

improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its /40 Member States" )he IOC's vision is that scientific understanding and systematic observations of the ocean should underpin sustainable development and global governance for a healthy ocean"

Marine scientific research, in particular scientific capacity development, knowledge sharing and other forms of technology transfer, cuts across all four elements of the &&N'" In this intergovernmental conference, member states will need to design a robust and universal process that allows for the equitable participation of all Member States in the 1994 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the 2009 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) instrument" In this context, ocean science should be interpreted as

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as reservoirs of biodiversity and genetic resources, and their health status under future scenarios of climate change and human use" In this context, Agenda Item 10 on the theme of climate change, requires enhanced, systematic and sustained observation of the global ocean and the need to improve the way in which observation data is managed and made available" There is a real need to improve the scientific quality of the data, the ability to make informed management decisions and evaluate the effectiveness of our measures"

It is a great honour for me to address the first meeting of the ocean scientists under increasing pressure from human activities in &&N'" become more widespread, more impactful and more intense" The little that we know about the deep ocean has already revealed a remarkable suite of habitats supporting rich biodiversity" These habitats provide the planet and its inhabitants with crucial ecosystem services, highlighting the need for ecosystem-based and precautionary approaches"

The international community has recognized the need to take a holistic approach to improving cooperation and coordination for securing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the &&N'" This means that we need a &&N' International Legally Binding Instrument that all states can support and which is reliably informed by science across all its components"

Large scale ocean observations are crucial to improve our still very insufficient understanding

sciences and human dimensions; the infrastructure that supports ocean science (observations, data systems); the application of those sciences for societal benefit, including transfer to regions that hitherto have not benefited; and the science-policy interface"

Mme Chairperson,

In December 1972, the UN proclaimed 1973-1982 as the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and invited the IOC to lead its preparation phase. The Decade provides an opportunity to mobilize research around key issues and create new connections between ocean observations and science on one hand, and global and regional institutions (with a focus on economic development, conservation, and sustainability of SIDS, on the other hand"

Through its contribution to the Decade, the IOC will lead a number of activities that are highly relevant to the SIDS process, including ;

- the development of an ocean data sharing mechanism, ensuring equitable, fast and free access to research data through a global online open-access data sharing platform and data clearing house mechanism;
- the promotion of a mechanism for coordinating targeted and cooperative marine scientific research resulting in the collection of new baseline data to characterize existing environments and biodiversity, and better understanding of cumulative stressors impacts;
- reinforced coordination of ocean observation efforts across disciplines, and expansion of existing observation programmes, including through technological advancement in collecting new ecosystem variables that can contribute to ecosystem management;
- improving the scientific knowledge base and transfer of marine technology to regions and groups that are presently limited in capacity and capability, especially SIDS and LDCs, through dedicated training programmes and initiatives, as well as a dedicated clearing house mechanism"
- a global ocean mapping campaign to provide a high resolution map of the seabed (currently only 1% of the seabed is mapped in high resolution);

The Decade will be a vehicle for innovative and transformative action, mobilizing science, and leaving lasting impacts through engagement with end users, delivering the information of greatest importance in meeting sustainable development targets, and informing SIDS issues. I also refer to the side event co-hosted by IOC, Palau and Norway during lunch on Thursday the 1st in Room 7. The side event will provide an opportunity to discuss cooperation in science, observation and capacity de

