentation and endorses adoption of the newly revised IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy.

All nations need science-based data for informed socio-economic decision making and for the development of ocean forecast and climate predictive models.

It is critical that nations and the global ocean community make measurable strides to move away from "my data" to "our global data".

This data policy is a positive step towards this goal.

We look forward to working across the IOC and the UN to realize the UN Decadal vision and outcomes for and by all countries with equity.

We thank the ocean data policy writing Team, contributors, and the IODE secretariat for their support.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

The history of oceanographic data exchange with meteorology is strong and welcome. Ocean data is increasingly used in operational forecasting systems for weather and climate, and therefore in the weather, climate, and water services provided by WMO Members to users at a national or local level. Much of the physical ocean data from GOOS flows through the WMO Information System to forecasting centers in real time, and the interoperability frameworks that we are preparing with WIS 2.0 and that you are preparing with ODIS are critical to deepening this cooperation.

The proposed IOC Data Policy and Terms of Use recognizes that partner organizations are changing their data policies. WMO, in 2021, adopted a Unified Data Policy that applies to all Members – and in

fact not only to their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, but theoretically to the governments as a whole.

The WMO Unified Data Policy goes further than the proposed IOC policy and previous resolutions in identifying core data that Members shall exchange, and recommended data that Members should exchange. Physical variables taken as part of a GOOS observational network, consistent with IOC data exchange policy, are identified by WMO already as core data, for which Members have an obligation to share in a free and unrestricted way.

Moving from policy to implementation is a challenge – one that WMO is addressing through better definitions of core data and measures to build a culture of compliance amongst Members.

As IOC develops guidelines for the development of detailed data and metadata sharing guidelines, WMO would be pleased to engage with these efforts where there is natural alignment with WMO's work in developing guidance around data exchange.

4.5 Status of the IOC Regional Committee of the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

France

La France remercie le Président de IOCINDIO, le Président de la COI, le Secrétaire exécutif de la COI ainsi que les Etats membres ayant participé aux réunions du groupe de travail intersessions à composition non limitée en vue du changement de statut du comité régional de l'Océan indien central (IOCINDIO).

La France rappelle la prééminence des projets de coopération régionaux en matière de développement des sciences océaniques, tels que promus par la Décennie des Nations Unies pour les sciences océaniques au service du développement durable et l'existence du Centre collaboratif pour la Décennie dans la région de l'océan Indien (DCC-IOR).

La France accueille favorablement le projet de transformation du comité régional de la COI pour l'océan indien central (IOCINDIO) en sous-commission.

India

India appreciates the efforts of the IOC Secretariat and IOCINDIO for the thorough stakeholder consultation process adopted as part of the Open Ended Inter-sessional Working Group on the transformation of IOCINDIO to a sub commission. India participated in the deliberations of this working group and fully supports the resolution A-32/4.5 that calls for transformation of IOCINDIO to a sub-commission. India supports the Terms of Reference for the IOCINDIO sub commission, and the carefully considered and recommended mechanisms for coordination with the adjacent sub-commissions including IOC Africa and IOC WESTPAC.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, India reiterates its support to the IOCINDIO activities.

Japan

Japan appreciates the excellent leadership of Rear Admiral Khurshed Alam, Co-Chair of the Intersessional WG on the Status of IOCINDIO, in facilitating the discussions and finalizing the draft Resolution on this matter in front of us.

Japan welcomes the report and the draft resolution therein, that has been based on intensive and careful discussions including coordination with neighboring regional Sub-Commissions namely, IOCAFROA and WESTPAC.

The Indian Ocean plays an essential role in global climate system and ecosystem. Japan will certainly further contribute to marine sciences in the Indian Ocean in even closer cooperation with regional sub-commissions including IOCINDIO.

Kenya

Kenya actively participated in the Open-ended intersessional Working Group on the Status of IOCINDIO. We thank the co-chairs for effectively steering the Working Group. We also wish to express our deep appreciation to the Secretariat of the IOC for their useful guidance and contribution that enabled the Working Group efficiently and constructively conduct its business.

Kenya acknowledges and appreciates the contribution of IOCINDIO to the visibility and impact of the IOC. We welcome the emphasis that has been placed on the area of interest and coordination with

adjacent sub-commissions namely: the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAfrica) and the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC).

Finally, Kenya supports the elevation of IOCINDIO into a sub-commission and we are pleased to be a co-sponsor of the draft resolution.

United States of America

The United States supports changing the status of IOCINDIO to a Sub-Commission, and encourages continued regional leadership and engagement to identify the needed Regular Budget resources.

We commend efforts of the outgoing IOCINDIO leadership for reinvigorating IOCINDIO over recent years and we welcome new leadership as we enter into a new biennium.

Elevation to a Sub-Commission reflects the importance of IOC programmes in the region, such as IIOE-2, and will support increases in benefits to the third of the global population that lives in IOCINDIO Member States.

The United States encourages IOCINDIO to continue leveraging scientific activities, cooperation with IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC, and support of the UN Decade.

IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

WESTPAC would recall that several member states emphasized at the 54th Executive Council and the 31st General Assembly meetings, the needs for a Comprehensive Review of IOCINDIO activities in a past and future development.

WESTPAC have considered the review to be an important source of information for future inter-regional cooperation.

With regard to this, WESTPAC will use a progress report of IOCINDIO to examine the modalities of inter-regional cooperation.

4.6 IOC Contributions to UN Governance Processes

Brazil

For its importance, Brazil would like to underline IOC's contribution to development of the outline of the third edition of the World Ocean Assessment, recently endorsed by UN Member States.

We value the United Nations Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, as the only global mechanism accountable to the United Nations General Assembly that regularly reviews the environmental, economic, and social aspects of the world ocean.

The Regular Process is a true intergovernmental governance structure, such as the IOC, with global representation and participation in its genesis and core. This is a requirement for any instrument with a significant role in global ocean governance.

Last month, we hosted in the coastal city of Santos the Workshop for the Region of the South Atlantic and the Wider Caribbean for the 3rd World Ocean Assessment, in partnership with the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, DOALOS.

We greatly appreciate the engagement of the IOC-UNESCO in the development of the workshop, which contributed in no small measure to its success. We also noted with satisfaction the participation of Dr. Karim Hilmi, Vice Chairperson of the IOC, Group V.

In addition, as an unequivocal sign of Brazil's engagement in the Regular Process, it worth to mention the election of Dr. Roberto de Pinho as Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts for the Regular Process. He was also elected vice president of IOCARIBE, being able to act as a bridge between the IOC and the Regular Process.

Finally, we note with satisfaction that Dr. Lorna Inniss, Head of the IOCARIBE Secretariat, was one of the former Joint Coordinators of the Group of Experts.

Chile

Chile valora el trabajo que se ha realizado en el contexto de la gobernanza oceánica, y expresa su compromiso con este marco, con el objeto de avanzar para tener un esquema legal robusto para regular las actividades del ser humano en el océano.

En esta línea, valoramos la reciente adopción del tratado de BBNJ, el cual es el resultado de más de diez años de negociaciones en las que Chile ha jugado un papel activo, promoviendo objetivos ambiciosos y la coordinación con otros espacios y acuerdos regionales o sectoriales que también tienen competencias en alta mar.

Este futuro Acuerdo constituye un avance fundamental para fortalecer la gobernanza de la alta mar, y materializar los mandatos de la CONVEMAR, a través de la regulación de los recursos genéticos marinos, incluyendo la información de la secuencia digital de dichos recursos, y la distribución justa y equitativa de los beneficios de su uso.

Teniendo en consideración nuestra histórica vocación oceánica, y nuestra posición en favor de la gobernanza del océano, el Presidente de la República ha ofrecido, formalmente, a nuestro país como sede de la Secretaría del Tratado,

La propuesta de acoger la Secretaría de la BBNJ está en plena consonancia con nuestra política exterior, que ha otorgado al océano una alta prioridad. Chile ha contribuido activamente al desarrollo del derecho internacional del mar, incluso en las negociaciones de la CONVEMAR y promoviendo el principio de las 200 millas náuticas.

A través de esta propuesta, CHILE ratifica su compromiso con la conservación del océano y el uso sostenible de sus recursos y con el fortalecimiento del derecho internacional y la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar (CONVEMAR), del que nuestro país es parte desde 1997.

Estamos confiados en que Chile es el mejor espacio para iniciar el proceso de este tratado, y para ello seguiremos trabajando y colaborando para que el BBNJ sea exitoso y adecuado para proteger la biodiversidad en altamar.

Japan

Japan welcomes the BBNJ agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. IOC should, based on its expertise in marine sciences, contribute to the newly developed agreement and/or framework, through for example, in terms of data and information services such as OBIS, ODIS and OIH and others as well.

With regard to the third cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of Marine Environment, the engagement of and contributions from the IOC are highly expected. Along this line, the planned joint symposium in December to be organized with UN DOALOS will really be an important opportunity for IOC to enhance its science-policy interfaces.

Japan has issued its Fourth Basic Plan on Ocean Policy in April 2023 that describes in detail ocean policy implementation plans for the next five years. The plan also emphasizes the importance of science-policy interface and Japan will actively participate in and contribute to the processes.

Kenya

We view this as critical in raising the visibility and impact of the IOC and welcome the collaboration with other UN entities.

Kenya appreciates the continued support of the IOC in particular with regard to capacity development, the transfer of marine technology, data services and science coordination. We welcome the efforts to strengthen the science-policy interface as well as raise awareness on the importance of the ocean for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We also wish to highlight the importance of providing the IOC adequate resources in particular from the regular budget to enable it effectively implement all its functions.

Finally, Kenya would like to reiterate its appreciation for the excellent contribution and support of the IOC in the organization and follow-up of the Second UN Ocean conference co-hosted by Kenya and Portugal in 2022.

Spain

España celebra la importancia de la creciente implicación de la COI en los procesos, acuerdos y convenciones internacionales relacionados con la sostenibilidad del océano. Nos gustaría resaltar dos aspectos.

Por un lado, celebramos la mayor implicación de la COI en el Tercer Ciclo de la Evaluación del Océano Global y animamos a que la información que se obtiene por los distintos programas de la COI se

incorpore de forma creciente y visible al mismo, por la importancia que tiene como herramienta para la toma de decisiones políticas y para la sostenibilidad del océano.

Por otro, llamar la atención que una parte importante de los procesos tiene que ver con la biodiversidad y su conservación, la explotación de los recursos naturales explotados, la doble relación de los ecosistemas marinos con el cambio climático, tanto por el papel de los mismos en los balances y el secuestro de carbono, como por el efecto de este proceso sobre la biodiversidad y el funcionamiento de los ecosistemas. Nos gustaría resaltar entre todos ellos el acuerdo sobre Biodiversidad en Áreas fuera de la Jurisdicción Nacional, por el reto y oportunidad que supone para la COI como organización internacional para aportar el conocimiento científico necesario para la gestión y conservación de la Biodiversidad en aguas fuera de las jurisdicciones nacionales interaccionando a su vez con programas existentes como GOOS, IODE (especialmente OBIS), las herramientas de Planificación Espacial Marina, y sobre todo a través de una buena coordinación con otras organizaciones de Naciones Unidas que vayan a jugar un papel determinante en la gestión de la Biodiversidad en estas zonas. Creemos que es un elemento clave a tener en cuenta para la estrategia futura de la COI. Celebramos

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The UK fully endorses the principle of collaboration with other UN agencies and that the IOC is well placed to support UN ocean governance processes. There is no doubt that the Purposes of the IOC, as captured in its Statutes and its current mandate as articulated in its mid-term Strategy demonstrate the potential for IOC outputs to contribute to a global good.

However, this is predicated on the IOC being able to sustainably deliver core functions of relevance and that their outcomes are provided proficiently.

Mr Barbier presented a number of IOC activities that have been identified as of potential value, some of which resulted in the IOC being named in the new High Seas Treaty. However, if we take two of those examples capacity development (CD) and support for a clearing house mechanism

- IOC contributions to CD has grossly insufficient regular budget funding and
- the establishment of the IOC InfoHub, which is where the BBNJ could see IOC expertise in developing a clearing house mechanism, was wholly reliant of extra-budgetary contributions with currently no long-term means to maintain it.

Similarly, outputs from GOOS are of exceptional importance in providing the foundational data and knowledge required to implement so many international environment agreements and frameworks.

The IOC should remain confident in its fundamental purpose as outlined in its Status as drafted in 1960, which remain as valid and relevant today as they were then.

If the IOC is to evolve as an organization that is at the centre of informing global ocean governance, then we must very carefully and strategically consider how best to engage with the needs of stakeholders and other externally driven demands where the IOC should contribute, rooted in its functions - and avoid being driven merely by desire to demonstrate relevance and in chasing funding to develop initiatives of topical shorter-term topical interest.

That said Mr Chairman, the UK supports the Executive Secretary's continued engagement, as drafted in the Decision, and in doing so promote what is it that the IOC can offer, rather than what it could and equally as important Mr Chairman, the UK supports the notion in the draft Decision of enabling all Member States to be able to contribute to global governance initiatives, and hope that use of increased regular program budget will be used to deliver on this.

United States of America

The United States welcomes the successful conclusion of the BBNJ negotiations, and the adoption last week of the BBNJ agreement.

As other delegations have noted, it is imperative for the IOC to be able to deliver on existing programmes and projects that are critical to supporting these other processes.

We welcome continued engagement by the IOC Secretariat in relevant UN processes, and we support the decision text.

4.7 Development of a new IOC-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management

Italy

Italy believes this strategy is important for the development sustainable ocean economy and it requires collaboration of member states.

As coordinator, and together with many European countries that are also represented here today, Italy is proud to announce the launch, earlier this year, of the EU Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership which aims to enhance the impact of research and innovation for the Blue Economy in Europe.

Indeed, as one of the partnerships under the current Research and Innovation Framework Programme “Horizon Europe”, this partnership for “a climate-neutral, sustainable and productive blue economy” sets out to boost the green and digital transitions across all European sea basins. Its objectives resonate with those of the Ocean Decade. It benefits from the network that was already established with the JPI Oceans.

By catalyzing ocean science and engaging with the private sector, the EU Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership represents an unprecedented effort towards fairer, more resilient and more sustainable blue economies for future generations on our planet.

The partnership is co-funded by the European Commission and a network of currently 25 member states, associated countries and third countries, which plan to pool research and innovation investments of 450 million EUR over seven years. Out of the planned six calls for project proposals, the first call was successfully launched in February 2023.

The website “bluepartnership.eu” can give you further information.

As we seek to join forces in the context of the operational objective of the partnership to “Connect the sustainable blue economy community from the local to the global level”, we invite the IOC as well as its member states to explore cooperation potential together. The Italian delegation stands ready to liaise with interested parties wishing to explore how such cooperation can be taken forward.

An example is the work of the partnership contributing to the development of sustainable ocean planning and management.

Japan

Japan issued its Fourth Basic Plan on Ocean Policy by the Cabinet decision at the end of April. The Fourth Basic Plan explains the fundamental directions of Japan’s ocean policy in the next five years and enumerates measures to be taken by the relevant ministries and agencies. The Fourth Basic Plan is constructed around two major pillars. The first pillar is the Comprehensive Maritime Security. The second pillar, which is newly added, is the Building of a Sustainable Ocean.

Under the pillar of the Sustainable Ocean, Japan will pursue (1) contributing to achieving carbon-neutral, (2) the conservation of the marine environment, (3) well-managed marine resources, and (4) enrichment and utilization of knowledge and experience which form the basis of actions. The Basic Plan further lists seven main policies covering both pillar areas where steady progress needs to be made.

The realization of the goals of these pillars will require ever increased collaboration with other nations. Some of Japan’s efforts may also be applied to other countries and Japan will be more than pleased to share “Japanese Ocean Policy Model” with Member States of IOC.

The Fourth Basic Plan is currently published only in the Japanese language and an English version will be available in due course.

Norway

Norway welcomes the proposal to develop an IOC-wide strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management. We feel confident that the whole range of IOC-programmes, services and activities could make substantial contributions. While we still need to expand our knowledge of the ocean, we need above all - and urgently - to translate ocean science into sustainable ocean management of exclusive economic zones and the high seas.

We value IOC’s co-operation with the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy and follow the development of the Ocean Decade Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning with great interest. Given IOCs expertise and experience, the IOC is very well positioned to promote the broad transformations needed to advance a sustainable ocean economy, prioritizing a healthy ocean alongside sustainable production to benefit people everywhere. The Ocean Panel can provide important inspiration on linking between scientific knowledge and practical policies.

Norway appreciates the fact that Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management is building on IOC's rich experience from Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Area Management and extending the scope and impact of these instruments.

Norway would like to underline the importance of committed alliances such as the EU Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership for achieving the aims of the Decade and the Sustainable Development Goals as mentioned by Italy. We also stress that the partnership is open for co-operation with other nations.

We would like to end our intervention by referring to paragraph 2 of the IOC statutes, where knowledge for the improvement of management and sustainable development is an integral part of the Commission's purpose.

In conclusion; Norway looks forward to being engaged in the consultations and to the presentation of a draft strategy one year from now.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The UK believes there needs to be clarity on the intended purpose of the IOCs role in ocean management where we believe its niche is in science and science-based tools to inform Ocean Management, not ocean management itself, and we need to caution against mission drift.

Unfortunately given the report was not uploaded until the week before the start of the Assembly we have not had an opportunity to carefully consider the initiative. We also note the report appears to be missing the annex which is said to include an initial gap analysis, which would have been useful to see.

We note the process for developing a strategy as presented by Mr Barbier including a consultation phase. But we agree with the US in that we would like to see the outcomes of this consultation in the first instance and we look forward to seeing the US suggested changes to the decision.

United States of America

We welcome consideration of this topic by IOC Member States, including consideration of IOC contributions across its programmes on ocean sciences, observation and data, early warning services and assessments, as well as capacity development and perhaps others not yet contemplated - all in support of sustainable ocean management.

The United States notes agrees with the importance of sustainable ocean planning and coastal management.

Focus on this diverse suite of interrelated issues is growing, and it will require considerable attention from us all, including in the identification of how to contribute in ways that are complementary with other efforts ongoing and aligned with IOC's unique contributions.

We thank the Secretariat for presenting the document prepared for the Assembly meeting, but note that it was released just prior to the meeting.

While we have had some time to consider the document, the United States would welcome additional time for Member States, IOC programmes, and other relevant experts to review and to provide feedback.

We therefore note with appreciation the consultation process outlined by the Secretariat in the report to the Assembly, and believe the decision text should reflect this process.

We have some edits to propose in this regard when we are ready to review the document.

IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

WESTPAC has started activities related to MSP as UN Decade Project, UN-21 "Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas".

As stated in this report, MSP's activities in the region are important, and WESTPAC is also inviting experts to join Group of Experts of WESTPAC for MSP.

WESTPAC expects a strategy to be submitted to the next meeting, being in line with the MSP project of WESTPAC.

Colombia

Igualmente, el país reconoce la importancia de fortalecer la coordinación regional y nacional como parte fundamental de la evolución de la estructura del GOOS; y la continuación del apoyo a la actividad renovada de coordinación regional en las islas del Pacífico (PI-GOOS), el Caribe (IOCARIBE-GOOS) y África.

Desde este punto de vista, es importante resaltar la importancia y la necesidad de diseñar y fortalecer los planes de acción en materia de cooperación internacional, que permitan crear mecanismos de articulación y complementariedad entre las Alianzas Regionales, así como programas de asistencia técnica centrados en el desarrollo del capital humano y la construcción de capacidades institucionales, a través de proyectos para la movilización de recursos económicos.

Por ello, Colombia pone a disposición de los Estados miembro su experiencia y los productos de investigación científica y meteorología marina, como país que actualmente ocupa la Presidencia de la Alianza Regional GRASP en el marco de la Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS), a través de la cual ha desarrollado capacidades técnicas para mejorar el conocimiento del océano y de garantizar el desarrollo de acciones de vigilancia integrada de las condiciones oceanográficas y meteorológicas.

Lo anterior, busca aportar al intercambio de datos e información a nivel global, y aunar esfuerzos para el desarrollo de nuevas capacidades, de modo que, se fomente la conciencia marítima y la sostenibilidad del océano.

Finalmente, Colombia reitera su voluntad para continuar trabajando con el programa GOOS en el establecimiento y armonización de buenas prácticas en materia de observación de los océanos, y reafirma la disposición de compartir los datos para contribuir en la implementación de los lineamientos y estándares internacionales.

France

La France souhaite porter à la connaissance des autres États membres que les organismes français (Ifremer, CNRS/INSU, Shom, IRD, Cerema, CNES) ont mis en place en liaison avec les ministères concernés une coordination nationale de l'observation des océans, le French Ocean Observing System. Le French Ocean Observing System va dans le sens des préconisations du GOOS visant à structurer et renforcer les activités nationales pour l'observation à long terme de l'océan. Le French Ocean Observing System a pour objectif de coordonner les activités nationales liées à la mise en œuvre et l'évolution des réseaux d'observation hauturiers, grands fonds et côtiers servant à la fois les besoins de la recherche, du suivi du climat, de la surveillance de l'environnement, de la météorologie et de l'océanographie opérationnelle.

La France a pris note par ailleurs de la proposition de création d'une nouvelle alliance régionale pour le GOOS (GOOS Regional Alliance - GRA) pour le Canada. La France soutient cette proposition mais néanmoins s'interroge sur le rôle respectif des GOOS Regional Alliances et des structures nationales et européennes (EOOS).

India

India has been supporting implementation of the GOOS and IndOOS in the Indian Ocean by deployment of a wide variety of ocean observing platforms including Metocean moored buoys, Argo floats, drifters, XBT, Wave Rider Buoys, Tsunami Buoys, tide gauges, ADCPs and process specific cruises. New observing capabilities such as Gliders and Coastal BGC moorings are being established. India also works closely with US NOAA on the maintenance of the RAMA mooring array dissemination of data through RAMA-OMNI web-portal to enable stake holders to visualize and download data from both RAMA and OMNI buoys from single platform and a joint cruises for process studies in the Arabian Sea. India is making additional efforts as parts of its Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) to sustain the Indian Ocean observing platforms which declined due to Covid Pandemic.

India has in November 2022 launched a dedicated satellite called EOS-6 / Oceansat -3 for monitoring Ocean colour in 13 spectral bands, SST and ocean surface winds.

The data from all platforms is managed and made available widely through the NODC at INCOIS.

India continued to support the IIOE2 that is co-sponsored by IOC, SCOR and IOGOOS by hosting of the IIOE-2 project office and also the web portal. India also hosts the Secretariat for the IOGOOS, which is a GRA in the Indian Ocean. These secretariats were involved in organising the annual meetings of the

IOGOOS, IORP, IRF, IIOE-2 Steering Group and SIBER meetings hosted by University of Western Australia in February 2023. India also hosted the IIOSC-2022 conference in virtual mode during March 2022. Through the ITCOOcean C2C, India has also undertaken capacity development activities and organised three such training programmes in partnership with IOC and also with POGO with a focus on ocean observations, biological observations and modelling aspects.

India will continue to engage in Ocean observations and GOOS OceanDecade Programmes, Ocean Observing Co-Design, CoastPredict and Observing Together.

Italy

Italy recognizes the crucial role of GOOS to monitor the status of the ocean and forecast short and long term status of marine environment.

I would like to inform the Assembly that Italy decided to reinforce the national observing system. On this aim, in the framework recovery and resilience plan, Italy decided to invest 50 million of Euros to implement the Italian Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) with the aim to guarantee access to Italian facilities, marine data and services and to ensure long term monitoring of EOVs, EBVs and ECVs. This will reinforce the Italian contributes to the European and International efforts on ocean observations (EOOS and GOOS), responding to the major challenges of the Ocean Decade and contribution to Mediterranean Sea Observing System. The Italian Integrated Ocean Observing System will be build-up integrating the Italian node of the European RIs such as EMSO ERIC, EURO-ARGO, DANUBIUS, eLTER, EUROFLEETS, ICOS ERIC, JERICO and national facilities such as Laboratori Nazionali del Sud, N/R Laura Bassi, SIOS, GeoSciences. Within IOOS system, RIs data and services will be harmonized and integrated, data gaps in biological and ecosystem observations will be filled. Key sites will be upgraded to improve acquisition of biological observations at ecosystem level by exploiting both automated and new technologies. The project will contribute to Argo program with the acquisition additional 15 BGC Argo and several ARGO floats including 10 deep ARGO. The Italian Glidar floats will be expanded as well as HF Radar network. EMSO station will be upgraded. Italy will also enhance the digital automatization of Italian Research Vessels. The NRT data and products will be made available through the Italian Marine data center to the research community as well as to stakeholder.

Finally Italy would like to announce that in 2022 CNR acquire a new Research Vessel called "Gaia Blue", this large infrastructure will be operative by end of the year and will allow the Italian science community to carry out scientific cruises mainly in the Mediterranean but also outside the Mediterranean.

In addition, Italy is contributing Ocean Decade GOOS project on Marine Heat Waves proving global Atlas of MHW covering the last 4 decades, developing new methodology to MHW detection and to study impact of MHW on marine ecosystem.

The Italy supports the GOOS Strategic plan and will continue contribute to GOOS programme to MONGOOS GRA and it is ready to collaborate with Member States.

Spain

España está plenamente comprometida con la actividad de GOOS por la importancia que tienen las observaciones del océano para el impulso del conocimiento científico y la gestión de una cada vez mayor cantidad de sectores económicos con creciente importancia y para el bienestar de nuestras sociedades en general. Entendemos además que el éxito es estos objetivos, por las propias características de medio marino, solo se puede alcanzar a través de una intensa colaboración internacional. Nuestro compromiso se manifiesta en el despliegue un cada vez más completo sistema de observación con un enfoque claramente multidisciplinar, pero también a través de una participación activa en las Alianzas Regionales de nuestro entorno y en su Comité Directivo, así como en muchos de los programas bajo el paraguas de GOOS, como Ocean-Sites, Go-Ship, Argo y en las asociadas a la Década como Coast-Predict.

Agradecemos el extraordinario trabajo realizado por GOOS, la presentación de la Señora White, de su co-Chair, del nuevo Comité Ejecutivo, creemos que todos ellos que le están dando un nuevo impulso muy positivo, y queremos agradecer muy especialmente el trabajo de la Señora Emma Heslop. Este nuevo impulso es patente en el Plan de Implementación de GOOS, que consideramos claro, conciso y bien orientado, en los términos de referencia para los Puntos Focales Nacionales, y también vemos muy positivos los avances en la identificación de los problemas de los sistemas de observación en aguas de jurisdicción nacional. Para terminar, España en línea con otros estados miembros como Reino Unido, llama a la Secretaría de la COI a reforzar el presupuesto de GOOS cuando esto sea posible, por el papel que tiene en las funciones centrales y básicas de esta organización.

4.8.1 GOOS Work Plan for 2024–2025

Argentina

Argentina desea expresar sus felicitaciones al Comité Directivo del Sistema Global de Observación del Océano (GOOS) por su labor destacada, especialmente a partir de sus propuestas y avances para la participación en el Decenio del Océano y la concreción de proyectos con real impacto en las observaciones oceanográficas y en las poblaciones que se ven afectadas por fenómenos ambientales en las regiones costeras e insulares, en un contexto de Cambio Climático.

Los logros reportados en la documentación en cada uno de los objetivos estratégicos demuestran el esfuerzo de cada uno de los miembros de GOOS y nos obliga a continuar con los esfuerzos necesarios para seguir en ese camino.

La experiencia de Argentina en el Comité Directivo de GOOS ha sido muy positiva, impulsando acciones dentro de nuestro país para favorecer las campañas de observación. Es importante destacar que la participación activa de los Puntos Focales Nacionales de GOOS pueden ser de gran valor y protagonismo en el sostenimiento y desarrollo de las redes de observaciones oceanográficas. Esto ha permitido concretar 3 campañas de lanzamiento de boyas derivantes y de fondeo en los últimos 2 años.

Argentina continua activamente trabajando en el proyecto South Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (SAMOC), un esfuerzo multinacional que en el caso de nuestro país involucra la participación de personal científico y técnico, el despliegue de buques en campañas de observaciones oceánicas y el desarrollo de conocimiento en el océano Atlántico Sur; todo esto de manera ininterrumpida desde el año 2009.

Asimismo, es importante destacar la relevancia que las observaciones de hielo marino y témpanos tienen en el ambiente oceánico. El aumento en la cantidad de buques en aguas con presencia de hielo en los mares australes representa un desafío para aquellos países del hemisferio sur, como Argentina, que deben proveer servicios para la seguridad náutica y desarrollar redes de observaciones y estudios científicos en áreas remotas.

En línea con las prioridades de GOOS, Argentina se encuentra en desarrollo de la Red de Observación Marina de Largo Plazo (Red ROMA), lanzada en el marco de la iniciativa Pampa Azul; y una red de estaciones ambientales con múltiples sensores bajo la dirección del Servicio de Hidrografía Naval, con el objetivo de establecer un completo y coordinado monitoreo del litoral marítimo argentino desde el río de la Plata hasta la Antártida.

Sin perjuicio de lo anterior, se advierte que el documento bajo análisis incluye una referencia al término "blue economy" en su objetivo estratégico número 8, respecto al diálogo con la industria para acelerar la innovación para la observación oceánica. Al respecto, cabe recordar que no existe una definición internacionalmente aceptada de este concepto, el cual tampoco se encuentra reflejado en el lenguaje de la Agenda 2030 ni de su ODS 14. Por lo expuesto, se solicita que en futuras publicaciones se utilice un lenguaje internacionalmente aceptado como es el de "economía/s oceánica/s sostenible/s e inclusiva/s" que ha sido utilizado en el ámbito de la Comisión de Pesca de la FAO (COFI-FAO) entre otros foros multilaterales en la materia.

Las necesidades de recursos planteadas en el informe son realistas y justificadas. Agradecemos a los organismos y Estados Miembros que hacen posible el desarrollo de estas acciones con sus aportes de fondos.

Finalmente, mencionar que Argentina desea extender su apoyo a la adopción de la Decisión 4.8.1.

Brazil

The GOOS Program is formally organized in Brazil, under the umbrella of the Interministerial Commission for the Sea Resources (CIRM). That's the "Brazilian System of Ocean Observation and Climate Studies" - GOOS/Brazil.

GOOS-Brazil aims at producing information and knowledge in order to provide environmental forecasts for marine areas under jurisdiction and of national interest, subsidizing decision-making processes on the effective use of sea resources and also for monitoring the health of the oceans.

For these purposes, it collects oceanographic and meteorological data, making use of all systems already developed, as well as incorporating new technologies that may arise.

The use of essential ocean variables (EOVs) or essential climate variables (ECVs) will be implemented by GOOS-Brazil as well as collection methodologies and technologies, and exchange protocols are fully matured.

Coordinated by an Executive Committee, chaired by Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation (DHN), GOOS-Brazil is composed of six Operational Observation Networks, and one scientific program, the South Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (SAMOC):

- Oceanographic and climatological data collection network using moored and drift buoys in the South Atlantic (National Buoy Programme); –
- Mean sea level monitoring network (GLOSS-Brazil); –
- Network for monitoring waves in shallow waters (Rede ONDAS); –
- Oceanographic and climatological data collection network using moored buoys in the Tropical Atlantic (PIRATA); –
- Project for monitoring the characterization of the thermal structure, from High Density XBT lines between Rio de Janeiro and Trindade Island (MOVAR); –
- Oceanographic Modelling and Observation Network (REMO); and
- The scientific programme – The South Atlantic Southern Overturning Circulation (SAMOC).

Canada

Canada would like to thank the GOOS co-chairs and secretariat for their work in furthering the Implementation Plan over the last year, and for your support in supporting the Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS) as a Regional Alliance. Canada supports the proposed work plan, however, we would like to note the importance of ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to GOOS, as a core function of the IOC, to realize the implementation of the GOOS strategic plan and make the step change we need.

Canada would also like to thank Member States for your consideration for CIOOS becoming a Regional Alliance under GOOS. CIOOS was established in 2019 to address the siloed ocean data and the lack of a formal coordination and collaboration mechanism for the ocean observing community in Canada. In the four years since its inception, CIOOS has implemented best practices to manage, integrate, and share physical, biogeochemical, and biodiversity ocean data, based on the essential ocean variables identified through GOOS. CIOOS has strong alignment with several of the GOOS 2030 strategic objectives, including advocacy and communications, partnerships, strengthening knowledge and exchange, and open and quality-controlled data. We recognize the benefits to be gained from increased integration and coordination within and between GOOS Regional Alliances.

Japan

GOOS is one of the principal programs promoted by the IOC that aims to constitute sustainable ocean observation networks supporting various ocean-related services. It is thought that ocean observations are becoming increasingly important in the context of the Ocean Decade.

Japan is pleased to have been contributing to GOOS through oceanographic observations using various platforms such as research vessels and Argo floats, activities of NEAR-GOOS, as well as some experts' activities.

Japan hopes to continue to contribute to the development of marine science through these activities.

In addition, Japan would like to draw the attention of the GOOS community to the oceanographic data and information management. As the Assembly adopted a decision on the IOC Data Policy and Terms of Use (2023) under the agenda item 4.4 yesterday (26 June 2023), the GOOS is invited to enhance its data and information management activities in accordance with the newly adopted Data Policy.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The UK notes with interest the development of many interesting activities during an exceptionally difficult period. GOOS is a core function of the IOC and the UK considers that stabilizing it with additional Regular Programme budget should be a priority.

To maximise benefit from GOOS, it will be important and timely for GOOS to focus on where its programme adds most value to the efforts of Member States who primarily fund the observations – for example, by GOOS providing authoritative advice on observational priorities.

In the view of the UK, the process of planning and implementing governance reform of GOOS should be accelerated. There is much to build on already - such as the 25 findings and 9 recommendations of the as yet unpublished 'Report of the Study on Support Provided to Global and Regional Ocean Observing Systems' by Neville Smith commissioned by GOOS and referred to in the GOOS Steering Committee report Part 1 ([SC-10-1](#) section 4) in 2021.

That report concluded saying: "Reform and transformation will not be easy, but the prize will be a support structure that is fit for purpose, right sized and appropriately resourced"; and the Smith Report went on to say: "The weaknesses, fragmentation and loss of authority and credibility are trending in the wrong direction, despite major advances in the observing system itself. This study found no evidence that the issues would be self-correcting, or that the various governance discussions would necessarily deliver a solution",

"The importance of the ocean, and ocean observing, are trending in the right direction and we in the ocean community have a responsibility to act now while we can and while there was a unique opportunity for reform".

In view of these observations, the UK views GOOS governance reform as a necessary condition for uplifting the GOOS regular budget – hence the imperative to progress reform now to realise benefit from the additional Regular Programme funds becoming available in the biennium 2024-25.

For this reason, the United Kingdom will propose adding a paragraph to the decision text with the aim of injecting new urgency into the governance reform process.

United States of America

Our collective work remains to make sure that the rest of the world understands the importance of these data to their daily lives.

We also recognize the staffing needs of the GOOS Office and the importance of the relationship between GOOS and NOAA and the United States, and to that end, we are excited that Dr. Emily Smith from the U.S. Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing program at NOAA will be joining the GOOS Office for a one-year loan starting later this year.

The United States welcomes progress by GOOS towards their Strategic Objectives.

We are especially pleased that the GOOS Dialogues with Industry, which NOAA supported, provided an examination of the challenges and opportunities that should form a basis for deepening public-private partnerships in ocean observing.

I do hope the input will keep coming.

We acknowledge that resourcing of ocean observing is not keeping pace with costs of sustaining existing observations and addressing the exponential growth in demands for even more ocean data.

Developing priorities for future investment in ocean observing is absolutely vital.

We look to GOOS to provide advice on priorities, but remain concerned that the GOOS current governance structure does not allow for development of clear, actionable priorities.

Moreover, the current GOOS governance structure may be limiting engagement of observational funders and stakeholders, hindering GOOS' effectiveness and its ability to attract additional, external resources.

Feeling strongly about the importance of the work of GOOS, we would support any language in the draft decision that might request that the Executive Secretary review progress with reform of GOOS governance to meet the needs of Member States.

This information could be reported to the next IOC Executive Council.

European Marine Board

The European Marine Board welcomes the implementation plan of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) for 2024-2025 and thanks the GOOS steering committee for their efforts. The European Marine Board notes the demands for active global coordination of ocean observations to achieve the integrated

and responsive ocean observing system that is needed to improve our understanding of the Ocean. However, as highlighted by the European Marine Board Policy Brief No. 9 on “Sustaining in situ Ocean Observations in the Age of the Digital Ocean” there are significant barriers including in the existing governance arrangements, the limited institutional coordination, and piecemeal funding all of which inhibit the successful, continuous deployment of Ocean observations at the scale required to understand and manage human use of the Ocean.

To ensure the long-term stability of Ocean information, the totality of the underlying in situ Ocean observing system, comprising networks of different observing platforms and sensors, needs to be recognized as a critical global infrastructure that needs a strong mandate, including a legal basis to secure binding commitments in a sustained way and in accordance with international standards. National observing systems and roadmaps should be better aligned and deeper cooperation with regional governing bodies is needed. A strong mandate and supported role of GOOS National Focal Points are key enablers to link national observing systems to global challenges. The required growth of the system urgently needs to be matched with more innovative, holistic, and integrative thinking about how to sustainably finance and coordinate these observations.

To make knowledge-based decisions we need a sustained observing system with a spectrum of funders, implementers, and users; recognizing that they bring different strengths to the table and use the system in different ways. What is missing is a backbone or core of stable investment and institutional coordination to hold the system together, learning from the experience of the ‘basic’ observing system in meteorology.

4.8.2 Ocean Observation in Areas under National Jurisdiction

Argentina

Argentina agradece la presentación y trabajo realizados en referencia a este tema que reviste de gran importancia para los estados ribereños y el acceso a las observaciones oceánicas y desarrollo del conocimiento. De acuerdo con la documentación presentada, si bien los programas de observaciones consultados han reportado inconvenientes en el desarrollo de observaciones oceánicas en aguas bajo jurisdicción nacional, los estados miembros han podido desarrollar estas actividades en tiempo y forma y mejorar los procesos para algunos casos.

Argentina desea expresar su posición establecida en que todo el trabajo que se realice en esta materia debe estar enmarcado en las respectivas disposiciones de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar (CONVEMAR). En nuestro país existe un procedimiento estandarizado de autorización para realizar actividades de investigación científica marina (ICM) y que las solicitudes recibidas son siempre sustanciadas por el Estado argentino dentro del plazo previsto por el Art. 248 de la CONVEMAR. Desde el año 2015 se han autorizado cerca de 35 campañas de buques de bandera extranjero en aguas jurisdiccionales argentinas, lo cual demuestra la eficacia del procedimiento de autorización adoptado.

Es por este tipo de ejemplos de buen funcionamiento que es importante destacar la importancia de que las solicitudes de autorización sean remitidas con tiempo suficiente para dar lugar a la intervención de todas las agencias estatales competentes.

Así como se espera que los mecanismos para autorización de este tipo de observaciones oceánicas sean efectivos por parte de los estados receptores, es también importante recordar la necesidad de cumplir con lo dispuesto en el artículo 249 de la CONVEMAR con relación a la remisión al Estado ribereño los datos y muestras obtenidas durante la campaña, así como los informes preliminares y el informe final con los correspondientes resultados y conclusiones; acciones que en ocasiones no se cumplen en tiempo y forma, así como el cumplimiento de lo dispuesto en el párrafo 2 del Art. 249 de la CONVEMAR, el cual exige contar con el previo acuerdo del Estado ribereño para la difusión internacional de resultados de un proyecto de investigación de importancia directa para la exploración y explotación de los recursos naturales.

Argentina desea expresar su apoyo y comprometer su participación en la propuesta de establecimiento de trabajo que permita continuar el análisis de esta temática y presentar resultados a la 33^a Asamblea de la COI, destacando que dicho grupo deberá estar compuesto, necesariamente, tanto con expertos en ciencias oceánicas como en Derecho del Mar.

Canada

Global solutions to ocean observing are fundamental to our understanding of the ocean and ocean health. Canada notes the varying experiences regarding the taking of sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction across Member States and therefore fully supports the creation of an ad-hoc working group to further explore this issue. Canada would be pleased to provide an expert to participate in such a group. As proposed in the report, Canada recommends consideration be given to using the Argo notification process as a baseline model given its successful implementation and lessons learned.

Chile

Chile tiene regulada las investigaciones científicas marinas que se realizan en sus áreas de jurisdicción nacional, a través de un decreto que data de 1975.

Seguramente basado en ello, Chile fue invitado el año 1989, por la Oficina de Asuntos Oceánicos y la Ley del Mar de las Naciones Unidas cuando esta convino a un Grupo de Técnicos Expertos en Investigación Científica Marina cuyo trabajo culminó en una publicación denominada "Investigación Científica Marina - Una Guía para la implementación de las provisiones relevantes de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar". También CHILE fue uno de los 15 Estados que dio respuesta a la reciente consulta hecha sobre el tema.

Dicho lo anterior, CHILE apoya el establecimiento de un Grupo de Trabajo intersesional que capitalice las respuestas recibidas y proponga recomendaciones que permitan modernizar, optimizar, facilitar e idealmente normalizar los actuales procedimientos, habido el avance tecnológico existente, siempre respetando la gobernanza que compete establecer a cada Estado.

Japan

Japan is well aware of the importance of further enhancement of the global network of ocean observations as well as that such observations and marine scientific research need to be promoted based upon the UNCLOS. With this recognition, Japan has been implementing its marine scientific research in accordance with the procedures described in the provisions of the UNCLOS well in advance for clearance. Japan also follows the "Guidelines for the Implementation of Resolution XX-6 of the IOC Assembly Regarding the Deployment of Profiling Floats in the High Seas within the Framework of the Argo Programme".

Japan considers that the IOC needs to examine more detail of this issue and identify some points for further discussions. Japan would like to join the ad hoc Working Group, when it is established.

Kenya

Kenya further notes there were issues in undertaking sustainable ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction. Kenya notes the report on Ocean Observation in areas under National Jurisdiction (OONJ) offers some solution in reduction of issues encountered.

At the same time, the results of the surveys clearly indicated that while there is progress more still requires to be undertaken in this area. As we pursue this endeavour, Kenya would like to reiterate the invitation by the Executive Council of the IOC made to GOOS to propose awareness-raising and capacity building activities to help States realize the value of observations, including positive impact on States' adaptation to climate change and sustainable economic development.

A suggestion has been made to establish an ad hoc working group of member states to assess the results of the surveys, identify and study some of the specific issues and successful approaches taken by Member States and make recommendations for the action by the IOC Executive council in 2024.

Kenya supports and would wish to volunteer to be part of the ad hoc working group.

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation notes that in order to implement the decision of the Executive Council IOC/EC-55/3.4, adopted at the initiative of the Russian Federation from Member States, important information has been collected on the experience of Member States in terms of conducting sustainable observations of the ocean in areas falling under the national jurisdiction. A number of Member States reported no problems with conducting continuous observations in areas under national jurisdiction, in particular, they successfully implement the practice of issuing permits to foreign states to conduct continuous observations. This indicates the existence of effective mechanisms for issuing permits for observations

by foreign states. Best practices for implementing these authorization mechanisms can be offered as guidance to IOC Member States experiencing difficulties in this area. At the same time, not all IOC Member States have provided information, and it is recommended to continue collecting it in order to obtain an objective picture and summarize best practices. It should be noted that one of the problematic issues hindering the implementation of the permit issuance mechanism is selective and unmotivated refusals to obtain permits to perform research work in the EEZ.

We note that the development of marine scientific research in areas falling under national jurisdiction and the solution of problematic issues in this regard will be facilitated by regional cooperation, for which we propose to intensify and strengthen regional subsidiary bodies of the IOC and stress on reinforcement of the coordination the regional alliance aspect with possible increase in allocation of resources from the regular budget.

We declare that, with regard to the expansion of permanent observations of the ocean in areas of national jurisdiction, the collection of any scientific data on the marine environment is an element of marine scientific research in the sense of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982. Accordingly, the collection of scientific data in the EEZ and territorial sea of coastal States requires their consent.

We note that it is necessary to comply with the requirement to provide official notifications about the possible penetration of autonomous surveillance equipment into the EEZs of the Member States, and we also remind that the Russian Federation reserves the right to prevent their penetration into the maritime areas under our jurisdiction.

We reaffirm the intention of the Russian Federation to participate in the Ad Hoc Working Group of IOC Member States to evaluate the results of surveys, identify and study specific issues and successful approaches adopted and used by Member States, and to make recommendations for further action to the IOC Executive Council in 2024.

We also note the non-compliance with the deadlines for publishing documentation on this agenda item (according to Article 11, paragraph 1 of the IOC Rules of Procedure, documentation must be distributed at least two months before the opening of the next session of the Assembly).

Thailand

We understand the importance of getting the observation in the areas under national jurisdiction and the need of the data to help improve Ocean Forecasting System. On this occasion, Thailand would like to show our interest in participating in Ad hoc working group to understand in-depth about the barrier of getting the observation in such areas.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom appreciates the undertaking of the two consultations requested by the 55th Executive Council in 2022, one with the GOOS observing networks and one with Members States (to which the UK contributed).

Although, the UK presently remains unconvinced that the findings of the consultations have yet established the existence of material problems (beyond inconvenience) impacting on the integrity of GOOS in making sustained ocean observations in areas of national jurisdiction, we nevertheless would welcome the opportunity to learn more of specific issues and to share best practices with other Member States.

Consequently, the United Kingdom would support establishment of an ad hoc working group of Member States with terms of reference aimed primarily at establishing or otherwise the existence of specific examples of difficulties and, secondly, at providing an assessment of their relative material impact on the effective operation of GOOS.

Any recommendations for actions to deal with any material issues identified must be compliant with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

United States of America

The United States views routine ocean observations or operational oceanography, including within the exclusive economic zone, as critical to providing the information society needs.

To this end, we support the integrated, sustained, Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and we seek to relieve any challenges encountered with being able to take such ocean observations.

The United States does not view the collection of ocean observations as being marine scientific research for purposes of diplomatic consent under Part XIII of UNCLOS.

However, as we have heard this morning, delegations have differing positions on this point. We therefore encourage delegations to avoid proposing language for the decision reflecting one view over the other.

The United States was pleased to respond to the survey circulated to IOC Member States earlier this year.

In our response, we noted some challenges we have experienced with being able to collect routine ocean observations in the EEZs of other countries.

We agree there is an issue that would merit further discussion among IOC Member States, and we support establishment of an ad hoc working group.

Regarding the text in the draft decision, while the United States generally agrees with the way forward, the most appropriate path would be for the working group to report to the next Executive Council, rather than the Secretariat making recommendations.

We also support the decision including, as an annex, clear terms of reference for the working group.

In closing, we have a question for Dr. Heslop regarding the survey responses related to Argo. We note that Argo has a unique notification system, and using this notification system as a model was a solution space identified by Member States survey respondents. However, the GOOS survey results indicate challenges for Argo. Were the challenges related to Argo floats entering EEZs or related to Argo floats being deployed within EEZs?

International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

IHO wants to provide to this Assembly a similar experience with the coastal States (IHO Members and not IHO Members). The aim of this experience as part of a project launched in 2014 and called Crowd Sourced Bathymetry, has the aim to get the coastal States' endorsement to make collect and then make available in the Database for Digital Bathymetry – the global database used to populate the GEBCO grids – by privately operated vessels of all types to gather depth information via their existing navigation equipment, when crossing and sailing the waters under national jurisdiction.

The feedback of the coastal States – via various questionnaires – is available on the IHO website, under a specific webpage dedicated to the Crowd Sourced Bathymetry.

In view of the similarity experienced by the IHO with the GOOS initiative in water under national jurisdiction, the outcomes of a very productive workshop conducted in 2022 at the IHO Secretariat with ARGO, under the framework of the UNCLOS and – also – in view of the latest developments at global level following the signature of the Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) with particular reference to the need to increase the protected areas of the Ocean, in which the knowledge of the oceanographic, geophysical, geological and bathymetric parameters is paramount, the IHO is ready to cooperate with GOOS on the initiative launched for the creation of an ad-hoc inter-sessional working group on Ocean Observations on areas under National jurisdiction, by sharing its own experience and the achieved feedback from the coastal States in such field. The IHO, through its CrowdSourced Bathymetry Working Group is actively investigating solutions to working within these constraints, and would be most willing to cooperate with GOOS in the interests of sharing knowledge and experience.

4.9 Four-Year Review of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board

Republic of Korea

Considering the importance of the ocean in weather forecasting and climate change, we can recall the role of JCB once again. The Republic of Korea agrees on the need to strengthen the role of JCB for joint activities and mutual benefits of WMO and IOC.

In particular, the partnership and functional connect between GOOS and WIGOS is also very important.

The Republic of Korea is actively participating in JCB's joint cooperation work plan. Regarding the cooperation between IODE (International Oceanographic Data Exchange), OIH (OCEAN InforHub)/ODIS (Ocean Data and Information System) and WMO WIS, The Korea Meteorological

Administration is also pushing for the transition to WIS 2.0, and plans to support coastal countries' responding to tsunami and flood risks through the Common Alert Protocol.

In the Republic of Korea, Meteo Tsunami occurs every spring Season. The Republic of Korea strongly support Japan's proposal on responding to meteo tsunamis related to TOWS-WG last Friday and Korea will also actively participate in preparing strategies and plans through JCB.

United States of America

The United States welcomes the renewed commitment of the IOC and WMO to the important work of the JCB, and also the suggested self-evaluation of JCB performance – to begin at the proposed in-person JCB meeting this Fall.

We hope for continued strengthening of the WMO-IOC collaboration in the near future, and a reinvigoration of the work of the JCB.

We appreciate the work of JCB members to develop the JCB Strategy and Work Plan in accordance with their mandate and to provide guidance to the IOC and WMO.

These documents should form the basis of future work of the JCB.

Continued engagement with the JCB will help both organizations better integrate ocean, weather, and climate observations for research, and for weather and climate forecast services and coastal resilience to climate change.

We wish the JCB a productive in person meeting in November. And we have provided to the secretariat minor editorial changes to the draft Decision.

4.10 Follow-Up to WMO-ISC-IOC-UNEP Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Review and GCOS Implementation Plan 2022

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The UK notes the Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-seventh session, held in Sharm el-Sheikh from 6 to 20 November 2022 which “emphasizes the need to address existing gaps in the Global Climate Observing System, particularly in developing countries, and recognizes that one third of the world, including 60 per cent of Africa, does not have access to early warning and climate information services, as well as the need to enhance coordination of activities by the systematic observation community and the ability to provide useful and actionable climate information for mitigation, adaptation and early warning systems, as well as information to enable understanding of adaptation limits and of attribution of extreme events”.

The United Kingdom:

- (1) fully supports the call for sustained funding mechanisms;
- (2) the need for resources for improved data infrastructure and standards to support federation and interoperability of ocean observations contributing to GOOS and GCOS
- (3) the need for sustained resources to allow OceanOPS to more fully support ocean observations contributing to GOOS and GCOS;
- (4) encourages steps to ensure that the expected slow roll-out of the extension of GBON beyond NWP to the oceans and climate doesn't create the perception that observations of other EOVS and ECVs are not important and have a detrimental effect on ocean and climate observations.

United States of America

The United States congratulates and expresses our appreciation to the GOOS Expert Panel for Physics and Climate — OOPC, and its staff based in WMO, who played a key role in delivering the ocean content to GCOS in development of the GCOS 2022 Implementation Plan.

The United States supports the ocean observing actions identified in the Plan.

We note in particular, actions B3, B6, B7, B8, B9, and B10 that directly identify the need for sustaining and improving ocean observations, especially in exciting new areas such as biogeochemical and biological parameters, ocean carbon dioxide, and fluxes of heat and momentum.

Such observations are vital to responding to increased threats resulting from climate change, and other increasing pressures on our marine environment.

4.11 Update on IOC Custodianship Role in Relation to UN SDG 14 Indicators

Spain

Solo dos consideraciones breves respecto al Global Ocean Science Report y al informe intermedio. Consideramos que la elevada frecuencia de estos informes supone un importante esfuerzo para los países miembros y a su vez puede suponer una reducción en el valor de estos informes debido a que su elevada frecuencia puede restar la novedad de los sucesivos informes respecto de los anteriores.

Así mismo agradecemos la labor realizada en la armonización e interoperabilidad entre las bases de datos existentes sobre acidificación.

Thailand

Thailand's implementation of ocean policies and SDGs are guided by the harmonizing of science and local wisdom, particularly the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and the Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model.

Thailand has attached ourselves with the global community in pushing forward our concerted efforts towards the achievement of the SDG14 amidst the widespread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thailand has integrated the concept of nature-based solutions to the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources plans and policies in order to reduce threats while strengthen the ecological resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Thailand views the importance on the implementation and assessment the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals and has produced the annual Voluntary National Report since 2017.

Emphasizing on the SDG 14.3, Thailand highly appreciates technical support from the IOC-WESTPAC in coordinating capacity building in the region that Thailand has contributed to and actively participated in various occasions.

In supporting the SDG 14.3.1. Thailand has contributed to the observation of the ocean acidification to the IOC data portal since 2021 based on our multi-year observational data generated.

In this connection, with our effort and cooperation with the IOC-WESTPAC, at the UN Ocean Conference last year, we submitted a voluntary commitment on the observation and research in response to ocean acidification, which will contribute to the advancement of the ocean science.

Mr. Chair, Thailand reaffirms our commitment to support the IOC custodianship role in relation to UN SDG14 indicators both directly and through the IOC-WESTPAC programmes and activities.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The UK is pleased to see an increase in the number of countries submitting data for SDG 14.3.1, facilitated in no small way by the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON), of which the UK hosts the Northeast Atlantic hub at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory. GOA-ON continues to grow ocean acidification observing capability across the world, raising awareness of the SDG 14.3.1 indicator and facilitating the submission of marine acidity data through training events and awareness campaigns.

The UK is particularly proud to have also contributed directly to the IOC's development of the SDG 14.3.1 data portal and federated data system through work supported by the Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the National Oceanography Centre, however we would like to see work on the reporting standards continue to be developed alongside existing community standards to maximise efficiencies in reporting with alignment to technology developments and funding structures.

The UK also welcomes the development of the Global Ocean Science Report Portal, which allows ease of access to collated information. However, we observe that there may have been some differing interpretations of what information is required, in particular with respect to funding, which is the primary indicator for SDG 14.a.1. And we note in the recent request for funding figures that funding from Ministries and other sources has now been combined. We welcome this change to simplify the statistics, which we would like to see applied to all questions, to enable as far as possible a consistency in reporting.

United States of America

The United States continues to engage in SDG indicator reporting on our own national platform, and we encourage other Member States to continue their similar contributions.

We have minor editorial suggestions to the draft decision, including to specify the SDG indicators under the IOC's custodianship.

4.12 Report on the Decade Implementation Plan

Brazil

Brazil acknowledges all the efforts related with the Ocean Decade, its already perceived results, and the dedication and dexterity with which the IOC-UNESCO coordinates this process.

From our point of view, the Ocean Decade can only progress with broad and effective representation of society as a whole. The Brazilian Federal Government is once again working to ensure that its governance frameworks support and strengthen societal participation throughout its scope of action. An initiative towards that objective is the re-establishment of the Council of Economic, Social, and Sustainable Development. We will seek this opportunity to improve and strengthen our National Decade Committee, building upon the excellent work that it has done so far, which has relied on the engagement of academia, society, and our dedicated civil servants.

We see with enthusiasm the creation by the IOC Ocean Decade Coordination Unity of the NDC working groups on supporting other NDCs, showcasing and sharing experience, connecting the Ocean Decade with national policies and drafting implementation plans, and engaging a broad community of stakeholders, including the private sector. While Brazil has suggested to the IOC the merging of the first two working groups, we encourage engagement in all of them, as we have done.

We are committed to the Ocean Decade, which we see as a valuable instrument to organize, coordinate, strengthen, and showcase our actions towards a healthier ocean, at subnational, national, regional, and global levels.

As part of this commitment, we intend to submit a proposal for a Satellite Event for the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona. And looking further, we also look forward to having the Decade present at the COP30 in 2025 in Belém, Pa, Brazil, gateway between the Amazon and the Ocean.

Canada

Le Canada soutient activement la Décennie des océans depuis maintenant 5 ans, au début de la phase préparatoire. Représenté par notre ministre des Pêches et des Océans et de la Garde côtière canadienne, l'honorable Joyce Murray, le Canada est un fier membre de l'Alliance pour la Décennie de l'océan et continuera à soutenir ses efforts de mobilisation.

Au cours de l'année écoulée, le Canada a continué à renforcer sa contribution à la Décennie des océans. Notre Comité national de la Décennie continue de travailler avec la communauté océanographique nationale et internationale, en favorisant une approche de réseau de réseaux afin de tirer pleinement parti du leadership et de l'expertise du Canada.

Notre contribution continue de croître, avec plus de 80 initiatives menées par des organisations canadiennes, dont près de 75 ont été officiellement approuvées en tant qu'actions de la Décennie, en plus de contribuer à plusieurs actions menées par des partenaires internationaux.

Nous continuerons à explorer les possibilités de renforcer notre contribution avec des partenaires nationaux et internationaux.

Le Canada continue de reconnaître l'importance de la fonction de coordination mondiale et des ressources nécessaires pour soutenir et maintenir ce service. À cette fin, nous sommes heureux de confirmer que nous avons conclu un deuxième accord de contribution avec la COI afin de fournir un soutien financier supplémentaire aux efforts de sensibilisation scientifique dans le cadre de la Décennie des océans.

We commend IOC's leadership in the Ocean Decade and its success in generating such momentum for this initiative at the global level. However, we are mindful of the challenges associated with the complexity of the governance structure that is under development, including an increasing funding gap generated by the number of unfunded initiatives receiving endorsement.

We would encourage the Decade Coordination Unit and Member States to remain mindful of these concerns and ensure that they are considered when advancing Decade initiatives whether ongoing or new, including Vision 2030, to ensure existing structures are leveraged for the most efficient use of resources and expertise.

Chile

La Delegación de Chile agradece al Secretario Ejecutivo el Informe presentado sobre el actual grado de desarrollo del Decenio y quisiera aprovechar esta tribuna para informar a la Asamblea que todas las instituciones nacionales relacionadas con las Ciencias del Océano de Chile y que integran el Comité Oceanográfico Nacional – CONA -, han seguido utilizando como hoja de ruta, el Plan Oceanográfico Nacional 2021 - 2030, que contempla objetivos específicos nacionales y líneas de acción, en función de los desafíos y objetivos del Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas para el Desarrollo Sostenible. En este contexto, el CONA ha apoyado y coordinado el desarrollo de proyectos y diversas actividades acometidas por la comunidad científica nacional, las cuales han sido refrendadas por la COI como acciones concretas contribuyendo al Decenio. Así mismo, el CONA, en su calidad de Comité Nacional del Decenio, contribuyó activamente en la elaboración del Manual de buenas prácticas de los Comités Nacionales del Decenio y ha fomentado la participación de investigadores y especialistas nacionales en diversos grupos especializados de la COI, como por ejemplo, la integración de uno de nuestros expertos nacionales en el recientemente establecido Grupo de Expertos sobre Alfabetización Oceánica.

Colombia

Colombia agradece y felicita los innumerables esfuerzos, las coordinaciones y contribuciones realizadas por la COI/UNESCO y los Estados miembro en el marco del Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas para el Desarrollo Sostenible reflejados ampliamente en el reportes presentados, con miras a promover conjuntamente el fortalecimiento y el alcance de la implementación de esta iniciativa al interior de los estados miembro y a nivel regional y global.

En virtud de ello, Colombia continuará su participación en los espacios de trabajo y de planeación en los diferentes niveles de gestión. De la misma manera, ratificamos nuestro compromiso en la formulación de acciones relacionadas con la observación de las dinámicas costeras, la gestión y consolidación de datos, la apropiación del conocimiento, el desarrollo de capacidades y el involucramiento de la juventud y las comunidades. La adecuada articulación de voluntades y capacidades es la única ruta hacia el logro del océano que queremos.

En este sentido, Colombia buscará impulsar la transición del Decenio de la fase de planificación a la fase de acción en los diferentes programas de la COI/UNESCO, y seguirá fomentando los procesos participativos que involucren a los Estados miembro en la consolidación de la comunidad que el océano necesita.

Para finalizar, comprendiendo la necesidad de establecer mecanismos de coordinación nacional y regional, Colombia reitera su disposición para el intercambio de experiencias y buenas prácticas en lo que concierne a la conformación de su Comité Nacional y su Plan de Contribución.

France

La France soutient pleinement la mise en œuvre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour les sciences océaniques au service du développement durable, et dans ce cadre, son centre collaboratif de la Décennie sur la prévision océanique (DCC-OceanPrediction), qui est porté par Mercator Ocean International situé à Toulouse, reconnu comme centre thématique de la Décennie. La France a aussi souligné l'importance de cette Décennie lors du One Ocean Summit qui a eu lieu à Brest en 2022.

La France se réjouit des résultats aux différents appels à l'action qui ont été lancés. La communauté française en sciences et techniques marines s'est fortement mobilisée pour porter les programmes et actions de la Décennie.

Pour faire connaître l'existence de la Décennie et impliquer pleinement la communauté française en sciences et techniques marines, la France a mis en place fin 2021 un comité national de la Décennie regroupant un large panel de parties prenantes. Pour animer la communauté française autour de la Décennie, un Journal d'informations du Comité national français de la Décennie a été créé avec la vocation de diffuser les informations relatives à la Décennie et relayer les appels à l'action. Un premier colloque national, intitulé « Embarquez dans la Décennie pour les sciences océaniques » été organisé en juillet 2022 à Brest avec le centre Océanopolis afin de donner de la visibilité aux acteurs français déjà engagés dans la Décennie et inciter d'autres à s'engager. Ce colloque a permis à la communauté française en sciences et techniques marines d'échanger autour des sujets de l'océan numérique et de la culture océanique. Le colloque a permis de réunir plus de 150 participants en présentiel et à distance et a été visionné plus de 650 fois depuis. En novembre prochain, un second colloque, toujours intitulé « Embarquez dans la Décennie pour les sciences océaniques » sera organisé à Brest, à nouveau avec

Océanopolis. Ce colloque sera diffusé en simultané sur la chaîne Youtube d'Océanopolis, donc nous espérons vous y retrouver nombreux et inciter de nouvelles parties prenantes à nous rejoindre et à s'impliquer dans la Décennie des Nations Unies pour les sciences océaniques au service du développement durable.

India

The progress achieved by IOC in bringing out several decade actions, programs, projects in collaboration with its member states is highly commendable. India's proposal to establish Decade Collaborative Centre for Indian Ocean Region (DCC-IOR) has been endorsed and we thank IOC for the formal letter of exchange signed today during a side event. The DCC-IOR is planning its inaugural meeting during August 2023.

India is engaging closely with activities of Ocean Predict and Coast Predict DCCs. India organised the first meeting of the Regional Teams for Indian Seas and contributed to the formulation of the Regional Team. India appreciates the efforts of the IOC for setting up the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 process for each of the Decade Challenges.

India will continue to engage with IOC and all Decade Implementation Partners in realizing the vision of the Ocean Decade.

Italy

Italy recognizes the effort by the Secretariat, congratulate Alison and Julian and the Decade Coordination Unit for the concrete achievements reached so far as depicted in the very nicely crafted by the presentations and Ocean Decade Progress Reports and the implementation plan and Strategy. The large number of endorsed actions demonstrate the increase attention on scientific community on the Decade.

Italy reports participation to the Call for Actions and presently 15 endorsed actions lead by Italy which includes 2 contribution and 5 programmes, 8 projects including: SciNMeet, CoastPredict, The Current III "The Mediterraneans": "Thus waves come in pairs" among the others. As contribution, Italy, since this year is hosting the Decade Collaborative Centre for Coastal Resilience (DCC-CR) to support the mission of the UN Decade of Ocean Science and is managing the capacity building IT-NAVY HIGH NORTH programme,

In particular, we would like to inform that the SciNMeet – The Science We Need for the Mediterranean Sea We Want (SciNMeet), the Mediterranean regional Programme lead by Italian, in 2022 organized its launch event. This launch was organized by Italian COI, in collaboration with UNEP/MAP, FAO and IOC, in hybrid mode and more than 100 participants from 20 countries contributed to the event. With reference to the SciNMeet Programme implementation, and considering alignment with relevant IOC Programmes, Italy thanks also the active participation the Mediterranean countries and asks Mediterranean Member States to support the coordination effort including by identifying relevant experts that join the activities with reference to geographical balance.

As SciNMeet Programme Coordinator, Italy participated with great pleasure in the African Conference on Priority Setting & Partnership Development for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and will further commit to strengthen relationships and collaboration pivoting on IOCAFRICA.

Italy welcomes the information on the 'Overview Decade Coordinate work' and suggest regular updates and continuation of information exchange to pursue alignment.

At national level, the Italian Oceanography Commission established the National Ocean Decade Committee in 2021. Following the approval of the Terms of Reference by ministers a first core group of members composed by COI representatives, the Technology Cluster Blue Italian Growth, World Wide Fund for Nature – Italy, Legambiente environmental association, the UNESCO Italian representation and relevant intergovernmental organizations with the headquarters in Italy, including the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, NATO center.

Italian NDC believes that in addition to science and policy the capacity building, education and OL are crucial priority for the success of decade. So, in the last year organized a series event to inform the citizen and to educate new generation. In particular, we would like to mention two initiatives: 1) 'Class Writers', promoted by NDC with and funded by the country's largest cooperative of supermarkets. We created ocean science toolkits and materials for elementary and middle schools, this material was targeted at teachers, not only their students. Over 27,000 schools across the country participated.

Instruction book on ocean for children was in every made available in any supermakets distributed by the entire Italian territory. 2) “the ocean in sign language” an initiative an initiative targeting the deaf community. The goal is to create a shared glossary of signs relating to the oceans and the climate emergency.

Italy will continue the implementation of Ocean Decade Programmes and actions and to collaborate with Ocean Decade Unit and other NDCs. Italy is ready to contribute to the regional coordination effort proposed in the implantation plan.

Japan

Welcoming the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in its third year, Japan expresses its deepest appreciation to the IOC Executive Secretary and his team, in particular those in charge of the Decade implementation, and extends its gratitude to all the members of the Decade Advisory Board, particularly its two Co-Chairs for remotely being with us.

Japan also would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the Government Spain and the Government Thailand, for kindly hosting important Decade events in 2024: a global UN decade conference in Barcelona and a second regional Decade conference for the WESTPAC in Bangkok, respectively.

As Japan considers that the Decade is being a real driving force towards the SDGs through enhanced ocean sciences, Japan keeps its contribution both to the global and regional initiatives by extra-budgetary contribution through the Japan Funds-in-Trust, as well as through multi-level Decade actions.

Japan has already established its National Decade Committee (NDC) in February 2021, and been promoting national decade-related activities through its regular NDC meetings. Japan would like to emphasize the importance of intra- and inter-regional communications and cooperation among NDCs, for well harmonized implementation of the Decade. In this connection, Japan together with the Republic of Korea has led a NDCs Forum at the last intergovernmental session of WESTPAC held in Jakarta, Indonesia in April 2023, to improve communications and enhance cooperation among NDCs at regional level, where Mr. Julian Barbière kindly joined the discussion. Such an initiative will be highly effective in promoting regional cooperation in the Decade implementation.

Kenya

We wish to express our profound appreciation to the Secretariat for the numerous initiatives to raise awareness and mobilize stakeholder. Kenya also thanks the members of the Decade Advisory Board for their invaluable contribution throughout this process. Kenya appreciates the draft resolution presented by Brazil and India which captures most of our remarks.

We express our appreciation to all Member States and partners organizing or hosting Ocean Decade related events and activities. Kenya was pleased to co-host with Portugal the Second UN Ocean Conference in 2022.

Kenya recognizes the critical role of collaboration and synergies from all stakeholders in order achieve the goals of the Decade. We shall continue to play our role as a member of the Ocean Decade Alliance. We also note and encourage ongoing efforts to explore how engagement of UN entities may be enhanced. We look forward to greater collaboration with UN entities and other partners.

The reports by the IOC regional subsidiary bodies clearly highlighted the important role of these bodies towards the success of the Ocean Decade. Kenya would like to highlight the critical role of IOCAfrica Secretariat acting as a Decade Coordination Office for Africa.

We wish to also highlight the contribution of the Ocean Decade to the African Union’s Agenda 2063. Kenya appreciates the strong emphasis that has been placed on capacity development as well as alignment to the African Union initiatives. The success of the Ocean Decade largely depends on our ability to leave no one behind in the implementation of its transformative objectives. In this regard, Kenya welcomes the idea of calls for Decade Actions targeting strategic geographic and thematic gaps in the overall ecosystem of Decade actions. This in our view is also critical for the effective implementation of the Africa Ocean Decade Roadmap.

Finally, Kenya welcomes efforts to strengthen partnerships within the Ocean Decade. We also welcome the efforts to foster meaningful youth-engagement in the co-design and implementation of solutions.

Monaco

Cette Décennie est un vrai défi à maints égards, que toute la Commission relève de manière admirable. Soyez-en remerciés.

La Principauté de Monaco a été, dès son origine, très engagée pour que cette Décennie puisse avoir lieu et nous nous félicitons du foisonnement de projets qui viennent de nous être présentés. SAS le Prince Albert II de Monaco est personnellement impliqué et très actif afin que les océans soient scientifiquement mieux connus afin de les protéger comme il se doit. A ce titre, il a été l'un des premiers parrains de l'Alliance pour la Décennie. Sa fondation, qui porte son nom, a accueilli la troisième édition du Dialogue des Fondations à Monaco tout récemment. Cet événement a réuni plus de 30 bailleurs de fonds philanthropiques pour soutenir la Décennie. Une déclaration de Monaco est en préparation qui sera un porte-voix de cet investissement.

Par ailleurs, Monaco a également mis en place un soutien aux jeunes scientifiques du programme sur l'Homme et la biosphère MAB de l'UNESCO qui s'inscrit dans la Décennie. Les actions tournées vers la jeunesse sont l'assurance que les fruits de nos actions seront aussi récoltés bien au-delà de 2030. Il nous semble important de mettre en place des synergies et d'encourager la transversalité au sein de l'UNESCO en particulier pour la mise en place de projets ambitieux dans le cadre de la Décennie. Comme nous l'a rappelé le Secrétaire exécutif en ouverture de cette Assemblée, seul on va plus vite mais ensemble on va plus loin. Il est de notre devoir de porter cette Décennie au-delà de ces murs.

New Zealand

The Decade is entering its third year and has already demonstrated a substantial uptake from many member states, although we do note with some concerns the slow uptake from organizations outside the IOC. We have no doubts the Decade will bring many benefits (many of which we don't know about yet) in terms of environmental, social, economic, and cultural values for all nations, whether coastal or not. At the heart of the success is a much required advance in our understanding of the ocean and its role in maintaining and improving the health of planet Earth.

The Pacific Ocean, as the largest and deepest ocean on Earth, holds immense significance in this context. In particular, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific region at large are rich in indigenous knowledge and traditional practices related to the ocean. Genuinely integrating this knowledge - called mātauranga Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand - with scientific research will undoubtedly lead to more comprehensive and culturally appropriate solutions for ocean management.

Aotearoa New Zealand emphasizes once again the importance of engaging and including indigenous and local communities in the Decade. There is an urgent need to enable indigenous and local communities not only to actively participate in the decade but to initiate and lead initiatives through their customary and cultural practices. By them and for them. The report highlighting the lack of leadership for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in this regard is concerning and requires active attention and collaboration with and by the SIDS to enable the success of this central aspect of the Decade. I note the comment from Alison on the need to better understand what true engagement with SIDS means and can be effectively actioned.

New Zealand would like to note the potential synergies that may exist with the United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages, and is curious about any planned linkages and common actions between the two initiatives, if any.

In any case, New Zealand supports and will continue to contribute to the activities of the Decade within its capacity and ability.

Norway

Norway would like to underline IOC's vital role in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The ocean decade benefits absolutely all nations, and it is indeed a unique, global effort. Status of the implementation of the ocean decade and number of endorsed actions presented shows us that significant steps are made in realizing the Ocean decade implementation plan.

Norway is committed to continue to contribute to its realization and acknowledges its dynamic and evolving nature. This work will be a substantial contribution to fulfilling the SDGs.

In Norway, this year (2023), a milestone is reached with the cobranded calls between The Research Council of Norway and the Ocean Decade in several thematic calls, marine resources, aquaculture,

and climate change. The funded projects will automatically be evaluated by the Ocean Decade Unit for endorsement.

The Research Council of Norway has also had an Ocean literacy call with possibilities to apply for a broad range of communication initiatives that contributes to disseminate research-based knowledge.

Last year, the National Research Days had the Ocean as the theme with many different events all over Norway. We also have a national outreach program for schools. Both these activities were endorsed as Ocean Decade Activities.

Our national ocean decade committee is important for promoting the Ocean Decade and they are engaging in a lot of decade activities. We recommend all countries to establish a national committee to contribute to the ocean decade. Valuable help to do so, is the newly launched "Best Practice Manual for National Decade Committees".

Norwegian institutions are responsible for several endorsed decade actions. The One Ocean Expedition is one of them. The Norwegian tall ship *Statsraad Lehmkuhl* came back to Norway in April after two years around the globe. Their goal was to create attention and share knowledge about the crucial role of the ocean for a sustainable development in a global perspective.

Norway will remain a dedicated partner to the IOC throughout the ocean decade.

Portugal

Portugal, a founding member of the Ocean Decade Alliance, that met for the first time during the 2nd UN Ocean Conference in 2022, organized in Lisbon by Portugal and Kenya, is pleased to inform that the National Committee for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development was officially established last march, through a joint decree of 7 ministries.

This Committee will carry out its mission under the dependence of the governmental areas of Foreign Affairs, Economy and the Sea, and Science, Technology and Higher Education. Besides the coordinators, the steering committee will also include ministerial representatives from the areas of Environment, Defense, Education, and Food and Agriculture. A stakeholder forum with more than 30 entities from universities, research institutes, NGOs, governmental agencies, and the public and the private sector, will actively contribute to the definition of actions and their implementation.

The Committee will develop its work in close cooperation with the other national decade committees and the IOC secretariat, directing national action and synergies to initiatives and projects in thematic areas, with a particular focus on the Atlantic, in line with the Portuguese Strategy for the Sea 2021-2030, the UN Ocean Decade and the 2030 Agenda.

Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea has been actively supporting the UN Ocean Decade from the planning phase in 2018 through official funds in trust, and the UN Ocean Decade special account. Starting in 2021, Republic of Korea joined the Decade Alliance as one of the founding members.

The Republic of Korea's dedication to achieve sustainable development within the Ocean Decade framework has led to the establishment of National Decade Committee from an early stage. 13 members from diverse backgrounds constantly provide professional advice on Decade activities and international cooperation.

As of 2023, the Republic of Korea is operating four Decade projects. The most recent project, with the theme of ocean energy, aims to develop scientific solutions to the Decade challenge of Blue Economy, especially for small island developing states in the Pacific Ocean. The Republic of Korea hopes that this contribution will greatly enhance the capacity of green energy production among IOC member states.

The Republic of Korea is also initiating a plan to mobilize ECOPs by setting up a network and holding regular online meetings. This action will lead to the promotion of UN Ocean Decade among young scientists hoping to establish contacts with other like-minded scientists around the globe. With support from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, the Korean ECOP network will likely to develop a UN Ocean Decade Project in the future, as specific plans of their activity will be closely shared with the Decade Coordination Unit.

Spain

Reiteramos nuestro compromiso con la Década con una implicación activa en varios Programas y acciones de la Década y sobre todo en la organización de la Conferencia de la Década en Barcelona, de la que ya hablamos la semana pasada, y que estamos percibiendo que ya está teniendo un impacto de atracción de la atención, principalmente de la comunidad científica pero también de otros sectores, y que va a servir sin duda para impulsar la implementación de la Década en España. Agradecer una vez más al equipo de la Unidad de Coordinación de la Década por su colaboración y apoyo en la organización, en realidad estamos trabajando como un único equipo, y tampoco olvidar el apoyo financiero del Ayuntamiento de Barcelona, de la Generalitat de Cataluña, del equipo de la Fundación Barcelona Capital Náutica, así como del Instituto Español de Oceanografía, del Instituto de Ciencias del Mar, del CSIC y de otras instituciones y personas que es están implicando en la preparación de la Conferencia.

Thailand

Thailand is of the view that the inter-regional cooperation is crucial for effective implementation of the Decade, and we appreciate the opportunity to host the WESTPAC Decade Coordination Office, building on the existing capacity of the IOC/WESTPAC Office, which will closely work with other Decade's governing bodies.

During the past Intersessional period, we have put our effort to contribute to the Decade, both at regional and national levels. In November 2021, Thailand hosted the UN Ocean Decade Kick-off Conference for the Western Pacific and Adjacent Areas, which was organized by the IOC/WESTPAC. We have also continuously participated in the Decade actions through the WESTPAC programmes and projects.

At national level we have introduced and promoted the Decade to researchers, academia, and stakeholders through various platforms. For example, in December 2021,

we organized the online National Ocean Decade Kick-off Conference, and in August 2022, we organized the National Marine Science Conference in hybrid format.

In both events the specific session for ECOP were quite successful and had attracted our young ocean generations from various institutions.

Thailand established the National Decade Committee to act as a platform that connects and engages national stakeholders participating in the Decade. In this regard, we really appreciate the series of meetings, tutorials, manuals, and guidelines those have been arranged for NDCs' representatives and focal points, in which we have obtained useful information that help us understand better on the development process of the NDC.

We appreciate the Government of Spain for offering to host the 2nd International Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona next year.

At regional level, the Government of Thailand will host the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference in Bangkok during the 22nd to the 25th of April 2024, and we would appreciate having this message included in the Draft Resolution of this Agenda Item.

Türkyie

Türkiye, surrounded by three major seas, has always been a country that gives priorities to marine research activities. We contribute United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) activities and has helped to achieve its goals for ocean sciences.

Ocean is fundamental to life on our planet and to our future. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and marine pollution is increasing. We recognize the importance of the Decade and its vision to achieve the Science We Need for the Ocean We Want. Preventing, reducing and eliminating marine plastic is crucial for our lives, our planet and our future. We should ensure the people especially children to be aware of understanding the importance of health of ocean.

Many meetings/symposiums regarding mucilage, pollution, fishery, biodiversity, blue growth, polar has been conducted so far in Türkiye. We are also planning to organize an international conference/panel on Ocean Decade on 26 September 2023 and working on publishing the book related to Decade. Planning and Coordination Board of the Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography Services was agreed to take the advantage of every opportunity as conferences, events, meetings to introduce and explain the importance of the Ocean Decade all around Türkiye.

We need to ensure that our children will help us to save our ocean since they are going to be the leaders in the future. That is why youth generations should raise environmentally friendly to change the world. UNESCO IOC plays a critical role in bringing together scientific committees, decision makers, civil society and the private sector to develop efficient ocean management and solutions. Our country published the "National Marine Research Strategy Document" in 2014, and it is revised and updated in line with new developments on 17 May 2023.

United States of America

The DCU's work in facilitating the maturation of the Ocean Decade's Decentralized Coordinating Structures, the convening of Informal Working Groups, and enabling constructive connections among the ever-growing numbers of Actions is impressive. We especially appreciate improvements made to the Ocean Decade website as it is an absolutely critical resource for recruitment, networking and providing visibility and concrete proof of impact.

The United States sees great benefit in involving stakeholders in the conduct and support of Decade Actions – beyond encouraging endorsement. We encourage Member States not already collaborating with others in this regard to make every effort to do so. For example, supporting Decade Collaborative Centers, involving Youth and Early Career Professionals in Decade Actions, and recruiting additional entities to the Foundations Dialog. These are all promising efforts and will certainly attract additional positive attention and engagement in our work.

This said, the United States encourages us all to take steps to ensure that our Decade-related actions are not taking place in silos. We all want the Decade to have transformational impact. Therefore, we too, must be willing to transform.

To this end, the United States notes that the Decade Action Endorsement process remains cumbersome.

We look forward to more details regarding the Advisory Board discussions on streamlining this process, without compromising the effort to ensure Actions are satisfying the criteria for endorsement.

We also note that the "Contributions" and "Activities" are not provided as much visibility or access to the Ocean Decade Network, as made available to "Programs" and "Projects". The United States believes that Contributions and Activities should also benefit from the privileges of endorsement.

Lastly, there are the Orphan Actions, or those without a Program link, such as the 90 mentioned in IOC/INF-1424. It appears that they are ineligible for support from DCCs and DCOs. The United States would prefer that upon endorsement, any action should be worthy of consideration – for funding, for partnerships, and importantly for visibility.

These comments are not meant to criticize, but to highlight areas we believe - if improved - could have significant benefits for the success of Decade activities, including those carried out by IOC Member States.

We would like to reiterate our appreciation for the DCU's extraordinary efforts. We recognize you have an ever-growing constituency, placing increasing demands on your limited time. We thank you for your responsiveness throughout the year to our requests for information.

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

The growing number of Decade Actions and coordination structures is impressive and PICES concurs that partnerships are essential to a successful delivery of the Ocean Decade. To this end, the SmartNet Decade Program that PICES and ICES jointly conduct was very active during the last year, focusing on building partnerships, both within and outside the respective ICES and PICES communities. While Small Island Developing States are not within our convention areas, we are building such connections in the Pacific Ocean. As an example, SmartNet hosted a Town Hall virtual event in June 2022, associated with the UNDOS Satellite Event on 'A Productive Ocean', which had presentations from panelists representing the Pacific Subregional Committee of the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN); the Our Fish, Our Future project; the Blue Belt MPA project; capacity sharing with Small Island Developing States; the ECOP Program of the Decade, as well as the FishSCORE and SmartNet Programs. There were approximately 50 international participants. SmartNet also hosted a Workshop at the PICES-2022 Annual Meeting in September to facilitate a broad discussion within the PICES community and partners on methods and priorities for implementing SmartNet. The workshop included presentations from several Decade-endorsed Actions in addition to SmartNet, including SUPREME, GEOS, BECI, DOOS and the ECOP group.

PICES continues to work with regional partners, including the Regional Collaborative Center for the NE Pacific, to implement the Decade Project, BECI (Basin Events to Coastal Impacts). Over the past year BECI has conducted workshops and worked to secure funding.

Looking forwards to the PICES-2023 annual meeting this coming October, now a Decade-endorsed Action with the theme “Connecting Science and Communities for Sustainable Seas”, there will be a workshop on Indigenous and Community-Led Approaches to support climate change adaptation and Ecosystem Resilience in the North Pacific and Arctic. We are grateful to our member countries for their financial contributions and to the Ocean Decade Regional Collaborative Center for the NE Pacific in helping with planning this event. We would like to end by voicing the Regional Collaborative Center’s plea for greater funding from all member Nations to support UN Ocean Decade Actions, as well as the importance of including underrepresented voices (especially Indigenous leaders and community members) in these processes.

Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)

The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research, SCOR, appreciates IOC’s leadership in promoting the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and congratulates on continuing contributions to support transformative Decade Actions.

SCOR supports several working groups which are contributing to the Ocean Decade endorsed programmes. Such SCOR Working Groups are: OASIS for observing air-sea Interactions; DeepSeaDecade to study deep-sea life; and MetaZooGene to study marine biodiversity. SCOR will continue to support Large-scale Research Projects such as GEOTRACES, studying trace elements and their isotopes in the world ocean. SCOR will also continue to support the SCOR /IOC co-sponsored International Indian Ocean Expedition 2, IIOE-2 until 2025, and will continue its sponsorship of SOLAS (the Surface Ocean Lower Atmosphere Studies), and IMBeR (the Integrated Marine Biosphere Research) which are contributing to the UN Ocean Decade Project, Ocean Negative Carbon Emissions (ONCE). SCOR has also contributed to “the Southern Ocean Decade action plan” and “Planning an Ocean Sound Decade”.

SCOR is looking forward to continuing its collaboration with IOC on the UN Ocean -Decade and other endeavours.

5. IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Sustainable Delivery and Expansion of IOC Activities

Colombia

El país considera y reconoce la importancia de iniciar la consulta sobre cómo la organización podría facilitar y fortalecer la planificación sostenible del océano basado en la ciencia, su aplicación a los convenios y marcos ambientales de las Naciones Unidas.

Asimismo, Colombia destaca las contribuciones de la COI/UNESCO a los diferentes procesos multilaterales desde su especialidad en ciencias oceánicas, así como a la interfaz entre el conocimiento y la política pública en lo que respecta al medio marino.

En ese mismo sentido, considera importante que, dada la expansión de las actividades de la organización, se propenda por adelantar y mantener sinergias con otros marcos, iniciativas, organismos, instrumentos y procesos multilaterales existentes, a fin de evitar la duplicidad de esfuerzos y garantizar el cumplimiento de los roles de los diferentes mecanismos.

Sumado a lo anterior, y en relación con las contribuciones a los procesos de negociación o implementación de instrumentos internacionales, es importante que los insumos de la COI/UNESCO se puedan canalizar e incorporar efectivamente y de manera integral a los procesos de toma de decisiones.

De esta manera, Colombia recomienda e invita a los estados miembros a continuar aunando esfuerzos y promoviendo alianzas, fortaleciendo canales de comunicación con otros organismos, de manera que juntos y ahora ajustemos el desarrollo de las perspectivas programáticas de la COI y nos acerquemos a ese océano que necesitamos para el futuro que queremos.

Kenya

Kenya appreciates the thought-provoking presentation and concurs with the Executive Secretary on the importance of a renewed discussion of how the IOC could optimally support ocean sustainability.

Kenya believes that this kind of regular self-assessment and reflection is necessary in order to ensure that the IOC continues to respond effectively to the needs of its Member States. Kenya welcomes the emphasis placed on the importance of strengthening the ocean science – policy interface and the critical role of the ocean in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Kenya also concurs that there is still work to be done including within in the UN system to encourage the strengthening of synergies, avoid duplications as well as adequately highlight the role of the ocean in UN frameworks and processes.

Such continuous reflection in our view will also contribute to the efforts to further raise the profile of IOC within the United Nations system and making sure that the unique mandate of IOC in the United Nations system continues to be well understood and communicated.

Kenya welcomes the proposal to initiate consultation involving appropriate stakeholders. We believe this is necessary so as to continue maximizing the societal benefits and encourage more investment in ocean science. We also look forward to such consultations in order to further reflect on opportunities to continue entrenching meaningful youth engagement in the work of the IOC and reflections on the future of the ocean.

Finally, Kenya looks forward to participating and contributing to such a process and concurs on the importance of Member States participation.

Norway

We would like to thank the Executive Secretary for his excellent presentation, but primarily for his tireless and wise efforts over several years in collaboration with the chair and Member States to identify challenges and opportunities, and to begin to realise the current IOC Mission to “bring together governments and science community in achieving the Ocean We Need for the Future We Want”.

Norway appreciates and recognizes IOC’s strengthened role as core provider of science for UN agencies with an ocean mandate.

Norway supports the proposal to initiate a consultation on how IOC could optimally facilitate science-based sustainable ocean planning and management, ocean science support to implementation of UN environmental conventions and frameworks, and development of a sustainable ocean economy.

A broad consultation involving both IOC constituent bodies and external partners, will hopefully reveal new possibilities and common opportunities to strengthen joined efforts in managing the ocean sustainably.

Spain

La sociedad global es cada vez más consciente de la gran importancia del océano para el bienestar general de la humanidad y hay una creciente demanda de avanzar hacia una relación más sostenible en la que la Ciencia, y por lo tanto la COI, han de jugar un papel relevante. Responder a esta demanda requiere de un amplio conocimiento científico en áreas muy diversas, incluyendo las ciencias sociales, y la disponibilidad a nivel operacional (en las escalas temporales que se requieran en cada caso) de datos e información muy diversa. La COI debe centrar su actividad en potenciar la investigación y los sistemas de información, desde las observaciones, pasando por las bases de datos y hasta la generación de productos útiles para la toma de decisiones, que luego recae en una larga serie de organizaciones internacionales, procesos, convenciones, incluyendo también los Estados Miembros. Por lo tanto, consideramos que el mandato de la COI es central en este proceso y consideramos fundamental la oportunidad que se plantea ahora de consolidar y estabilizar sus funciones centrales, y a partir de ahí, evaluar las necesidades de ampliación de sus actividades, algo en lo que, como ya han manifestado las Delegaciones del Reino Unido, Alemania, Estados Unidos y otros, deben participar activamente los Estados Miembros y respaldamos la propuesta de cambios del Reino Unido en el texto de la decisión.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

It is clear that transforming to a more sustainable relationship between human society and the ocean is one of the greatest challenges of our age in which the IOC must be engaged.

However, it is also clear that any expansion of IOC’s activities to engage with this challenge needs to be undertaken in a way that is rooted in its own fundamental purpose. Moreover, such evolution of activities needs also to be undertaken in the context of appropriate rationalization and prioritisation within agreed budgets.

That purpose, set out in the IOC's statutes, namely to 'promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States'.

It is essential to avoid any possibility of confusion or misperception that IOC either has, or has ambitions to have, a mandate for ocean management itself - or that IOC's purpose might drift away from a purpose that enables the informed decision-making of Member States and other stakeholders who have primary mandates for ocean management or are affected by it.

The United Kingdom will propose two minor amendments to the Decision text A-32/5 to remove any possible ambiguity on this matter.

The rationale of the UK's proposed amendments is to:

- Para 4 – clarify engagement with ocean management is rooted in the IOC fundamental purpose based on science which will remain unchanged – and to clarify that ocean management is undertaken by Member States and other stakeholders that the IOC can support with science capabilities
- Para 5 - make clear that the proposed IOC consultation will be with both Member States and other stakeholders – including those who deliver science-based ocean management.

United States of America

The United States appreciates your doctor-patient analogy in speaking of ocean management. I've always been taught by my elders in marine conservation that we do not manage the ocean, we manage ourselves. Indeed, human activities that impact the ocean are managed by a mosaic of authorities that may be complementary, may be duplicative, or may leave gaps in ocean understanding and protection. Because they operate largely without connection or integration, we cannot be sure that they are addressing humanity's collective priorities. We can, however, do our best to ensure that the IOC remains true to its purpose and readies itself to engage with these authorities - stable in our work and clear in our role.

So, the United States certainly recognizes the increasing interest in the IOC's engagement in these matters and agrees the IOC should continue conversations to prioritize budgetary needs to meet these and other important IOC goals. The United States has, like others, been taking this into account in our discussions regarding stabilizing the IOC with the expected increase in IOC funding. In this way, we can reaffirm our fundamental commitment to the IOC and prepare ourselves for increased engagement on a range of issues.

In this regard, the United States, like others, would like to see a focus on support for existing programmes and projects that deliver the functions of the IOC and meet existing international obligations before expanding into new work. Only through stabilizing the IOC's foundation will we be able to support these emerging needs. Therefore, we support the launch of a new consultation with such a focus, and we agree with the United Kingdom, Germany, and others that it is critical that the decision also reflect the ability for interested Member States to be involved in the consultation.

6.2 Review & Update of the Rules of Procedure and Guidelines for Reporting on In-Kind Contributions

France

La France souhaiterait que le Règlement intérieur de la COI suive le libellé de la décision 41 C/2 ou celui de l'article 6.4 du Règlement intérieur de la Convention de 2003 révisé en 2022 qui précise que « Les élections à bulletins secrets organisées conformément au présent Règlement au cours d'une session en ligne doivent se dérouler in praesentia. Le Secrétariat devra prendre les mesures nécessaires à cet effet, y compris pour le lieu et l'horaire de l'élection, afin d'informer les États Parties en avance du scrutin. Les autres votes organisés conformément au présent Règlement devraient de préférence se tenir in praesentia. »

6.3 Draft Action Plan in Response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning

France

La France souhaite demander au Secrétariat exécutif des éclaircissements sur sa proposition 1.b. en réponse à la recommandation 1 de l'évaluation IOS. En effet, le Secrétariat propose, afin d'attirer de nouveaux donateurs, de former « un petit groupe d'Etats membres, peut-être les principaux contributeurs actuels, qui pourraient servir d'agents de plaidoyer et mener des discussions avec leurs homologues sur la mobilisation de ressources et l'engagement ». La France demande au Secrétaire exécutif d'ouvrir ce groupe à tous les Etats membres de la COI qui le souhaiteraient.

La recommandation 6 de l'évaluation IOS recommandait à la COI de « jouer un rôle moteur en ce qui concerne l'égalité des genres et l'avancement des femmes dans les sciences marines », la France salue l'effort fait par le Secrétariat en faveur de l'égalité des genres dans les sciences marines.