

UNOC 2025 STATEMENT OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN DCCs/DCOs

Nice, France | 12 June 2025

Recognizing the essential leadership role that Decade Collaborative Centres (DCCs) and Decade Coordination Offices (DCOs) play in advancing the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030),

Affirming our shared responsibility not only to implement but to actively shape, align, and innovate within the Decade ecosystem,

Building on the momentum and guidance provided by the Barcelona Statement and the findings of the Mid-Term Evaluation Report, which call for clearer coordination, strengthened stakeholder engagement, and more visible impact,

Acknowledging the need for structured collaboration,

We, the representatives of DCCs and DCOs, commit to a joint agenda of strategic action.

Through the establishment of intersessional working groups for the joint priorities, we will take ownership of our collective role in delivering on the Decade ambitions. To ensure transparency, alignment, and continuous peer learning, the existing six-weekly global calls will serve as our platform to report progress, share insights, and seek collective input across the coordination network. We recognize that we must plan for beyond the Decade, and co-design mechanisms for the work of the DCCs and DCOs to continue beyond 2030 and provide a positive, meaningful legacy of Decade activity.

JOINT PRIORITIES (2025-2030)

1. MOBILIZE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-DEVELOP ENGAGEMENT TOOLKITS

- Build a shared framework for engaging the private sector, co-created across DCCs and DCOs.
- Develop practical toolkits and templates to support outreach and partnership-building with companies, funders, and innovation ecosystems.
- Highlight and learn from successful models — such as the Prada Group partnership with the DCO for Connecting People and Ocean and the Foundation ENGIE partnership with the DCO for Ocean Data Sharing — to scale similar efforts across the network.
- Use these efforts to catalyze public-private partnerships that are aligned with both Decade priorities and regional development needs.
- Collaboratively co-design solutions to support engagement of stakeholders through the International Platform for Ocean Sustainability and establish DCOs, DCCs, and National Decade Committees as strategic partners to deliver tailored services that support decision-making.

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2. CONVENE STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOPS TO CO-DESIGN DCC/DCO CONTRIBUTIONS

- Organize two dedicated workshops in 2026 (one virtual, one in-person) to shape a collective contribution to the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference in line with the framework developed by the Decade Coordination Unit for the preparatory process for the Conference.
- Use these workshops to:
 - Showcase and strengthen cross-cutting collaboration among DCCs and DCOs.
 - Align inputs around a shared narrative, strategy, and presence at the 2027 Conference.
 - Identify priority areas for work both before the 2027 Conference and beyond and for shared outputs (e.g. joint statements, co-created deliverables, sessions, visibility campaigns).
 - Plan for active engagement and strong visibility of DCCs and DCOs at the Conference.

3. COORDINATE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIONAL DECADE COMMITTEES AND ACROSS THE DECADE ECOSYSTEM

- Co-design a structured and inclusive process for stakeholder engagement across DCCs, DCOs, and National Decade Committees (NDCs).
- Define shared approaches for working with Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) and youth, Indigenous and local communities, and underrepresented groups.
- Strengthen the coordination architecture between NDCs and DCCs/DCOs and between regional and thematic DCCs/DCOs to foster more coherent and connected contributions across the Decade.
- Embed these processes into both project design and reporting mechanisms, with intersessional working groups supporting delivery and accountability.

This Statement of Collaboration serves as a framework for deepened collaboration and strategic alignment between all DCCs and DCOs. It reflects our shared values and ambition to deliver transformative impact under the Ocean Decade.

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ONGOING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

STRENGTHEN COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION

- Institutionalize annual in-person meetings of the DCCs and DCOs and structured communication mechanisms.
- Improve information flows and decision-making transparency across the Decade coordination network including Decade Implementing Partners and Decade Actions, and foster more regular communication with NDCs to ensure coherence between global, regional, and national implementation efforts. This could include collaboration during regional meetings, in line with the NDC Action Plan.

CO-DEVELOP SUCCESS METRICS AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORKS

- In line with the Decade Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, establish common reporting metrics across DCCs and DCOs to track progress, demonstrate impact, and guide mid-term adjustments.
- Include quantitative and qualitative indicators across scientific, engagement, and capacity-building domains.

ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- Organize joint workshops, thematic exchanges, and learning events among DCOs and DCCs.
- Promote shared access to tools, data, and methodologies, particularly those developed by DCOs and DCCs with successful approaches or experiences.

MOBILIZE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

- Advocate for multi-source funding mechanisms coordinated through the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and aligned with regional priorities using the existing structures of the IOC and the Decade.

BUILD A VISIBLE AND INCLUSIVE OCEAN DECADE COMMUNITY

- Increase public awareness of the roles and contributions of DCOs and DCCs, e.g. through joint communication campaigns.
- Increase inclusive engagement with ECOPs, youth, Indigenous and local knowledge holders, and underrepresented regions through programmes, workshops, teams, etc.