

**Statement of the
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
at the 50th session of the
Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice
to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
(Bonn, Germany, 17 June 2019)**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, now comprised of 150 Member States, is the only body of the United Nations system entirely devoted to ocean science and the promotion of scientific cooperation on ocean-related matters. IOC is a science-driven, knowledge and application orientated organization. Its programmes and activities span from ocean science and observations to early warning systems for ocean hazards, ocean data and information systems, and marine spatial planning, all contributing to ocean sustainability. In the area of ocean observations, the IOC coordinates the Global Ocean Observing System, which contributes to identifying requirements for sustained observations, promotes them, and acts as the ocean component of the climate system. GOOS will continue to support several networks of ocean observations, previously coordinated by the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology, JCOMM, which will cease to exist in April 2020. But its activities and their coordination will continue by IOC and WMO, including via their Joint Collaborative Board.

IOC has a history of collaborating with the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Commission engages with the SBSTA on research-related issues at the first working session of the year of the Subsidiary Body, and on issues related to observations at its second working session of the year. This relates to Article 5 (a) and (b) of the Convention: ‘Research and Systematic Observation’; the complementarity of IOC’s work vis-à-vis the UNFCCC is to be seen also in relation to the provisions on science capacity under Article 5 (c).

The IOC is honored to have the opportunity to address the 50th session of the SBSTA. My name is Salvatore Aricò; I am the Head of the Ocean Science Section of the IOC and carry the best wishes of Dr Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive secretary of the IOC and those of Dr Peter Haugan, Chairperson of the Commission.

At this session of the SBSTA, IOC brings its contribution to the forthcoming 11th Research Dialogue in the form of scientific evidence on multiple ocean stressors and ecosystem-based management; and blue carbon ecosystems. These issues will be discussed in the content of one of the four main themes of the Research Dialogue: “The role of the oceans in the climate system”. IOC has been invited to facilitate a breakout group on this theme, and we look forward to engaging with participants in the Dialogue in discussing how the needs of Parties can be match-made with relevant scientific knowledge in this area.

The work of IOC in the area of climate change encompasses the co-sponsoring of the World Climate Research Programme or WCRP, together with the World Meteorological

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Organization and the International Science Council; WCRP is responsible inter alia for the work underpinning the IPCC Assessment Reports scenarios.

IOC coordinates the design and operations of early warning systems; the Commission also carries out expert work on cumulative effects of multiple ocean stressors, including ocean acidification, deoxygenation, and warming. These endeavors are relevant to the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation.

The Commission also coordinates a working group on integrated ocean carbon research, to which the Global Carbon Project, IMBeR, SOLAS, IOCCP and CLIVAR all contribute [sorry for several acronyms – these are all leading international research projects in oceanography]. In October this year in Paris, IOC will host a major expert workshop on the next generation of integrated ocean carbon research; we look forward to bringing onboard questions from the UNFCCC constituency that will be formulated through the Research Dialogue.

I already mentioned systematic observation of the climate system. Additionally, IOC is responsible for the systematic assessment of ocean science capacities in relation to SDG indicator 14.a.1, the operationalization of provisions related to the transfer of marine technology under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the setting up a clearing-house mechanism to promote scientific and technical cooperation in the area of ocean science and technology. These efforts are directly relevant to SBSTA's role in promoting the development and transfer of environmentally-sound technologies in support of the UNFCCC programme of work.

As the Chair of SBSTA states in his Reflections note, *"(...) work on climate change under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement cannot be seen in isolation from wider multilateral action on sustainable development."* IOC profoundly shares this approach.

It is in this spirit that the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030 is unfolding, that is, to provide a platform for synergistic action based on science and knowledge in order to ensure a clean, healthy and resilient, safe and predicted, sustainably harvested and productive, and transparent, in terms of data access and openness, ocean by 2030. These are the societal goals embraced by the Decade, which we are sure the SBSTA will also embrace.

At IOC's end, the excellent cooperation between IOC and the UNFCCC and its SBSTA will be discussed at the forthcoming 30th session of the IOC Assembly, which will commence next week.

I wish you a very productive meeting and thank you for your attention.

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