



2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

The Ocean Decade 65

# Decade Advisory Board

## Meeting No. 02/2025

25-27 March 2025

REPORT



**unesco**

Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission

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# DECADE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING NO. 02/2025

25-27 March 2025 | IMO HQ, London, UK

## MEETING REPORT

### Day 1 – 25 March

#### 1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Members of the Decade Advisory Board (DAB) of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 (Ocean Decade) convened in person for Meeting No. 02/2025 from 25-27 March 2025 at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Headquarters in London, UK. The DAB Co-Chairs Charlotte Hudson and Alexander Turra opened the meeting, thanking all participants for joining.

The Marine and Environment Director of the IMO, Heike Deggim, extended a welcome to all participants, thanks to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, and support for the value of face-to-face convenings. She expressed the IMO's awareness of the Ocean Decade's importance, citing specific activities of IMO's Member States to reduce pollutants and the development of a team focused on ocean policy. IMO's participation in the Decade is grounded in a long history as the secretariat for the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), providing independent advice to UN agencies.

Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary of UNESCO-IOC, thanked IMO as hosts and for setting the example of UN engagement in the Ocean Decade. He highlighted the key issues of the meeting such as the mid-term evaluation of the Decade, opportunities to leverage the Decade at the IOC Assembly and the 2025 UN Ocean Conference (UNOC), and the desired collective impact and legacy building of the Decade.

#### 2. Update on Ocean Decade Implementation & Perspectives

The Decade Coordination Unit (DCU) presented an overview of recent actions, their link to other aspects of the agenda, and a reminder of strategic elements and progress. Key messages included the fact that there is continued interest in Calls for Decade Actions (CFDAs), but low representation in Decade Actions addressing pollution, resilience, and data. Regional and national frameworks for coordination remain very important, with the latest National Decade Committee (NDC) launching in Tanzania. A Head of State and a leader of a large philanthropic organisation will both be joining the Ocean Decade Alliance in due course. The work of the Foundations Dialogue also continues in earnest with the next meeting to be hosted by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in September 2025.

The DCU provided a summary of the submissions received to CFDA No. 08/2024. While the calls for Projects are working very well, no Programmes were submitted which aligned with

the CFDA theme. Going forwards, more emphasis will be placed on asking Programme applicants to demonstrate how they fit with existing Programmes and contribute to priorities identified in the [Barcelona Statement](#) and the [Vision 2030 process](#).

Several initiatives coming out of the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, Spain, were highlighted:

- A seabed mapping action being led by the Ocean Decade Alliance, acting as a mechanism for joint collaboration at the national and international level and advocating for improved data sharing, including between Member States. A call for contributions to the mapping effort will be launched a few weeks before UNOC in June.
- An active youth working group has been established, and very recently the gender working group was launched. Both are establishing action plans to shape their activities for the next couple of years. The latter group builds on the work of the endorsed Programme 'Empowering Women for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development,' led by the World Maritime University.
- Work has been ongoing via a consultancy position to map current Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) in the Ocean Decade with a view to establish a set of recommendations for shaping an 'operational framework' to foster further Indigenous leadership and ILK engagement. As part of this work, a training course is also being developed.
- The Capacity Development Facility activities were impacted by a change in staff, but it is re-launched and delivering training to Decade Actions. A matchmaking tool is under development to link needs with opportunities and a portal is being designed. The soft launch is planned for UNOC. Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) training courses will be a priority future stream of work. The Facility is also working closely on data accessibility.
- The Barcelona City Council has submitted a final bid for a Decade Collaborative Centre focusing on Challenge 4 – Sustainable Ocean Economy, which is underpinned by a strong consortium led by the municipality, with adequate resources in place.
- The Communities of Practice structure is being reviewed to be more inclusive of stakeholders beyond Decade Actions.

A number of additional updates were provided:

- NDCs have been piloting Activity endorsements. Technical support is also being provided to facilitate the creation of National Ocean Science Plans to help streamline science-policy integration.
- The first Ocean Decade International Coastal Cities Conference was held in Qingdao, China, on 26-27 February and resulted in the [Qingdao Declaration](#) which emphasised the need for science infrastructure and knowledge transfer to meet the rapid decision-making needs of coastal cities. The event marked a pivotal step in integrating urban perspectives into ocean science, ensuring practical applications for coastal sustainability.
- The World Ocean Summit was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 12-13 March. The audience was distinct from many Ocean Decade convenings with much more focus on investment infrastructure and representatives from industry, the private sector, investors, and incubators. At the Summit, plans to develop a global, long-term Ocean

Decade Programme on marine pollution to assess and map out all types of pollution were announced.

- The 2027 Ocean Decade Conference is a critical milestone before the conclusion of the Decade. A structured process is being established to help shape the Conference and implement lessons learnt from Barcelona. Bids are being prepared by prospective hosts and the selected host will be announced at the IOC Assembly in June.

The Board welcomed these updates, commented on the changing CFDA landscape, and highlighted the importance of creating strong links between COP30 in Belem, Brazil, in November and the BBNJ process.

### ***2.1. Presentation & Discussion of Ocean Decade Financing Initiative***

Following the recommendations of the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference related to the need to increase sustained investment in ocean science, the Ocean Decade is leading a new initiative to improve the evidence base to support decision making for ocean science investment. The aim of the initiative is to strengthen return on investment (ROI) methodologies for ocean science and support longer term time series to backstop methodological outcomes.

The current ROI evidence for ocean science is patchy, accumulated on an ad hoc basis, but it does show a positive trend. Each case study uses a different methodology and across all evidence there is a bias to the Northern hemisphere. There are also biases to certain types of ocean science (i.e. infrastructure). An Ocean Decade position paper is under development, building on a strong foundation and compiled in dialogue with the OECD and International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). It calls for common frameworks, definitions, and methodologies to show a bigger picture, track trends over time, and compare geographically, ultimately strengthening the status of ocean science in national and international funding decision making.

The next steps for this initiative are to present the position paper to a group of experts during a webinar and continually invite additional contributions from knowledgeable partners. The work will be brought to UNOC and discussed in a side event with a core group to finalise the paper. Once the proof of concept is detailed, a working group would be established to think about the steps to bring this work together, how to anchor it in wider processes, resource mobilisation, and implementation, through the drafting of a roadmap. Key to this will be learning from other sectors who have similarly standardised their approaches to ROI and financial evidence.

The Board thanked the DCU for including this in the agenda. It was established that progress on the paper has been supported by a consultant funded by the Moore Foundation, but additional financing and expertise is needed for the next phase, including identification of experts for webinar. The discussion highlighted the importance of staying on message regarding ROI methods and not diverting into a dialogue about resource needs. The Board reemphasised the lessons which could be gleaned from other industries such as 'green finance,' the importance of diversifying funding options, moving away from government funds, and leaning on the private sector. The Board made a few recommendations regarding the scope of moving this forward, namely to be cautious as the call to move away from government funding could be seen as a political message, to consider geographic context and capacity

when developing a tool, and to consider how this fits into a wider question of how society apportions value.

### **3. Review of Programme Submissions**

The DCU outlined the stages of the Programme review process for the CFDA No. 08/2024 and highlighted the Decade criteria and requirements for an initiative to qualify as a Decade Programme. Four proposals from the Call were identified as potential Programmes and three have provided supplementary information by the deadline. An overview of the external reviewers' evaluations and the supplementary information collected from applicants was presented, including a pitch video provided by each Programme from the Call.

One Programme submission from CFDA No. 05/2023 which had submitted supplementary information and a UN registration have been postponed to intersessional exchanges.

The Board's recommendations in relation to the three Programmes that were presented are as follows:

#### **Submission 2.8: Global Hadal Exploration Programme**

The Board welcomes this proposal's focus on ocean science in an area where there are crucial knowledge gaps. The Board highlighted the strengths of this proposal; including inclusion of marine pollution research, the level of detail provided in specific activities to be conducted, the information provided on the synergies and collaboration with current endorsed Programmes, and possibilities to transfer technological capacity across Programmes and Projects. However, the Board expressed concern that the submission still lacks clarity on pathways to policy for sustainable development, provided inadequate information on data access and sharing, and requested the proponent to address the following questions before it could make a final recommendation:

- What are the direct and indirect pathways that will be used to ensure that the outcomes inform policy and decision making for sustainable development? This should include consideration of potential uses of the knowledge generated by the Programme to inform regulation or policy on exploitation of hadal zones.
- What mechanisms are used to include new partners in the initiative as it is implemented, including additional international partners and UN agencies?
- Where will data be stored, who will have access, and how will transparency and accountability be supported regarding the use of data?
- What activities will support enhanced understanding of socio-economic issues, and what collaborations are planned with non-natural science disciplines?
- Can you provide further evidence of the engagement of partners in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the development and implementation of the proposal?

#### **Submission 3.8: Global Climate Impacts of Methane Seeps**

Expert reviewers praised this proposal's unique niche and global reach, but raised questions about complementarity with other Programmes. The proponents provided very detailed

supplementary information and demonstrated strong collaborative and sharing intent across cruises, governance, and technology.

The Board welcomed this proposal's focus on an understudied area of research and the level of detail provided in the supplementary information. The Board requests that the following further information is provided to allow it to make recommendations on endorsement of this proposal as a Project or a Programme:

- Can you clarify how your work will contribute to implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)?
- How do you envision your proposal contributing in a tangible way to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the London Protocol, particularly considering recent and ongoing discussions on marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR)?
- How does your proposal plan to translate its findings into actionable policy recommendations, and what is the expected pathway to impact to inform decision making for sustainable development? This should include consideration of potential uses of the knowledge generated by the Programme to inform regulation or policy on exploitation of methane seeps.
- Can you elaborate on the extent of the international collaborations, including further evidence of the engagement of partners in SIDS and LDCs in the development and implementation of the proposal?
- What mechanisms do you propose to ensure open data sharing and accountability for data accessibility?

#### **Submission 4.8: Arctic Ocean 2050**

This Programme received mixed expert reviews. It was praised for the science component, but concerns were raised that it was focused on observations and lacked a clear science-policy pathway. Additionally, ILK engagement and international collaboration were lacking.

The Board recommends that Arctic Ocean 2050 be reviewed as a Project submission due to the lack of geographical diversity in the current group of partners and requests additional information on the following issues:

- What pathways will be employed to feed science into policy?
- How could this initiative support wider coordination and collaboration amongst Decade-related initiatives in the Arctic?
- How will this Action coordinate with other funding bodies in the Arctic?
- What mechanisms do you propose to ensure open data sharing and accountability for data accessibility?
- What is the process and proposed timing to build relationships with intended international partners and Indigenous and local knowledge holders?

#### **4. Review and discussion of IPOS DCC submission**

The Board reviewed and discussed the submission of the International Platform on Ocean Sustainability (IPOS) as a potential Decade Collaborative Centre (DCC). Initially launched by

French research institutions in 2022 with high-level political support, including backing from President Macron, the IPOS aims to provide rapid, policy-relevant scientific synthesis to help governments implement global commitments. The initiative has gained international traction, engaging over 13 scientific institutions across multiple continents and attracting interest from countries such as China and Chile. A European Commission-funded feasibility study further validated its potential as a service-oriented science-policy platform.

The Board expressed support for the goals of IPOS to strengthen the science-policy interface and noted the alignment between these goals and the mandate of the IOC and the Ocean Decade. However, it highlighted two major issues that required further exploration before recommending endorsement as a DCC, notably: (i) the need to avoid pre-empting any review of IPOS by Member States as envisaged in the current version of the political declaration of UNOC; and (ii) the need to ensure that the initiative is fully funded up front, including funding necessary for DCU coordination and engagement. The Board strongly encouraged continued dialogue with the DCU and IOC on the abovementioned issues, as well as several technical issues, and expressed its support for further efforts in resource mobilisation.

## **Day 2 – 26 March**

### **5. Discussion of Mid-Term Evaluation Process**

The IOC Executive Secretary, Vidar Helgesen, opened the discussion by emphasising the mid-term evaluation (MTE) as a pivotal moment for the Ocean Decade. He highlighted the need to strengthen collective impact in the latter half of the Decade, aligning efforts with the Barcelona Statement and stakeholder insights. He commended the evaluation team for their thorough approach and extensive stakeholder consultation, noting that the outcomes of these discussions would inform the management response to the IOC Assembly in June and serve as the foundation for the Decade's roadmap toward 2030.

He urged the Board to consider three key aspects: (i) the governance and institutional feasibility of the proposed actions, including the willingness and capacity of UN agencies and Member States to contribute; (ii) the financial feasibility of sustaining and scaling efforts with limited resources while mobilising additional funding; and (iii) how the evaluation itself could serve as a catalyst for new actions and resource mobilisation. He stressed the importance of actionable recommendations that balance ambition with practicality, ensuring the Decade's long-term impact and legacy.

The consultant team who led the evaluation presented the conclusions and recommendations of the Ocean Decade's MTE, detailing the comprehensive methodology employed. The evaluation was conducted by a large, diverse international team using a mixed-methods approach, including a review of over 100 documents, more than 100 structured interviews, an online survey with more than 1,000 responses, social network analysis, media scans, bibliometric assessments, case studies, and 23 focus group discussions. The data, gathered from stakeholders across 118 countries, revealed strong alignment on both the successes and challenges of the Decade, though regional participation was skewed toward Europe and North America.

Key achievements include the strong leadership of the DCU despite resource constraints and improved coordination efforts at the regional and national level, with 80% of survey respondents expressing belief in the Decade's impact. Visibility efforts, including global conferences and digital outreach, were recognised as strengths, while early outcomes such as the integration of marine science into Chile's national curriculum and advancements in data platforms demonstrated progress. The Early Career Ocean Professional Programme was also highlighted as a major success.

Challenges identified included limited DCU resources, fragmented coordination structures, and a lack of engagement opportunities for stakeholders outside Europe and North America. Other concerns included lengthy endorsement processes for Decade Actions, unclear criteria, capacity gaps in LDCs and African states, and an underrepresentation of social sciences.

The high-level recommendations of the evaluation were presented along with a set of suggested actions to contribute to their achievement. The recommendations are as follows:

- Recommendation 1: Streamline and strengthen the governance and coordination framework for the Ocean Decade
- Recommendation 2: Strengthen UN System-wide collaboration and alignment for the Decade's outcomes
- Recommendation 3: Put in place a comprehensive resource mobilization framework to ensure sustainable funding for the coordination of the Decade and its Actions
- Recommendation 4: Strengthen national and regional engagement and enhance inclusivity across the implementation of the Ocean Decade
- Recommendation 5: Enhance the strategic focus and impact of the UN Ocean Decade Actions
- Recommendation 6: Establish a rigorous monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system
- Recommendation 7: Systematically leverage the Decade to shape IOC's post-2030 agenda and amplify the impact of IOC programmes

The DCU provided reflections on the MTE recommendations, emphasising that the evaluation should be viewed holistically as an assessment of the entire Ocean Decade rather than solely focusing on the DCU. The overall evaluation outcomes and high-level recommendations were discussed amongst the members of the DAB, with a focus on Recommendations 1 to 6.

The Board expressed general support for the high-level recommendations, albeit with some proposed reformulations, but noted that the suggested actions identified in the report would necessitate significant additional resources that may not be feasibly mobilised in the current financing landscape. They emphasised the importance of a structured yet ambitious roadmap for the next five years, balancing impact with feasibility. The discussion underscored the need for clear messaging on the value proposition of Decade coordination and the critical role of sustained resourcing in ensuring long-term success. The Board also recommended that efforts be made to recalibrate expectations of the stakeholders with the mission and expected outcomes of the Decade, for example in relation to resource mobilisation for Decade Actions.

The comments of the Board will be considered by the consultants in the finalisation of the evaluation report and by the DCU in the drafting of the Management Response, which will be

presented alongside the final evaluation report and an action plan at the IOC Assembly in June.

### **Day 3 – 27 March**

#### **6. Reflections and discussion on revised Terms of Reference for Decade Advisory Board**

In line with one of the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation, the Board reviewed the group's Terms of Reference (ToRs), originally established in 2021, and identified areas for revision, with the new ToRs to be presented to the IOC Assembly in June 2025 for eventual adoption for the start of the next term. The updated ToRs will reflect an increased strategic role for the Board, with less emphasis on endorsement processes. Proposed changes include restructuring the document, strengthening links between the DAB and other Decade structures, clarifying membership categories (particularly regarding UN representatives), and ensuring more active engagement from Board members. The group also discussed the need for targeted working groups to address strategic priorities and a mechanism for removing inactive members.

To address capacity concerns, rather than direct engagement with all Actions, the Board should focus on fostering synergies and providing strategic guidance. The Board agreed that engagement should not be limited to global-level collaborations. There was general support for maintaining a mix of online and in-person meetings. A longer, well-structured annual in-person meeting to improve strategic discussions while reducing the number of online meetings was proposed. Streamlining the endorsement review process could be facilitated through structured templates and targeted feedback mechanisms.

#### **7. Scoping of Call for Decade Actions No. 09/2025**

The discussion opened with questions on the frequency and focus of future CFDA's. The DCU noted that while the CFDA timeline is set by the Implementation Plan, the current model – where Programmes solicit Projects – works well, but Contribution-based submissions remain underutilised, and Programme submissions do not commonly address priorities identified in the Calls. To strengthen Programme proposals, the DCU suggested requiring proponents to explicitly align with Barcelona Statement priorities and demonstrate synergies with existing Programmes, with Expressions of Interest (EOIs) reviewed by the DAB, as well as more clearly articulate how the science and knowledge that is generated will inform decision making.

The group debated whether the Decade has reached "saturation" in certain thematic areas (e.g. deep-sea research) or if gaps persist. Some argued for targeted Calls to address missing priorities, while others cautioned against limiting participation, emphasising inclusivity and regional needs. Suggestions included leveraging Vision 2030 White Paper authors to identify gaps, pre-announcing future Calls to allow longer planning, and encouraging regional (vs. global) Programmes to better engage SIDS and LDCs. Legacy planning was highlighted, with calls for mechanisms to synthesise Decade outputs and define post-2030 continuity.

Concerns were raised about equity, including barriers for non-English speakers and under-resourced regions. Proposals included updating co-design guidance, using platforms like OceanExpert to connect stakeholders, and clarifying that CFDA's are not funding mechanisms. The DCU acknowledged the need to map gaps with DAB input and revisit legacy criteria, particularly as part of the preparation of the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference.

## **8. Planning for 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference and other upcoming events**

The board discussed preparations for UNOC – structured around ten Ocean Action Panels – recognising it as a key opportunity to advance the Ocean Decade's objectives. The draft political declaration is currently under negotiation with facilitators working toward a finalised consensus text by April. The Decade is contributing to background papers and working to ensure strong representation in science-focused discussions. Voluntary commitments will be subject to more rigorous tracking, with proposals to align them with Decade priorities.

Securing side-event space remains competitive, requiring strategic partnerships and clear value propositions. Special events, including the One Ocean Science Congress, Ocean Rise and Coastal Resilience Summit, and Blue Economy Finance Forum, present further opportunities to highlight Decade contributions. The Decade Alliance will convene high-level stakeholders to announce commitments, leveraging initiatives aboard the Statsraad Lehmkuhl ship. Key themes across engagements include Indigenous knowledge, ocean literacy, and sustainable finance.

Logistical challenges, including accreditation and scheduling, were noted, and members agreed to coordinate participation, foster partnerships, and ensure long-term impact. The Board emphasised the importance of co-designed science in messaging to bridge research and policy gaps. Members were also urged to engage in pre-conference consultations, including the Ocean Dialogues under UNFCCC, to help shape COP30 outcomes. A proposal was discussed for the DAB to draft an open letter or statement ahead of UNOC, reinforcing the Decade's role in addressing global ocean challenges and aligning with the mid-term evaluation.

## **9. Brainstorming on 2027 Ocean Decade Conference including preparatory phase**

The DAB discussed initial planning for the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference, a pivotal milestone to assess progress, refine priorities, and strengthen partnerships within the Decade framework. Building on the success of the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference, the event will aim to showcase achievements, address gaps, foster collaborative pathways to impact, and lay the foundations for the post-Decade legacy. With an estimated 2,000 participants, the conference will feature a balance of formal sessions and a reduced number of strategically curated satellite events to enhance engagement while managing logistical challenges. A preparatory process will take place throughout 2026, utilising regional and international meetings to engage stakeholders, particularly from underrepresented regions. Lessons from the Vision 2030 process underscore the need for increased in-person collaboration, with working sessions integrated into key global events.

The Board discussed the strategic approach to convening Decade Actions to achieve the conference outcomes. The conference will be structured around Decade stakeholders rather than serving as a general ocean science event, by tailoring the event to their needs and carefully explaining the processes. There was strong support for moving beyond showcasing progress to incorporating workshop-style sessions focused on co-design, science-policy integration, and addressing Decade Challenges. Suggestions included leveraging social network analysis to map community interactions and collaborating with ongoing initiatives such as the World Ocean Assessment and State of the Ocean reports.

In a broader strategic context, discussions noted that the UN is currently reviewing the post-2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the future of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14. The 2027 Ocean Decade Conference presents an opportunity to influence discussions leading up to the 2028 UN Ocean Conference, anticipated to be the last UNOC under the current 2030 Agenda framework. Aligning with ongoing stocktaking processes, including those under the UNFCCC and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), will be key to demonstrating the Decade's impact on global ocean governance.

The conference must balance host city priorities with Decade objectives. The bid evaluation process will clarify host contributions while ensuring alignment with the Decade's overarching goals. The Programming Committee, led by the IOC, will oversee session planning.

## **10. Summary of Action Points and AOB**

An update was provided on efforts to enhance Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) and ILK engagement and leadership within the Decade. Initial work has focused on awareness-raising and analysis, with next steps including the development of an 'operational framework' and training resources. An event during UNOC will provide an Indigenous-led dialogue space.

Participants considered how ILK engagement could be better reflected in the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference. They emphasised the need for education on Indigenous data and knowledge systems. The discussion also addressed ocean literacy, noting the importance of an integrated approach across regions and sectors.

## **11. Closing**

The DAB meeting concluded with participants expressing their appreciation for the productive discussions and collaboration. Thanks were extended to the IMO for their hospitality and to all attendees for their active engagement. Special recognition was given to the DCU team for their work in facilitating the session. An invitation was shared for the upcoming WIOMSA regional symposium from 28 September to 3 October 2025, which will bring together endorsed initiatives for further dialogue. The high-level of participation and strategic discussions were highlighted as valuable contributions to the Decade's progress. The meeting closed with appreciation for everyone's commitment to advancing the shared goals.

## **Annex A: Meeting Agenda**

### **Day 1 – 25 March**

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. Update on Ocean Decade Implementation & Perspectives
3. Review of Programme Submissions
  - 2.8 Global Hadal Exploration Programme
  - 3.8 *Global Climate Impacts of Methane Seeps*
  - 4.8 *Arctic Ocean 2050*
4. Review and discussion of IPOS DCC submission

### **Day 2 – 26 March**

5. Discussion of Mid-Term Evaluation Process

### **Day 3 – 27 March**

6. Reflections and discussion on revised Terms of Reference for Decade Advisory Board
7. Scoping of Call for Decade Actions No. 09/2025
8. Planning for 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference and other upcoming events
9. Brainstorming on 2027 Ocean Decade Conference including preparatory phase
10. Summary of Action Points and AOB
11. Closing

## **Annex B: List of Participating Board Members**

### ***Expert Members***

Prof. Donovan Campbell, University of the West Indies (Jamaica)

Awa Bousso Dramé, University College London; CoastGIS Research Institute (Senegal)

Linda Falkner, Natural Sciences Commissioner - New Zealand's National Commission for UNESCO; Chief Scientist Māori Environmental Research, NIWA (New Zealand)

Prof. Gideon Henderson, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra, UK)

Dr. Michelle Heupel, Integrated Marine Observing System (Australia)

\*Charlotte Hudson, Blue Convergence Fund (USA)

Adrian Lema, National Centre for Climate Research, Danish Meteorological Institute (Denmark)

Angelique Pouponneau, AOSIS Climate Change Fellowship Programme (Seychelles)

Dr. Julie Reimer, National Marine Spatial Planning program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Canada)

Prof. Hiroaki Saito, Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute (AORI), The University of Tokyo (Japan)

Marc Simon, SUEZ France; Scientific Council of H/OEHS Exposure Scenario Tool (IHEST) (France)

Dr. Katy Soapi, Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science, Pacific Community (SPC, New Caledonia)

\*Dr. Alexander Turra, Oceanographic Institute, University of São Paulo (Brazil)

Dr. Nina Wambiji, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute; Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) (Kenya)

*\*Chairs of the Decade Advisory Board*

### ***UN Agency Representatives***

Vera Agostini, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Fredrik Haag, International Maritime Organization

Jasdeep Randhawa, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

Proclaimed in 2017 by the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), provides a convening framework to develop the scientific knowledge and partnerships needed to catalyse transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and our ocean. The Ocean Decade is coordinated by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

Established during the Preparatory Phase and to continue throughout implementation until 2030, the IOC's Ocean Decade Series will provide key documentation about this global initiative and aims to serve as a primary resource for stakeholders seeking to consult, monitor and assess progress towards the vision and mission of the Ocean Decade.

