

IOC Circular Letter No 3011

(Available in English, French, Russian and Spanish)

IOC/VR/JB/AC/

5 November 2024

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC (IOC Member States)

C.c. : Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC
Officers of Major Subsidiary Bodies of IOC

Subject: United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030): Updates on Ocean Decade Implementation including Call for Applications for the 2nd Edition of the Mario Ruivo Memorial Lecture and Call for Nominations for the Ocean Decade Gender Expert Working Group

Launch of the Vision 2030 Outcomes Report

Based on the outcomes of the parallel sessions of the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference that deliberated on the results of the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 process, the launch of [‘The Barcelona Statement’](#) on 12 April 2024, and subsequent consultations with the Decade Advisory Board during its [Meeting No. 02/2024](#) and with Member States during the 57th session of the Executive Council, the consolidated report of the Vision 2030 process has been launched, entitled [‘Ambition, Action, Impact: the Ocean Decade Pathway to 2030’](#). This report summarizes the strategic ambition statement that was developed for each of the Ocean Decade Challenges through the Vision 2030 process and includes a list of priority actions to guide the work of the Ocean Decade in coming years.

Update on Ocean Decade Mid-Term Evaluation

In accordance with IOC Resolution EC-57/1, a detailed Terms of Reference for the Ocean Decade Mid-Term Evaluation was developed and advertised between 23 August and 15 September 2024. Based on a competitive tendering process, INOMER Business Consulting and Services has been engaged by UNESCO’s Internal Oversight Service (IOS) as the expert evaluators for this process. The evaluation process formally commenced on 7 October 2024 and as described in IOC Resolution EC-57/1 will involve comprehensive consultation with Member States, National Decade Committees and other relevant stakeholders. The details of the consultation process, which will take place between November 2024 and February 2025 are being finalized in consultation with IOS and the expert evaluation team and consultation activities will include individual interviews, focus groups and surveys.

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Launch of the Second Edition of the IOC Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture

In partnership with Portugal and EurOcean, the call for applications for the second edition of the IOC Mário Ruivo Memorial lecture series has been launched. The Memorial Lecture series aims to stimulate and recognise early career ocean researchers, seriously contributing to United Nations' 2030 Agenda – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 14 and to the objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Applications from Early Career Ocean Professionals are due before 2 February 2025 and the selected individual will be invited to present the Memorial Lecture at the 33rd session of the IOC Assembly in June 2025 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Further details on the application process can be found here: <https://eurocean.org/mario-ruivo-memorial-lecture/>

Call for Nominations for Ocean Decade Gender Expert Group

In line with the recommendations of 'The Barcelona Statement' and the '[Vision 2030 Outcomes Report](#)', the Decade Coordination Unit is establishing an informal Ocean Decade Gender Expert Group to oversee development of a gender equity action. The Terms of Reference of the Group and the nomination form can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WXD582K>. Self-nominations should be made via the online form before 10 December 2024:

Launch of Call for Decade Actions No. 8/2024

Call for Decade Actions No. 08/2024 opened on 15 October 2024 and will close on 31 January 2025. This Call for Decade Actions is soliciting programmes to contribute to identified priorities of the Vision 2030 process related to coastal resilience, human-ocean connections and ocean and human health links; contributions to the Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility; and projects to contribute to endorsed Decade programmes. Further information on the Call can be found here: <https://oceandecade.org/news/cfda8-spotlight-coastal-resilience-society-ocean-connections-ocean-human-health/>

Member States are kindly requested to widely circulate the above information within relevant networks. Additional information on any of the above issues can be obtained from the IOC Secretariat j.barbiere@unesco.org or a.clausen@unesco.org.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary