1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Restricted distribution  notext-bw | **IOC-XXX/ Decisions**  Paris, 04 July 2019  Original: English |

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**(of UNESCO)**

**Thirtieth Session of the Assembly**

UNESCO, Paris, 26 June–4 July 2019

**ADOPTED DECISIONS & RESOLUTIONS**

# **ADOPTED DECISIONS**

# Decision IOC-XXX/2

# **Organization of the Session**

The Assembly,

**I. Agenda**

Adopts the agenda and the timetable of work as set out in document IOC-XXX/1 Prov. Rev. and Add. Rev.2;

**II. Rapporteur**

On a proposal of Philippines, seconded by China, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya and Republic of Korea,

Designates Ms Suree Satapoomin of Thailand Rapporteur for its present session to assist the Chairperson and the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the draft provisional report of the session;

**III. Sessional Committees and Working Groups**

Considering the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 52nd session acting as the Steering Committee for its session (EC-LII/Dec.3.1),

Establishes the following sessional open-ended committees and refers to them the following agenda items and responsibilities:

Financial Committee: to examine the financial implications of draft decisions/resolutions, workplans of subsidiary bodies and prepare a resolution under items 3.2, 3.3 and 12.1-4; under the chairship of Ariel H. Troisi (Argentina, Vice-chair) with the following Member States participating: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, Germany, Grenada, India, Japan, Kenya, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and United States of America. Ms Ksenia Yvinec provided the Secretariat support to the Financial Committee.

Resolutions Committee: to report on all draft resolutions duly presented for consideration at the session; under the chairship of Mr Yutaka Michida (Japan) with the following Member States participating: Canada, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Thailand and United States of America. Mr Julian Barbière provided the Secretariat support to the Resolutions Committee.

Nominations Committee: to examine all proposals of candidates for the elections to the chair, vice-chairs and to the Executive Council at the present session, and to report on them – item 12.6: under the chairship of Dr Sang-Kyung Byun (Republic of Korea) with the following Member States, representing all electoral groups, participating: Bulgaria, Chile, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Ireland, Japan, Morocco, Nigeria, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Thailand, USA. Dr Thorkild Aarup and Dr Salvatore Aricò provided the Secretariat support to the Nominations Committee.

# Decision IOC-XXX/3.2

# **Report of the Executive Secretary**

The Assembly,

Having examined documents IOC-XXX/2 Annex 1 & 2, IOC/INF-1366, 1367, 1368, 1351 Part 3, 1370 and 1382,

Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the work accomplished since the 29th session of the Assembly (July 2017–May 2019), including the report on 2018 budget implementation and the overview of the 2019 budget;

Welcomes the progress made with the preparation of the second edition of the Global Ocean Science Report (GOSR) since the 51st session of the IOC Executive Council (IOC/INF-1366);

Invites the IOC Secretariat to present the second edition of the GOSR at the 53rd session of the IOC Executive Council in 2020;

Calls upon the IOC Secretariat and OECD to further expand cooperation related to activities on the scientific approaches of valuation of ocean sources and services, and the contribution of ocean science to sustain these;

Welcomes the draft IOC-SCOR policy brief on multiple ocean stressors (IOC/INF-1367) and its potential significant contribution in informing Strategic Objective 2 of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which focuses on the science of multiple ocean stressors as a basis for ecosystem-based management;

Encourages the IOC Secretariat to continue technical cooperation with the Scientific Committee on Ocean Research (SCOR) Working Group 149 in the area of changing ocean biological systems in a multiple-driver world;

Acknowledges the continuous support by Member States to the IOC Secretariat with respect to the SDG indicator development and data collection, specifically, with respect to 14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.3.1 and 14.a.1 (IOC/INF-1368);

Acknowledges with appreciation the SDG-IAEG decision to reclassify SDG Indicator 14.3.1 from Tier 3 to Tier 2, which means that the indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries; and encourages the IOC expert groups on ocean acidification to further pursue their work towards the ultimate reclassification of SDG Indicator 14.3.1 to Tier 1;

Invites the IOC Secretariat to establish and continue the regular data collection for Indicators 14.3.1 and 14.a.1 and report the progress to the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session in 2020;

Acknowledges further the progress made by the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) in reference to its alignment with both the IIOE-2 Science Plan and Implementation Strategy (IOC/INF-1351 Part 3);

Notes the request of IIOE-2 Steering Committee, adopted at its third annual meeting of 12–13 March 2019, to the Expedition Sponsors to continue to support the IIOE-2 to at least 2025 in recognition of its many current and prospective projects that will reach well into the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030;

Further notes that a continued IIOE-2 would also contribute tangibly and strongly at both regional and global levels to the Decade;

Invites the IOC Secretariat to continue to support the IIOE-2 through continuing its role on and for the IIOE-2 Steering Committee and to facilitate the alignment of the IIOE-2's extended tenure with the goals and objectives of the Decade and report back to the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session in 2020;

Accepts the proposal by the IOC Secretariat to extend the Terms of Reference of the Perth Programme Office as endorsed in the annex to Resolution XXVII-1 to June 2021.

# Decision IOC-XXX/3.3.1

# **IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific**

The Assembly,

Having considered the executive summary report of the 12th Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific, Manila, the Philippines, 2–5 April 2019 (IOC/WESTPAC-XII/3s),

Expresses its deep appreciation to:

* The Government of Thailand, through its Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, for the provision of office space and facilities for the WESTPAC Office; and its National Commission for UNESCO for the financial support to the WESTPAC activities on ocean acidification monitoring, microplastic research, scientific diving and dinoflagellate sampling and processing;
* The Government of the Philippines, through its Department of Foreign Affairs, National Commission for UNESCO, the University of the Philippines and its Marine Science Institute for hosting the 12th Intergovernmental session of the Sub-Commission (Manila, the Philippines, 2–5 April 2019);
* The Government of Japan for hosting and co-organizing the Regional Planning Workshop for the North Pacific and Western Pacific marginal seas towards the UN Decade of Ocean Science (Tokyo, Japan, 31 July–2 August 2019);
* The Government of China, through its Ministry of Natural Resources and First Institute of Oceanography for hosting the Regional Training and Research Centre on Ocean Dynamics and Climate, with annual trainings since 2011 that have attracted a total of 359 young scientists from 43 countries;
* The Government of Indonesia, through its Indonesian Institute of Sciences, for hosting the Regional Training and Research Center on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health with annual trainings provided since 2016;
* Member States for their either in-cash or in-kind support, such as China via its voluntary contribution to the IOC Special Account, Japan via the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust, and the Republic of Korea via the UNESCO/Korean Funds-in-Trust. A significant in-kind support was also provided by China, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, USA and Viet Nam for various WESTPAC programmes and activities;

Taking into account the pivotal role of the WESTPAC Office in IOC’s achievements in the region over the past decade and in the preparations and implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), with concerns over the increasing difficulty in maintaining IOC’s visibility and leadership in the region as a result of the incompatibility of the current size of the WESTPAC Office and the scope of IOC activities in the region,

Requests the Executive Secretary IOC to reinforce the Sub-Commissions’ Secretariat;

Invites all Member States, and relevant international organizations/programmes to participate in the 11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference 2020 (Jakarta, Indonesia, 25–28 August 2020);

Accepts the report of WESTPAC-XII and the recommendations therein, including the workplan of the Sub-Commission for May 2019–April 2021;

Agrees that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall IOC Programme and Budget draft resolution XXX-(12).

# Decision IOC-XXX/3.3.2

# **IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Region**

The Assembly,

Having considered the Executive Summary Report of the 15th session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Region (IOCARIBE), Oranjestad, Aruba, 6–10 May 2019 (IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XV/3s),

Accepts the report of IOCARIBE-XV and the recommendations therein;

Recognizes the high vulnerability of IOCARIBE Region’s SIDS and underlines the need to identify their national capacity gaps to be addressed in order to enable their effective participation in the activities of IOCARIBE and United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development work plans, and the effective implementation of the UNESCO's Action Plan for SIDS;

Expresses its deep appreciation to:

* the Government of Colombia for continued hosting of the Secretariat and for its support by seconding experts working as IOCARIBE staff;
* the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium) for their continuous support to IOCARIBE programmes;
* the Government of Barbados, Mexico, Panama, and the Republic of Korea for their support to IOCARIBE programmes;
* the Government of Aruba (Kingdom of the Netherlands) for their support to and hosting IOCARIBE-XV;
* All other IOCARIBE Member States for their financial and in-kind support provided to IOCARIBE programme activities implementation;

Agrees that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall IOC Programme and Budget draft resolution XXX-(12).

# Decision IOC-XXX/3.3.3

# **IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States**

The Assembly,

Having examined the Executive Summary report of the 5th session of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, Nairobi, Kenya, 25–27 March 2019 (IOCAFRICA-V/3s),

Takes note of the progress made in the implementation of the IOCAFRICA work programme 2017–2019;

Thanks the Member States who have provided support for the development and implementation of programmes of the Sub-Commission, and especially the Governments of Belgium, China, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, and Spain;

Accepts the report of IOCAFRICA-V and the recommendations therein, including the work programme for the Sub-Commission for 2019–2021;

Requests the Executive Secretary to provide support for the organization of the Pan-African Conference on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 19–22 October 2020);

Requests the Executive Secretary to organize a meeting to agree a common approach towards effective implementation of GOOS activities around the African continent;

Agrees that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall IOC Programme Budget draft resolution XXX-(12).

# Decision IOC-XXX/3.3.4

# **IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean**

The Assembly,

Having examined the Executive Summary report of the 7th session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean, Hyderabad, India, 31 May–1 June 2019 (IOCINDIO-VII/3s), including its Scientific, Technical and Institutional Innovations Workshop for National and Regional Framework on Coastal Vulnerability Assessment and Monitoring for Sea-Level Rise and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean Region,

Takes note of the summary report of IOCINDIO-VII including the recommendations therein, the work programme with the project proposals and the working group established during the IOCINDIO-VII workshop with the view to serve as the intersessional working group to support the IOCINDIO Officers and the IOC Secretariat towards the implementation of the work programme;

Further takes note of the proposal by the IOCINDIO-VII to change the status of the regional committee into an IOC Sub-commission;

Requests the IOCINDIO Chair to prepare, with the help of the IOC Secretariat, a proposal for changing the status of IOCINDIO that would contain the mission, the objectives, terms of references, budgetary implications, secretarial arrangements and other necessary provisions;

Decides to include a corresponding agenda item at the 53rd session of the IOC Executive Council in 2020;

Supports the efforts of the regional committee to strengthen its national coordinating bodies for liaison with the IOC and focal points;

Expresses its appreciation to:

* the Government of India, which mobilized national public institutions for hosting the preceding workshop and the IOCINDIO-VII session with in-kind contributions covering the full board accommodation to all participants and local logistics, and for its offer to host the regional workshop related to the Indian Ocean in the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;
* the two UNESCO Category-2 centres in the region, namely the Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia at the Iranian National Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science in Teheran, and the International Training Centre on Operational Oceanography, (ITCOOcean) at the Indian Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in Hyderabad, India, for supporting capacity building activities and capacity in the region;

Agrees that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall IOC Programme Budget draft resolution XXX-(12).

# Decision IOC-XXX/3.4

# **Report on the IOC activities (2018–2019) to the Fortieth General Conference of UNESCO**

The Assembly,

Recalling Article 3.2 of the Statutes and Rule of Procedure 49.2,

Having examined document IOC-XXX/6,

Takes note of the report to be presented to the 40th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, and requests the Executive Secretary to submit the report on IOC activities (2018–2019) to the 40th General Conference of UNESCO as document 40 C/REP.9.

# Decision IOC-XXX/4.2

# **Enhanced coherence, impact and future orientations of the IOC in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and the 2030 Agenda**

The Assembly,

Taking into account that the IOC is expected to contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) beyond its role in preparing an Implementation Plan for the Decade, including through the mobilization and direct efforts of relevant IOC programmes and expert networks,

Commending the inputs to the scoping of the high-level science plan of the Decade received from relevant IOC expert networks and scientific organizations collaborating with IOC,

Recalling a need for continuous alignment and cross-fertilization of IOC programmes and activities with the societal and strategic objectives of the Decade as they are refined through the planning phase,

Calls upon the IOC Member States and the Executive Secretary to continue to seek alignment between the objectives of the Decade and IOC programmes and activities, with a special focus on those that deal with critical gaps in scientific knowledge, understanding of multiple ocean stressors of relevance to ecosystem-based management, prediction of the ocean state, adaptation to climate change, development of solutions for ocean health and the protection of the marine environment, warning of ocean hazards threatening lives, as well as capacity development;

Encourages the Secretariat to enter into collaborative programmatic arrangements with partner organizations in the design and implementation of joint activities in support of the science plan of the Decade following its development by the Executive Planning Group of the Decade;

Urges Member States and partner organizations to provide voluntary financial contributions in anticipation of the IOC’s substantive activities in support of the Decade and its science plan, including through in-kind support such as staff secondments to the IOC Secretariat;

Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session in 2020 on the status and modalities of IOC’s programmatic contribution to the Decade.

# Decision IOC-XXX/5.1

# **Cooperation with WMO**

The Assembly,

Taking note of the Draft WMO-IOC Memorandum of Understanding *(*IOC-XXX/Inf.3),

Requests the Executive Secretary to complete preparations for its joint signature with WMO.

# Decision IOC-XXX/5.2

# **IOC Contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

The Assembly,

Recalling the central role of the world ocean in the regulation of climate and in the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change, as reflected in the Paris Agreement,

Recalling also that climate change is called by the United Nations Secretary General as one of the major threats to humanity,

Having considered the report of the IOC Secretariat on collaboration between the Commission and the UNFCCC process (IOC/INF-1374),

Reiterates that the Commission is in virtue of its mandate and expertise well placed to provide technical assistance in ocean-related scientific, observational and technical aspects of climate change and advocate for their importance in terms of addressing the climate change threat;

Further recalling also the synergies between IOC expert groups, such as the IOC Working Group on Integrated Ocean Carbon Research, and the scientific and technical debates at the UNFCCC, including, the Research Dialogues under the auspices of the Convention’s Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice,

Invites the Executive Secretary to continue and reinforce cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and to explore further opportunities for joint technical work in support of the IPCC Assessment Reports and relevant IPCC special reports;

Decides that IOC shall be represented at the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, which will be held in Santiago de Chile from 2 to 13 December 2019, by taking an active part in ocean-related dialogues, including at Earth Information Day, in support of the Conference as well as in related preparatory meetings leading to COP 25, such as the Pre-COP in Costa Rica;

Expresses its belief that the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development will bring together the scientific communities working on climate change and ocean science and encourages Member States and the Executive Planning Group for the Decade to provide guidance on how the scoping process of the Decade can take into due account needs related to the science of climate change and opportunities of knowledge-sharing, specifically by reflecting these considerations in the implementation and the science plans of the Decade.

# Decision IOC-XXX/6.1

# **Harmful Algal Blooms**

The Assembly,

Having considered the Executive Summary Report of the 14th session of the IOC Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB), its 8 Decisions and 2 Recommendations and the workplan for 2020–2021 adopted at the session (IOC/IPHAB-XIV/3s);

Endorses the Executive Summary Report of IPHAB-XIV and the recommendations contained therein (IOC/IPHAB-XIV/3s);

Agrees to the HAB workplan for 2020–2021 (Recommendation IPHAB-XIV.1) and to consider it in the overall IOC Programme and Budget resolution XXX-(12).

Requests the Executive Secretary to complete preparations for the signature of the FAO-WHO-IAEA-IOC Memorandum of Understanding of Ciguatera Poisoning.

# Decision IOC-XXX/6.2

# **WMO-IOC-ISC World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)**

The Assembly,

Taking into account developments related to WCRP, including the finalized WCRP Strategic Plan 2019–2029,

Stressing the centrality of the ocean and the related role of IOC and of the scientific constituency represented by the Commission in climate research,

Reiterating the importance of the continuum that goes from bedrock climate science to sustained observations, data and information products, and assessments,

Noting with appreciation the continuing strong cooperation between IOC, WMO and ISC in their capacity as co-sponsors of WCRP,

Takes note of the timeline and modalities for the development of the WCRP Implementation Plan associated with the Strategic Plan and of the timeline for the finalization of a renewed co-sponsoring agreement between WMO, IOC and ISC;

Encourages scientists participating in WCRP to take an interest in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and specifically in how the Decade can leverage further relevant foci of the WCRP Strategic and Implementation Plans;

Requests the Executive Secretary to monitor the alignment of the WCRP Strategic Plan 2019–2029 with work priorities of the IOC, including engagement with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;

Encourages IOC Member States to mobilize extrabudgetary resources in support of the IOC contribution to WCRP.

# Decision IOC-XXX/7.1.1

# **The Global Ocean Observing System**

The Assembly,

Noting the 18th World Meteorological Congress Resolution 6.1(3)/4 which approved the GOOS 2030 Strategy, subject to its parallel approval by this Assembly, supports establishment of a node of a distributed GOOS Office located within WMO, and asks WMO Members to take the TPOS 2020 report and its recommendations into account when planning their contribution to the Tropical Pacific Observing System,

Further noting IOC Resolution XXX-(5.1), which proposes GOOS taking on primary sponsorship of present observing programme area and operational ocean forecast system bodies in JCOMM, after a transition period and JCOMM disbandment in 2020,

**I.   
GOOS 2030 Strategy**

Having examined IOC-XXX/2 Annex 4,

Accepts the Global Ocean Observing System 2030 Strategy;

Calls on other sponsors of GOOS—the World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Environment, and the International Science Council—to consider how they will help implement the strategy; and

Urges Member States to take actions to facilitate its implementation;

**II.   
GOOS Workplan**

Noting the broad ambition of the GOOS 2030 Strategy,

Further noting IOC's recognized role as lead agency for GOOS, and the fundamental role of observations in supporting IOC's Medium-Term Strategy and the developing UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development,

Having examined the initial GOOS Implementation Plan (IOC/INF-1376),

Accepts with appreciation the initial Implementation Plan as the GOOS Workplan for the coming intersessional period;

Notes the resourcing requirements that are laid out in the initial Implementation Plan, and that only a fraction of these can be supported from draft IOC Programme and Budget allocation for GOOS;

Further notes the need to incorporate appropriate JCOMM decisions and processes regarding observations into GOOS during the transition period leading up to the disbandment of JCOMM;

Expresses its appreciation for the in-kind contributions of Member States that have enabled the development of a distributed GOOS Office;

Welcomes the proposed establishment of a node of the GOOS Office hosted by WMO, and of a G7-GOOS coordination centre to be hosted by the IOC;

Urges Member States to support GOOS through contributions to the IOC Special Account for GOOS, secondments of staff members to the GOOS Office, in-kind support such as hosting meetings or workshops with participant funding, the establishment of GOOS support offices, the funding of GOOS projects, or other means as agreed by the GOOS Steering Committee (SC);

**III.  
Legacy of Basin-scale observing projects**

Noting the vision of the All-Atlantic Ocean Observing System (the AtlantOS Program) and the TPOS 2020 Second Report (GOOS Reports, 234),

Further noting the OceanObs’19 conference that is going to take place in Hawaii from 16 to 20 September 2019,

Notes ocean observing system review activities in the Indian Ocean (INDOOS) and Tropical Atlantic Ocean (TAOS);

Calls on Member States to take the TPOS 2020 Second Report and its recommendations into account when planning their contribution to the Tropical Pacific Observing System;

Calls on interested Member States to engage in the development of the All-Atlantic Ocean Observing System (the AtlantOS Program) as a contribution to GOOS;

Requests the GOOS Steering Committee to consider the legacy of GOOS projects in future proposals to IOC and co-sponsors on the evolution of GOOS;

**IV.   
GOOS SC Regional Membership**

Recalling the GOOS-SC regional membership appointment defined in IOC Resolution XXVI-8, and further recalling IOC Circular Letter 2762 requesting nominations of experts for appointment by Member State Electoral Groups,

Notes the appointment by each of the Member State Electoral Groups of a regional expert member of the GOOS-SC for 2020–2021:

* Elaine McDonagh, United Kingdom(Group I)
* Konstantin Lebedev, Russian Federation (Group II)
* Alvaro Santiago Scardilli, Argentina (Group III)
* Tony Worby, Australia (Group IV)
* Desiderius Masalu, Tanzania(Group V)

# Decision IOC-XXX/7.1.2

# **WMO-ISC-IOC-UNEP Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Work Plan**

The Assembly,

Having examined the proposed Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) status report and work plan (IOC/INF-1377);

Accepts the GCOS work plan;

Calls on the other sponsors of GCOS—the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment, and the International Science Council—to finalize and consider how they will help implement a GCOS Strategy, as well as this work plan; and

Urges Member States to take actions to facilitate its implementation.

# Decision IOC-XXX/7.1.3

# **Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)**

The Assembly,

**I.   
Joint WMO and IOC Strategy for Marine Meteorological   
and Oceanographic Data Management (2018–2021)**

Having examined JCOMM Technical Report No. 40 Rev. 5—Joint WMO and IOC Strategy for Marine Meteorological and Oceanographic Data Management (2018–2021),

Noting the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2014–2021 and the IOC Strategic Plan for Data and Information Management (2017–2021),

Further noting the decision of IODE at its 25th session (19–22 February 2019, Tokyo) to endorse the Joint Strategy, inviting JCOMM to submit it to the IOC Assembly at its 30th session,

Recalling the parallel WMO Resolution 6.1(3)/1 adopted at the 18th World Meteorological Congress, which proposed renaming the Joint Strategy to “*Joint World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO Strategy for Marine Meteorological and Oceanographic Data Management (2018–2021)*”, and to update it to reflect Congress Decisions with regard to the WMO Constituent Body Reform,

Concurs with the changes proposed by the World Meteorological Congress;

Adopts the Joint WMO and IOC Strategy for Marine Meteorological and Oceanographic Data Management (2018–2021); and

Requests the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board to: (i) take steps, in liaison with IODE and the WMO Infrastructure Commission, for updating the Joint Strategy according to the WMO Strategic Plan for 2020–2023, and have it submitted to IODE-XXVI and EC-73 (2021) for approval; and (ii) develop an implementation plan responding to the Joint Strategy, with support of IODE and the WMO Infrastructure Commission;

**II.   
JCOMMOPS**

Having examined the JCOMMOPS Review 2018 (JCOMM TR-93)and its key findings and recommendations,

Commends the work of the review panel;

Notes in particular the recommendation that: "JCOMMOPS core services at the system-level (*vs* network–level) should be clearly defined and adequately funded on a programmatic basis through the intergovernmental systems, i.e. WMO and IOC. The core services need to serve the needs expressed by these bodies, through WIGOS and GOOS";

Welcomes the proposed creation by WMO of a regular programme funded post for JCOMMOPS Lead;

Decides to consider the financial implications of the review recommendations in the context of the overall IOC Programme and Budget;

Urges Member States to investigate how they could strengthen their support to JCOMMOPS and assist in making the funding of JCOMMOPS more stable and sustainable.

# Decision IOC-XXX/7.2.1

# **IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange**

The Assembly,

**I  
25th Session of IODE, 20–22 February 2019, Tokyo, Japan**

Having examined the Executive Summary and Report of the 25th session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE-XXV) (20–22 February 2017, Tokyo, Japan), the recommendations and the decisions contained therein (IOC/IODE-XXV/3s),

Agrees to the IODE Workplan for 2019–2020 (Recommendation IODE-XXV.7.3) and to consider it in the overall IOC Programme and Budget draft resolution XXX-(12);

Endorses the report of the 25th session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange and the recommendations contained therein;

**II  
Revision of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy**

Recalling Assembly Resolution XXII-6 entitled ‘IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy’,

Recognizingthe need for free and open access to oceanographic data for the global common good,

Notingthe World Data System (WDS) has superseded the World Data Centres (WDC),

Further noting the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) is a global open-access data and information clearing-house on ocean biodiversity for science, conservation and sustainable development,

Decides torevise Clause 5 of the Annex to Resolution XXII-6 (IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy) to the revision attached in Annex 1 of this decision;

Invites all Member States to contribute oceanographic data to the IODE network of data centres, the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), and the World Ocean Database or the World Data System;

**III  
Establishment of the IOC Ocean Best Practices System Project (OBPS)**

Recalling Recommendation IODE-XXII.19 for the establishment of the IODE Clearing House Service for Data/Information Management Practices Project, which replaced the JCOMM Catalogue of Best Practices,

Recognizing that:

* 1. the dissemination and use of rigorously tested best practice methods in ocean observing promote and facilitate activity within and across disciplinary boundaries of ocean science,
  2. IODE has successfullyestablished a permanent repository offering the scientific community a platform to publish their ocean-related best practices and find practices of others using innovative search and access technology, a peer review journal publishing outlet and community forum, and a training resource leveraging community capabilities,
  3. IOC and JCOMM have established close, efficient and effective collaboration in ocean best practices,

Noting that the Ocean Best Practices System Repository (OBPS-R) of best practices will support all IOC programmes and contribute to the UN Decade of the Ocean and UN Sustainable Development Goals by providing a permanent curated archive of best practices in ocean sciences,

Noting further that within the context of the project, a best practice is defined[[1]](#footnote-1) as a methodology that has repeatedly produced superior results relative to other methodologies with the same objective; to be fully elevated to a best practice, a promising method will have been adopted and employed by multiple organizations,

Noting also that best practices can be in many forms including standard operating procedures, manuals, etc.,

Decides to:

* 1. establish the IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) as a joint IODE-GOOS project with the terms of reference as attached in Annex 2 to this decision;
  2. establish the IOC Steering Group for the Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) project with the terms of reference as attached in Annex 3 to this decision;

UrgesMember States to actively participate in the OBPS project by submitting relevant community practices on ocean observation, data management, products and services, and by promoting the use of practices contained in the OBPS at the national, regional and global level;

Invites relevant stakeholders to contribute community practices and collaborate with the OBPS.

Annex 1 to IOC-XXX, Dec. 7.2.1

**Clause 5 of the Annex to Resolution XXII-6 (IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy):** **Use of IODE system**

Member States shall, to the best practicable degree, use data centres linked to the World Data System (WDS) and IODE’s NODCs, such as the World Ocean Database (WOD) and the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), as long-term repositories for oceanographic data and associated metadata.

Annex 2 to IOC-XXX, Dec. 7.2.1

**Terms of Reference of the IOC Ocean Best Practices System Project (OBPS)**

Objectives: The objectives of this project are to:

1. Increase efficiency, reproducibility and interoperability of the entire ocean observing value chain by providing the community with a unified, sustained and readily accessible knowledge base of interdisciplinary best practices;
2. Provide coordinated and sustained global access to best practices in ocean observing to foster innovation and excellence by developing a system and engaging ocean observing communities in a joint and coordinated effort in producing, reviewing and sustaining best practice documents.

Annex 3 to IOC-XXX, Dec. 7.2.1

**Terms of Reference of the IOC Steering Group for the   
Ocean Best Practices System (SG-OBPS)**

Objectives: The SG-OBPS will have the following Terms of Reference:

* 1. Propose the vision, strategy, work plan and timetable for the Ocean Best Practices System Project;
  2. Advise on technical aspects such as user interface, back office, etc. to the project technical task team;
  3. Report to the IOC and to other partners on the progress of the Ocean Best Practices System Project;
  4. Provide guidance to the project manager and project technical manager;
  5. Identify funding sources to further develop the OBPS.

Membership: The Steering Group will be composed, *inter alia*, of:

* 1. Representatives from IOC Programmes and JCOMM;
  2. Project Manager/Chief Editor;
  3. Project Technical Manager;
  4. Invited Experts from the ocean observing community;
  5. Representatives of the IODE and GOOS Secretariats.

# Decision IOC-XXX/7.2.2

# **IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS)**

The Assembly,

Recalling Decision IODE-XXIV.4 on the Ocean Data and Information System,

Recognizing that a major component of the ocean data and information system landscape is not linked to the IOC and the need to collaborate with those communities/systems in order to achieve improved accessibility, unrestricted use and interoperability of data and information,

Recalling that the IOC decided that IODE will work with existing stakeholders, linked and not linked to the IOC, to improve the accessibility and interoperability of existing data and information, and to contribute to the development of a global ocean data and information system, to be referred to as the IOC Ocean Data and Information System, leveraging established solutions where possible, including existing IODE systems and others,

Noting with appreciation that IODE has developed a prototype ODIS Catalogue of Sources and that the IODE Committee, at its 25th session, has recommended the establishment of the IOC Ocean Data and Information System Catalogue of Sources Project (ODISCat),

Having examined Document IOC/XXX/2 Annex 6,

Endorses the ODIS Concept, Implementation Plan and Cost Benefit Analysis;

Invites the IODE Committee to prepare a fully detailed and costed project proposal for the IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) for submission to the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session in 2020.

# Decision IOC-XXX/8.2

# **Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning Systems**

The Assembly,

Having considered the executive summary reports of the recent sessions of the Intergovernmental Coordination Groups for: the Pacific Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS-XXVIII), the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS-XII), the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XIV), the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/NEAMTWS-XV), and the report of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG-XII),

Accepts the reports by the IOC/ICGs and TOWS-WG;

Notes with satisfaction the progress made during the intersessional period, including:

* three exercises carried out (IOWave18, PacWave18, CARIBEWAVE 19) and regular communication tests performed, and with CARIBEWAVE 19 including a volcanic scenario for the first time,
* recovery and reconstruction of observation networks in the Caribbean following recent hurricanes,
* CARIBE-EWS Implementation Plan for 2018–2023 adopted,
* methodological guidelines “How to prepare, conduct, and evaluate a community-based tsunami response exercise” has been completed and is available in French, Spanish and English and under consideration of ICG/CARIBE-EWS for final publication,
* two communities in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (St. Patrick, Grenada, and Fort Liberté, Haiti) achieved UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready recognition, India and Oman testing Tsunami Ready, and growing interest for piloting Tsunami Ready expressed in NEAMTWS,
* Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA, Portugal) seeking accreditation as a Tsunami Service Provider in NEAMTWS,
* South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Centre (SCSTAC) intent to go to full operation, North West Pacific Tsunami Advisory Center (NWPTAC) to have made a full changeover to Enhanced Products at end of February 2019 and the Central American Tsunami Advisory Center (CATAC) plans to start trial operation,
* ITIC Training activities including the ITP-Hawaii course in Chile in August 2018 for the first time,
* European Commission’s support towards projects contributing to NEAMTWS, UNESCAP funding for Strengthening Tsunami Early Warning in the North West Indian Ocean Region, JICA and DIPECHO’s support for CATAC and Tsunami Ready and preparedness in Central America, new funding from DIPECHO and USAID/OFDA towards piloting Tsunami Ready programme in the Caribbean and Central America,
* PTWS completion of its Key Performance Indicators Framework,
* progress in sharing the results of tsunami exercises and communication tests with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the improvements in alert message delivery rates for IOTWMS,
* completion and submission of a Community White Paper "Ocean Observations Required to Minimize Uncertainty in Global Tsunami Forecasts, Warnings, and Emergency Response" to the OceanObs19 Conference;

**I  
Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS)**

Notes the establishment of a Working Group 2 Task Team to propose minimum competency levels for National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) operations staff;

Notes the establishment of a Working Group 2 Task Team to propose an optimal multi-instrument sensor network that integrates existing and emerging techniques and sensor technologies, for tsunami detection and characterization;

Welcomes the decision to organize and conduct the exercise Pacific Wave 2020 (PacWave 2020) in the months September to November 2020 and that it will be conducted as a series of regional exercises organized through the PTWS regional working groups;

Further welcomes the decision to develop a draft PTWS Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029 for discussion by the PTWS Steering Committee in 2020, and approval by the ICG/PTWS-XXIX in 2021;

Recommends Member States with GNSS data to investigate the means of sharing this data in real time, with a view towards, and benefits of, improved tsunami impact forecasts for coastlines particularly for near-field events;

Decides to commence the full operation of SCSTAC on 5 November 2019, to be announced by the IOC Secretariat to WG-SCS Member States through an IOC circular letter at least 60 days in advance;

Decides to support the efforts and progress made by Nicaragua in the creation of the Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC), as a tsunami service provider (TSP) within the framework of the ICG/PTWS;

Also decides to support the proposal to begin sending trial tsunami messages as of August 2019, based on the progress made in capacity-building for the establishment of the Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC) using the official IOC ICG/PTWS list of NTWCs and TWFPs;

**II  
Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS)**

Notes with appreciation the adoption of the IOTWMS Medium-Term Strategy (2019–2024) and conduct of Capacity Assessment of Tsunami Preparedness in IOTWMS Member States;

Notes the technical limitations of warning systems in producing timely and accurate forecasts for tsunamis from near-field and “atypical” sources (e.g. aerial landslides, submarine landslides, volcanoes), especially in light of the Palu and Sunda Strait tsunamis in Indonesia;

Notes with concern the continuing instances of Tsunami Buoy Vandalism in the IOTWMS region;

Notes with appreciation the progress made in bilateral exchange of seismic data among some Member States in the North West Indian Ocean and urges Member States to provide relevant seismic data in real-time to TSPs for accurate determination of tsunami threats;

Welcomes the establishment of two new inter-sessional Task Teams on “Tsunami Preparedness for a near-field Tsunami Hazard” and “Scientific Tsunami Hazard Assessment of the Makran Subduction Zone”;

Congratulates IOTWMS Member States for the success of IOWave18 exercise involving 116,000 participants and the piloting of Indian Ocean Tsunami Ready (IOTR) programme by India and Oman, and welcomes the priority to expand IOTR programme in vulnerable communities to enhance community preparedness and response;

Welcomes the decision to organise and conduct Indian Ocean Wave Exercise in 2020 (IOWave20);

**III.  
Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System   
for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CARIBE-EWS)**

Notes that the CARIBEWAVE 19 exercise included a volcano-generated tsunami and it brought to light that effective PTWC procedures for such an event would likely require being alerted to an unexpected tsunami signal on a coastal sea-level gauge;

Further notes that a similar capability at PTWC would also be likely needed to respond to a landslide-induced tsunami;

Recommends that PTWC explore new techniques that would alert its duty staff to the arrival of potential tsunami signals on sea level gauges;

Urges Member States to continue to support the long-term operations of their national and local seismic, sea level, and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) networks including accurate metadata so they can continue to sustain and improve the quality, timeliness and usefulness of the data for the delivery of optimal tsunami services;

Recommends ICG/CARIBE-EWS Working Group 1 to develop a strategy for all Member States who own and operate a Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) buoy or DART-like system to ensure that both, data and metadata of these systems, are pro-actively shared by the owner States every time there is a new deployment, re-deployment, or simply on a regular basis to confirm no changes to their national array;

Appreciates Monaco for the funding it provides annually and which has been instrumental to increasing the number of sea-level stations and enhancing the capability of station operators through training; and thanks all Member States and organizations that are providing financial and technical assistance to CARIBE-EWS;

Also appreciates the contribution of the Caribbean Tsunami Information Centre (CTIC) in Barbados and calls on the IOC Secretariat and Member States for their continuous support for CTIC to ensure the sustainability of its functions and activities;

Welcomes the decision to organize and conduct CARIBEWAVE 20 exercise on 19 March 2020;

Notes the progress made and decides to continue to support the efforts of Nicaragua in the establishment of the Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC), as a Subregional Tsunami Service Provider (SRTSP) within the framework of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS;

Decides to support the proposal to begin sending trial tsunami messages to the Central American countries within the area of service of the CARIBE-EWS by subscription as of August 2019, using the official list of National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS;

**IV.  
North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas   
Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (NEAMTWS)**

Recognizing the sub-optimal performance of the NEAMTWS due to lack of seismic and sea-level network notably in North Africa and difficulties of Member States in sharing observations due to national policy,

Encourages Member States to increase the number of seismic and sea-level stations available in North Africa and to share data using bilateral agreements whenever possible;

Noting the important future role of NEAM Tsunami Information Centre (NEAMTIC) in providing training and capacity building services,

Invites Member States to contribute to the further development of NEAMTIC through funding and secondments;

Welcomes the decision to organize and conduct the fourth NEAMTWS exercise in 2020 (NEAMWave20);

**V.  
Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related   
to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG)**

Reiterates the importance of collecting event data strictly in accordance with the International Tsunami Survey Team (ITST) protocols, while continuing to be respectful of the country’s needs and requirements;

Encourages timely data and information sharing by the Survey Teams to facilitate immediate submission of a consolidated summary report to the host country to assist with response and recovery planning; and

Requests ICGs to facilitate, in coordination with existing science organizations, special sessions at meetings/workshops to promote sharing of lessons learnt and compilation of all event data;

Encourages Member States to:

* increase and sustain technical and financial support of the tsunami and other coastal hazards warning systems in their respective regions;
* emphasize to national civil protection/disaster management agencies the role they play in strengthening the warning chain to ensure optimal community response; and stress the importance that the agencies participate in regional tsunami governance and technical forums;
* continue to strengthen tsunami awareness and preparedness in communities and among authorities through communication, evacuation planning, tsunami exercises, training, information, and piloting recognition programmes such as Tsunami Ready;
* densify sea-level networks capable of tsunami detection as well as seismic network particularly nearby tsunamigenic sources;
* extend sharing of real time tsunami source and tsunami detection observations;
* collect high resolution coastal bathymetry and extend the data sharing for improved characterization of tsunami and other coastal hazards and risks, and also advocate this through IHO and regional hydrographic commissions;
* register National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) as alerting authorities in the “WMO Alerting Authority Register” via the WMO National Permanent Representative and in follow-up to a WMO circular letter;

Instructs ICGs to:

* advocate the Fourth edition of World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD 2019) among Member States and highlight target [d] of the Sendai Framework that stresses substantial reduction of disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, with an emphasis on ports, harbours and vertical evacuation;
* consider the PTWS Key Performance Indicator Framework and provide input to a consolidated report for the 13th TOWS-WG meeting;
* continue the Tsunami Ready pilot activities with UNESCO-IOC recognition, including conducting surveys on Member State status, interest and feed back in the implementation of Tsunami Ready;
* consider the prospects for building warning systems for tsunami of non-seismic origin;

Accepts the reports from the Task Teams on Disaster Management and Preparedness and Watch Operations and instructs them to continue efforts for monitoring and responding to tsunamis generated by non-seismic sources and possible integration into tsunami watch operations;

Advocates that the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) adopts an initiative aimed at developing a comprehensive global tsunami hazard assessment including all potential tsunamis, anywhere in the world, regardless of its source; enhancing sensing and analysis strategies to enable the rapid characterization of tsunami sources which are held as fundamental in transforming our ability to forecast and warn of local and/or non-seismic source tsunami threats; and strengthening community preparedness to enable efficient response to tsunamis from all sources;

Extends the tenure of TOWS-WG and its Task Teams on (i) Disaster Management and Preparedness and (ii) Tsunami Watch Operations, with Terms of Reference as given in IOC Resolution XXIV-4 [for TOWS-WG] and IOC/TOWS-WG-VI/3 [Annex II; for TTDMP] and ToRs for TTTWO as given in IOC/TOWS-WG-X Appendix I.

# Decision IOC-XXX/9.1

# **IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee**

The Assembly,

Recognizing the continued need of the IOC scientific community for bathymetric products and the fact that access to high quality bathymetry is important not only for navigation, but also for other purposes including ocean science, tsunami warning and preparedness and climate modelling,

Having examined documents IOC/INF-1381 and GGC35/13 that report on the activity of the GGC during the intersessional period (2017–2019),

Recalling Decision EC-LI/4.5 on the Review of User Requirements and Potential Contributions to GEBCO on a biennial basis, with the next assessment to be presented to the IOC governing body in 2020,

Takes note of the report of the GEBCO Guiding Committee Biennial Report for the period 2017–2019;

Recalling Decision IOC-XXVIII/6.2(I) by which it adopted the current terms of reference of the GEBCO Guiding Committee in 2015,

Endorses the amendment to the GEBCO Guiding Committee Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure proposed by the GGC at its 35th meeting and presented in annex to document IOC/INF-1381, in particular paragraph 2.1 (Office bearers) in annex to this decision;

Encourages Member States to:

* 1. cooperate to advance basin-scale campaign mapping and accelerate the delivery of GEBCO objectives and general knowledge of the ocean in particular by supporting and contributing to the Nippon Foundation–GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project,
  2. facilitate GEBCO capacity development, including training opportunities, and
  3. actively participate in the next assessment, to be conducted by the Working Group on User Requirements and Contributions to GEBCO Products.

Annex to Decision IOC-XXX/9.1

**Amendment to the General Bathymetric Chart of the Ocean (GEBCO) Project –   
Terms of Reference and rules of procedure   
for the Joint IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee**

1. Office Bearers

2.1 The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Committee from the voting Members of the Committee and normally should be from different parent organizations. The Chair and Vice-Chair are each elected for three-year terms, but not exceeding their current membership of the Committee. They can be re-elected for one additional term by the Committee. The Chair shall conduct the business of the Committee. If the Chair is unable to carry out the duties of the office, the Vice-Chair shall assume the Chair with the same powers and duties. […]

# Decision IOC-XXX/10.1

# **IOC relevant issues related to the Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding Instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction**

The Assembly,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/249, which decided to convene, commencing in 2018, the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction,

Recalling also that IOC is a competent international organization under UNCLOS and has a long history in promoting international cooperation in ocean science within and beyond national jurisdiction,

Further recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/292 and 72/249, which recognize that the BBNJ process and its results should not undermine existing, relevant, legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies,

Takes note of and welcomes the active role of the Commission at the organizational stage and in the course of the first two meetings of the Intergovernmental Conference, in accordance with its mandate in areas related to marine scientific research, capacity development and the transfer of marine technology, as well as data and information management;

Further takes note of the draft text of an agreement and the potential role of IOC in managing the future Clearing-House Mechanism to be established under the BBNJ international legally-binding instrument;

Welcoming the work undertaken by the Task Team on Implementation of a TMT/CHM portal of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development in further advancing the concept and feasibility of the TMT/CHM under the IOC, including its forthcoming work in the development of a cost assessment, taking into account future requirements under the BBNJ international legally-binding instrument,

Requests the Executive Secretary, Chairperson or a designated Officer of IOC to represent the Commission in, and respond to requests from, the remaining meetings of the Intergovernmental Conference scheduled for 2019 and 2020;

Invites IOC Member States to continue supporting the role of the Commission through their preparation and statements at forthcoming meetings of the Intergovernmental Conference;

Also requests the Executive Secretary and Officers of IOC to report on developments in this area to the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session in 2020.

# Decision IOC-XXX/10.2

# **Integrated Coastal Area Management Programme (ICAM) Strategy Implementation**

The Assembly,

Having examined Documents IOC/INF-1379 and IOC/INF-1380,

Takes note of the progress in implementing IOC Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) Strategy, including activities related to marine spatial planning, Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and sustainable blue economy;

Takes note also of the progress in implementing the IOC and European Commission Joint Roadmap to accelerate Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning processes worldwide and its corresponding commitment to the 1st UN Ocean Conference (2017) and Our Ocean Conference (Malta, 2017);

Welcomes the new MSP global initiative (2018–2021) co-financed by the European Fund of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Union, to be implemented by the Secretariat at global scale, with pilot case studies in the Western Mediterranean and the Southeast Pacific;

Further welcomes the role of IOC in executing the GEF-UNDP IW/LME Learn project and in particular the technical and scientific support it provides to the global LME community;

Encourages IOC science, observation, tsunami and data programmes to further collaborate with the ICAM programme in the operationalization of ecosystem-based management approaches;

Supports the preparation of multilingual internationally accepted guidance on marine spatial planning and the continuing strengthening of capacity development activities jointly organized with national authorities, regional and international partners;

Expresses its deep appreciation to the Kingdom of Belgium (Government of Flanders), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Ministry of Infrastructure and Water), the Kingdom of Spain (Government of Spain, Government of Andalusia, Tarifa and Facinas), the Kingdom of Morocco (Government of Morocco and Regional Authorities of Tanger, Tetouan, Al-Hoceima) and the Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO, the Kingdom of Sweden (Government Offices); the Republic of Turkmenistan (Government of Turkmenistan), the European Commission’s Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; and the Secretariat of the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS) and its Member States (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru), the Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Global Environment Facility and United Nations Development Programme, for their valuable contributions to the work of IOC in these areas;

Invites Member States to support, through extra-budgetary resources as well as in-kind contributions, the ICAM Strategy and relevant initiatives related to integrated coastal area management, marine spatial planning, sustainable blue economy, coastal hazards mitigation, and development of decision-support tools for management of large marine ecosystems;

Further invites Member States to sustain the role of IOC in providing technical support to the LME project community, including in the next phase of the GEF IW:Learn project (2020–2024).

# Decision IOC-XXX/ 11.1

# **IOC Capacity Development Group of Experts**

The Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of Capacity Development as one of the six functions of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2014–2021), enabling all Member States to participate in, and benefit from, ocean research and services that are vital to sustainable development and human welfare on the planet,

Recalling the adoption, at its 28th session, of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021),

Recalling further its Decision IOC-XXIX/10.1, establishing the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development,

Welcoming the contributions of its Member States to capacity development at the global and regional level through financial and in-kind contributions,

Welcoming further the implementation, through IOCARIBE (and its CMA2 project), of a regional prototype for the IOC Clearing-House Mechanism for the Transfer of Marine Technology (CHM/TMT),

Stressing the need to share, across programmes and regions, experience and expertise in capacity development, and to coordinate efforts to increase efficiency and maximize impact,

Urges Member States to nominate an "IOC CD focal point" who will be responsible for the coordination of their country's participation in IOC's capacity development activities;

Invites the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development to:

1. repeat the CD survey at regular intervals (biannually), possibly including CD implementation impact monitoring/metrics, also taking into account other methods such as regional reviews, science conferences, etc.;
2. ensure coordination of the work of the Group of Experts and its task teams with GOSR and CD aspects of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;
3. organize a regional conference on capacity development requirements of Pacific SIDS, alongside other meetings occurring within the region involving IOC Member States as well as other stakeholders active in the region and taking into account existing programmes and activities;
4. prepare a detailed and costed proposal for the development of an IOC Clearing-House Mechanism for the Transfer of Marine Technology using a hybrid model of interoperable nodes as well as a central access point, to be developed in a step-wise modular approach, in collaboration with IODE and its Project Office, and taking into account the regional prototype developed as well as evolving requirements, for submission to the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session in 2020; such analysis should include the possibility of expanding the IOC CHM functionalities to serve other requirements such as those emerging from the BBNJ ongoing negotiations.

Calls on IOC's regional subsidiary bodies as well as regional components of global programmes to:

1. promote contributions to the CD survey;
2. identify CD efforts of other organizations and seek complementary cooperation;
3. link with other global, regional and national processes and strengthen the relationships with philanthropic, private partnerships and other regional organizations;

Invites Member States to actively contribute to the surveys and contribute to the IOC's Capacity Development activities through financial and/or in-kind contributions.

# Decision IOC-XXX/11.2

# **IOC’s Contribution to Ocean Literacy in 2018–2021**

The Assembly,

Having considered Document IOC-XXX/2 Annex 7,

Recalling:

1. the *IOC Capacity Development Strategy, 2015–2021* in which ocean literacy is identified as a main activity of the strategy output 5: Visibility and awareness increased,
2. the UNESCO/IOC’s voluntary commitment [#OceanAction15187](https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=15187): Ocean Literacy for All: a global strategy to raise the awareness for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of our ocean,

Taking into account the IOC’s progress on ocean literacy, and the role it can play in communicating the relevance of IOC’s activities for sustainable development, and in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda,

Also taking into account the expected role of ocean literacy in the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development,

Decides to distribute the Draft IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action, as detailed in Document IOC-XXX/2 Annex 7, to Member States, IOC regional subsidiary bodies as well as global programmes for comments;

Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Sweden for the financial support provided to the IOC’s Ocean Literacy activities and encourages other Member States to follow this example;

Requests the Secretariat to collect comments and contributions to the Draft IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action from Member States and relevant organizations, through a circular letter, and to submit, for endorsement, its revised version at the 53rd Session of the Executive Council in 2020.

# Decision IOC-XXX/12.1

# **Follow-up to Resolution EC-LI.2**

The Assembly,

Having examined documents IOC-XXX.2 Annex 12 and Resolution EC-LI.2,

Thanks Vice-Chair, Ariel H. Troisi, and all Member States having contributed to the work of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group;

Further thanks the IOC Chair Peter Haugan for maintaining the dialogue with the UNESCO General Conference President and the UNESCO Working Group on Governance with a view of exchanging ideas and experiences in the implementation of the recommendations and improving IOC’s effectiveness and efficiency;

Takes note of documents IOC-XXX/2 Annex 12 and Resolution EC-LI.2 and annexes subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion and adoption in plenary.

# Decision IOC-XXX/12.2

# **Draft Programme and Budget for 2020–2021 (Draft 40 C/5)**

The Assembly,

Having examined document IOC-XXX/2 Annex 9,

Shares the concerns expressed by the Executive Secretary over the financial situation of the Organization and the impact of the proposed budgetary scenarios, none of which reflect the actual needs of the Commission;

Takes due note of the Secretariat’s proposals for three budget scenarios and accompanying programmatic targets, subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating draft resolution for discussion and adoption in plenary.

# Decision IOC-XXX/12.3

# **Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029: Preliminary Proposals by the Secretariat**

The Assembly,

Having examined document IOC-XXX/2 Annex 10 Rev.,

Thanks the Executive Secretary for the preliminary proposals developed by the Secretariat for the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029;

Requests the Executive Secretary to continue consultations in an open and inclusive manner with Member States;

Expresses its appreciation that the document could benefit from inputs of the IOC Officers at their annual meeting, 15–17 January 2019, and from intersessional consultations through IFAG;

Takes note of document IOC-XXX/2 Annex 10 Rev. subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion and adoption in plenary.

# Decision IOC-XXX/12.5

# **Preparation for the Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the IOC (1960–2020)**

The Assembly,

Taking note of the oral report by the Chairperson of IOC,

Encourages Member States to contribute to the IOC History Project by responding to IOC Circular Letter 2767 by 15 September 2019;

Invites Member States and subsidiary bodies to inform the Secretariat about commemoration activities planned and to exchange ideas for national and regional activities.

# Decision IOC-XXX/12.6

# **IOC Elections 2019**

The Assembly,

Elects the members of its Executive Council for the period 2019–2021 as follows:

* Ariel Hernán Troisi (Argentina) as Chairperson, and
* Monika Breuch-Moritz (Germany) as Vice-chairperson for Group 1
* Alexander Frolov (Russian Federation) as Vice-chairperson for Group 2
* Frederico Antonio Saraiva Nogueira (Brazil) as Vice-chairperson for Group 3
* Satheesh Chandra Shenoi (India) as Vice-chairperson for Group 4
* Karim Hilmi (Morocco) as Vice-chairperson for Group 5,

And the following Member States by electoral group:

(i) Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Group 1)

(ii) Bulgaria, Russian Federation (Group 2)

(iii) Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Grenada, Mexico, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay (Group 3)

(iv) Australia, China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand (Group 4)

(v) Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Morocco, Oman, Senegal, South Africa (Group 5).

# Decision IOC-XXX/12.7

# **Dates and Places of next Sessions of the Executive Council and Assembly**

The Assembly,

Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 52nd session (EC-LII, Dec.4),

Decides to hold:

1. The 53rd session of the Executive Council for 3.5 days in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, over the period of29 June to 3 July 2020,
2. The 31st session of the Assembly for a duration of 6.5 plus one Ocean Science Day, at UNESCO Headquarters, over the period from 14 to 25 June 2021, preceded by a one-day session of the Executive Council (54th session) acting as the steering committee of the Assembly.

# Decision IOC-XXX/13

# **Adoption of Resolutions and the Summary Report**

The Assembly,

Having considered the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 52nd session (EC-LII, Dec.3.4(II)) on organization matters,

Adopts the decisions and 3 resolutions of the session;

Takes note of the draft summary report of the session and the compilation of the decisions adopted during the session (IOC-XXX/Decisions);

Requests the Executive Secretary to circulate the narrative part of the report to Member States in the four working languages of the Commission by 31 August 2019 at the latest for its adoption by correspondence by 15 October 2019.

# **ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

# Resolution XXX-1

# **Progress Report on the Preparation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

**Recalling** Resolution XXIX-1 proposing the establishment of an International (UN) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and requesting the IOC Executive Secretary to convey this resolution to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for consideration at its 72nd Session,

**Also recalling** the proclamation by the UNGA at its 72nd Session of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), through Resolution A/RES/72/73 (therein the Decade),

**Further recalling** the invitation from by the UNGA to the IOC to:

* 1. prepare an implementation plan for the Decade in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes, and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders,
  2. provide information on the implementation of the Decade to the UN Secretary-General for his report on oceans and the law of the sea,

**Considering** [Resolution EC-LI.1](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=22214) that *inter alia* took note of the revised and current version of the Roadmap document (IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 3) and decided to establish an Executive Planning Group (EPG) under the coordination of the IOC Executive Secretary,

**Having examined** documents IOC-XXX/2 Annex 3 – Progress of the implementation plan of the Decade Roadmap, and Addendum – Post-2020 Coordination and Implementation Mechanisms,

**Having further considered** the Report of the First EPG Meeting (17–19 December 2018, UNESCO, Paris) and the outcomes of the First Global Planning Meeting (13–15 May 2019, Copenhagen, Denmark), respectively The UN Decade Series, 1 & 2; and proposed modification to the Decade Roadmap (IOC/INF-1371),

**Takes note** of the progress achieved during the intersessional period, and in particular, the outcomes of the First EPG meeting and First Global Planning Meeting, and the report on the implementation of the current version of the Decade Roadmap and its proposed modifications as presented in documents IOC-XXX/2 Annex 3 and IOC/INF-1371;

**Thanks** the EPG for its work in support of the preparation of the Implementation Plan and **requests** that it continues its work until the presentation of the Implementation Plan to the UNGA for consideration during its 75th Session in September 2020;

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to:

* 1. report on the implementation of the current version of the Decade Roadmap at the 53rd Session of the IOC Executive Council in 2020;
  2. further develop the governance arrangements for the implementation phase (2021–2030) based on the inputs received on documents IOC-XXX/2 Annex 3 and Addendum;
  3. make the draft implementation plan available and invite its review by Member States;
  4. report to the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd Session, on comments received and plans for finalising the implementation plan, prior to its submission to the UNGA;

**Invites** the IOC subsidiary bodies to engage in the work of the Decade, in particular through the regional consultation workshops, and identify potential contributions during the next intersessional period;

**Further invites** UN specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies, UN Member States, international scientific and academic organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to support the Decade, contribute to its preparation and execution by crafting science-based solutions and partnerships;

**Urges** Member States and partners to:

* 1. provide voluntary financial contributions to the IOC for the preparation of the Decade as well as in-kind support such as staff secondments to the Secretariat;
  2. host and/or fund regional and global consultation workshops, thematic meetings, and communication activities;

**Thanks** the Governments of the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Kingdom of Belgium (Government of Flanders), Norway, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland for their financial contribution to the preparatory phase of the Decade;

**Further thanks** the Governments of Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, India, Italy, Japan, and Mexico as well as the Secretariats of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), the Pacific Community (SPC), the UN Global Compact, Suez Environment, and the Carlsberg Foundation, for their contribution to the organization of regional and global workshops during the preparation phase of the Decade, as well as Germany, for offering to host the kick-off conference of the Decade.

------------------------------------------------------

Financial implication:

Seed funding is identified under the most favourable budget scenario ($534.6M) of 40 C/5 Programme and Budget. Resources are needed in order to facilitate the coordination and implementation of the preparatory activities, as well as the launch of the Decade in 2021. Correspondingly, the Assembly may invite Member States and partners to contribute resources preferably to the IOC Special Account and/or through in-kind contributions (such as secondment).

# Resolution XXX-2

# **JOINT WMO-IOC Collaborative Board**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

**Recalling**:

* 1. WMO Resolution 14 (Cg-XIII) – Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM),
  2. IOC Resolution XX-12 – Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM),

**Considering** WMO Resolution 7 (Cg-18), which entails the disbandment of the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) in the context of a reform of WMO governing structures,

**Further considering** the parallel WMO Resolution 9 (Cg-18),

**Considering also** the expanded collaboration between WMO and IOC in marine meteorology, oceanography and climatology, including in services, observation and information management, research and capacity building,

**Considering further** the evolving needs of a coordinating mechanism between WMO and IOC to support such collaborative activities,

Having examined the recommendations of the Joint WMO-IOC Consultation Group on the Reform of JCOMM established by WMO Decision 58 (EC-70) and IOC Decision EC-LI/5.1,

**Expresses appreciation** to the Co-Chairs and the members of the Joint WMO-IOC Consultation Group on the Reform of JCOMM for their work;

**Decides** to:

* 1. incorporate appropriate JCOMM functions and activities on observation and operational ocean forecasting systems into the IOC-WMO-UN Environment-ISC Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), with functional connections to the WMO Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (COIIS);
  2. incorporate appropriate JCOMM functions and activities on data and information management into the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE), with a close connection to the work of the WMO COIIS;
  3. incorporate appropriate JCOMM functions and activities on services into the WMO Commission for Services and Applications, with a close connection to relevant IOC activities in early warning and services;
  4. establish the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board, as a high-level coordination mechanism with broader engagement of the key relevant bodies of the WMO and IOC, with the Terms of Reference as given in the Annex to this Resolution;

**Decides also** that for the first intersessional period through April 2020, the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board will be co-chaired by the current Co-Chairs of the Joint WMO-IOC Consultation Group on the Reform of JCOMM, with the technical advice of the current JCOMM co-presidents, noting that these co-chairs would have flexibility to adjust the length of initial appointment terms defined in the Terms of Reference, in order to stagger future rotation of members;

**Decides further** to review, in coordination with WMO governing bodies, the performance of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board, with an initial review in four years and presentation to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session in 2023;

**Requests** the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board to:

* 1. facilitate the continued work of all JCOMM functions and activities by recommending connections to appropriate working structures on both sides;
  2. make recommendations on evolving the governance of GOOS, in consultation with all co-sponsors, to further develop the partnership and functional connections between GOOS and WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS);
  3. prepare, in consultation with WMO and IOC technical, scientific and regional bodies, a comprehensive and coordinated WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy, based on existing sectoral strategies, and submit it in 2021 to the governing bodies of WMO and IOC for adoption;

**Encourages** WMO Members and IOC Member States to coordinate national responses to the advice of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board brought to WMO and IOC Governing Bodies;

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to:

* 1. define, in consultation with the WMO Secretary-General, the working arrangements for the sponsorship of current JCOMM bodies and for the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board and report on implementation to the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session in 2020;
  2. evaluate, in consultation with the WMO Secretary-General, the financial and secretariat support requirements for the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board;

**Agrees** that the budget for these activities will be identified within the overall IOC Programme and Budget Resolution adopted at this session (IOC Resolution XXX-(12));

**Decides** to disband the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology upon completion of a transition period ending in April 2020, as defined in WMO Resolution 36 (EC-70).

Annex to Resolution XXX-2

**Terms of Reference of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board**

*Purpose statement*

The Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board will maximize opportunities to co-design, co-develop and implement joint scientific and technical work, across oceanography and meteorology, that ultimately will improve the provision of information and services for societal benefit.

It will suggest initiatives to improve end-to-end links in the value chain from observations, through data management, to forecasting systems and Earth system prediction, to services and end user engagement; and enhance connections with research programmes to promote innovation.

By collaborating across both the oceanographic and meteorological communities, the Collaborative Board will provide strategic advice on programme co-design, implementation, and governance in light of relevant long-term goals and objectives. The Collaborative Board will influence how the WMO and IOC jointly enable the delivery of relevant meteorological and oceanographic information and services on the open ocean, in coastal zones and in high latitudes. In addition, while respecting governance, it will provide guidance and advice around technical and scientific issues to optimize the complementarity of activities, including through generating common projects.

*Mandate*

(a) To coordinate, through a quadrennial WMO-IOC collaborative strategy, the collaborative development, integration and implementation of the activities related to oceanographic and meteorological observation, data and information management, services, modelling and forecasting systems as well as research and capacity development carried out by WMO and IOC,

(b) To provide the WMO and IOC governing bodies with strategic advice on joint work between WMO and IOC to achieve relevant objectives, including proposing new actions, as required, e.g. by preparing coordinated draft resolutions and/or decisions for both the WMO and IOC governing bodies,

(c) To review work plans and provide technical and scientific recommendations for WMO and IOC subsidiary bodies and programmes, including proposing cross-cutting projects, and

(d) To engage in liaison or consultation required with relevant intergovernmental and international stakeholders.

*Membership*

The membership of the Collaborative Board shall be constituted by:

(a) Ten representatives of WMO and IOC scientific and technical bodies and programmes, including co-sponsored entities:

(i) Five designated by the WMO President, representing the leadership of activities in observing system, data processing and management, forecasting systems, services and applications, and research; from a meteorological perspective,

(ii) Five designated by the IOC Chairperson, representing the leadership of activities in observing system, data and information management, forecasting systems, early warning and services, and research; from an oceanographic perspective;

(b) At large members of the WMO Executive Council and representatives of IOC Member States, taking into account overall geographical balance:

(i) Three members of the WMO Executive Council designated by the WMO President,

(ii) Three representatives of IOC Member States designated by the IOC Chairperson in consultation with the IOC Officers;

(c) Two co-chairs:

(i) a WMO Vice-President, designated by the WMO President, and

(ii) an IOC Vice-Chairperson, designated by the IOC Chairperson.

*Working procedures*

The co-chairs shall hold their office for two years, with the possibility to be re-appointed for a second term.

Other members shall hold their office for four years, or based on the duration of their term as leader in a WMO, IOC, or joint activity.

The co-chairs shall represent the Collaborative Board in the sessions of the WMO and IOC governing bodies.

In principle, the Collaborative Board shall meet in person every year, in order to prepare recommendations for WMO and IOC governing bodies. Intersessional work should be carried out by correspondence or virtual means.

Members of the Collaborative Board will work collaboratively across and within their respective constituent bodies and activities on WMO and IOC observations, data, forecasting systems, services, and research activities, to achieve the objectives stated in the Collaborative Board’s mandate.

The Collaborative Board may establish time-bound substructures for the discharge of specific tasks during an intersessional period. Such temporary substructures shall be discontinued at the end of every intersessional period, or may be re-established.

Chairs of other relevant WMO and IOC regional structures, working groups, panels and expert teams, as well as individual experts, may be invited by either co-chair in consultation with the other to attend meetings of the Collaborative Board as required by the agenda.

Representatives from other United Nations or international organizations may be invited as observers to the Collaborative Board as deemed appropriate by either co-chair in consultation with the other.**(A)**

# Resolution XXX-3

# **Financial Matters of the Commission**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

**Having examined** documents:

* 1. [IOC-XXX/2 Annex 2](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=24334) – ‘Report on budget execution 2018 and outline of 2019 budget’,
  2. [IOC-XXX/2 Annex 9](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=24281) – ‘Draft Programme and Budget for 2020–2021 (Draft 40 C/5)’,
  3. [IOC-XXX/2 Annex 10 Rev](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=24254). – ‘Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029: Preliminary Proposals by the Secretariat’,
  4. [IOC-XXX/2 Annex 8](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=24332) – ‘Recommendations on Governance, Working Methods and Procedures of the Commission – Report on progress by the Chair of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group’,
  5. [Resolution EC-LI.2](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=22215) – ‘Financial Matters of the Commission’, and in particular Annex 1 ‘Implementation Plan of the Recommendations of the UNESCO Open-ended Working Group on Governance’ and Annex 2 ‘Financial Regulations applicable to the Special Account for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO’,

**I  
Report on budget execution 2018 and outline of the 2019 budget**

**Confirms** that the IOC budget for 2018, as reported on in Part I of IOC-XXX/2 Annex 2, has been executed in accordance with the approved Programme and Budget for 2018–2019 (39 C/5, US$518 M Expenditure Plan) and the budgetary allocations approved by the IOC Assembly at its 29th session (IOC-XXIX/2 Annex 5 Rev.2) through Resolution XXIX.2;

**Takes note** of the information on the financial situation of the Commission provided in Part II of IOC-XXX/2 Annex 2, including the 2018–2019 expenditure forecast for the IOC Special Account;

**Thanks** Member States who have already contributed extrabudgetary funds for the 2018–2019 programme implementation;

**Encourages** all Member States to provide voluntary contributions to ensure full achievement of the collectively agreed extrabudgetary targets, preferably to the IOC Special Account;

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to increase efforts to obtain further voluntary contributions, including from private sector donors and other partners;

**Recommends** that a process is conducted by Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (IFAG) whereby the activities of the IOC are considered in accordance with the principles adopted in Resolution XXVII-2 Annex 2, with a view to evaluate the impact of constrained regular budget and unstable voluntary contributions on IOC’s intergovernmental mandate, commitments, programmes, governance and operating costs;

**Further recommends** that the IFAG prepare a draft report on the process elaborated in the paragraph above for consideration by the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session;

**II  
Draft Programme and Budget for 2020–2021 (Draft 40 C/5)**

**Welcomes** the continuity in programmatic choices proposed by the IOC Executive Secretary in the four budgetary scenarios presented to the Assembly in document IOC-XXX/2 Annex 9, following the new integrated budgetary framework approach;

**Endorses** the approach to the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2020–2021 (second biennium of the 2018–2021 quadrennium) proposed in document IOC-XXX/2 Annex 9 as consistent with the quadrennial programme defined in Resolution XXIX-2;

**Recalls** that the IOC Assembly in its Resolution XXIX-2 considered that ‘*the budgetary allocation proposed for the IOC in the Draft 39 C/5 US$518 M Expenditure Plan in the amount of US$10,681,300 is the critical minimum required to allow the functioning of the Commission*’;

**Expresses concern** that the budgetary allocation proposed for the IOC in the Draft 40 C/5 in the lower scenarios based on US$518 M and US$523.6 M assessed contributions by UNESCO Member States (regular programme budget) in the amount of US$10,776,100 is not consistent with the increasing responsibilities of the Commission, in particular with regard to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), thereafter the Decade;

**Notes** that the need to provide at least basic support to all programmatic sections by creating one additional general service staff position, in the case of the lower scenarios referred to above, will require an 11% cut to IOC programmatic activities;

**Further notes** that the scenario based on US$534.6 M assessed contributions by UNESCO Member States (US$11,075,500 for the IOC) allows for some seed funding for the Decade coordination and fund-raising activities, while maintaining the rest of the programme at the same level as in 2018-2019;

**Highlights** the importance of ensuring that the Commission has the necessary resources, both in terms of regular programme budget and voluntary contributions, to fulfill its role in the implementation of the Decade;

**Invites** the Director-General of UNESCO to:

* 1. continue every effort to enhance the resources available to the IOC in the 40 C/5 despite the budgetary challenges faced by the Organization, to enable the Commission to fulfill its increasing mandate and to address current and emerging priorities, including those related to the implementation of the SDGs and the Decade;
  2. ensure that the budgetary appropriation for the IOC approved in the 40 C/5 shall not be decreased by transfers of funds to other parts of UNESCO’s budget;

**Urges** IOC Member States to:

* 1. continue to advocate to the Director-General of UNESCO and the Governing Bodies of UNESCO on the importance of the IOC as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO, focusing in particular on the value that the IOC provides to the Organization and to sustainable development;
  2. support the reinforcement of the IOC in the consultation process for the UNESCO Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029 and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 (Draft 41 C/5);
  3. increase their voluntary contributions to support the Commission in the face of the current difficulties, preferably to the IOC Special Account;

**Approves** the budgetary appropriations for 2018–2019 under the IOC Special Account as proposed in IOC-XXX/2 Annex 9 Appendix*,* in accordance with the Financial Regulations applicable to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission*;*

**Authorizes** the IOC Executive Secretary to transfer funds between appropriation lines of the IOC Special Account up to the maximum of 15% of each line, when necessary, and to report on all such transfers to the IOC Governing Bodies, in accordance with the Financial Regulations;

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to:

* 1. provide Member States with an estimate of the necessary budget to effectively operate the IOC at an optimum level, to help identify how and what additional resources might be secured;
  2. keep the IOC Officers and Member States updated on the 40 C/5 adoption process, as well as on the preparatory processes related to the UNESCO Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029 and Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 (Draft 41 C/5);
  3. support the work of the IFAG by providing timely information on the UNESCO programming and budgetary planning process;

**Further requests** the IOC Executive Council, at its 53rd session, to start the analysis of the financial implications of the implementation of the Decade, with a view to prepare the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 (Draft 41 C/5) and in light of the process to be conducted by IFAG in considering the IOC activities in accordance with the principles adopted in Annex 2 of Resolution XXVII-2.

**III  
Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029:   
Preliminary Proposals by the Secretariat**

**Welcomes** the preliminary proposals by the Secretariat for the Commission’s Draft Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2022–2029 as contained in document IOC-XXX/2 Annex 10 Rev.;

**Expresses its appreciation** to:

* 1. the IOC Officers for their guidance to the Secretariat at the annual Officers’ meeting, 15–17 January 2019;
  2. Member States that participated in the work of the IFAG on this matter;

**Recalls** that the Draft MTS for 2022–2029 will be further reviewed by the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session in 2020 and the final version will be endorsed by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session in 2021;

**Takes note** of the revised Draft MTS for 2022–2029 as presented in Annex 1 to this Resolution;

**Recommends** that the following modifications be considered in developing a revised version of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029 for review by the IFAG in the intersessional period leading to the 53rd session of the IOC Executive Council:

* 1. revise the ‘Vision’ statement by simplifying the language and add the Decade societal outcomes ‘clean ocean… etc.’, including visuals;
  2. include social and human sciences;
  3. provide a visual presentation to clarify the nature/hierarchy of entities/ programmes/ activities mentioned in paragraph 15 of Annex 1 and how they contribute to functions and High Level Objectives;
  4. enhance consistency by applying the format and style of paragraph 18 of Annex 1 to paragraphs 16–20 describing functions’ contributions to objectives;
  5. open the section ‘IOC within the UN system’ with a paragraph reflecting that the IOC is a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO and enjoys a recognized role in the UN system, in accordance with the IOC Statutes;
  6. develop paragraph 28 of Annex 1 to describe the IOC’s interaction with UNESCO programmes in order to maximize the comparative advantage of UNESCO’s comprehensive interdisciplinary approach to key societal issues;
  7. harmonize the length and style of paragraphs 36-39 describing the IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies;
  8. with regard to the section ‘Working closer to the field’, continue reflecting on ways to enhance communication and engagement with Member States and their initiatives in regions not covered by existing Regional Subsidiary Bodies;
  9. further develop the section ‘Communication & visibility’, including the communication strategy and channels that will map the implementation of the objectives of the MTS to the various target audiences and consider a visual presentation illustrating the above;

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to prepare a revised version of the Draft MTS for 2022–2029 taking into account Member States’ views and concerns expressed at this session of the Assembly, for review by IFAG in the intersessional period and the Officers at their annual meeting in early 2020, prior to submitting it for consideration by the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session;

**IV  
Follow-up to Resolution EC-LI.2**

**IV.A  
Implementation Plan of the Recommendations of the UNESCO  
Open-ended Working Group on Governance**

**Notes with satisfaction** the Implementation Plan of the Recommendations of the UNESCO Open-ended Working Group on Governance adopted by the IOC Executive Council at its 51st session through Resolution EC-LI.2;

**Welcomes** the follow-up action by the Secretariat and the IFAG in the intersessional period;

**Expresses its appreciation** to:

* 1. Member States that participated in the work of the IFAG on this matter;
  2. IOC Vice-Chair Ariel H. Troisi for his leadership and contribution, which resulted in a high quality document allowing a constructive way forward;
  3. IOC Chair Peter M. Haugan for his participation on behalf of the Commission in the UNESCO governance review process;
  4. IFAG Technical Secretary, Xenia Yvinec, for the technical support to the work of the Group;

**Adopts** the new referencing of the IOC Governing Bodies’ documentation as presented in [Annex 2](#annex_2) to this Resolution;

**Endorses** theGuidelines on the Responsibilities of the Officers of the Commission as presented in [Annex 3](#annex_3) to this Resolution;

**Invites** the IFAG to continue reflecting on the best practices to further enhance the efficiency of the IOC Governing Bodies’ meetings;

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to report on new developments in this regard, if any, to the IOC Executive Council, at its 53rd session in 2020;

**IV.B  
Revised Financial Regulations applicable to the Special Account   
for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO**

**Expresses its appreciation** to the IOC Executive Secretary for the preparation of the Revised Financial Regulations applicable to the Special Account for the IOC, aimed at addressing 38 C/Resolution 86 and at aligning, to the extent possible, the existing financial regulations with the new standard Financial Regulations as approved by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 200th session in document [200 EX/19](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis/cgi-bin/ulis.pl?lin=1&catno=245750) and consistent with [201 EX/Decision 24.I](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002489/248900e.pdf#page=35);

**Notes with satisfaction** that the IOC Executive Council at its 51st session considered that the Revised Financial Regulations fully reflect the specificity of the IOC’s governance and its status as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO;

**Accepts** the recommendation of the IOC Executive Council to adopt the Revised Financial Regulations applicable to the Special Account for the IOC as presented in Annex 2 to Resolution EC-LI.2, to be endorsed by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 207th session in the third quarter of 2019.

Annex 1 to Resolution XXX-3

**DRAFT IOC MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY  
2022–2029**



**CONTENTS**

PREFACE

1. OUR HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES & PRIORITIES
2. IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY
3. ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS
4. WORKING CLOSER TO THE FIELD
5. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

**OUR MISSION**

|  |
| --- |
| The purpose of the Commission is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States[[2]](#footnote-2) |

**OUR VISION**

|  |
| --- |
| Strong scientific understanding and systematic observations of the changing world Ocean climate and ecosystems shall underpin sustainable development and global governance for a healthy ocean, and global, regional and national management of risks and opportunities from the Ocean. |

**PREFACE**

Ocean, the largest ecosystem on our planet, provides to our civilization a range of existentially important services. To keep benefitting from them, an equilibrium must be reached between the continuously increasing use of ocean space and resources and restoring and maintaining ocean’s health, which is currently in fast decline. Actions required to achieve such a balance are all science-intensive. The pivotal role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO is therefore to bring together the scientific communities, the governmental decision-making system, and a broader set of stakeholders within our Member States, including the private sector and the civil society as a whole, in creating an efficient science-based integrated ocean management. Never in the history of our civilization has such cooperation been in a higher demand.

Facilitating international cooperation in ocean research and targeting it on solutions for sustainable development are the key determinants of the IOC strategy. The years 2014–2021 were marked by significant developments in the global environmental and ocean management, including the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular of the stand-alone Goal 14 to *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*; the recognition of the role of the ocean in the UNFCCC Paris Agreement; the endorsement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Samoa Pathway. IOC’s strong contribution to all these frameworks and the planning of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) have shown that the IOC can play a key role in ocean-related approaches to global challenges of our time.

IOC is entering the period of this Medium-Term Strategy, 2022–2029 with a clear understanding of its enhanced responsibility. The development of a sustainable ocean economy responding to the 2030 Agenda and the emergence of an international legally binding instrument on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) under the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea may invoke stronger responsibility of the ocean science and the IOC towards the global community.

The ability of IOC to deliver on its mandate and respond both to the ambitions placed on the Decade and its Member States aspirations and needs will require, in turn, stronger support from governments, increased decision-making power of IOC governing bodies, and adequate and reliable investment in the whole value chain of modern oceanography.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Peter M. Haugan  Chairperson | Vladimir Ryabinin  Executive Secretary |

**OUR HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES**

1. Through international cooperation, IOC aspires to help its Member States build and apply scientific knowledge to collectively achieve the following high-level objectives (HLOs), with particular attention to ensuring that all Member States have the capacity to meet them:
2. Healthy ocean ecosystems and sustained ecosystem services
3. Effective early warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards
4. Increased resilience and adaptation to climate change and variability
5. Scientifically-founded services for the development of the sustainable ocean economy
6. Enhanced knowledge of emerging ocean science issues
7. *Objective 1:* Identifying robust indicators of ocean status and in support of locating their tipping points relative to marine ecosystem functioning is important for the prediction or early detection of changes in ecosystem states and in the evaluation of ecosystem resilience. Such knowledge and analytical tools will be very valuable in ocean management in general and in transforming management of individual sectors into an ecosystem-based approach and underpinning the sustainable development of Blue Economy. The local and regional capacities, in terms of knowledge and tools, are also central for understanding how much an ecosystem can be stressed before it moves to other states from which recovery may be difficult. Current research on these topics is still piecemeal and needs coordination.
8. *Objective 2:* The ultimate objective of this HLO is to reduce risk, by encouraging communities to implement effective mitigating measures and become aware of the hazards they face. As coastal development continues at a rapid pace, society is becoming increasingly vulnerable to coastal flooding and other extreme sea-level events such as tsunamis. Ensuring that nations have access to the necessary information for coastal adaptation planning is dependent on continued progress in the implementation of tsunami and ocean observing systems, improvements of models of the climate systems and the development of local decision-support tools.
9. *Objective 3:*Climate variability and change impact many elements on which human well-being depends, modifying patterns of rainfall and drought, sea-level and coastal erosion, and through temperature changes and ocean acidification, adding stress to ecosystems and impacting on the goods and services they provide. Thus, human development goals including food security, access to water resources, and preparedness and resilience to disasters are threatened. Ocean plays a key role in climate. IOC will therefore assist its Member States in developing capacities for climate change impact mitigation and adaptation that are based on specialized scientific knowledge.
10. *Objective 4:* Ocean observations, data and information management, forecasting, and knowledge-based management approaches, such as marine spatial planning and coastal zone management, provide effective services to positively impact the sustainable ocean economy. IOC will facilitate the development of applications of ocean science that would maximize their societal benefit and stimulate the growth of sustainable marine industries.
11. *Objective 5:*A broad range of emerging environmental issues—such as new contaminants, ocean acidification, altered patterns of the ocean carbon cycle, de-oxygenation, the impacts of climate change on new ecological conditions, synergies among multiple stressors and their impacts on ocean health—jeopardize the conservation and sustainable use of marine spaces, the resources therein, as well as the marine ecosystems and the societal benefits they provide. Our understanding of the opportunities and changes that are occurring within the ocean, including the deep sea is still forming. Further scientific research, technical analyses and syntheses of scientific data are required to generate the information needed to effectively address these emerging issues, inform policy-making in the context of relevant regional and global conventions, and advance solutions involving multiple stakeholders at multiple levels in a timely and transparent manner.
12. **Global Priority Africa**:Africa is an overarching priority for UNESCO and IOC will ensure that it is mainstreamed in all its programmes and that it is reflected in its performance indicators. IOC will provide the science base necessary for the development of the Blue Economy in Africa as outlined in the African Union’s Agenda 2063 *(The Africa we want: A shared Strategic framework for inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development*) and the *2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy* (2050 AIM Strategy). The 2050 AIM Strategy specifically recognizes the role of IOC/UNESCO in the promotion of scientific research and capacity development as well as transfer of technology in marine sciences.
13. **Global Priority Gender Equality**: The IOC contribution to Global Priority Gender Equality will focus on ensuring that international science cooperation for peace and sustainability allows for representation and voice for women and men, and that conditions for both women and men to be agents of mitigation, adaptation, resilience and sustainability are provided. IOC is committed to promoting the equal presence of men and women in the marine sciences community, as well as to encouraging activities to include women in marine sciences, starting from early career to increase presence in senior leadership roles, through effective measures and policies and promoting role models for young women. The IOC’s *Global Ocean Science Report* will continue to provide the latest disaggregated information on women in marine science to monitor progress and assist Member States in their efforts to achieve gender equality for women in ocean science, based on international assessment.
14. **Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan**: The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway highlights the significant risks posed by sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change. It also points to the fact that growth prospects of SIDS have been hindered by the impacts of natural disasters and the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems. The Samoa Pathway calls for increased attention by the international community to extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification. It calls for heightened technological development and deployment, enhanced financing and capacity development in the context of climate change adaptation, calling for assistance to improve baseline monitoring of island systems. IOC’s engagement in support of SIDS will continue to focus on the building of SIDS actions related to tsunami early warning systems, the development of marine scientific and technological capacity of SIDS, and enhanced cooperation to assess ocean acidification impacts.

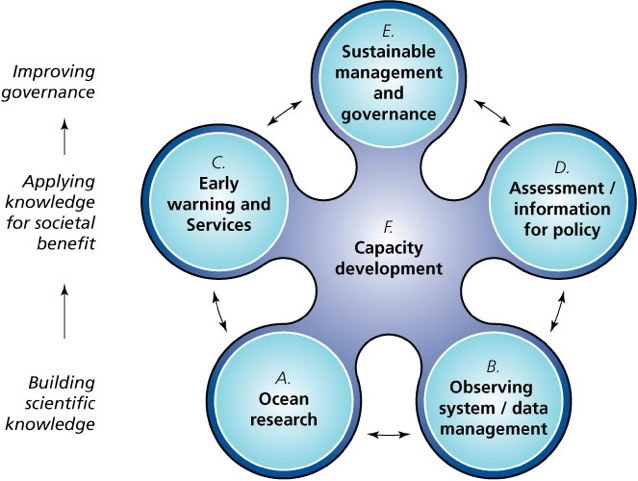
**UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)**

1. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the “Decade”) will run from 2021 to 2030. This unique long-term and high-level campaign will be aimed at bringing the ocean science to the new level needed to inform decisions, stimulate and maintain efficient actions and policies for sustainable use and protection of the ocean.
2. Successful conduct of the Decade assumes its true ownership by many partners and stakeholders that will use its framework and related opportunities to deliver on their mandate in all aspects depending on ocean science. During the years 2022–2029, a major responsibility of IOC will be to support and facilitate the Decade implementation and to regularly report progress to the United Nations Secretary General, in addition to contributing its own activities under the Decade.
3. The Decade will offer an exceptional opportunity to highlight the societal benefits of all IOC programmes through a transformative approach to generating actionable scientific knowledge at the service of decision-makers. It will also stimulate implementation of collectively agreed priorities.

**IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY**

1. When working towards the high-level objectives, IOC will focus on the broad areas of:

* strengthening scientific knowledge of the ocean and human impact on it,
* applying that knowledge for societal benefit, and
* building institutional capacities for sound management and governance



1. The strategy is organized in a conceptual framework of *functions* required to advance towards the IOC Vision:
2. Foster research to strengthen knowledge of ocean and coastal processes and human impacts upon them *[Ocean research]*
3. Maintain, strengthen and integrate global ocean observing, data and information systems *[Observing system / data management]*
4. Develop early warning systems, services, and preparedness to mitigate the risks of tsunamis and ocean-related hazards *[Early warning and services]*
5. Support assessment and information to improve the science-policy interface *[Assessment and Information for policy]*
6. Enhance ocean governance through a shared knowledge base and improved regional cooperation *[Sustainable management and governance]*
7. Develop the institutional capacity in all of the functions above, as a cross-cutting function *[Capacity Development]*
8. These functions correspond broadly to and will be realized by existing and on-going IOC programmes, IOC regional subsidiary bodies and various mechanisms of cooperation, such as the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board and the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE), the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), the Tsunami Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs), World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the Ocean Sciences programme, Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM), Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB), and Capacity Development (CD). Calling out these functions therefore simplifies Member State engagement in the programmes of the Commission, and makes the programme and budget exercise more transparent.
9. *Functions contributing to Objective 1*: In order to generate the knowledge relative to marine ecosystem functioning at the appropriate time scale and resolution, it is essential to build capacity and a globally managed and quality controlled knowledge base. The strategy will therefore include: development and coordination of essential research on ocean processes, marine biodiversity and ocean ecosystem health; reinforcing the development of biology and ecosystems sustained observing networks as a part of the voluntary collaboration under the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS); a focus on strengthening the existing IODE global network of data (and information) centres including the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), with an emphasis on data/information product/service development contributing to continuous monitoring of the identified indicators; support to the United Nations World Ocean Assessment and other related processes; and development of capacity to ensure strong science-policy interfaces in ocean management.
10. *Functions contributing to Objective 2*: In terms of early warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and ocean-related hazards, the strategy will focus on four areas: (i) support for the intergovernmental coordination of regionally harmonized tsunami warning systems; (ii) strengthening the work of regional Tsunami Information Centres that provide a clearinghouse for the development of educational and preparedness materials; (iii) targeted capacity development and technical assistance to enhance Member States own ability to develop preparedness and awareness in a multi-hazard framework; and (iv) support for enabling observations, modelling, research and policy development that lead to improved tsunami and ocean-related warning systems and preparedness.
11. *Functions contributing to Objective 3*: IOC will address the objective of increased resiliency to climate change and variability through scientifically founded services, adaptation and mitigation strategies with an end-to-end effort that:

* begins with an ocean observing system sustainably monitoring the major global scales of climate (both physics and ocean carbon), and they key variables used in operational services, building readiness and capacity in providing local information required in adaptation at the coast and to address the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on marine and coastal ecosystems, and linked to a data management system built on global standards and best practices,
* coordinates ocean climate research that improves the understanding of ocean processes and climate change, the predictability of climate variability and change; builds a knowledge base on linked ocean ecosystem changes and adaptation strategies;
* partners with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in the development of next-generation services; informs IOC and other assessment processes; and
* applies the scientific knowledge base to improve regional management and governance of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, building capacity through demonstration projects and shared tools.

1. *Functions contributing to Objective 4:* Ocean knowledge and open access to ocean information and data have the power to generate profits and jobs in the marine economy sector and to maintain it on progressively sustainable path. By 2030, the ocean economy, buoyed by growth in tourism, mariculture and renewable energy, is predicted to significantly increase its share in many national economies, in both developed and developing countries. Engagement and strengthened partnerships along the whole value chain from ocean observations and research to the benefit creation by end-users will be pursued. Innovation and new technologies, delivery of predictions, services, and scientific assessments will support maritime economy and facilitate the identification of sustainability pathways. Defining optimal boundaries for economic operations, reducing conflicts between human uses of the ocean, sustaining ocean health and protecting the marine environment will be promoted through ecosystem-based approaches such as Marine Spatial Planning and Large Marine Ecosystems.
2. *Functions contributing to Objective 5*: In order to identify and monitor emerging issues, it will be essential to coordinate scientific research and call out these issues in a way that can be communicated to policy. Strengthened and expanded ocean observation and associated global data/information management systems will support the research in emerging issues. Resolving conflicts among the numerous existing and emerging uses of the maritime domain represents a challenge. To properly address these issues and to use the results of the research effectively requires improved international collaboration. It will also be essential for negotiation capacities to be built in Member States so that they are able to bring emerging national and regional issues for consideration in UN and other intergovernmental fora.

**Capacity Development Strategy**

1. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) recognizes IOC as the competent international organization in the fields of Marine Scientific Research (Part XIII) and Transfer of Marine Technology (Part XIV).
2. The IOC efforts in capacity development will be built starting from the level reached in the implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2015–2021 and guided by the international assessments and reports, i.e. IPCC, WOA-2, etc. These efforts will strongly capitalize on the achievements to be obtained in the course of implementation of the Decade. The second edition of the IOC Global Ocean Science Report will provide a key benchmark for the IOC’s work and further editions will allow monitoring progress.
3. The role of IOC will be to ensure the research focuses on issues of crucial importance for sustainable development and to increase *(access to/impact of)* cutting-edge research through cooperation. In parallel, IOC will continue to enhance the capacity of ***all*** IOC Member States to conduct scientific research and benefit from its results. This pillar of the IOC CD work will include operationalization of the *IOC Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology* (TMT) and the TMT Clearing House Mechanism. The work of the IOC Expert Group on Capacity Development will continue and intensify. IOC will contribute substantially to the development of Member States’ capacities in relation to the new international legally binding instrument on BBNJ, simultaneously delivering towards achieving Target 14.a of the 2030 Agenda.
4. Developing and sustaining innovative approaches to ocean governance will require improvements in global ocean literacy. Ocean literacy empowers communities and networks of business, universities, research centres, and civic groups to share the responsibility for addressing urgent threats. IOC’s Ocean literacy facilitates stewardship within a larger ocean sustainability framework, by promoting the understanding of ocean knowledge and fostering best practices in sustainable use of marine resources and ecosystem management.

**ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS**

1. In accordance with its Statutes, the ‘Commission will collaborate with international organizations concerned with the work of the Commission, and especially with those organizations of the United Nations system which are willing and prepared to contribute to the purpose and functions of the Commission and/or to seek advice and cooperation in the field of ocean and coastal area scientific research, related services and capacity-building’.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**IOC WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM**

1. IOC enjoys collaboration with many UN agencies and has on-going collaboration at the programmatic level and/or via co-sponsorship of joint programmes. Examples include IAEA, IMO, ISA, ITU, UNCLOS, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNEP, and WMO. Global and regional intergovernmental agreements and conventions require contributions from international bodies such as IOC or call for national cooperation and reporting among and via IOC Member States.
2. IOC contributes to a number of established and recent UN global agreements including the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular of the Goal 14; the recognition of the role of the ocean in the UNFCCC Paris Climate Agreement; the endorsement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Samoa Pathway.
3. UN Oceans is the interagency collaboration mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the UN system. Through UNOceans, the Commission will work in cooperation with other UN agencies in the development of “SDG enabling activities”. In the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, IOC will foster the development of joint activities in support of the 2030 Agenda, SIDS Action Plan, Sendai Framework, UNFCCC COP processes, and other relevant mechanisms. The IOC will continue to cooperate with UNESCO programmes to maximize the comparative advantage of UNESCO’s comprehensive interdisciplinary approach to key societal issues.
4. New forms of cooperation and, potentially, stronger formal links of IOC with UN partners will be explored based on the understanding that ocean science represents a crosscutting underpinning force for fulfilling mandates of such UN agencies. Such cooperative agreements will be especially promising for successful implementation of the Decade. The enhanced role of ocean science in assisting Member States in achieving the goals of sustainable development, implementing international agreements and addressing national priorities, may warrant a reinforced coordination between UN agencies and a review of the IOC role and position in the UN System.[[4]](#footnote-4)

**EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS & RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

1. In addition to the collaboration within the UN system, IOC also enjoys strong collaboration with a large number of non-UN global and regional organizations such as IHO, ICES, PICES, ISC, and IUCN.
2. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development presents an unprecedented opportunity for expanding IOC’s partnership base and boosting fund-raising.
3. At the same time, it is essential that there is sufficient sustainable resources for the core IOC programmes and regional subsidiary bodies that form the solid base of the Commission’s comparative advantage.
4. The relevance and effectiveness of the IOC’s programmes is strongly related to the level of extrabudgetary funding, especially in periods of financial constraints. Existing resource mobilization approaches for Members States, institutional and private sector partners, tightly linked to the priorities approved by IOC governing bodies and its capacities to deliver, will be intensified, as will be public-private partnerships and efforts in providing information, outreach and increasing visibility of IOC.

**WORKING CLOSER TO THE FIELD**

1. The United Nations is reforming to provide a better response to the needs of its Member States, with a strong emphasis on its regional dimension. Ocean is of high environmental, social and economic importance to the livelihoods of people and prosperities of countries. By recognizing Member States’ national development goals and internationally agreed development priorities, IOC intends to improve the delivery of its mandates, mainly through its regional subsidiary bodies and complementary to that, where no such bodies exist, by linking with the relevant activities of – groups of – its Member States on the ground..
2. The IOC regional subsidiary bodies (WESTPAC, IOCARIBE, IOCAFRICA, and IOCINDIO) have a dual role to fulfil. They are instrumental in carrying out IOC global programmes and priorities in the regions, whilst they develop, execute and coordinate projects and activities, and foster regional partnerships, in response to the needs identified by their respective Member States. Given the needs for capacity development varying from one region to another, regional subsidiary bodies take an adaptive approach to capacity development for their respective regions while taking into account all activities and actions contained in IOC’s strategy. These regional mechanisms are of paramount importance for the IOC value delivery chain, ensuring solid ownership of programmes by Member States.
3. WESTPAC, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific, intends to introduce Big Data approaches in marine science, advance monitoring, modelling and predictive capabilities, enhance scientific inputs for informed decisions, and develop a knowledge-action network in order to advance the global understanding of the ocean processes and climate, balance economic and ecological benefits, and safeguard ocean ecosystem and human health in the Western Pacific and its adjacent waters.
4. IOCAFRICA, the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, will focus on ocean observations and monitoring, ocean sciences and assessments, data and information management and capacity development for marine science and technology. In particular, IOCAFRICA will address ocean modelling and forecasting, disaster preparedness and mitigation, impacts of climate change and variability on the coastal zones including coastal erosion, establish marine spatial planning, ocean literacy and the translation of ocean science to policy in order to provide governments and societies with the information required for sustainable development of the oceans and coastal areas.
5. IOCARIBE, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, will focus on assisting Member States in achieving sustainable use of the ocean and coastal resources, foster the generation of knowledge, sharing of information, expertise and experiences to facilitate the scientific community in reducing scientific uncertainties, including those due to climate change, effectively encourage the adoption of pertinent measures for reducing human and material losses associated with the increased frequency of extreme ocean and meteorological hazards. The Sub-commission will also assist Member States to develop their capacity to formulate national and regional policies and plans to meet their needs in ocean science and technology, and reinforce and broaden scientific cooperation, regionally and internationally through networking and institutional arrangements with organizations of the UN system, IGOs, NGOs and the scientific community. IOCARIBE recognises the importance of communication with stakeholders and particularly young scientists and decision-makers and intends to include in its capacity development plan ocean sciences communication and media training.
6. IOCINDIO, the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean, will consolidate its reactivation in order to assist its Member States to reinforce their national and regional networks of Ocean observations and monitoring, modelling and forecasting capabilities. The Committee will foster active networking of marine academic and research institutes of its Member States, notably the UNESCO Category II Centres in oceanography, the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre, which will help to establish national regional mapping of critical ecological systems and coastal vulnerability due to sea-level rise, storm surges and climate change. IOCINDIO will reinforce cooperation with regional institutions in Indian Ocean such as the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) and relevant NGOs.
7. Complementing the work of regional subsidiary bodies, IOC will enhance its communications with Member States and their initiatives in regions without such bodies. IOC also aims to build visibly on these activities of its Member States, acknowledging their significant capacities, often already deployed in many of the global IOC programmes. IOC will liaise with relevant national, regional and large-scale international initiatives of those Member States with a view to take them into account in the execution of its various functions.

**COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

1. The ocean and its resources are increasingly recognized as being indispensable for addressing the multiple challenges that the planet faces in the decades to come. The IOC play a fundamental and upstream role in the information delivery process on oceans and their value to society.
2. In order to better explain this to stakeholders and partners, IOC will implement an efficient and tailored communication strategy enabling it to fully demonstrate the impact of its work. Taking into account that the ocean and marine affairs drive many socio-economic activities, IOC will also engage with Member States and international economic institutions to seek their support in highlighting to the relevant stakeholders the importance of the ocean activities for national economy and growth.

Annex 2 to Resolution XXX-3

**REFERENCING OF THE IOC GOVERNING BODY DOCUMENTATION:   
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY**

As a follow-up exercise to [Resolution EC-LI.2(III)](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=22215) (2018) and the recommendations to improve governance, working methods and procedures of the Commission, the new documentation referencing is adopted as follows, with a view of making governing body documentation more user-friendly, including the facilitation of downloading documents by agenda item and in a sequential manner (Recommendation no. 8 in Annex 1 to EC-LI.2).

| **CURRENT REFERENCE CODE** | **NEW DOCUMENTATION CODING** | **DOCUMENT TITLE** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Proposed documentation coding:*  *IOC/GOV acronym-session number in Arabic numeral/agenda item n°* + *type of document*  Three documents have a coding with no reference to the agenda:  Action Paper: **AP**  List of documents: **Doclist**  Summary report: **SR** | |
| Documentation for an IOC Executive Council session: **EC** | | |
| IOC/EC-LI/1 Prov. Rev. | IOC/EC-51/2.1.Doc Rev. | Revised Provisional Agenda |
| IOC/EC-LI/1 Add. Prov. Rev. | IOC/EC-51/2.1.Doc Add. Rev. | Revised Provisional Timetable |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 prov. | IOC/EC-51/AP | Provisional Action Paper |
| IOC/EC-LI/4 Prov | IOC/EC-51/Doclist | Provisional List of Documents |
| IOC/EC-LI/Inf.1 | IOC/EC-51/2.4.Inf | Working arrangements for the session |
| IOC/EC-LI/Inf.1 Add. | IOC/EC-51/ 2.4.Inf. Add. | Template for submission of written records to the Executive Council summary report |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 1 | IOC/EC-51/3.1.Doc(1)[[5]](#footnote-5) | Report of the IOC Executive Secretary on the work accomplished since the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly (July 2017-June 2018) |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 1 Add. | IOC/EC-51/3.1.Doc(1) Add. | Update on IOC Communication activities (follow-up to the IOC Communications Advisory Report) |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 2 | IOC/EC-51/3.1.Doc(2) | Report on Budget Execution 2016–2017 and outline of 2018–2019 budget |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 2 Add. | IOC/EC-51/3.1.Doc(2) Add. | Extrabudgetary resource mobilisation targets: proposals for 2018–2019 |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 3 | IOC/EC-51/4.1.Doc(1) | Abridged version of the Roadmap for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 4 | IOC/EC-51/4.1.Doc(2) | Terms of Reference of the Decade Planning Group (Planning Phase: 2018–2020) |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 5 | IOC/EC-51/4.2.Doc | Enhanced coherence, impact and future orientations of the IOC Ocean Science portfolio in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and 2030 Agenda |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 6 | IOC/EC-51/4.4.Doc | Update on IOC custodianship role in relation to SDG 14 indicators |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 7 | IOC/EC-51/4.5.Doc | First Report of the IOC Regular Working Group on User Requirements and Contributions to GEBCO Products |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 8 | IOC/EC-51/4.7.Doc | Global Ocean Observing System 2030 Strategy |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 9 | IOC/EC-51/4.8.Doc | Evolving capabilities of the Argo profiling float network |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 10 | IOC/EC-51/4.9.Doc | The IOC contribution to Ocean Literacy activities: perspectives and development in view of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 11 | IOC/EC-51/5.1.Doc | Concept for a Joint WMO-IOC Committee for Oceanography and Meteorology (JCOM) |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 12 | IOC/EC-51/6.Doc(1) | Updated Introduction to the IOC Medium-Term Strategy, 2014–2021 |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 13 | IOC/EC-51/6.Doc(2) | IOC Governance: Draft Implementation Plan of the Recommendations of the UNESCO Open-ended Working Group on Governance |
| IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 14 | IOC/EC-51/6.Doc(3) | Revised Financial Regulations for the IOC Special Account |
| IOC/EC-LI/3 (Pt.1) Prov | IOC/EC-51/SR(1) Prov. | Part 1 of the provisional Summary report |
| IOC/EC-LI/3 | IOC/EC-51/SR | Final Summary report |
|  | | |
| **Documentation for an IOC Assembly document:** **A** | | |
| IOC-XXIX/1 Prov. Rev. | IOC/**A**-29/2.1.Doc Rev. | Revised Provisional Agenda |
| **Decisions** | | |
| EC Decision  IOC/EC-LI/Dec.3.3.3(I)  IOC Decision EC-LI.3.3.3(I) | IOC Decision EC-51/3.3.3(I) |  |
| Assembly Decision  IOC-XXIX/Dec.3.3.3(I)  IOC Decision IOC-XXIX/3.3.3(I) | IOC Decision A-29/3.3.3(I) |  |
| **Resolutions** | | |
| EC Resolution  EC-LI.4 | IOC Resolution EC-51/4 | *Resolutions are numbered after their adoption. This digit should not be confused with the agenda item n°.* |
| Assembly Resolution  XXIX-4  IOC Resolution XXIX-4 | IOC Resolution A-29/4 |  |

Annex 3 to Resolution XXX-3

**GUIDELINES**

**Responsibilities of the Officers of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission**

**Background**

‘*The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, hereafter called the Commission is established as a body with functional autonomy within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and cultural Organization (UNESCO).*

The *Commission defines and implements its programme according to its stated purposes and functions and within the framework of the budget adopted by its Assembly and the General Conference of UNESCO*[[6]](#footnote-6).’

‘*During the course of each ordinary session, the Assembly shall elect a chairperson and, taking into account the principles of geographic distribution, shall elect five Vice-chairpersons who shall be the Officers of the Commission, its Assembly and its Executive Council…’*[[7]](#footnote-7)

In accordance with the IOC Rules of Procedure[[8]](#footnote-8), *the Chairperson shall be elected from* individuals *nominated for their personal qualifications* and shall not act as a representative of his/her state. *The five Vice-Chairpersons shall be nationals of Member States of different electoral groups (listed in* [*Appendix II to the IOC Rules of Procedure*](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=3821)*).*

The Chairperson and each Vice-Chairperson shall be eligible for re-election, but only once for successive terms.

Election to serve as an Officer of the Commission should be seen as an honour and therefore carries with it important duties and a high level of commitment.

Given the highly specialized mandate of the Commission and consistent with the provisions of the IOC Statutes for selecting representatives to the Executive Council[[9]](#footnote-9), in electing the Officers, *Member States […] shall endeavour to appoint persons experienced in matters related to the Commission*.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group on Governance to enhance transparency, inclusiveness and efficiency of the governing bodies of UNESCO, these guidelines aim to promote good governance, common ownership, and shared responsibility of Member States in a holistic manner.

**Guiding principles**

Officers should act in good faith and actively engage with Member States of the Commission.

They should promote UNESCO’s values and ideals, and work in a spirit of dialogue, cooperation, inclusiveness and trust-building, in accordance with the purpose of the Commission.

They should abide by highest standards of equity, fairness, integrity, transparency and accountability.

**All Officers:**

In accordance with the established practice, new Officers should take part in a formal induction process;

The Officers should meet immediately prior to every session of the IOC governing bodies (Assembly and Executive Council).

For the sake of preserving the institutional memory and facilitating induction of newly elected Officers, the former Chairperson participates in the Officers’ meeting as an ‘*ex-officio*’ member.

The Officers should meet at least once during every intersessional period, usually in January, to guide the Secretariat in the preparation of the agenda of the next governing body session.

The IOC governing bodies (Assembly and Executive Council) may delegate certain tasks that need to be pursued during the intersessional period to the Officers.

**Vice-Chairpersons:**

Vice-Chairpersons should be mindful that they represent their respective electoral groups.

They should communicate with the members of their respective electoral groups in a timely, transparent and effective manner, through correspondence by electronic means or by organizing coordination meetings, to promote efficient information-sharing and dissemination and efficient decision-making by the governing bodies.

They are called upon to consult with their respective electoral group members on the items on the agenda of the Officers’ meetings, soon after they are announced, and to share Member States view with the Officers.

They should inform promptly their electoral groups about the outcomes of relevant meetings and any emerging issues, as appropriate.

1. Following a review of the literature by OBPWG, a definition of best practices was agreed by consensus of ocean observing community participants at the Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices Workshop in November 2017 See: Simpson, P., Pearlman, F. and Pearlman J. (eds) (2018) *Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices Workshop, 15–17 November 2017, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Paris, France: Proceedings*. AtlantOS/ODIP/OORCN Ocean Best Practices Working Group (OBPWG), 74pp .DOI: [*10.25607/OBP-3*](http://dx.doi.org/10.25607/OBP-3) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. IOC Statutes, Article 2.1 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Article 2.2 of the IOC Statutes [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Article 11.3 of the IOC Statutes. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Numbers in brackets to be used where there is more than one document of the same type under the same agenda item [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Statutes (of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, IOC), Article 1 ([IOC/INF/1148](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000124367.locale=fr)) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Statutes (of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, IOC), Article 6.B.5 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Rules of Procedure of the IOC, Article V, Rule 13 ([IOC/INF/1166](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000125186.locale=fr)) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Statutes (of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, IOC), Article 7.A.3 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)