



ICASE General Assembly Report, June 2026

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As the appointed ICASE Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and a member of the ICASE Management and Executive Committees, my assigned responsibilities include:

- Responding to UNESCO calls for information, surveys, and communications, and reporting relevant activities to the ICASE Management and Executive Committees;
- Representing ICASE at UNESCO meetings and NGO Liaison Committee activities, including attendance at biannual meetings at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, and reporting UNESCO priorities and opportunities to ICASE leadership; and
- Maintaining communication with UNESCO's education, science, and culture sectors; ensuring ICASE information remains current within UNESCO systems; contributing UNESCO news and updates to each issue of the ICASE Bulletin; and coordinating UNESCO representation and engagement at ICASE World Conferences.

I am pleased to report that these responsibilities were actively fulfilled throughout the reporting period. Through these efforts, ICASE remained actively engaged with UNESCO priorities and initiatives while strengthening its visibility, engagement, and contributions within UNESCO and the broader international NGO community throughout the reporting period.

As the ICASE Representative to UNESCO, I successfully completed my third elected term on the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee (2022–2024), representing more than 400 NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO. During this term, I served as Vice President of the Liaison Committee and as the focal point to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). ICASE's elected leadership role on the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee concluded in December 2024 following completion of the committee term limits.

Throughout the reporting period, I continued to represent ICASE at UNESCO meetings, conferences, and consultations, including the 2024 International Conference of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO (ICNGO) at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, also attended by ICASE President Dr. Declan Kennedy. I contributed to the organization of the conference and represented ICASE in discussions related to UNESCO priorities and NGO engagement.

A major focus of my work has been the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (Ocean Decade 2021–2030). As Co-Chair of the UNESCO-IOC Ocean Decade NGO Task Group, I worked with colleagues from UNESCO and the NGO community to develop and publish the *Ocean Decade Manual for NGOs*, released by UNESCO in December 2024 and now available through the UNESCO Digital Library. The manual provides guidance for civil society organizations seeking to engage with Ocean Decade initiatives and activities.

ICASE has continued to play a significant role in advancing Ocean Literacy within the Ocean Decade. The three-volume Springer Nature book series, *Ocean Literacy: The Foundation for the Success of the Ocean Decade*, with ICASE serving as the Lead Institution, was endorsed as an official Ocean Decade Activity. The series includes 65 chapters authored by more than 250 contributors from 42 countries and territories and represents one of the largest international Ocean Literacy collaborations undertaken during the Decade. The book launch occurred on the opening day of the ICASE 8th World Conference, followed by the Marine Science Education Strand, which was also designated as an official Ocean Decade Activity. Additional Ocean Decade activities included presentations and participation at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, Spain; development of Ocean Literacy resources and international partnerships; participation in the Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs) and NGO Focus Group: Ocean Decade Evaluation, conducted by INOMER, in 2025; and continued collaboration with UNESCO-IOC staff, NGOs, educators, scientists, and ECOPs worldwide.

In support of UNESCO's broader science agenda, I have also collaborated with Dr. Amal Kasry, Chief of Section for Basic Sciences, Research, Innovation and Engineering, and colleagues on the preparation of *Science at a Turning Point: The First Global Report of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD 2024–2033)*, contributing to the development and review of this landmark UNESCO publication.

As ICASE Representative to UNESCO, I have continued to prepare regular UNESCO news and updates for publication in the *ICASE Bulletin*, providing members with information on UNESCO priorities, events, publications, international opportunities, and United Nations Decades. These regular contributions help strengthen connections between ICASE members and UNESCO's global education and science initiatives. I also continued to coordinate UNESCO engagement with ICASE activities and conferences, including facilitating UNESCO participation and visibility within ICASE events and initiatives.

I would like to thank the ICASE Executive Committee for its continued support and for the opportunity to represent our organization within UNESCO and the broader international NGO community. It has been an honor to serve ICASE in this capacity.