

For Immediate Release

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The International Ocean Institute (IOI) Highlights the Critical Role of Ocean and Climate Literacy to address the challenges of Climate Change, Ocean Health, and Sustainable Development.

As global leaders gather at COP29, the International Ocean Institute (IOI) emphasizes the importance of advancing Ocean and Climate Literacy in achieving Agenda 2030, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and other international commitments.

Baku, Azerbaijan — The IOI calls for enhanced commitment to Ocean and Climate Literacy, recognizing its essential role in fostering sustainable development and global governance. As the climate crisis intensifies, the link between the ocean and climate has never been clearer or more urgent. Ocean and Climate Literacy - the understanding of the influence and interdependence of ocean and climate, on individuals and society, and vice versa - should educate and empower people to make informed, responsible decisions that are crucial for the future of our planet.

Founded in 1972 by Elisabeth Mann Borgese, the IOI has a longstanding mission to foster ocean governance that is equitable and promotes sustainable development. Through its global network, the IOI works to build the capacity of Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) and ocean leaders worldwide, especially in developing nations, empowering them to address the most pressing ocean and climate challenges of our time. The IOI's work is grounded in the Essential Principles of Ocean Science, which underscore the interconnectedness of humans and the ocean, the ocean's vast but largely unexplored potential, and highlights the ocean as a major influence on weather and climate.

Bridging Knowledge to Action: Enhancing Ocean and Climate Literacy for Policy and Governance

While knowledge of ocean systems and climate change has grown significantly, knowledge alone does not automatically translate into effective governance. *"Enhanced responsibilities do not necessarily lead to good governance,"* says IOI Managing Director Antonella Vassallo. *"Converting acquired knowledge into governance is complex and requires both the science of understanding and the art of collaboration."* The IOI asserts that a critical goal of Ocean and Climate Literacy is to close the gap between knowledge, behaviour, and action, inspiring governance rooted in shared benefits, equity, and sustainable development.

To achieve this, the IOI emphasizes the need for decision-makers who are literate in ocean and climate issues, as their understanding directly influences governance frameworks. By nurturing a generation of policy-makers who recognize the mutual benefits of sustainable ocean management and climate adaptation, the IOI aims to support win-win outcomes that can safeguard the ocean as a resource for future generations, and a climate champion.

Ocean and Climate Literacy for Decision-Making

The IOI advocates for a rule-making culture based on sound science and reinforced by legally binding instruments, conventions, and guidelines. *"In promoting Ocean and Climate Literacy, we*

need to embrace a new culture of rule-making that respects global common goods," Vassallo adds. This approach to governance is underpinned by the IOI's call for clear, actionable frameworks that allow science, technology, policy, and social activism to channel into constructive policies that are grounded in reason and mutual benefit.

Ocean and Climate Literacy must be integrated into interdisciplinary policy spaces at all levels to achieve Agenda 2030, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and other international commitments.

When combined with political will, literacy creates a vital space for collaboration, avoiding narrow interests. It helps decision-makers focus on common destiny, shared benefits, and long-term sustainability in managing ocean resources and achieving climate goals.

The IOI's Commitment: the Capacity Development programmes and the IOI Ocean Academy

The IOI leads with action through initiatives like the IOI's comprehensive training portfolio which includes in-depth courses in ocean governance and policy-making, reaching thousands of graduates in over 140 countries since inception. By training emerging ocean leaders in the principles of sustainable ocean management, IOI equips a new generation of Career Ocean Professionals to navigate the complex and interconnected issues of climate and ocean governance.

The IOI Ocean Academy was launched in 2022 to provide accessible, regionally relevant, online learning in local languages. This programme introduces participants to core principles of ocean and climate science, the importance of sustainability, and empowers people to positively impact their communities. This Literacy programme is an endorsed Decade Action under the UN Decade of Ocean Science, reflecting the IOI's commitment to ocean literacy as an essential tool in effective science communication.

The Future We Want: Science-Driven Solutions for Ocean and Climate

The IOI's advocacy at COP29 serves to underscore the value of Ocean and Climate Literacy in addressing the shared threats of climate change, declining ocean health, biodiversity collapse and resource insecurity. To achieve lasting impact, we must persuade negotiators, decision-makers, civil society, and the private sector of the urgent need for cooperative, science-based governance. **As the influence of ocean and climate on the planet continues to be felt, the IOI emphasizes that the future we want hinges also on the people we educate today.**

For more information on the IOI's programmes, visit www.ioinst.org.

About the International Ocean Institute

The International Ocean Institute (IOI) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 1972 to promote the sustainable and equitable management of the ocean. Through a global network of Centres and the IOI Ocean Academy nodes, IOI builds capacity for ocean and climate governance, empowering current and future leaders to make informed decisions on ocean stewardship. The IOI's efforts are aligned with the UN goals in diverse areas, striving to secure a sustainable future for all.