

Our Ocean Conference –Side Event
Oslo, 24 October 2019 (16:30-18:00)
Clarion Hotel The Hub – Room Central Park B

**Forging Transformative Partnerships towards the
United Nations Decade of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)**

Organized by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO**
In cooperation with the UN Global Compact

The United Nations has proclaimed a **Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)** to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the ocean. Scientific understanding of the ocean's responses to pressures and management action is fundamental for sustainable development and for informing ocean governance processes. Ocean observations and research are also essential to predict the consequences of change, design mitigation and guide adaptation. Through a unified framework, the Decade will bolster scientific research and innovative technologies to ensure science responds to the needs of society for:

- A clean ocean where sources of pollution are identified and removed
- A healthy and resilient ocean where marine ecosystems are mapped and protected
- A predictable ocean where society has the capacity to understand current and future ocean conditions
- A safe ocean where people are protected from ocean hazards
- A sustainably harvested ocean ensuring the provision of food supply
- A transparent ocean with open access to data, information and technologies

The Decade is a once in a life-time opportunity to **deliver a step-change in ocean science** and to influence how countries **invest, utilize, and participate** in science and innovation to embrace societal goals and **align research investment** to contribute to common goals.

To meet its ambition, the Decade requires a multi-stakeholder engagement approach, including scientists, governments, academics, policy makers, business, industry and civil society, from the preparatory phase to the end of the implementation phase to create new ideas, solutions, partnerships and applications.

As mandated by the UN General Assembly, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO coordinates the Decade's preparatory process, inviting the global ocean community to get involved in planning for the next ten years of ocean science and technology to deliver, together, **the ocean we need for the future we want! IOC in cooperation with its UN partners and relevant stakeholders has initiated an intensive global and regional consultation process in order to design a transformative programme of work, starting in 2021. Through this exhaustive process, the Ocean community is now working to define the science we need to achieve ocean sustainability for the next 10 years. Within each ocean basins, in a multi-stakeholder context, scientists, policy makers, civil society are working together towards the development of co-designed and transformative projects in response to the Decade societal outcomes.**

Purpose of the event:

This proposed side event objectives are to:

- Provide an overview of the objectives and expected outcomes of the Decade, discuss what kind of science breakthroughs in multi-disciplinary research, ocean observation, data and technology development, underpinned by capacity development programmes, may be achieved through international cooperation;
- Present the preparatory process, and discuss how the Decade can provide a platform for creating innovative partnerships amongst broad range of stakeholder communities, and particularly the private sector and youth;
- Open a dialogue on a proposed Decade Alliance and underlying principles that would aim at bringing together stakeholders and partnerships in a coherent and cohesive way as well as encourage the formulation of commitments from various stakeholders to achieve the programmatic objectives of the Decade, in the framework of the Our Ocean Conference process, as well as the 2nd UN Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon, June 2020.

This side event is open all participants of the Our Ocean conference within the limit of the room,.

Programme

The session will be moderated by Mr. Craig McLean, Assistant Administrator Oceanic and Atmospheric Research - NOAA and representative of the Executive Planning Group for the Decade.

- **Welcoming Remarks**

Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary IOC, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO

- **Panel Presentations**

Peter Haugan, Programme Director, Institute of Marine Research, Norway and Co-chair of the Expert Group High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy

Daniela Fernandez, CEO and Founder of Sustainable Ocean Alliance

Sturla Henriksen, Special Advisor Ocean, UN Global Compact

Kristin H. Holth Head, Global Head of Ocean Industries, DNB Norway

- **Questions and Answers**
- **Concluding remarks**

Contacts

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