



**Senior Governmental Officials' Statement on the  
UN Decade of Ocean Science for the Sustainable Development (2021-2030)**  
(SGO Jakarta Statement)

*Jakarta, 5 April 2023*

We, representatives of the IOC Member States in the Western Pacific participating in the Senior Governmental Officials Roundtable, on the occasion of the [14<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific](#) in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 5 April 2023, appreciate the efforts being made by Member States and partners in the region to promote the [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-2030\)](#) for our shared ocean. We also recognize that national governments must continue to support the development of transformative ocean science solutions and enhance mutual assistance and cooperation.

**Recognizing** the ecological, social and economic importance of the ocean, seas and coastal areas of the Indo-Pacific region, which constitutes a major influence on regional and global climate, the epicentre of the world marine biodiversity, a significant contributor to the world's seafood supply, and major shipping routes in the world maritime transportation;

**Recognizing further** that the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas are home to nearly half of the world's population, and that the ocean, seas, and coastal regions play a crucial role in their way of life as well as the sustainable economic growth of all the nations in the region;

**Being concerned about** the unprecedented pressures and threats that escalating human activities and climate change have brought about to the ocean health and human well-being in the region, including resource depletion, marine pollution including plastic pollution, coastal habitat degradation, typhoons, marine heatwaves and other extreme weather and ocean events, ocean acidification and deoxygenation;

**Recalling** that [the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet; in which the [SDG 14: Life Below Water](#) calls for actions to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

**Recalling further** that the United Nations has proclaimed [a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-2030\)](#) to support efforts to reverse the decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the ocean;

**Emphasizing** the pivotal role of [the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific \(WESTPAC\)](#) in advancing marine science development and cooperation, supporting the Ocean Decade, catalysing partnerships, and developing ocean science solutions for ocean sustainability;



**Affirming** the [high-level commitments](#) made at [the UN Ocean Decade Regional Kick-off Conference for the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas](#), 25-26 November 2021, which marked the beginning of the region-wide efforts in the development and implementation of substantive Decade Actions;

**Having reviewed** the progress made in the region since the launch of the Ocean Decade,

**Together we support the Ocean Decade by:**

**Strengthening** coordination at national and institutional levels, as well as through collaborative actions among the IOC Member States and partners in the region to promote the Ocean Decade and accelerate the development and implementation of the Decade Actions;

**Advancing** trans- and multi-disciplinary ocean research, sustained observations and services, technology and innovations to underpin the sustainable ocean economy, conserve marine biodiversity and safeguard ocean ecosystems, and enhance resilience to climate change and disasters;

**Promoting** the participation and engagement of stakeholders in the Ocean Decade and the development and implementation of Decade Actions to close knowledge gaps and increase the uptake of ocean-related scientific knowledge;

**Improving** research capacity, focusing on Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) and including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), through various means such as postgraduate educational programmes, visiting professor programmes, joint research programmes, and regular training and research opportunities provided by [the IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centres](#) (RTRCs);

**Promoting** ocean education, ocean culture, and ocean literacy to increase public awareness and engagement, with the aim of creating an ocean-literate society;

**Fostering** ocean science-policy interface in the region, including the Senior Government Officials Roundtable as part of the future WESTPAC biennial Intergovernmental Sessions and the triennial WESTPAC International Marine Science Conferences, to review the progress, exchange perspectives, and discuss challenges and opportunities for the development and implementation of substantive Ocean Decade Actions in the region.

**We express our sincere appreciation** to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for hosting and chairing the first-ever Senior Governmental Officials Roundtable in Jakarta on 5 April 2023.