

Barrio Torices, Edificio Chambacú Oficina 405, Cra. 3B # 26-78, Cartagena de Indias - Colombia

E-mail: [iocaribe@unesco.org](mailto:iocaribe@unesco.org); [L.inniss@unesco.org](mailto:L.inniss@unesco.org)

X: @IOCaribeOcean - Instagram: [iocaribeocean](https://www.instagram.com/iocaribeocean) – Website: <http://iocaribe.ioc-unesco.org/>

**IOCARIBE of IOC-UNESCO No. 006/2025**  
(Available in English and Spanish)

Cartagena de Indias, September 3, 2025

To: Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOCARIBE  
Members of the ANCA working group

**Subject: Invitation to ANCA Group Meeting – Nominations and Election of  
Chair/Vice-Chair (September 17, 2025)**

The Sub-Commission of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE) is pleased to invite you to participate in the upcoming meeting of the Caribbean Harmful Algae Network (ANCA) Working Group, which will be held virtually on 17 September 2025 at 10:00 a.m. (Colombia time).

In order to strengthen the work of the Group, we kindly request that the experts currently serving as ANCA members, as well as the IOCARIBE National Focal Points, provide formal support from their Governments or Institutions through official nomination letters, following the attached templates:

- Nomination format – Government (country)
- Nomination format – Institution

This endorsement will ensure the continuity and official representation of the Working Group, as well as facilitate the inclusion of new experts interested in contributing to its activities.

We also wish to inform you that this meeting will include the selection of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ANCA Working Group for the next working period. Current members are invited to express their interest in these positions by sending their candidacies to [L.inniss@unesco.org](mailto:L.inniss@unesco.org), with copy to [iocaribeocean@gmail.com](mailto:iocaribeocean@gmail.com), prior to the meeting.

It should be noted that Dr. Gustavo Arencibia (Cuba), who has served as Chair for two consecutive terms, is not eligible for re-election. The current Vice-Chair, Dr. Ernesto Mancera (Colombia), as well as the other members of the Group, may submit their candidacies for the position of Chair; for the Vice-Chair position, all members may submit candidacies, with the exception of Dr. Mancera.

Current ANCA members already have the Zoom link to join the meeting. New nominees will receive the meeting connection details once their nominations and contact information have been submitted.

#### IOC

**Yutaka MICHIDA, Prof.**  
Special Presidential Envoy for UN Ocean Decade  
The University of Tokyo  
(Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute)  
Kashiwanoha 5-1-5, 2778564 Kashiwa  
JAPAN  
E-mail: [ymichida@aori.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:ymichida@aori.u-tokyo.ac.jp)

Executive Secretary - Secretario Ejecutivo  
**Mr Vidar HELGESEN**  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic  
Commission — UNESCO  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP  
FRANCE

Chairperson - Presidente (Aruba)  
**Dr. Marck Oduber**  
Science Liaison  
Aruba National Commission for UNESCO  
Stadionweg 37 Oranjestad  
Aruba  
Tel: (297) 528 3528  
E-mail: [m.oduber@unesco.aw](mailto:m.oduber@unesco.aw)

Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (Trinidad & Tobago)  
**Dr. Rahanna Juman**  
Deputy Director  
Institute of Marine Affairs  
Hilltop Lane, Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago  
Phone number: +1 868-634-4291  
E-mail: [rahanna.juman@gov.tt](mailto:rahanna.juman@gov.tt)

#### IOCARIBE

Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (Brazil)  
**Dr. Roberto de Pinho**  
Senior Science and Technology Analyst  
General Coordination of Sciences for the Ocean and Antarctica  
Department of Thematic Programs  
Secretariat for Strategic Policies and Programs  
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation - Brazil  
Brasília, DF, Brasil.  
E-mail: [roberto.depinho@mcti.gov.br](mailto:roberto.depinho@mcti.gov.br)

Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (Venezuela)  
**Dr. Soraya J. Silva**  
Researcher  
Instituto Venezolano e Investigaciones Científicas  
Km 11, Carretera Panamericana, Altos de Pipe,  
Estado Miranda, Venezuela  
E-mail: [soraya.j.silva@gmail.com](mailto:soraya.j.silva@gmail.com)

**Dr. Lorna Inniss**  
Head UNESCO–IOC Regional Secretariat for  
IOCARIBE - Jefe Secretaría Regional UNESCO-  
COI para IOCARIBE  
E-mail: [L.inniss@unesco.org](mailto:L.inniss@unesco.org)

**Dr. Marko Tosic**  
Head of the UN Ocean Decade Coordination Office  
for the Tropical Americas and Caribbean - Jefe de  
la Oficina de Coordinación del Decenio de los  
Océanos de las Naciones Unidas para las  
Américas Tropicales y el Caribe  
E-mail: [m.tosic@unesco.org](mailto:m.tosic@unesco.org)

**Ms. Bianis Palacios**  
Administrative Assistant – Asistente Administrativa  
E-mail: [b.palacios@unesco.org](mailto:b.palacios@unesco.org)

We sincerely thank the current ANCA members for facilitating this process by securing formal support from their respective national focal points and/or institutions. We also encourage you to share this invitation with colleagues from other countries who are not yet members of ANCA but whose expertise and knowledge could significantly contribute to the Group's work.


At present, the Group is composed of the following members:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Email</b>
Chair	Gustavo Arencibia Carballo	Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras, La Habana, Cuba	<a href="mailto:garen04@gmail.com">garen04@gmail.com</a>
Vicechair	José Ernesto Mancera Pineda	Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Sede Bogotá, Colombia	<a href="mailto:jemancerap@unal.edu.co">jemancerap@unal.edu.co</a>
Focal Point	Ernesto Garcia Mendoza	Biological Oceanography Department, Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, México	<a href="mailto:ergarcia@cicese.mx">ergarcia@cicese.mx</a>
Focal Point	Carlos Emilio Seixas	Centro Regional Universitario de Veraguas, Universidad de Panamá, Panamá	<a href="mailto:carlosseix@hotmail.com">carlosseix@hotmail.com</a>
Focal Point	Maribelle Vargas Montero	Centro de Investigación en Estructuras Microscópicas, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica	<a href="mailto:maribelle.vargas@ucr.ac.cr">maribelle.vargas@ucr.ac.cr</a> , <a href="mailto:mvmmontero@gmail.com">mvmmontero@gmail.com</a>
Focal Point	Mirna Marín	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras, Facultad de Ciencias, Honduras	<a href="mailto:namirmarin@gmail.com">namirmarin@gmail.com</a>
Focal Point	Oscar Amaya	Universidad El Salvador, El Salvador	<a href="mailto:oscar.amaya@ues.edu.sv">oscar.amaya@ues.edu.sv</a>
Focal Point	Lorelys Valerio	Venezuela	<a href="mailto:lorellysvalerio@gmail.com">lorellysvalerio@gmail.com</a>
Focal Point	Azra Blythe-Mallett	Jamaica	<a href="mailto:azzieb@hotmail.com">azzieb@hotmail.com</a>
Focal Point	Karla Evelyn Paz Córdón	Centro de Estudios del Mar y Acuicultura (CEMA), Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, Guatemala	<a href="mailto:kevelynpaz@gmail.com">kevelynpaz@gmail.com</a>
Focal Point	Zoraida Zapata	República Dominicana	<a href="mailto:Zoraida.Zapata@ambiente.gob.do">Zoraida.Zapata@ambiente.gob.do</a>

Position	Name	Affiliation	Email
Focal Point	Julio Morell	Puerto Rico	<a href="mailto:jmorell55@gmail.com">jmorell55@gmail.com</a>

We appreciate your cooperation and commitment in helping us continue to consolidate this regional platform for collaboration in research, monitoring, and management of harmful algal blooms.

Warm regards,

  
**Lorna Veronica Inniss**  
Head of IOCARIBE Secretariat

Enclosures (3):      Provisional Agenda  
                                Nomination format – Government (country)  
                                Nomination format – Institution

#### IOC

**Yutaka MICHIDA, Prof.**  
Special Presidential Envoy for UN Ocean Decade  
The University of Tokyo  
(Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute)  
Kashiwanoha 5-1-5, 2778564 Kashiwa  
JAPAN  
E-mail: [ymichida@aori.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:ymichida@aori.u-tokyo.ac.jp)

Executive Secretary - Secretario Ejecutivo  
**Mr Vidar HELGESEN**  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic  
Commission — UNESCO  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP  
FRANCE

Chairperson - Presidente (Aruba)  
**Dr. Marck Oduber**  
Science Liaison  
Aruba National Commission for UNESCO  
Stadionweg 37 Oranjestad  
Aruba  
Tel: (297) 528 3528  
E-mail: [m.oduber@unesco.aw](mailto:m.oduber@unesco.aw)

Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (Trinidad & Tobago)  
**Dr. Rahanna Juman**  
Deputy Director  
Institute of Marine Affairs  
Hilltop Lane, Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago  
Phone number: +1 868-634-4291  
E-mail: [rahanna.juman@gov.tt](mailto:rahanna.juman@gov.tt)

#### IOCARIBE

Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (Brazil)  
**Dr. Roberto de Pinho**  
Senior Science and Technology Analyst  
General Coordination of Sciences for the Ocean and Antarctica  
Department of Thematic Programs  
Secretariat for Strategic Policies and Programs  
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation - Brazil  
Brasília, DF, Brasil.  
E-mail: [roberto.depinho@mcti.gov.br](mailto:roberto.depinho@mcti.gov.br)

Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (Venezuela)  
**Dr. Soraya J. Silva**  
Researcher  
Instituto Venezolano e Investigaciones Científicas  
Km 11, Carretera Panamericana, Altos de Pipe,  
Estado Miranda, Venezuela  
E-mail: [soraya.j.silva@gmail.com](mailto:soraya.j.silva@gmail.com)

**Dr. Lorna Inniss**  
Head UNESCO–IOC Regional Secretariat for  
IOCARIBE - Jefe Secretaría Regional UNESCO-  
COI para IOCARIBE  
E-mail: [L.inniss@unesco.org](mailto:L.inniss@unesco.org)

**Dr. Marko Tosic**  
Head of the UN Ocean Decade Coordination Office  
for the Tropical Americas and Caribbean - Jefe de  
la Oficina de Coordinación del Decenio de los  
Océanos de las Naciones Unidas para las  
Américas Tropicales y el Caribe  
E-mail: [m.tosic@unesco.org](mailto:m.tosic@unesco.org)

**Ms. Bianis Palacios**  
Administrative Assistant – Asistente Administrativa  
E-mail: [b.palacios@unesco.org](mailto:b.palacios@unesco.org)

**ANCA WORKING GROUP VIRTUAL MEETING  
PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**10:00 – 10:10:** 1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

**10:10 – 10:30:** 2. Context and current status of the ANCA Group

**10:30 – 11:00:** 3. Interventions from Member States and representatives

**11:00 – 11:25:** 4. Presentation of the proposed 2025–2027 Work Plan

**11:25 – 11:45:** 5. Election of new ANCA Group officers

**11:45 – 12:00:** 6. Next steps and closing

## NOMINATION FORMAT – GOVERNMENT (COUNTRY)

**To:** The Secretariat IOC of UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions-IOCARIBE, Cartagena, Colombia

**Subject:** Nomination of [Name] as Member of the IOCARIBE Group of Experts on Harmful Algal Blooms - HAB / ANCA

Dear Madam,

On behalf of the Government of [Country], I am pleased to nominate **Dr./Ms./Mr. [Full Name]**, [Position, Institution], as an expert member of the IOCARIBE Group of Experts on Harmful Algal Blooms - HAB / ANCA.

Dr./Ms./Mr. [Last Name] is a specialist in [discipline(s)]. He/She has more than [X years] of experience in [relevant fields], and has actively contributed to [mention national, regional, or international projects, publications, committees].

We are confident that his/her expertise and commitment will be of great value to the work of the Group, particularly in [specific contribution area – e.g., data analysis, monitoring networks, stakeholder engagement, training and capacity development].

Please find attached the expert's Curriculum Vitae as requested.

We thank the IOCARIBE Secretariat for considering this nomination and stand ready to provide any additional information if needed.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name of Minister / Chair of National Commission / Permanent Delegate to UNESCO / Other]

[Title]

[Country]

IOC	IOCARIBE
<p><b>Yutaka MICHIDA, Prof.</b> Special Presidential Envoy for UN Ocean Decade The University of Tokyo (Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute) Kashiwanoha 5-1-5, 2778564 Kashiwa JAPAN E-mail: ymichida@aori.u-tokyo.ac.jp</p> <p>Executive Secretary - Secretario Ejecutivo <b>Mr Vidar HELGESEN</b> Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission — UNESCO 7 Place de Fontenoy 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP FRANCE</p>	<p>Chairperson - Presidente (Aruba) <b>Dr. Marck Oduber</b> Science Liaison Aruba National Commission for UNESCO Stadionweg 37 Oranjestad Aruba Tel: (297) 528 3528 E-mail: m.oduber@unesco.aw</p> <p>Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (Trinidad &amp; Tobago) <b>Dr. Rahanna Juman</b> Deputy Director Institute of Marine Affairs Hilltop Lane, Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago Phone number: +1 868-634-4291 E-mail: rahanna.juman@gov.tt</p> <p>Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (Brazil) <b>Dr. Roberto de Pinho</b> Senior Science and Technology Analyst General Coordination of Sciences for the Ocean and Antarctica Department of Thematic Programs Secretariat for Strategic Policies and Programs Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation - Brazil Brasília, DF, Brasil. E-mail: roberto.depinho@mcti.gov.br</p> <p>Vice-Chairperson - Vicepresidente (Venezuela) <b>Dr. Soraya J. Silva</b> Researcher Instituto Venezolano e Investigaciones Cientificas Km 11, Carretera Panamericana, Altos de Pipe, Estado Miranda, Venezuela E-mail: soraya.j.silva@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Dr. Lorna Inniss</b> Head UNESCO–IOC Regional Secretariat for IOCARIBE - Jefe Secretaria Regional UNESCO- COI para IOCARIBE E-mail: L.inniss@unesco.org</p> <p><b>Dr. Marko Tosic</b> Head of the UN Ocean Decade Coordination Office for the Tropical Americas and Caribbean - Jefe de la Oficina de Coordinación del Decenio de los Océanos de las Naciones Unidas para las Américas Tropicales y el Caribe E-mail: m.tosic@unesco.org</p> <p><b>Ms. Bianis Palacios</b> Administrative Assistant – Asistente Administrativa E-mail: b.palacios@unesco.org</p>

## NOMINATION FORMAT – INSTITUTION

**To:** The Secretariat IOC of UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions-IOCARIBE, Cartagena, Colombia

**Subject:** Nomination of [Name] as Member of the IOCARIBE Group of Experts on Harmful Algal Blooms- HAB / ANCA

Dear Ms Inniss,

It is my pleasure to nominate **Dr./Ms./Mr. [Full Name]**, **[Position, Department, Institution]**, as an expert member of the IOC Group of Experts on Harmful Algal Blooms - HAB / ANCA.

[Full Name] has extensive experience in [discipline/field], with a strong record of [research, operational implementation, policy advising—adapt depending on profile]. He/She has been involved in [national/regional/international projects, relevant collaborations, or IOC / IOCARIBE activities] and is committed to contributing his/her expertise to the objectives of the Group.

Attached are the candidate's Curriculum Vitae as requested.

We trust that Dr./Ms./Mr. [Last Name] will be a valuable asset to the Group of Experts and stand ready to provide any further information if required.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name of Director / Head of Department]

[Title]

[Institution]