DRAFT RESOLUTION EC-LI/DR.(4.1)

Submitted by: Norway and the Republic of Korea

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Executive Council,

1. Recalling the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its 72nd session regarding the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), through Resolution A/RES/72/73, therein the Decade,

2. Further recalling the invitation made by the UNGA to the IOC to:

   (i) prepare an implementation plan for the Decade in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders,

   (ii) provide information on the implementation of the Decade to the Secretary-General for his report on oceans and the law of the sea,

3. Noting the invitation made by the UNGA to UN-Oceans and its participants to collaborate with the IOC,

4. Considering IOC Resolution XXIX-1 and IOC Executive Council Decision EC-XLIX.5 endorsing the proposal for such a Decade and defining a course of action for its development,

5. Having considered the Roadmap for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, developed under the guidance of the IOC Officers and with the participation of Member States and relevant United Nations bodies submitted in its revised and current version as document IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 3,

6. Further considering the proposal to establish, as an expert advisory body to the IOC governing bodies, an Executive Planning Group (EPG) to support the preparation of the implementation plan, with the terms of reference presented in document IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 4 (Appendix 1),
7. **Bearing in mind** that in addition to the IOC’s United Nations-wide coordination role, the programmatic contribution to the implementation plan needs to be identified during the preparatory phase so that through the Decade, the Commission can upgrade and enhance the impact of its core programmes, as well as identify new initiatives in response to Member States’ and stakeholders’ needs,

8. **Having considered** document IOC/INF-1357, which provides an initial framework for developing the IOC’s programmatic contribution to the Decade,

9. **Takes note** of the revised Roadmap document (IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 3) that includes proposals for governance and structural arrangements for the preparation phase, as well as a guiding framework to further develop the concept, objectives, outcomes and modalities for the Decade’s implementation and engagement strategy;

10. **Approves** the terms of reference for the Decade Executive Planning Group, including the selection process envisaged for the constitution of such a group, to be established under the coordination of the IOC Executive Secretary;

11. **Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to:

   (i) proceed with the establishment of the EPG and the organization of the first meeting foreseen in autumn 2018;

   (ii) report on implementation of the current version of the roadmap and propose possible modifications for consideration by the IOC Assembly, at its 30th session;

   (iii) provide information to the UNGA on the development of the implementation plan and regularly consult with, and report to, Member States;

   (iv) lead the reflection across the IOC on how the core IOC programmes and initiatives can contribute to the objectives of the Decade; and submit to the IOC Assembly, at its 30th session, an overview of such an IOC programmatic contribution, building on document IOC/INF-1357 and consistent with the steps for the preparation of the next IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029;

   (v) collaborate with UN-Oceans and its participants in preparing the Decade;

   (vi) seek to advance gender issues in the context of activities undertaken as part of the Decade and in the work of the EPG;

12. **Further requests** that IOC subsidiary bodies engage in the work of the Decade and identify potential contributions during the next intersessional period;
13. **Invites** United Nations agencies and programmes, international scientific and academic organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to support the Decade and contribute to its preparation;

14. **Urges** Member States and partners to:

   (i) provide voluntary contributions for the preparation of the Decade, preferably to the IOC Special Account, as well as in-kind support such as staff secondments to the Secretariat;

   (ii) offer to host and/or fund regional and global consultation workshops, as envisaged in the current version of the Roadmap document, as well as organize thematic meetings aimed at engaging the ocean community in the Decade and communication activities;

15. **Thanks** the Governments of the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Belgium (Government of Flanders) for their financial contribution to the preparatory phase of the Decade.

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Financial implication: Seed funding is identified under 39 C/5. Resources are needed in order to facilitate the coordination and implementation of preparatory activities (e.g., meeting of the Executive Planning Group (EPG), regional consultation workshops and outreach activities for Member States, partners, science networks, communication and outreach materials). Correspondingly, the Executive Council may invite Member States and partners to contribute resources to the IOC Special Account and/or in-kind contributions (such as secondment).