

Resolution to support a UN Ocean Decade Contribution

Presented by the ICRI Secretariat, amended following review by members

*Proposed for adoption at the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 39th General Meeting
(Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)*

Plain language statement

This motion seeks ICRI members' support of a UN Ocean Decade Contribution under the current Host Secretariat. The proposed Contribution would position ICRI as a global enabling platform for coral reef action, aligned with the ICRI Plan of Action 2026–2028, once finalised. The ICRI Plan of Action connects coral reef governance, science, monitoring, finance, resilience action, and capacity development within one coherent framework. The motion also recognizes that the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), as an ICRI operational network, will submit a complementary UN Ocean Decade Programme, which has successfully progressed through the Expression of Interest phase, demonstrating the coordinated and linked nature of ICRI and GCRMN's work.

The Members of ICRI,

Recognizing the continuing importance of the International Coral Reef Initiative as a voluntary global partnership for coral reefs, bringing together governments, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, operational networks, technical institutions and other partners around shared coral reef priorities, as set out in the ICRI Framework for Action (2013) and Continuing Call to Action (2013),

Recalling the responsibilities of the Host Secretariat under the ICRI Procedures, including development and delivery of a Plan of Action for a hosting term, convening and organising General Meetings, maintaining outreach mechanisms, promoting ICRI and its work in international fora, and supporting operational networks and ad hoc bodies,

Acknowledging the integrated structure of the ICRI Plan of Action 2026–2028 which seeks to connect coral reef governance, science, monitoring, finance, resilience action, as well as awareness raising, capacity development and meaningful participation within one coherent framework,

Recognizing the opportunity presented by the UN Ocean Decade to strengthen the visibility and coherence of coral reef action within the wider global ocean agenda,

Noting that Ocean Decade endorsement provides international recognition and visibility for ICRI's work rather than a funding commitment, and that ICRI's Plan of Action 2021–2024 was previously listed as a completed Ocean Decade Contribution,

Noting also that the ICRI Plan of Action 2026–2028 has been developed within the 2025–2027 ICRI hosting term and remains in effect until superseded by a Plan of Action adopted by the successor Host Secretariat,

Further noting that this motion proposes an ICRI Ocean Decade Contribution aligned with the ICRI Plan of Action 2026–2028, once finalised, and that the GCRMN, as an ICRI operational network, will submit a complementary UN Ocean Decade Programme (the latter having successfully progressed through the Expression of Interest phase) with both submissions reflecting the coordinated and linked nature of ICRI and GCRMN’s work,

Emphasizing that presenting ICRI’s work and the GCRMN as linked and coordinated Ocean Decade submissions would strengthen the visibility and coherence of coral reef action within the wider global ocean agenda,

The 39th General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative:

1. **Welcomes** the proposed submission of a UN Ocean Decade Contribution aligned with the ICRI Plan of Action 2026–2028;
2. **Recognises** the proposed Contribution as an action-oriented plan through which ICRI supports coordinated coral reef action across governance, science, monitoring, finance, resilience action, and capacity development;
3. **Notes** that the GCRMN Ocean Decade Programme provides a complementary monitoring-focused component of the ICRI Plan of Action 2026–2028, once finalisee and directly supports the wider Contribution;
4. **Acknowledges** that this proposed submission builds on ICRI’s previous Ocean Decade Contribution and represents the next step in ICRI’s engagement with the UN Ocean Decade under the current Host Secretariat term;
5. **Supports** the submission of an ICRI Ocean Decade Contribution and complementary GCRMN UN Ocean Decade Programme as a unified, science-based and action-oriented framework that:
 - a) articulates an integrated coral reef agenda across governance, science, finance, resilience action and capacity development;
 - b) connects coral reef monitoring, knowledge exchange and policy uptake through ICRI and the GCRMN;
 - c) strengthens coordination, visibility and partnership-building across ICRI members, operational networks and partners, including through regional mechanisms;
 - d) helps position coral reefs more clearly within the wider ocean and biodiversity agenda; and
6. **Requests** the ICRI Host Secretariat to keep members informed, as appropriate, on progress related to the Contribution and any subsequent developments arising from the Ocean Decade review process, and invite members to share existing Ocean Decade activities and commitments to support the compilation of a stocktake by the Secretariat ahead of the Contribution submission.

Conclusion

ICRI Members express their collective commitment to advancing coordinated, science-based, and collaborative action for coral reefs through support for a UN Ocean Decade Contribution that strengthens governance, monitoring, finance, resilience action, and capacity development within one integrated framework. In doing so, Members recognize this Contribution as an important next step in ICRI's engagement with the UN Ocean Decade and as a means of reinforcing the Initiative's role in convening and enabling coherent global action for coral reefs.