



## **2027 Ocean Decade Conference: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

### **Programme Committee**

#### **Terms of Reference**

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##### **1. Introduction**

The 2027 Ocean Decade Conference will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Hosted by Brazil and co-organized with UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO), the Conference will be a seminal moment in the implementation of the Ocean Decade. It will provide a unique opportunity for the Ocean Decade community and partners to take stock of progress since the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference specifically in relation to the implementation of the priorities of The Barcelona Statement, present new initiatives and generate partnerships to create scalable and lasting impact during the remaining three years of the Decade and discuss the foundation of the post-Decade legacy.

The conference will be a three-day, in-person event for up to 2000 people and will have scope for partners to propose and lead satellite events, exhibitions and networking events relevant to the conference themes.

##### **2. Role of the Programme Committee**

The Programme Committee will work closely with the IOC-UNESCO core team and the national organizing committee to steer the strategic direction and expected outcomes of the conference. It will provide advice on the structure and content of the conference programme, and the articulation of the conference with related events.

##### **3. Specific Tasks of the Programme Committee**

The Committee will carry out the following tasks:

- i. On the basis of the high-level programme and expected outcomes for the conference, provide advice and guidance on planning of opening, closing and plenary sessions and assist in the development of content and structure, and advice and suggestions of speakers for these sessions.
- ii. Provide strategic advice on resource mobilisation opportunities and generate contacts with potential sponsors for the conference.
- iii. Provide strategic guidance and advice on themes and guidelines for different thematic components of the Conference and where required review documentation and speakers for Conference sessions.
- iv. Review and provide advice on documentation calling for satellite events / exhibitions / networking events and review and provide recommendations on applications received to enable a final selection to be made for the conference programme.
- v. Provide strategic advice and guidance on opportunities to create synergies between the conference and related events before or after the main conference event including the 2028 United Nations Ocean Conference and related events.
- vi. Review and provide advice and recommendations on the conference branding including the communications plan, and key communications assets.
- vii. Contribute to the drafting and review of the Conference outcomes statement and/or report.
- viii. Provide post-Conference feedback to IOC-UNESCO and the national organizing committee on the process and experience of Conference organization.

- ix. Provide advice on other relevant issues and documentation as requested by the IOC-UNESCO core team and local organizing team.

#### **4. Membership of the Programme Committee**

The Committee will comprise a maximum of 20 members selected following an international nomination process. Members will be selected by IOC-UNESCO after discussion with the local organizing team. Membership of the Committee is on an individual basis and will be voluntary. Membership will be for the duration of the preparation period of the Conference and Committee members must attend meetings themselves without replacements. IOC-UNESCO reserves the right to remove and replace Members who do not regularly attend online meetings.

Members will be selected based on the following criteria: (i) knowledge of and engagement in the Ocean Decade; (ii) experience in contributing to planning of large international conferences; and (iii) expertise and skills in thematic areas and cross-cutting issues relevant to the Ocean Decade. Due consideration will be given to geographic, generational, and gender diversity and members will be drawn from a mix of sectors including the scientific community, Member States, UN agencies, philanthropy, industry and civil society. One or more representatives of the national organizing committee will attend meetings of the Committee to provide a link to the work of the national organizing committee. A representative of the host country will sit on the Programme Committee.

The Executive Secretary of IOC-UNESCO or his delegate will chair the committee.

#### **5. Modalities of Work of the Programme Committee**

The Committee will meet virtually on a regular schedule, i.e. initially approximately every 6 weeks with more frequent meetings closer to the conference dates. If resources are available in-person meetings of the Committee may be organized. Where resources allow, Programme Committee members may be supported to attend the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference. English will be the working language of the Committee. IOC-UNESCO will provide secretarial support to the work of the Committee.