Item 2.1 of the Provisional Agenda

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

This Annotated Provisional Agenda provides the information necessary for effective participation in the discussion of the agenda items. This information includes: (i) identification of relevant documentation; (ii) identification, under each substantive agenda item, of the issue before the Sub-Commission and the expected decision.
1. OPENING

1.1 OPENING REMARKS

1. The Thirteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIII) will be held virtually at 1300-1600pm (Bangkok Time, UTC+7 hours), on 27-29 April 2021. The Session was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh.

2. At the opening ceremony, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh; IOC Executive Secretary & Assistant Director General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and the Chairperson of the IOC Sub-Commission will be invited to address the Session.

3. The Chairperson of the Sub-Commission will invite everyone to turn on their camera for a group photo.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Chairperson will invite the Head of the WESTPAC Office who serves as the Technical Secretary for this Session, to introduce this item. The Technical Secretary will inform all delegations of several key housekeeping matters in order to ensure the efficient conduct of the Session.

5. He will also draw the attention of all delegations to the Provisional Agenda which was prepared based on discussions at the WESTPAC Advisory Group meeting (November 2020). The Provisional Agenda was distributed together with the IOC Circular Letter No. 2823 to Member States on 10 December 2020. This has been revised based on response from the Member States.

ACTION 2.1: Member States will be invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as amended at the present session.

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR FOR THE SESSION

6. The Sub-Commission will also be invited to designate a Rapporteur to assist in the preparation of the Summary Report, in line with Rule of Procedure 25.4.

ACTION 2.2: The Delegation of ??? proposed ??? to serve as Rapporteur for this Session. This proposal was seconded by ??? and ???. Thus, ????? will be designated as a Rapporteur for this Session.

2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION

7. The Technical Secretary will introduce this item. In addition to reviewing briefly the Provisional Timetable and the Provisional List of Documents, he will draw the attention of the Sub-Commission to a statutory committees, i.e., Nomination Committee. The Sub-Commission will set up the committee accordingly.
8. The Sub-Commission will be requested to work in plenary as far as possible. Sessional Working Group(s) will be established as required to address specific items of the agenda. The Sessional Working Group(s) may draft recommendations for adoption by the Sub-Commission where necessary.

9. The Technical Secretary will also draw the attention of the Sub-Commission to practical arrangements for the session, including the working time and the possibility of shortening, or even cancelling the “coffee break”.

10. The Chair will then invite the Sub-Commission to work according to the Revised Provisional Timetable taking into account: (i) any Sub-Commission’s decision to constitute sessional working groups; (ii) the time likely to be required by those groups to report, if requested to do so, to the plenary; and (iii) the time required for preparation of Recommendations.

**ACTION 2.3:** Member States will be invited to constitute the Nomination Committee.

3. STATUTORY REPORT

3.1 STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

*Working Document:* IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIII/3.1 Statement of the Chairperson

11. The Chairman will deliver his statement on recent developments in the work of the Sub-Commission and his perspectives for the future of the Sub-Commission and IOC as well.

3.2 REPORT BY THE HEAD OF WESTPAC OFFICE ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET OVERVIEW, INCLUDING THE OPERATION OF THE WESTPAC OFFICE

*Working Document:* IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIII/3.2 Report by the Regional Office on Intersessional Activities

12. The Technical Secretary will present his report on intersessional activities since the last Session (WESTPAC-XII), Manila, the Philippines, May 2019.

**ACTION 3.1:** Member States will be invited to review the major accomplishments and challenges, the understaffed and overstretched situation of the WESTPAC Office, Member States will further provide guidance regarding the future of the Sub-Commission, and on how to keep the present momentum, and move beyond towards an impactful UN Decade of Ocean Science in the region.

3.3 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UNESCO, ITS IOC AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO WESTPAC

*Information Document:*  
- Implementation Plan for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (version 2.0) - Summary
- Call for Decade Actions
- Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029
- Adopted Resolution EC-53/2 – Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission

13. IOC Executive Secretary will brief the session on the current development within UNESCO and IOC, and its impact on WESTPAC, with a focus on the UN Ocean Decade and its latest movement, as well as the draft IOC Medium Term Strategy (2022-2029).
ACTION 3.2: Member States will be invited to provide directives on IOC, including those on how IOC should benefit from the work of its regional subsidiary bodies, and ensure the benefits generated could be maximized and delivered to Member States in the region.

4. REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS FOR MAY 2019- APRIL 2021

14. Due to time constraints, reporting will be consolidated and structured about the thematic areas of actions that WESTPAC Member States identified, namely, i. Ocean processes and climate change; ii. Marine biodiversity, seafood safety and security; iii. Ocean ecosystem health, and iv. Capacity development. Detailed unedited report by each WESTPAC programme, project and WG was uploaded to the event webpage (https://www.ioc-westpac.org/event/westpac-xiii/)

15. The Sub-Commission has been developing and implementing a broad range of activities, including:

- the Triennial WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference and biennial WESTPAC Intergovernmental Session;

- Two regional ocean observing systems as part of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS): Northeast Asian-Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS), and Southeast Asian-Global Ocean Observing System (SEAGOOS) with three programmes, i.e., Monsoon Onset Monitoring and its Social & Ecosystem Impacts (MOMSEI), Ocean Forecasting System (OFS) and Monitoring the Ecological Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Coral Reef Ecosystems;

- Twelve marine research projects/programmes: Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs); Coral Reef Conservation, Coral Resilience to Climate and Human Impacts, DNA Taxonomy and Recruitment Monitoring for Coral Reef Marine Organisms (DRMREEF), Marine Endangered Species, Ocean Remote Sensing for Coastal Habitat Mapping (ORSP), South China Sea Fluvial Sediments and Environmental Change (FluSed), Marine Toxin and Seafood Safety (TMO), Air-sea Interaction in the Kuroshio Extension and its Climate Impact, Upwelling Studies, Marine Microplastic Research and Monitoring and Harmful Jellyfish Research;

- A regional network of Training and Research Centers on Marine Science: two Regional Training and Research Centers in operation respectively on Ocean Dynamics and Climate (RTRC-ODC), and Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (RTRC-MarBEST); and three new RTRCs being established, respectively on Reef Management and Restoration at the University of the Philippines - Marine Science Institute; Marine Toxins and Food Safety at the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology - Institute of Oceanography; and iii. on Plastic Marine Debris and Microplastics at the East China Normal University; and

- Three Working Groups, respectively on Ocean Oxygen Network (WG 005); Energy and Materials Exchange in Marginal Seas (WG 006), and Feasibility Study on the 2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and its adjacent regions (CSK-2).

16. The diagram below can provide a snapshot of the linkage among the UN Ocean Societal Outcomes, WESTPAC Thematic Areas of Actions, and respective programme/project/WG.
ACTION 4: Member States will be invited to provide advice and directives on how to further improve the programme delivery, efficiency and effectiveness. Member States will be also invited to consider potential new activities that could be pursued in the next intersessional period and help identify necessary resources and opportunities.

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PROGRAMME/PROJECT/WORKING GROUP

Working Document: IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIII/5.1
The 2nd Cooperative Study of the Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions (CSK-2)

IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIII/5.2
WESTPAC Programme on Healthy, Productive and Sustainable Asian Marginal Seas: Understanding changes in the marine environment in responses to global climate change

IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIII/5.3
Working Group on Gas hydrates and Methane Fluxes in the Indo-Pacific Region

IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIII/5.4
Working Group on Rapid Detection Technologies for Harmful Algal Blooms

IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIII/5.5
Working Group on Integrated Investigation in Indo-Pacific Convergent Center-Marine Ecosystem and Biodiversity

17. The Technical Secretary will brief on international collaborative process that the Sub-Commission has been taking in developing its programmes/projects/working groups addressing common priority issues of its Member States. Upon the Sub-Commission’s open call, following proposals have been developed, and reviewed by the WESTPAC Advisory Group on 1-5 March 2021. Through intensive and extensive consultations, the Advisory Group would like to propose the following programmes/Working Groups be established at the Session.

5.1 THE 2ND COOPERATIVE STUDY OF KUROSHIO AND ITS ADJACENT REGIONS (CSK-2)
5.2 WESTPAC PROGRAMME ON HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ASIAN MARGINAL SEAS: UNDERSTANDING CHANGES IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN RESPONSE TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

5.3 WORKING GROUP ON GAS HYDRATE AND METHANE FLUXES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

5.4 WORKING GROUP ON RAPID DETECTION TECHNOLOGIES FOR HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

5.5 WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED INVESTIGATION IN INDO-PACIFIC CONVERGENT CENTER -MARINE ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY (I3PCC-MEB)

**ACTION 5**: Member States will be invited to consider the development of these proposals in terms of their justifications, objectives, workplan, and the engagement and potential contribution of institutions and Member States to their implementation. The Sub-Commission will adopt, or consider making further recommendations on these new initiatives of the Sub-Commission.

### 6. ENGAGEMENT IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)

#### 6.1 OUTCOMES OF THE UN DECADE REGIONAL PLANNING WORKSHOP, REGIONAL DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

**Information Document:**
- UN Ocean Science Decade Regional Planning Workshop (RPW) for the North Pacific and Western Pacific Marginal Seas (RPW-NPWPMS)
- Summary Report of the Regional Planning Workshop for the North Pacific and Western Pacific Marginal Seas
- Regional Dialogue on “co-designing the ocean science we need for the ocean we want” (virtual, 10 November 2020)

18. The Technical Secretary will brief on the two Decade events their outputs, outcomes and recommendations.

#### 6.2 WESTPAC APPROACH TO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UN DECADE

**Working Document:** IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIII/6.2

19. The Technical Secretary will brief on the current WESTPAC effort in capacity development and some new possible areas of actions that the Sub-Commission could take for the UN Decade.

#### 6.3 WESTPAC PROPOSAL (S) FOR UN OCEAN DECADE ACTIONS

20. The Technical Secretary will introduce the current potential proposals that the Sub-Commission has been developing, building on existing programmes and networks, for UN Ocean Decade Actions.
6.4 UN OCEAN DECADE REGIONAL KICKOFF EVENT (VIRTUAL, 24-25 AUGUST 2021), AND THE 1ST DECADE REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 11TH WESTPAC INTERNATIONAL MARINE SCIENCE CONFERENCE (SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 2022, THAILAND)

21. The representative of the Conference Organizing Committee will give a brief on the preparations of the two events, and invite all institutions and countries to actively participate in.

**ACTION 6:** Member States will be invited to consider, and provide their suggestions on the development of UN Ocean Decade in the region, including Decade related events, capacity development, and potential proposals for Decade actions.

7. **WESTPAC WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR MAY 2021 - APRIL 2023**

   **Working Document:** IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XIII/7 WESTPAC WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR MAY 2021-APRIL 2023

22. The Technical Secretary will brief on the draft workplan and budget for the next intersessional period. The WESTPAC programmes have been taking “co-design, co-development and co-implementation” approach, with most of its activities conducted via the extrabudgetary support of its Member States in the region, either in kind or in cash. In this regard, the WESTPAC Programme and Budget mainly serves as guidance or collaborative framework for activities that the Sub-Commission would like to jointly promote and seek funding from various sources in support of its implementation.

23. He further informed that the current draft Programme and Budget (May 2021–April 2023) will be further revised after the session, based on the latest inputs and discussions pertaining to the respective agenda items at the present session.

24. He informed Member States that in accordance with the new estimates of the IOC regular budget for 2022–2023, approximately US$ 110 K would be available for WESTPAC activities for 2022–2023. It is obvious that, despite the UN Decade of Ocean Science, IOC and its WESTPAC won’t receive an increased regular budget from UNESCO, and most of the WESTPAC activities for the next intersessional period will have to be continuously supported from extrabudgetary resources.

**Action 7:** Based on the discussion on Agenda Items 5, 6, 7 and 8 in particular, the Sub-Commission will be invited to: (i) specify and agree upon the workplan for the period of May 2021-April 2023, with an indication of the financial application and the sources of funds; and (ii) help in identifying extrabudgetary resources for ensuring the implementation of the programme activities of the Sub-Commission.

8. **ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION**

   **Information Document:**
   - Election Procedures
   - Nomination Forms

25. The Nomination Committee will report to the plenary on the discussion results based on nominations for Chairperson and vice-Chairperson and the work that the Sub-Commission will carry out over the next intersessional term.

**Action 8:** The Sub-Commission will be invited to elect its Chairperson and vice-Chairpersons along these guidelines and the recommendations of the Nomination Committee.

9. **DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION**
Action 9: The Sub-Commission will be invited to consider the date and place of its Fourteenth Session, and Fifteenth Session if feasible.

10. OTHER MATTERS

11. ADOPTION OF ACTION POINTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

26. Given the time constraints of this session, the Sub-Commission will be requested to adopt the draft action points. The full summary report will be sent after the Session to all delegation for their revisions, comments and approval by correspondence accordingly.

27. The Sub-Commission will also be invited to authorize the Chairperson and Technical Secretary to submit the Executive Summary Report to the Thirty-First Session of the IOC Assembly (Paris, France, June 2021).

12. CLOSURE

28. The representative of the host country will be invited to deliver his/her remarks. The Chairperson of the Sub-Commission will close the Session not later than 1600 hours (Bangkok Time), on 29 April 2021.