

Thank you chairperson for this opportunity to address SBSTA. I am Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO**, or IOC. IOC is the only body in the UN System specializing in international cooperation and programmes in oceanographic research, ocean observations, services, capacity development and transfer of marine technology. We lead the Global Ocean Observing System GOOS, which works closely with the Global Climate Observing System GCOS, which we cosponsor.

The ocean is an integral part of the climate system. 90% of excess heat in the climate is captured by the ocean, as is about half of the anthropogenic carbon emitted since the dawn of the industrial age. Oxygen in the ocean surface layer decreasing, sea water is becoming more acidic, and sea level is rising. Such statements are commonly heard at this Conference of Parties, but what is behind them? It is ocean observations and science based on them. Without ocean observations we do not have a complete climate observing system, nor can we make the best decisions for our human populations on land.

The GCOS Status Report highlights marked advances achieved in the domain of ocean climate observations. But one of the major challenges is sustaining the observations, which are in many cases supported by short-term research budgets. There is also a strong need to expand ocean observations to measure new and emerging Essential Climate Variables, especially in the domains of marine biology and ecosystem functioning. To improve climate information coming from sustained observations, IOC will participate in the development of the new GCOS Implementation Plan and will contribute to the Plan a number of opportunities to improve the ocean observing system.

The IOC stands ready to support Parties and its own Member States in improving ocean observations as a part of GCOS.

Thank you.