

DRAFT RESOLUTION A-33/[4.8]

Submitted by Monaco, Portugal

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

Part I

1. **Recalling** IOC Resolutions EC-53/1, A-31/1, A-32/3, EC-55/1, and EC-57/1 on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), thereafter the Decade,
2. **Considering** document IOC/A-33/4.8.Doc(1) *Update on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development*,
3. **Recognizing** the importance of strengthened Member States' and partner support to the Decade to allow it to fulfil its ambitions for the second half of its implementation,
4. **Taking note with satisfaction** of the contribution of the Decade Advisory Board (DAB) to the implementation and strategic development of the Decade in accordance with the DAB Terms of Reference, **also noting** that the term of the current DAB will end in December 2025 and **thanking** all members of the DAB for their commitment,
5. **Thanking** the Government of Spain for hosting the Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona in April 2024, and **reaffirming** the implementation of the priorities and recommendations outlined in *The Barcelona Statement* (IOC/2024/ODS/55) arising from the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference,
6. **Thanking** all Member States who expressed interest in hosting the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference and **extending** its congratulations to the selected host of the Conference,
7. **Invites** Member States and partners to:
 - (i) incorporate the priorities and recommendations contained in *The Barcelona Statement* into their national and regional science-policy frameworks, and to use them to inform their budget and resourcing decisions;

- (ii) provide voluntary financial contributions to support the work of the IOC Secretariat in coordinating the Decade, including in-kind support, such as staff loans and secondments, to the Decade Coordination Unit (DCU);
 - (iii) offer to host and fund Decade Actions, Decade Coordination Offices (DCO), and Decade Collaborative Centres (DCC) as described in the *United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) Implementation Plan* (IOC/2021/ODS/20); and
 - (iv) host regional or international Decade stakeholder events, including as part of the preparatory process for the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference;
8. **Also invites** Member States to establish and support National Decade Committees with a view to stimulate national activities and international cooperation,
9. **Encourages** United Nations Member States, UN-Oceans members, international scientific and academic organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to support the Decade in collaboration with IOC and to contribute to its implementation by proposing Decade Actions in accordance with the *United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) Implementation Plan*, by supporting the implementation of the priorities and recommendations of *The Barcelona Statement*, and by engaging in and supporting the preparatory process for the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference;

Part II

10. **Having examined** IOC/A-33/4.8.Doc(2) *Summary of the Mid Term Evaluation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the Management Response to Evaluation Findings*,
11. **Taking note** of the findings of the Mid-Term Evaluation and the IOC Executive Secretary's management response,
12. **Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to develop an action plan on the basis of the management response for presentation to the DAB before the end of 2025 and to report on progress against the action plan at the 59th Session of the IOC Executive Council,
13. **Having examined** IOC/A-33/4.8.Doc(3) *Revised Terms of Reference for the Decade Advisory Board*,

14. **Adopts** the revised Terms of Reference and **requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to launch a process to establish a new DAB to commence its work in January 2026;
15. **Expresses gratitude** to the Governments of Canada, China, France, Japan, Belgium (Government of Flanders), Norway, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Thailand, as well as the Fondation ENGIE, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Prada, REV-Ocean, and FUGRO for their valuable financial contributions and secondments or loans of personnel to the IOC Secretariat for the coordination of the Decade,
16. **Also expresses appreciation** to:
 - (i) The Boticário Group Foundation for hosting the Fourth Ocean Decade Foundations Dialogue in Rio de Janeiro in September 2024; and
 - (ii) The Qingdao Municipal People's Government, China for hosting the First International Ocean Decade Coastal Cities Conference in February 2025,
17. **Supports** the registration of new IOC-led Decade Actions, specifically:
 - (i) *UN39 Ocean Solutions in the East Asian Seas* Decade Project led by IOC WESTPAC and the Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (CEMACS), Universiti Sains Malaysia;
 - (ii) *UN40 Enhance coastal resilience to sea level hazards* Decade Project led by Tsunami Resilience Section of IOC; and
 - (iii) *A global ocean free from the harmful impacts of pollution* Decade Programme led by Ocean Science Section of IOC and UNEP,
18. **Also supports** the active roles of the IOC Regional and Technical Subsidiary Bodies and Programmes in facilitating Decade regional and thematic coordination and engagement activities, in particular:
 - (i) WESTPAC Secretariat acting as DCO for the Western Pacific Region;
 - (ii) IOCARIBE Secretariat acting as DCO for the Tropical Americas and Caribbean Region;
 - (iii) IOCAFRICA Secretariat acting as DCO for Africa;
 - (iv) IODE Programme Office acting as DCO for Ocean Data Sharing;
 - (v) GOOS Project Office acting as DCO for Ocean Observations; and
 - (vi) UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, acting as a DCO for Connecting People and Ocean;

19. **Taking note** of the resource needs identified by the DCU, IOC-led DCOs and IOC-led Decade Actions to fulfil their commitments under the Decade,
20. **Invites** Member States, partners, and donor organizations to support IOC-led Decade Actions and coordination mechanisms, including through allocation of extra-budgetary resources to relevant IOC programmes and regions, to achieve their transformative ambitions, guide their respective communities, and catalyse further actions within and beyond the Decade.