Election of the IOCARIBE Board of Officers

During the 18th Intergovernmental Session of the Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOCARIBE), held in Brasília, Brazil, from 23 to 25 April 2025, the Member States elected the Board of Officers for the 2026-2027 biennium in accordance with the applicable rules of procedure.

The majority of current officers were re-elected, reflecting the Member States' recognition of their leadership and continued dedication to strengthening regional cooperation in ocean science. In addition, Dr. Rahanna Juman of Trinidad and Tobago was elected as a new Vice-Chairperson.



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Dr. Juman serves as Deputy Director of the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), a government-funded marine research institution in Trinidad and Tobago. She holds a Ph.D. in Zoology and a Bachelor of Law. With over two decades of experience researching Caribbean coastal ecosystems, she has published widely and authored a book on her country's wetlands. She has received numerous prestigious fellowships, including the Hubert Humphrey, Watson International, American, and UNESCO/L'ORÉAL Fellowships.

Dr. Juman joins the IOCARIBE Board of Officers alongside the other re-elected members, including Dr. Marck Oduber (Chairperson, Aruba), Dr. Roberto de Pinho (Vice-Chairperson, Brazil), and Dr. Soraya J. Silva (Vice-Chairperson, Venezuela).

During the 18th Intergovernmental Session, Member States also expressed their appreciation to Dr. John Cortinas of the United States of America, who stepped down from his position as a member of the Board. Dr. Cortinas is a distinguished marine scientist and retired senior executive of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), recognized for his significant contributions to scientific research and international cooperation.

Through this election, IOCARIBE reaffirms its commitment to advancing ocean science, sustainable development, and regional collaboration across the Caribbean and Tropical Americas.