

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the IOC Executive Secretary, Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin, I would like to update you on the preparation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

At the 51st session of the IOC Executive Council (3-6 July 2018, Paris), IOC Member States and partners expressed high support for the UN Decade.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those partners that took part in the IOC Executive Council and delivered a statement in support of the Decade.

The Council agreed to establish an Executive Planning Group (EPG) as one of the core mechanism for drafting the Decade Implementation Plan and to deliver the activities foreseen in the preparatory phase (2018-2020). As defined in its terms of reference, the EPG will be an **expert group composed of 16 to 20 members, serving in their personal capacity**.

To attract as many high-level experts as possible, I would like to invite you to disseminate this call for nomination as widely as possible. Experts will be selected through a comprehensive and **transparent selection process** led by **the IOC elected Officers (representing the 5 IOC regional geographical groups) who will identify the best candidates with due consideration to gender, age, regional balance, and expertise/experience**.

Nominations should be sent to the IOC Secretariat (ocean.decade@unesco.org) by the deadline of 5 September 2018 (Midnight ECT). The nomination form contains the contact details and relevant information for the submission.

This Call for nomination and the related nomination form as well as details of the selection process will also be posted on the UN Decade website (<https://en.unesco.org/ocean-decade>).

The Secretariat will accept:

- (i) Self-nominations from individual experts;
- (ii) Expert nominations submitted by national coordination mechanisms of IOC/UNESCO/other UN bodies;
- (iii) Expert nominations from relevant UN bodies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other institutional stakeholders.

I would like to recall that institutional partners will be able to engage in the design of the Decade through **regional and global workshops scheduled in 2019 and 2020** but also through the **Stakeholder Forum**. In that sense, I would like to remind you of the **deadline of 1 September** to officially express your interest in supporting these planning and consultative meetings.

Finally, we will continue to **update you regularly** on developments/activities related to the Decade. *(In case you do not wish to receive these emails, please let the IOC Secretariat know (ocean.decade@unesco.org)).*

Please find below a few useful links:

- New Decade Brochure : <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002651/265198e.pdf>
- Revised Roadmap of the Decade (in 4 languages):
http://ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=21944
- High-Level Scientific Conference **From COP21 towards the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**, UNESCO, 10-11 September 2018:
<https://en.unesco.org/ocean-climate-conference>

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague Julie RIGAUD (j.rigaud@unesco.org) for any questions you may have,

Best regards,

~~~~~

Julian BARBIÈRE  
Head, Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section &  
UN Decade Focal Point  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)  
of UNESCO  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
75732 Paris 07 SP France  
Tel: +33(0)145681689  
Fax: +33(0)145685813