

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC) OF UNESCO

The endorsement by the 72ND session of the UN General Assembly of the **Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)** implies an acknowledgement by the global community of the importance of ocean science, data and information exchange for sustainable development, as well as the cross-cutting role that ocean science can play in helping the ocean support the 2030 agenda.

Having been entrusted with Decade coordination role and the preparation of its Implementation Plan, the IOC of UNESCO intends its strategic approach to be transformative - aspiring for real change, whether that be in the level of knowledge of the ocean, or in the way we manage cooperation and partnerships in support of Sustainable Development and healthy oceans. The real change will be relative to a scientific basis that is currently inadequate to support the 2030 Agenda goals relevant to the ocean. The Decade requires response and delivery from the scientific community as a whole, as well as from the IOC and other UN bodies, working in close contact with governments, industry and civil society towards a common vision: *Ocean science for the future we want.*

Reflecting the cross-cutting nature of ocean science, the Decade's objectives will support nations to achieve SDG14 in particular, but also other SDGs that have an ocean dimension and which would also benefit from improved knowledge of the ocean. As examples, under SDG 6 (Water), the Decade shall promote source-to-sea management approaches aiming at reducing the amounts of pollutants carried by rivers, and groundwater flows to the marine environment. Under SDG 7 (Energy), specific activities focusing on the promotion of marine-based renewable energy can be promoted; hence contributing to national ocean-based climate change mitigation strategies (also links to SDG13). Another SDG under review by HLPF is SDG 11 (Sustainable cities). It calls for resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. Most of the world's megacities are located in coastal zones and many of them in large deltas, where combinations of specific economic, geographic and historical conditions attract people and drive migration. Some of these large urban centres are located in zones exposed to a range of coastal hazards including sea-level rise, storm surges, and tsunamis, hence putting people, infrastructure and socio-economic activities at risk. A core objective of the Decade will be to save lives and reduce risks from extreme events and ocean-related hazards through an accelerated program of research and development supporting integrated multi-hazard early warning systems, accompanied by improved community awareness and preparedness.