



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

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(Also available in French, Russian and Spanish)

IOC/VR/JB/AC/ic
28 June 2021

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

cc. : Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
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) – Call for Nominations to the Decade Advisory Board**

At the 31st session of the IOC Assembly (UNESCO, 14–15 June 2021), IOC Member States, UN agencies and partners expressed strong support for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and to the IOC in its role as coordinator of the implementation phase of the Decade. The Assembly inter alia approved the Terms of Reference for the Decade Advisory Board on the basis of Document IOC-31/3.7.Doc(1), including the selection process of its members. The Terms of Reference for the Board are included in Appendix 1.

The Decade Advisory Board will be a multi-stakeholder advisory body that will assist the IOC Secretariat in performing its function as coordinator of the Decade. The Board will report both to the IOC Governing Bodies and the IOC Executive Secretary. The Board's advice to the IOC Governing Bodies will concern strategic elements of the Decade implementation, such as reviews of the Decade progress in moving towards the Decade societal outcomes and on the research work in the domains of Decade challenges, identifying gaps and opportunities, advising on data stewardship strategies, the development of resource mobilisation strategies, and supporting the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework of the Decade. The Board will also provide advice and operational support to the IOC Executive Secretary to facilitate the endorsement process of Decade Actions, specifically at the programme level.

The Decade Advisory Board will comprise up to 15 expert members drawn from government, private sector, philanthropy, civil society, and the scientific community. They will serve in their individual capacity. In addition to the 15 expert members, UN Legal Counsel/DOALOS, which is the Secretariat and focal point of UN-Oceans and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, will have one permanent seat on the Decade Advisory Board. The IOC Secretariat as coordinator of the

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Decade will also have a permanent seat on the Board. Three more seats will be reserved for UN Agencies and will be identified through consultations via UN-Oceans.

The 15 expert members of the Board will be nominated through open calls for nominations. The calls will be circulated through the following channels:

- IOC Member States via IOC Circular Letters;
- Relevant UN bodies via UN-Oceans;
- Scientific networks using formal and informal communication mechanisms;
- Dedicated ocean policy, business, and sustainable development networks through announcements; and
- The Ocean Decade and IOC website.

Proposals for nominations can be put forward by Member States of IOC-UNESCO, United Nations or United Nations entities, as well as by intergovernmental organizations. Self-nominations will also be possible to encourage nominations from non-governmental entities.

A Selection Panel convened by the IOC Executive Secretary and composed of the IOC Chair and IOC Officers representing the five IOC electoral groups, with the technical support of the Decade Coordination Unit, will be tasked with selecting the expert members of the Decade Advisory Board.

The Selection Panel will ensure that the proposed expert members have sufficient skills, knowledge, influence and impartiality regarding the vision and objectives of the Decade and are able to undertake the work outlined in the terms of reference. Their skills and expertise should cover at least one of the following areas:

- (i) Intergovernmental processes and coordination;
- (ii) The ocean aspects of sustainable development;
- (iii) Ocean science (natural / social dimensions);
- (iv) Science-policy / decision / end-user interface and engagement;
- (v) Ocean Economy / finance/ partnerships;
- (vi) Innovation / technology/ infrastructure development;
- (vii) Capacity development, training and transfer of marine technology, education, communications and outreach; and/or
- (viii) Development of large-scale multi/inter-disciplinary international programmes / projects.

Expert members will be selected with due consideration to expertise, geographic, generational, and gender balance and will serve on a voluntary basis. Membership on the Decade Advisory Board will be for a two-year term, renewable for a second mandate with membership terms to be staggered.

The Decade Advisory Board will work mainly through remote means (teleconferences, virtual meetings). A physical meeting is anticipated at least once a year, when the sanitary situation allows.

The Decade Coordination Unit located within the IOC Secretariat will be the Secretariat for the Decade Advisory Board.

The nomination form for membership of the Decade Advisory Board can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5PLY6PT>

The call for nominations will be open until 15 September 2021 at 23.59h CEST.

Additional information can be obtained from the IOC Secretariat j.barbiere@unesco.org or a.clausen@unesco.org.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Terms of Reference of the Decade Advisory Board

Advisory Board of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the Decade Advisory Board)

Terms of Referenceⁱ

The Advisory Board of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the “Decade Advisory Board”) is established as a technical advisory body to the Secretariat and Governing Bodies of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

Role of the Decade Advisory Board

The Decade Advisory Board is responsible for providing direct advice to the IOC Executive Secretary on the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (‘the Ocean Decade’) over its ten-year implementation phase (2021–2030) with a focus on the endorsement of Decade Actions and scoping of Calls for Decade Actions, and reports to IOC Governing Bodies on strategic matters related to implementation of the Ocean Decade. Specifically, and in accordance with the Ocean Decade Implementation Plan, the Decade Advisory Board will:

- (i) Review and make recommendations to the IOC Executive Secretary on the endorsement of Decade Programmes;
- (ii) Advise the IOC Executive Secretary on the scope of Calls for Actions under the Decade to support the mobilisation of proponents worldwide;
- (iii) Review the regular resource needs assessments prepared by the Decade Coordination Unit and recommend approaches for resource mobilisation and support outreach efforts to potential funders, including Member States, multilateral development banks, climate financing mechanisms, philanthropic foundations, and the private sector in order to help create the enabling environment needed to achieve the ambitions of the Decade;
- (iv) Advise on the engagement and outreach strategy of the Decade in order to help catalyse high-level interest and engagement among key stakeholders, including leaders from Member States, UN Agencies, business, civil society and academia to ensure that the scientific outputs of the Decade support the successful achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- (v) Advise on the regular reviews to be undertaken subject to decision by IOC Governing Bodies, during the implementation phase, including review of the scientific objectives and orientations of the Implementation Plan, annual progress reports, and the mid-term and final reviews, and make recommendations on the results of such reviews, as requested;
- (vi) Advise on the engagement of relevant communities regarding contributions to the objectives of the Decade, with priority given to engaging early career ocean professionals and disadvantaged groups and regions and to the science-policy interface;
- (vii) Monitor the progress and review the outputs of any working groups established by the IOC Secretariat related to structural and cross-cutting operational elements of the Decade Implementation Plan;
- (viii) Provide information to the IOC Executive Secretary to enable his reporting to the IOC Governing Bodies;
- (ix) Report as needed to the Governing Bodies in relation to strategic issues.

Chairing of the Decade Advisory Board

The Decade Advisory Board will appoint two Co-chairs amongst its members, ideally one representing the science fields and another one representing the societal end-users of the Decade. The Co-chairs will be appointed by the IOC Executive Secretary for one year with the possibility of a second one-year term.

Decision-making process and organization of work

The Decade Advisory Board will strive for consensus on all issues in providing recommendations and advice to the IOC Executive Secretary. The minutes of the meeting will record any instances when consensus was not reached.

The working language of the Board will be English. No interpretation will be provided.

Decade Advisory Board Composition

The Decade Advisory Board will comprise up to 15 expert members serving in their individual capacity drawn from government, private sector, philanthropy, civil society, and the scientific community, as well as representatives of UN Agencies. In total, the Decade Advisory Board should not exceed 20 members, including Expert members and UN representatives. Expert members will be nominated through open calls for nominations. The calls will be circulated through the following means:

- IOC Member States via IOC Circular Letters;
- Relevant UN bodies via UN-Oceans;
- Scientific networks using formal and informal communication mechanisms;
- Dedicated ocean policy, business, and sustainable development networks through announcements; and
- The Ocean Decade and IOC website.

Proposals for nominations can be made by IOC-UNESCO and United Nations Member States or United Nations entities, as well as intergovernmental organizations. Self-nomination will also be possible to encourage nominations from non-governmental entities.

Expert members will be selected with due consideration to expertise, geographic, generational, and gender balance and will serve on a voluntary basis in their personal capacities. Decade Advisory Board members do not represent their institutions or countries. They should be able to commit sufficient time to the work of the Decade Advisory Board and will take the responsibility to request the authorization of their employer to participate in this process.

Membership on the Decade Advisory Board will be for a two-year term, renewable for a second mandate. Members' terms will be staggered to ensure there is information exchange and mentoring between current and new Board members. Operational procedures for this process will be defined with the Board and its co-chairs.

Each Member shall comply with the Conflict of Interest guidelines to be prepared by the Secretariat and notify the Decade Coordination Unit with respect to any such potential conflicts.

A Selection Panel convened by the IOC Executive Secretary and composed of the IOC Chair and elected IOC Officers representing the five IOC electoral groups, with the technical support of the Decade Coordination Unit, will be tasked with selecting the members of the Decade Advisory Board.

The Selection Panel will ensure that the proposed members have sufficient skills, knowledge, influence and impartiality regarding the vision and objectives of the Decade and are able to undertake the work outlined in the terms of reference. Their skills and expertise should cover at least one of the following areas:

- (i) Intergovernmental processes and coordination;
- (ii) The ocean aspects of sustainable development;
- (iii) Ocean science (natural / social dimensions);
- (iv) Science-policy / decision / end-user interface and engagement;
- (v) Ocean Economy / finance/ partnerships;
- (vi) Innovation / technology/ infrastructure development;
- (vii) Capacity development, training and transfer or marine technology, education, communications and outreach; and/or
- (viii) Development of large-scale multi/inter-disciplinary international programmes / projects.

UN Agencies representation on the Decade Advisory Board

UN Legal Counsel/DOALOS, which is the Secretariat and focal point of UN-Oceans and the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea, will have one permanent seat on the Decade Advisory Board. The IOC Secretariat as coordinator of the Decade will also have a permanent seat on the Board. Three more seats will be reserved for UN Agencies and will be identified through consultations via UN-Oceans.

Secretariat of the Decade Advisory Board

The Decade Coordination Unit located within the IOC Secretariat will be the Secretariat for the Decade Advisory Board.

Meetings of the Decade Advisory Board

The Decade Advisory Board shall meet four (4) times per year, with at least one (1) in presentia meeting annually when possible. Additional in-person or virtual meetings will be held as necessary. The Co-chairs of the Decade Advisory Board will be primarily responsible for the development of the Board Meeting Agenda and directing the Decade Advisory Board meetings. All Decade Advisory Board Members can recommend agenda items. The Decade Advisory Board may invite external experts as needed to address specific issues or tasks. The decision to invite these external experts would be a decision of the Board.

Minutes of the Board meetings will be developed and distributed by the Secretariat for the Decade Advisory Board. These will be made public on the Ocean Decade website. Expert Members of the Decade Advisory Board are expected to attend all meetings of the Board in person, without replacement.

ⁱ Adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session (14–25 June 2021) through IOC Resolution A-31/1: Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)