

## Statement from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO Delivered by Prof. P. Haugan, Chairperson IOC

Under item on Capacity development and transfer of marine technology  
(6.2 Types of and modalities for capacity-building and transfer of marine technology)

Thank you very much Madame Facilitator,

It is great to see you back at the podium in your present role as facilitator and it is my pleasure to address this meeting in my capacity as Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

I note with satisfaction the numerous references that have been made to the IOC Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology as a possible basis for further defining types of and modalities for capacity-building and transfer of marine technology that should be reflected in the BBNJ instrument. The IOC criteria and guidelines were developed in direct response to article 271 of UNCLOS, with the aim to support the implementation of Part XIV of UNCLOS. We also note that several interventions have stressed that marine scientific research, in particular scientific capacity development, knowledge sharing and other forms of technology transfer, cut across all elements of the BBNJ discussions.

Recent technological advancement in the collection of new baseline data to characterize existing environments and biodiversity, and better understanding of impacts of cumulative stressors in accordance with the First World Ocean Assessment bear great relevance to issues of TMT in the context of BBNJ, and should therefore be considered.

Madame facilitator,

I suggest that the discussion under this section may benefit from the experience of IOC in operationalizing the IOC Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology and developing a corresponding Clearing House Mechanism.

As an integral part of the IOC Guidelines, the establishment of a dedicated Clearing House Mechanism is foreseen to, I quote: “provide interested users in Member States with direct and rapid access to relevant sources **of information**, practical **expertise** in the transfer of marine technology, as well as to facilitate effective scientific, technical and financial **cooperation** to that end”. End of quote.

Under its current Group of Experts on Capacity Development, the IOC has been focusing on the operationalization of such CHM with a view to have a proof of concept to be presented at the IOC Assembly in June 2019. Our vision is that this CHM *should become **the primary information repository to support international conventions and agreements with a focus on cooperation related to marine scientific research** and, at the same time provide a **platform to share information, build partnerships and forge collaboration** for the growth and transfer of marine technology in developing countries.* Obviously, this may embrace the requirements of the future legal BBNJ Instrument. Let me share some preliminary considerations with regards to the CHM:

The conduct of a baseline, to be followed by, regular capacity needs assessment is indeed crucial to inform the development of such CHM and to ensure that CD interventions are targeted and pertinent. In this regard, the IOC CD Group of Experts mentioned earlier is in the process of finalizing a survey/gap analysis with respect to the IOC CD Strategy and Implementation Plan to capture and reflect needs and requirements of MS (in particular SIDS and LDCs). The report of this assessment will be made publicly available and presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the IOC Assembly in June 2019. Furthermore, the second edition of the IOC Global Ocean Science Report to be released in 2020, will provide updated

information about current ocean science capacity around the world. This could prove useful, particularly given that such report is based on information provided by national focal points representing national institutions with responsibility for ocean research, and conducted on a regular basis, every four years.

Secondly, initial results from this capacity assessment survey, indicates that 70% of respondents favour the development of a hybrid CHM in the sense that an online central portal integrating the data and information harvested from a network of regional/sectoral CHM portals would better respond to the needs of Member States. Whilst raising issue of inter-operability, such a hybrid CHM has multiple advantages in linking national or regional nodes and fostering regional approaches and partnerships that can be customized to meet needs.

Thirdly, the clearinghouse being discussed is one of data, information, and knowledge – meaning that it is not just a passive computer system but rather a proactive network of people who provide input into the ongoing development in an agile way with scientists who contribute to and use data and information on biodiversity in many creative ways and in response to national and regional needs. We need a technologically "Smart" Clearinghouse, built in a way that provides a trustworthy user interface and as well enables innovative applications powered by the engine behind the one-stop shop. Scientists, engineers, application developers, and stakeholders should all have the ability to bring the information from the clearinghouse into their own context to quickly and efficiently answer their important questions.

Fourth, engagement with providers and users of data and knowledge is crucial. Communication (and owner buy-in) would be key and can be enabled by several means such as designating focal points at national or regional level for contacts, providing information on specific needs, workshops and partnerships with relevant scientific networks and international organizations. For example, this system could provide information on opportunities for participation in research cruises taking place in specific ocean basins.

Finally, let me highlight that cost effectiveness and non-duplication are key. Ensuring that enough resources are sustained in the long term to ensure that the system delivers value to the various constituents/communities that it will serve, will be an essential requirement. IOC has completed some stages of the work that may be of significant interest for BBNJ but IOC also recognizes the relevant mandates and great capacities of other UN Agencies. IOC is poised to hear views of the Intergovernmental Conference on these topics and will be able to present them for consideration at the 30<sup>th</sup> IOC Assembly in June 2019 and report back later as appropriate.

Thank you, Mme Facilitator