



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE  
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL  
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

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**IOC Circular Letter No 2871**

(Also available in French, Russian and Spanish)

IOC/VR/JB/AC/ic

10 December 2021

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC (IOC Member States)

cc. : Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO and  
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States  
Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC  
Officers of Major Subsidiary Bodies of IOC

**Subject: United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) – Appointment of Expert Members of the Decade Advisory Board**

At the 31st session of the IOC Assembly (UNESCO, 14–15 June 2021), IOC Member States, UN agencies and partners expressed strong support for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and to the IOC in its role as coordinator of the implementation phase of the Decade. The Assembly inter alia approved the Terms of Reference for the Decade Advisory Board on the basis of Document [IOC-31/3.7.Doc\(1\)](#), including the selection process of its members.

The Decade Advisory Board will be a multi-stakeholder advisory body that will assist the IOC Secretariat in performing its function as coordinator of the Decade. The Board will report both to the IOC Governing Bodies and the IOC Executive Secretary. The Board's advice to the IOC Governing Bodies will concern strategic elements of the Decade implementation, such as reviews of the Decade progress in moving towards the Decade societal outcomes and on the research work in the domains of Decade challenges, identifying gaps and opportunities, advising on data stewardship strategies, the development of resource mobilisation strategies, and supporting the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework of the Decade. The Board will also provide advice and operational support to the IOC Executive Secretary to facilitate the endorsement process of Decade Actions, specifically at the programme level.

As per the Terms of Reference, the Decade Advisory Board will comprise up to 15 expert members drawn from government, private sector, philanthropy, civil society, and the scientific community and serving in their individual capacity. In addition to the 15 expert members, UN Legal Counsel/DOALOS, which is the Secretariat and focal point of UN-Oceans and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, will have one permanent seat on the Decade Advisory Board. The IOC Secretariat as coordinator of the Decade will also have a permanent seat on the Board. Three more seats will be reserved for UN Agencies and will be identified through consultations via UN-Oceans.

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Between 05 July and 22 September 2021 a call for nominations was opened for the 15 expert members of the Board via the following channels:

- IOC Member States via IOC Circular Letter, [2848](#);
- Relevant UN bodies via UN-Oceans;
- Scientific networks using formal and informal communication mechanisms;
- Dedicated ocean policy, business, and sustainable development networks through announcements; and
- The Ocean Decade and IOC website.

Via this process 243 nominations were put forward either by Member States of IOC-UNESCO, United Nations, United Nations entities, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, as well as self-nominations.

A Selection Panel was convened by the IOC Executive Secretary and composed of the IOC Chair and IOC Officers representing the five IOC electoral groups. With the technical support of the Decade Coordination Unit, this Panel was tasked with the selection of the expert members of the Decade Advisory Board.

In its evaluation the Panel undertook to ensure that the expert members have sufficient skills, knowledge, influence and impartiality regarding the vision and objectives of the Decade and are able to undertake the work outlined in the terms of reference. Diversity across sectors was a key consideration including a mix of members from the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropy and government. Expert members were also selected with due consideration to expertise, geographic, generational, and gender balance.

The list of selected expert members is attached as Appendix 1 to this Circular Letter and I would like to kindly ask you to join me in warmly congratulating the newly appointed Board members and wishing them well in their future role on the Decade Advisory Board.

Additional information can be obtained from the IOC Secretariat [j.barbiere@unesco.org](mailto:j.barbiere@unesco.org) or [a.clausen@unesco.org](mailto:a.clausen@unesco.org).

Yours sincerely,

*[signed]*

Vladimir Ryabinin  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Appointed Members of Decade Advisory Board

Appointed Members of Decade Advisory Board

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Regional Group</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Role and Institutional Affiliation</b>
Bente	Pretlove	I	Norway	F	Programme Director; Ocean Space, DNV
Tamatoa	Bambridge	I	France	M	Directeur de recherche, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) - The French National Centre for Scientific Research
Vidar	Helgesen	I	Norway / Sweden	M	Executive Director, The Nobel Foundation
Charlotte	Hudson	I	USA	F	Project Director, Lenfest Ocean Program, The Pew Charitable Trusts
Gideon	Henderson	I	UK	M	Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Margaret	Leinen	I	USA	F	Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Vice Chancellor for Marine Sciences, University of California-San Diego
Alexander	Turra	III	Brazil	M	Professor of Oceanography, University of São Paulo, Brazil
Frida	Armas Pfirter	III	Argentina	F	Professor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina
Silvia	Chacón	III	Costa Rica	F	Researcher, National University of Costa Rica
Katy	Soapi	IV	Solomon Islands	F	Director, Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science, Pacific Community (SPC)
Fangli	Qiao	IV	China	M	Professor, First Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Regional Group</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Role and Institutional Affiliation</b>
Noraieni	Haji Mokhtar	IV	Malaysia	F	Prof Dato' Dr, FASc, Distinguished Fellow, University Malaysia Terengganu
James Gitundu	Kairo	V	Kenya	M	Marine Ecologist, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
Angelique	Pouponneau	V	Seychelles	F	CEO, Seychelles' Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust
Kouadio	Affian	V	Côte d'Ivoire	M	Professor, University Felix HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY