

At its seventy-second session, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed (Part XI of the Omnibus Resolution for Oceans and the law of the sea) the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and mandated the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) to prepare an Implementation Plan in consultation with Member States, UN partners and other relevant stakeholders.

The IOC drafted a Roadmap that provides an initial guide for the steps and processes needed to develop this Implementation Plan. It also contains a strategy, governance arrangements for the preparatory phase of the Decade and an outline of what is required to achieve this plan by the first quarter of 2020: key milestones and consultations that will be part of the preparation of the Plan. This Roadmap was reviewed by the IOC Member States and benefited from inputs by UN partners (through UN-Oceans) and will be presented to the upcoming 51st session of the IOC Executive Council (4 July 2018). Communication activities have been initiated to inform Member States, potential partners and other stakeholders of the preparatory phase underway, with the aim of inviting contributions, as well as to communicate the purpose and expected results of the Decade. Governance arrangement for the Preparatory Phase of the Decade will be agreed during the upcoming IOC Executive Council, in July 2018.

In order to respond to the invitation of the UNGA Resolution 72/73 (paragraph 294), the IOC, working under the guidance of its elected officers, drafted a Roadmap that provides an initial guide for the steps and processes needed to develop the Implementation Plan of the Decade. It also contains the Decade strategy, governance arrangements and an outline of what is required to achieve this plan by the first quarter of 2020. This Roadmap was built in consultation with the IOC Member States and benefited from inputs by UN partners (through UN-Oceans). This Roadmap document will be presented to the upcoming 51st session of the IOC Executive Council (July 2018) as document IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 3.

The roadmap will be widely disseminated to UN Member States, institutional partners of the Commission and other identified stakeholders. It is an evolving document that will be enriched during

an essential mechanism to engage regional and local ocean stakeholders in the design of the Decade and consolidate inputs from these various consultations.

