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## **DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA (Part II)**

Pursuant to the resolution 68/70 entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea" adopted by the General



Building on its advocating role and its contribution to new science on climate change, UNESCO through IOC is providing leadership and advice to the organization of the next UNFCCC/COP21 (Paris, November 2015) and has formulated a number of key proposals for consideration of the French authorities and the UNFCCC. In the field of coastal adaptation, a technical expert mission took place in December 2013 in Congo and Gabon with a view to assess the extent of coastal erosion problems faced by these two countries, and identify strategies and coastal adaptation measures that could be implemented to mitigate related impacts.

In a growing effort to distinguish between natural and human-induced earth system variability, the IOC is paying attention to sustained ocean time-series measurements. Shipboard biogeochemical time-series programmes provide the oceanographic community with the multi-year, high-quality data needed for characterizing ocean biogeochemistry and ecosystem variability and are receiving renewed importance as they represent one of the most valuable tools that scientists have to characterize and quantify ocean fluxes and their associated links to ecosystem functioning in a changing ocean. The IOC organized two Time Series Workshops in November 2012 and in February 2014 within the frame of the Republic of Korea Ocean Carbon Sources and Sinks project. One of the key outcomes of the workshops was the development of a global time-series network compiling more than 160 ship based time series, to improve coordination and communication among institutions compiling marine biogeochemical time-series and also the establishment of a core group of IPs leading time series programmes (International Group for Marine Ecological Time Series – IGMETS).

Ocean acidification (OA) is an emerging global concern and is a risk to marine biodiversity, ecosystems and human society. In terms of new research and networking the IOC is co-leading the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) which is aimed to coordinate and improve ocean observation to detect the impacts of ocean acidification. The GOA-ON Executive Council met in Paris last 26-28 May 2014 to develop a roadmap and the implementation plan. The IOC is also a member of the Ocean Acidification International Coordination I Coaees