

UNESCO – Agenda Item 3

UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) firmly believe Science, technology and innovation are key elements or driven forces of the sustainable development architecture.

Thus, the upcoming UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development beginning from 2021, provides a grand opportunity to accelerate the development of ocean science solutions to **the ocean we want, that is, a clean, healthy, resilient, productive, predicted, safe, accessible, and inspiring and engaging ocean.**

While expressing our sincere appreciation to ESCAP for its great efforts in bringing the attention of all member states to the importance of ocean, UNESCO and its IOC welcome ESCAP's active response to the Call for Decade Actions, and would like to further encourage ESCAP to continue and synergize its efforts with other relevant UN Bodies/programmes and stakeholders, in assisting our countries to accelerate their actions for the sustainable development of our ocean.

UNESCO and its IOC would also take this opportunity to call upon all Member States in the region to accord due priority to ocean science, technology, innovations in national development agenda, to improve science-policy interface, and, in particular, to actively engage in the UN Decade by proposing solution-oriented decade actions, enhancing investment on ocean science development and cooperation, and benefiting, as well, from the Decade through increased interaction with relevant ocean stakeholders in the co-designed, solution-oriented ocean science, services and technology relevant to policy, management and decision-making.