



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)**

**Fourteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-  
Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIII)**

Jakarta, Indonesia, 4-7 April 2023

**Item 2.1 of the Provisional Agenda**

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

This Annotated Provisional Agenda provides the information necessary for effective participation in the discussion of the agenda items.

## 1. OPENING

### 1.1 WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS

1. The Fourteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIV) will be held on site at 0900-1740pm (Jakarta Time, UTC+7 hours), on 4-7 April 2021. The Session was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, through its National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN).

2. At the opening ceremony, Chairperson of the host agency; IOC Executive Secretary & Assistant Director General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and the Co-Chairperson of the IOC Sub-Commission will deliver their welcoming and opening remarks.

### 1.2 KEYNOTE

3. H.E. the Deputy Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment, Indonesia will be invited to deliver a keynote.

## 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Working documents: [IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIV/2.1 prov.](#)

[Provisional Agenda](#)

[IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIV/2.1 annotated prov.](#)

[Annotated Provisional Agenda \(this document\)](#)

4. The Chairperson will invite the Head of the WESTPAC Office to introduce this item. The Head of the WESTPAC Office will inform all delegations of several key events and housekeeping matters in order to ensure the efficient conduct of the Session.

5. He will also draw the attention of all delegations to the Provisional Agenda which was prepared based on regional consultations at the WESTPAC Advisory Group meeting (October 2022). The Provisional Agenda was distributed together with the [IOC Circular Letter No. 2918](#) to Member States in November 2022. The Provisional Agenda has been revised based on response from the Member States.

**ACTION 2.1** Member States will be invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as amended at the present session.

### 2.2 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION

Working documents:

[IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIV/2.1 prov. timetable](#)

[Provisional Timetable](#)

[IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIV/2.1 annotated prov.](#)

[Annotated Provisional Agenda \(this document\)](#)

6. The Chair will introduce this item. In addition to briefly reviewing the Provisional Timetable, he will draw the attention of delegations to a statutory committee, i.e., Nomination Committee. **The Sub-Commission will set up the committee accordingly.**

7. The Sub-Commission will be requested to work in plenary as far as possible. Sessional Working Group(s) may be established as required to address specific items arising from session discussions. The Sessional Working Group(s) may draft recommendations for adoption by the Sub-Commission where necessary.

8. The Chair will also draw the attention of delegations to practical arrangements for the session, including the working time and the possibility of shortening, or even cancelling the “coffee break”.

9. The Chair will then invite all delegations to work according to the Revised Provisional Timetable, taking into account: (i) the Sub-Commission’s decision to constitute sessional working groups; (ii) the time likely to be required by those groups to report, if requested to do so, to the plenary; and (iii) the time required for preparation of officers elections and/or recommendations.

**ACTION 2.2** Member States will be invited to constitute the Nomination Committee.

### 3. STATUTORY REPORT

#### 3.1 STATEMENT OF THE CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Working Document: **IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIV/3.1** Statement of the Co-Chairpersons

10. The Co-Chairs will deliver their joint statement on recent development in the work of the Sub-Commission and their perspectives for the future of the Sub-Commission and IOC as well.

#### 3.2 REPORT BY THE HEAD OF THE WESTPAC OFFICE ON INTERSESSIONAL PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING THE OPERATION OF THE WESTPAC OFFICE AND DECADE COORDINATION OFFICE

Working Document **IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIV/3.2** **Report by the Regional Office on Intersessional Activities**

11. The Head of the WESTPAC Office will present his report on intersessional activities since the last Session (WESTPAC- XIII), Virtual, 27-29 April 2021.

**ACTION 3.1** Member States will be invited to review the major accomplishments and challenges, the understaffed and overstretched situation of the WESTPAC Office. Member States will further provide guidance regarding the future of the Sub-Commission, and on how to keep the present momentum, and move beyond towards an impactful UN Decade of Ocean Science in the region.

#### 3.3 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UNESCO, ITS IOC AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO WESTPAC

12. The IOC Executive Secretary will brief the Session on the current development within UNESCO and IOC, and its impact on WESTPAC.

**ACTION 3.2** Member States will be invited to provide directives on IOC, including those on how IOC should benefit from the work of its regional subsidiary bodies, and ensure the benefits generated could be maximized and delivered to Member States in the region.

### 4. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

#### 4.1 THE SUB-COMMISSION’S CONTRIBUTION TO COUNTRIES’ IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 14

13. The Head of the WESTPAC Office will report to the Session about the continued effort of the Sub-Commission in assisting IOC Member States in the region to achieve the ocean SDG 14: Life below water.

**ACTION 4.1** Member States will be invited to share their implementation status on the SDG 14, and deliberate on how the Sub-Commission could further assist them in achieving SDG 14.

#### 4.2 THE SUB-COMMISSION'S ENGAGEMENT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN OCEAN DECADE

##### 4.2.1 UN Ocean Decade global development

14. Julian Barbieri, Head of Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section-Ocean Decade Focal Point, IOC/UNESCO will present the latest global development about the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

##### 4.2.2 WESTPAC led Decade Actions and Decade Coordination Office

- An overview of the WESTPAC efforts

15. The Head of the WESTPAC Office will provide an overview of the engagement and effort of the Sub-Commission since 2019 in the UN Ocean Decade, including the Decade Coordination Office (DCO) for the region which was hosted by the Government of Thailand as an extension of the current WESTPAC Office.

- UN21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas

16. Zhiwei Zhang, MSP Consultant at the WESTPAC Office, will brief the Session on the development of the WESTPAC led Decade Project UN 21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas

- UN22: Stem the tide of Asia's riverine plastic emission into the ocean

17. Daoji Li from the East China Normal University, China will report on the progress made on the WESTPAC led Decade Project UN 22: Stem the tide of Asia's riverine plastic emission into the ocean.

- UN23: Accelerating transformations in capacity development in the Western Pacific - Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science

18. Somkiat Khokiattiwong from the WESTPAC Office will introduce this agenda item by presenting the implementation of the WESTPAC led Decade Project UN 23.

- UN 24: Explore the strongest ocean current in the Western Pacific: the 2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions (CSK-2)

19. Ken Ando from JAMSTEC and Xiaopei from the Ocean University of China, will present the achievement that has been made on the CSK-2 since it was established as the Sub-Commission's programme at the last Session in April 2021.

**ACTION 4.2** Member States may express their interest in joining, or consider providing support to, or make further inquiries about the development and implementation of these Decade Actions over the next intersessional period and even beyond. Member States will be also invited to consider providing human and financial resources to the DCO for the region.

#### 4.3 SECOND UN OCEAN DECADE REGIONAL CONFERENCE & 11<sup>TH</sup> WESTPAC INTERNATIONAL MARINE SCIENCE CONFERENCE (APRIL 2024, BANGKOK)

20. Vararin Vongpanich, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Thailand will be invited to brief on the preparation for the second UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference which will be held in conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference in late April 2024, Bangkok, Thailand.

**ACTION 4.3** Member States will be invited to provide their comments and suggestions on the organization of the two events.

#### 4.4 SENIOR GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS ROUNDTABLE ON THE UN OCEAN DECADE

21. As the Ocean Decade enters its third year, thus there is a need to review its progress, identify challenges and seek new opportunities, develop meaningful partnerships and cooperation needed for further catalyzing ocean science solutions to ocean sustainability and sustainable economy.

22. During the Session, a Senior Governmental Officials Roundtable (SGOs Roundtable) was organized on the morning of 5 April 2023. The SGOs Roundtable, chaired by the host country, will bring together senior officials from national competent agencies in the region, as a follow up to the high-level commitments at the UN Ocean Decade Regional Kickoff Conference for the Western Pacific (25–26 November 2021).

23. The roundtable will share progress and exchange views on the development and implementation of the Ocean Decade, and seek new opportunities for advancing ocean science development and cooperation among member states in the region.

24. The Roundtable discussion will also provide guidance and input to the Sub-Commission in mobilizing actions that will contribute to the Ocean Decade, and ultimately the sustainable development of ocean, marine and coastal resources in the region.

#### 5. REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS FOR MAY 2021- APRIL 2023

25. Due to time constraints, reporting will be consolidated and structured about the thematic areas of actions as specified below. Detailed unedited report by each WESTPAC programme, project and WG was uploaded to the event webpage at <https://ioc-westpac.org/event/westpac-xiv/>

##### 5.1 OCEAN-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

26. Ken Ando, Co-Chair of the Sub-Commission, will be invited to deliver a consolidated report about the Sub-Commission's effort in building ocean-based solutions to climate change, building on several ongoing programmes ranging from ocean research, observations, modeling and analysis.

##### 5.2 MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, OCEAN ECOSYSTEM AND HUMAN HEALTH, AND BLUE ECONOMY

27. Aileen Tan Shau Hwai, Vice-Chair of the Sub-Commission, will be invited to report on the Sub-Commission's effort in conserving marine biodiversity conservation, and safeguarding ocean ecosystem and human health.

##### 5.3 KNOWLEDGE FOR EMERGING ISSUES/DEMANDS OF MEMBER STATES

28. Wenxi Zhu, Head of the WESTPAC Office, will brief on the progress made since the last session in April 2021, on the Working Groups established to address the emerging issues that Member States are concerned about or have a strong interest to jointly develop ocean knowledge.

#### 5.4 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

29. Somkiat Khokiattiwong, Consultant at the WESTPAC Office, will brief on the efforts of the Sub-Commission has been intensifying in building research capacity and transferring marine technology in the regional and beyond.

**ACTION 5:** Member States will be invited to provide their comments and suggestions on what the Sub-Commission could further develop to assist Member States in adapting to climate change and mitigating its impacts, conserving marine biodiversity and ecosystems, and enhancing their research capacity for addressing SDG 14 towards the achievement of sustainable development.

### 6. RECOMMENDATION OF THE WESTPAC ADVISORY GROUP

30. Aileen Tan Shau Hwai, in her capacity as the Chair of the WESTPAC Advisory Group, will present a list of recommendations to the Sub-Commission and its Member States, on what and how the Sub-Commission shall further develop to enhance programme delivery and impacts.

**ACTION 6:** Member States will be invited to provide advice and directives on how to further improve the programme delivery, efficiency and effectiveness. Member States will be also invited to consider potential new activities that could be pursued in the next intersessional period and help identify necessary resources and opportunities.

### 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROGRAMME/PROJECT/WORKING GROUP

31. The Head of the WESTPAC Office will brief on international collaborative process that the Sub-Commission has been taking in developing its programmes/projects/working groups addressing common priority issues of its Member States. Upon the Sub-Commission's open call, following proposals have been developed, and reviewed by the WESTPAC Advisory Group on 3, 6 March and 3 April 2023.

32. Through intensive and extensive consultations, the Advisory Group would like to propose the following WESTPAC new programmes/Working Groups be established at the Session. The Sub-Commission is grateful for the leaderships of the Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) in the region in developing cooperation and advancing "Ocean science for the ocean we want."

7.1 WORKING GROUP ON BLUE CARBON

7.2 WORKING GROUP ON SMALL ISLANDS STUDY AND DEVELOPMENT

7.3 WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN LITERACY IN COMMUNITIES

7.4 WORKING GROUP ON CITIZEN SCIENCE

**ACTION 7:** Member States will be invited to consider the development of these new working groups in terms of their justifications, objectives, workplan, and the engagement and potential contribution of institutions and Member States to their implementation. The Sub-Commission will adopt, or consider making further recommendations on these new initiatives of the Sub-Commission.

### 8. EVALUATION OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY ON A NEW PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRE ON MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING (CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG)

33. Kenneth M. Y. Leung, Director of the State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (SKLMP), City University of Hong Kong, will be invited to give a brief introduction to the proposal for a Regional Training and Research Center on Marine Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. The proposal was reviewed by the WESTPAC Advisory Group in October 2022, and subsequently a fact-finding mission was conducted by Gil Sacinto, Professor of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) in March 2023. During the meeting, Gil will present findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

**ACTION 8:** Member States will be invited to consider the development of the Regional Training and Research Center in the City University of Hong Kong, in terms of their justifications, objectives, workplan, and the engagement and potential contribution of institutions and Member States to their implementation. The Sub-Commission will be invited to endorse the RTRC proposal and send their ECOPs to actively participate in its regular training and research activities.

## **9. FURTHER ENGAGEMENT IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)**

34. In addition to several previous agenda items related to the development and implantation of the UN Ocean Decade, a Senior Governmental Officials (SGOs) Roundtable, Chaired by the host country, will be held on the morning of 5 April and a side event on National Decade Committees (NDCs) Forum, co-chaired by the Japan and Korea's NDCs, will take place on the late afternoon of 5 April.

35. The Chair will invite all Member States and observers to share their concrete suggestions and perspectives how to further promote the UN Ocean Decade in the region.

## **10. WESTPAC WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR MAY 2023- APRIL 2025**

*Working Document:*

IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIV/10

WESTPAC WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR  
MAY 2023-APRIL 2025

36. The Head of the WESTPAC Office will brief on the draft workplan and budget for the next intersessional period. The Sub-Commission has been taking “co-design, co-development and co-implementation” approach to its programme development, with most of its activities conducted via the extrabudgetary support of its Member States in the region, either in kind or in cash. In this regard, the WESTPAC Programme and Budget mainly serves as guidance or collaborative framework for activities that the Sub-Commission would like to jointly promote and seek funding from various sources in support of its implementation.

37. He further informed that the current draft Programme and Budget (May 2023–April 2025) will be further revised after the session, based on the latest inputs and discussions pertaining to the respective agenda items at the present session.

38. He informed Member States that in accordance with the latest development of the IOC regular budget for 2024–2025, approximately US\$ 100 K would be available for WESTPAC activities for 2024–2025. It is obvious that, despite the UN Decade of Ocean Science, IOC and its WESTPAC won't receive an increased regular budget from UNESCO, and most of the WESTPAC activities for the next intersessional period will have to be continuously supported from extrabudgetary resources

**Action 10:** Based on the discussion on all agenda items, the Sub-Commission will be invited to: (i) specify and agree upon the workplan for the period of May 2023-April 2025, with an indication of the financial application and the sources of funds; and (ii) help in identifying extra-budgetary resources for ensuring the implementation of the programme activities of the Sub-Commission.

## **11. ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION**

Information Document:

- Election Procedures
- Nomination Forms

39. The Nomination Committee will report to the plenary on the discussion results based on nominations for Chairperson and vice-Chairperson and the work that the Sub-Commission will carry out over the next intersessional term.

**Action 8:** The Sub-Commission will be invited to elect its Chairperson and vice-Chairpersons along these guidelines and the recommendations of the Nomination Committee.

## 12. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

**Action 9:** The Sub-Commission will be invited to consider the date and place of its Fifteenth Session which was supposed to take place in early 2025.

## 13. OTHER MATTERS

40. The Chair may invite the host country-Indonesia to report back the discussion results from the Senior Governmental Officials Roundtable, and the Japan's and Korea's National Decade Committees to brief on the National Decade Committees Forum.

## 14. ADOPTION OF ACTION POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

41. Given the time constraints of this session, the Sub-Commission will be requested to adopt the draft action points. The full summary report will be sent after the Session to all delegation for their revisions, comments and approval by correspondence accordingly.

42. The Sub-Commission will also be invited to authorize the Chairperson and the Head of the WESTPAC Office to submit the Executive Summary Report to the Thirty-third Session of the IOC Assembly (Paris, France, June 2023).

## 15. CLOSURE

43. The representative of the host country will be invited to deliver his/her remarks. The Chairperson of the Sub-Commission will close the Session not later than 1700 hours (Bangkok Time), on 6 April 2023.