



IHO File No. S1/1900/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 01/2022
05 January 2022

THEME FOR WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2022 AND MEDIA OUTREACH

References:

- A: IHO CL 43/2021 dated 27 October - *World Hydrography Day – Report on Member States activities in 2021 and the proposed theme for 2022*
B: Summary Report of the 5th meeting of the IHO Council, 19-21 October 2021.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. As announced in the Reference A, the proposed theme for the celebration of World Hydrography Day in 2022 (WHD 2022) was "How hydrography can contribute to the United Nations Ocean Decade". The IHO Secretariat thanks Chile, Ecuador, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Kingdom for their responses. Their comments are provided in the Annex to this letter.
2. The Member States who replied supported the proposal whilst Chile and Iran also suggested some variations of the wording. The Secretariat carefully considered those proposals, reflected on the comments made orally at the 5th Council meeting under Agenda item 5.2 (Reference B) and ultimately agreed with a slight modification.
3. The theme for World Hydrography Day 2022 now reads:

"Hydrography - contributing to the United Nations Ocean Decade"

4. The theme is designed to highlight the relevant contribution of hydrography as a discipline of applied sciences to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021– 2030). The deliberations at the 5th Council meeting confirmed that several hydrographic offices have already engaged nationally to support the United Nations Ocean Decade and efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health. The suggested theme offers the opportunity to emphasize the ability of hydrographers to gather and manage marine data and their strengths in technical collaboration on a global scale. It also underlines the strategic evolution of national, inter-regional and global activities to support an expanding group of stakeholders with hydrographic information and services.
5. The IHO Secretariat would like to create new videos highlighting these different aspects. Member States who are interested and able to assist with the technical production of videos are invited to contact the Secretariat.

6. In support of WHD 2022, the IHO Secretariat will feed the IHO Facebook page, Twitter account, LinkedIn account and YouTube channel. In addition, the IHO Secretariat will organize a dedicated page on the IHO website, where papers and other materials relevant to the celebration will be posted. Member States are invited to forward to the Secretariat any materials that they may create in support of their national WHD 2022 celebrations for posting on any of these platforms.

7. The Focus of the IHO Secretariat's media outreach activities for 2022 will include collaboration with IOC as the custodian of the UN Ocean Decade. This will include communication on the continued relevance of GEBCO including the diversity of actions of the GEBCO Subcommittees such as the Sub-Committee of Underwater Feature Names (SCUFN), Sub-Committee on Regional Undersea Mapping (SCRUM), Technical Sub-Committee on Ocean Mapping (TSCOM), and Sub-Committee on Communications, Outreach and Public Engagement (SCOPE).

8. As always, the Secretariat welcomes any comments and suggestions to improve support for these important initiatives which contribute to the wider ambitions of the UN Sustainable Development Goals through specific activities of the Ocean Decade. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank all of those Member States who have already contributed through ideas, advice and materials to this important process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mathias JONAS".

Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

Annex : Member States comments to CL43/2021

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM MEMBER STATES

Chile

(a) In the terms in which the theme is written, it is indeed a question and as such should end in a question mark. But the fact that the topic is a question is confusing, generating doubts about the contribution that Hydrography makes to society. For this reason we consider that it would be more appropriate to transform it into an assertion, as follows: "Hydrography's contribution to the United Nations Decade of Oceans".

(b) On the other hand, the correct name of the Decade is "UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)". In this regard, it is felt that the text of the theme should not be shortened or generalised, even if it results in a long text, as this would overshadow two vital aspects inserted in its text: ocean sciences and sustainable development. For this reason, our proposal would be as follows: "Hydrography's Contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)".

(c) However, we must recognize that the Decade is the natural reaction of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission proposed to the United Nations Assembly, to respond to the United Nations 2030 Agenda. In such a scenario we consider that the IHO would be minimizing its role when it could be covering a much wider scope and would enhance the impact by linking Hydrography to the 2030 Agenda and for this reason our preferred proposal is as follows: "Hydrography's Contribution to the UN 2030 Agenda".

By citing the 2030 Agenda, we not only cover the Decade which to some extent represents Sustainable Development Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", but a much wider scope, as several other Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, for example SDGs 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 15 benefit from Hydrography in different ways and degrees for the implementation of related initiatives. It is for this reason that it is deemed appropriate to take advantage of this situation and place Hydrography at the very centre of global attention by adopting the following theme for 2022: **"Hydrography's Contribution to the United Nations 2030 Agenda"**.

Ecuador

Ecuador, as a Member State of IHO, ratifies and approves the proposed theme for World Hydrography Day (WHD) 2022 "Cómo puede contribuir la hidrografía al Decenio de los Océanos de Naciones Unidas" ("How hydrography can contribute to the UN Decade of Oceans"); in this context, Ecuador will hold an event in which the importance of hydrography for the achievement of the objectives of the Decade will be shown, with a special emphasis on Galapagos.

Republic of Iran

Concerning the theme proposed by the Secretary-General for the 2022 World Hydrography Day, it would be better if the theme offered a more direct and clear message, as did the themes selected for previous years. I.R. of Iran would therefore like to build on the suggestion by the Secretary-General, and propose "**Hydrography Contributing to the United Nations Ocean Decade**".

United Kingdom

UK note the WHD theme "How hydrography can contribute to the United Nations Ocean Decade" and are looking to continue supporting WHD and will contribute as we have done in previous years. The theme is very relevant, and UKHO is involved in many activities that support the UN Ocean Decade.