



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)**

**Sixteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission
for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XVI)**

Hangzhou, China, 10-12 November 2026

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. OPENING

- 1.1 WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS
- 1.2 KEYNOTE

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

- 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- 2.2 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION

3. STATUTORY REPORT

- 3.1 STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON, INCLUDING KEY GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS
- 3.2 REPORT BY THE HEAD OF WESTPAC OFFICE ON INTERSESSIONAL PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND THE OPERATION OF THE WESTPAC OFFICE (ALSO THE DECADE COORDINATION OFFICE)
- 3.3 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UNESCO, IOC, AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO WESTPAC
 - 3.3.1 **IOC Executive Secretary's report, including IOC Governance and Management Processes**
 - 3.3.2 **IOC and the Future of Ocean, including the Phase II report and proposal for Phase III, and Vision for strengthening IOCAFRICA and other IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies**
 - 3.3.3 **IOC Draft Programme and Budget 2028-2029 (44 C/5)-Preliminary Proposal from the IOC Secretariat**

4. STRATEGIC AND PROGRAMMATIC DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 ROLE OF IOC IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BBNJ AGREEMENT
- 4.2 IOC IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT (SOPM)
- 4.3 UN OCEAN DECADE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT
- 4.4 THE SUB-COMMISSION'S ENGAGEMENT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN OCEAN DECADE

- 4.4.1 **An Overview of the WESTPAC efforts, including its hosted Decade Coordination Office**
- 4.4.2 **UN 21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas, including the MSP Regional Action Framework (2025-2030)**
- 4.4.3 **UN 22: Stem the Tide of Asia's Riverine Plastic Emission into the Ocean**
- 4.4.4 **UN 23: Accelerating Transformations in Capacity Development in the Western Pacific - Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science**
- 4.4.5 **UN 24: Explore the Strongest Ocean Current in the Western Pacific: the 2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions (CSK-2)**
- 4.4.6 **UN 39: Ocean Solutions in the East Asian Seas**
- 4.4.7 **UN 42: The WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference & UN Ocean Decade Regional Conferences (2021-2030)**
- 4.4.8 **UN 46: Collaborations for NWP Marine Ecosystem Prediction (COSMEC)- to be presented under 5.7**

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE LAST SESSION (WESTPAC-XV, 11-13 MARCH 2025, TOKYO, JAPAN)

- 5.1 Preparations of the 3rd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference & 12th WESTPAC IMSC (20-23 April 2027, the Philippines)
- 5.2 Task Force on BBNJ (2025-2027)
- 5.3 Task Force on Ocean Literacy (2025-2027)
- 5.4 Working Group on Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration with an initial focus on Mangroves (2025-2028)
- 5.5 Working Group on Seagrass Research, Monitoring, and Conservation (2025-2028)
- 5.6 Methane Fluxes and their Impacts on Climate and Ecosystem in the Indo-Pacific Region (2025-2029)
- 5.7 Prediction of Marine Ecosystem Changes in the Northwest Pacific Ocean (2025-2030) (transformed as UN 46)

6. REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS ALIGNED WITH THE IOC HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES.

Note: Due to the time constraints, reporting will be consolidated and conducted according to priority programme areas, with a focus on strategic importance, tangible outputs, and impacts. Each programme, project and working groups will prepare the progress report in PPT form, which will be uploaded to the event webpage. Posters of programmes, projects, and working groups are encouraged to be displayed at the meeting venue.

IOC High Level Objectives (HLOs)	Regional Priority Programme Areas (RPAs)	
HLO 1. Healthy Ocean and sustained ocean ecosystem services	RPA 2. Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Ocean Ecosystems and Human Health, and Blue Economy	Cross-cutting: Ocean Literacy and Capacity Development
HLO 2. Effective warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards	RPA 3. Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness	
HLO 3. Resilience to climate change and contribution to its mitigation	RPA 1. Ocean-Based Solutions to Climate Change (Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience)	
HLO 4. Scientifically founded services for the sustainable ocean economy-	Included in the RPA 2.	
HLO 5. Foresight on emerging ocean science issues.	RPA 4. Knowledge for Emerging Issues	

- 7. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT REGIONAL BLUEPRINT**
- 8. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROGRAMME/PROJECT/WORKING GROUP, IF ANY**
- 9. WESTPAC PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 2028-2029**
- 10. KEY CONCLUSIONS TO INFORM PHASE 3 CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR 'IOC AND FUTURE OF THE OCEAN' – A workshop was scheduled for 0900-1230, 11 November.**
- 11. ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION**
- 12. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**
- 13. OTHER MATTERS**
- 14. ADOPTION OF ACTION POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 15. CLOSURE**

