

Statement #2 – UN Ocean Conference Prep Com, 4-5 February 2020

### **UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission**

The Declaration of the Conference could usefully address the following issues:

1. The Ocean Science Decade is designed to empower the whole value chain of oceanography, from marine research and ocean observation, development of knowledge and information products, to sustainable management of the ocean and eventually achievement of 2030 Agenda.
2. Gaps in our capacities include lack of global depth data, inadequate observing systems in polar oceans, deep ocean, of biogeochemical, biological and ecological variables, poor understanding of ecosystems. To save lives of people, we still need to learn how to provide warnings that effectively reach the so called “last mile”.
3. The Decade will develop a new generation ocean data and information system able to deal with large volumes of complex and interdisciplinary data. Data sharing, including for coastal zones, will be considered for the Decade data policy.
4. Education and ocean literacy are key for overcoming the emotional deficit with regard to the ocean, to motivate positive and informed actions.
5. Sixty percent of protected areas under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention lay in the ocean. We need to safeguard ocean treasures for future generations under the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.
6. Finally, the Declaration could help to start paving the way towards addressing the current weakness of ocean science governance resulting in insufficient financial support and in decisions that lead to no action.

IOC of UNESCO is happy to contribute to the drafting of the Declaration with regard to the Decade.