



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(Of UNESCO)**

**EIGHTEENTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL SESSION OF THE
UNESCO-IOC SUB-COMMISSION FOR THE CARIBBEAN
AND ADJACENT REGIONS (IOCARIBE-XVIII)
(Brasilia, April 23-25, 2025)**

Covers all items of the Revised Provisional Agenda

PROVISIONAL ACTION PAPER

This Action Paper provides the information necessary for effective participation in the discussion of the agenda items. This information includes: (i) identification of relevant documentation; (ii) identification, under each substantive agenda item, of the issue before the Session and the expected decision or draft recommendations when available to date; (iii) background information.

This Action Paper provides also the basis of the draft summary report of the session. It is written in past tense to streamline the reporting process. A summary of the discussion that led to decisions under each agenda item will be prepared by the Secretariat and the Rapporteur and will complete the draft summary report. Draft decisions and recommendations are proposed in the document in order to focus the debate of each agenda item without prejudice to the prerogatives of any Member State, partner organization, Officer or the IOCARIBE Secretary.

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1. OPENING

1. The Chairperson of the IOC (of UNESCO) Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions IOCARIBE, Mr. Marck Oduber (Kingdom of the Netherlands - Aruba) opened the online session of the Eighteenth Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII at 09.00 hrs on April 23, 2025.
2. Mr. Oduber introduced the Director of the UNESCO Brasilia Office, who welcomed the participants and UNESCO staff to the Brasilia office and he/she wished them a productive meeting.
3. The Chairperson then introduced the representative of the Brazilian Government who addressed the Session and welcomed participants and delegations to Brazil and to the Eighteenth Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions.
4. IOC Executive Secretary and UNESCO ADG/IOC, Mr. Vidar Helgesen addressed the Session in representation of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

[Rule of Procedure 8]

<i>Working documents:</i>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/2.1	Revised Provisional Agenda
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/2.4.2	Revised Provisional Timetable
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/2	Provisional Action Paper (<i>this document</i>)

5. The IOCARIBE Chairperson, Mr. Marck Oduber introduced this item. The Provisional Agenda and Timetable were submitted to the Session for adoption.

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII, Recommendation

The Sub-Commission,

I. Agenda

1. Adopts the agenda and the timetable of work as set out in document IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/1 Prov. [with the following additional modifications:]

6. The representatives of ____ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

2.2. DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR FOR THE SESSION (CHAIR)

[Rule of Procedure 25.4]

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII, Recommendation

II. Rapporteur

1. On a proposal of [country], seconded by [countries],
2. Designates _____ of [country] Rapporteur for its present session to assist the Chairperson and the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the draft provisional report of the Session;

7. The representatives of ____ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

2.3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

[Rule of Procedure 12]

8. The IOCARIBE Secretary, Ms Lorna Inniss introduced this item. The Session was requested to work in Plenary as far as possible. However, where deemed necessary, the Session was requested to constitute open-ended working groups.

9. Ms Inniss invited the Sub-commission to form two sessional committees, the Recommendations Committee and the Nominations Committee, and invited proposals for additional technical sessional working groups.

10. These Working Groups may be formed to deal with specific questions arising from Agenda Items. Considering that the Session is hybrid, these Groups would meet before or after Plenary. Their products shall serve as the basis for and to facilitate the debate in Plenary. Ms Inniss then invited nominations for sessional working groups.

11. The IOCARIBE Secretary informed the Session that for this purpose a form would be available for countries to nominate and register to each of the Committees established. A slide with instructions and the deadline for receiving nominations was displayed on screen and with a link in the chat. Nominations were open until noon on xxx. Ms Inniss also indicated the dates the Committees would meet.

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII, Recommendation

The Sub commission,

III. Sessional Committees and Working Groups

1. Establishes the following sessional open-ended committees and referred them to the following agenda items and responsibilities:
2. Recommendations Committee (to report on all draft recommendations duly presented for consideration at the session – item 10: under the chairmanship of [name] (country) with the following Member States declaring their wish to participate: _____.
3. Nominations Committee (to examine all proposals of candidates for the elections to the chair and vice-chairs at the present session, and to report on them – item 8.2): under the chairmanship of [name] (country) with the following Member States

declaring their wish to participate: _____. IOCARIBE Secretary provides the Secretariat support to the Nominations Committee.

12. The representatives of ____ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

2.4. INTRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTATION AND TIMETABLE (CHAIR)

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/2.4.2	Revised Timetable
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/2.1	Revised Provisional Agenda
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/2.4.1	Provisional List of Documents
<u>Information:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/Inf.4	Logistics Note
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/Inf.1.Add	Template for submission of written records to the IOCARIBE Summary Report
	IOC/INF-1148	IOC Statutes
	IOC/INF-1166Rev	IOC Rules of Procedure

13. The IOCARIBE Chair, Mr Marck Oduber introduced this item. He briefly reviewed the list of working documents and reminded the Session that the report would be focused on recommendations. The Chair reminded the Session that draft recommendations would be discussed at the Recommendations Committee, and as early as possible, draft recommendations should be submitted to the Secretariat by Member States. The Action Paper was intentionally drafted as a pre-report in order to streamline the reporting process during the session. Member States that wished to have specific, particularly important plenary interventions recorded, were invited to provide written records thereof in one of the three languages of the Sub-Commission, to be annexed to the report. A template and a dedicated e-mail address (iocaribe@unesco.org) was set up for this purpose (IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/Inf. 1 Add.).

14. The translation and the adoption of the report in two languages would be done by correspondence after the session.

3. IOCARIBE MATTERS AND REPORTS

3.1. STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

<u>Information:</u>		Statement of the Chairperson on the Status of the Sub-Commission
<u>Information:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII	Executive Summary Report of the Seventeenth Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions [Online Meeting]

15. In accordance with rule of procedure 8.1(a), the IOCARIBE Chairperson delivered an oral statement on recent developments in the work of the Sub-Commission since the Seventeenth Session of IOCARIBE, 9 to 11 May, 2023 in Bogota, Colombia, and perspectives for the coming years.

3.2. IOCARIBE SECRETARY'S REPORT ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION AND BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/3.2	Secretary's Report work accomplished since the Seventeenth Session on Programme and Budget
<u>Information:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVII	Executive Summary Report of the Seventeenth Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions

16. The IOCARIBE Secretary, Ms Lorna Inniss, introduced this agenda item. She referred to the programme progress and to the implementation of decisions and recommendations during the 2023 – 2025 period, particularly those made at the Seventeenth Session of the Sub-Commission held in hybrid mode on 9 to 11 May 2023 in Bogota, Colombia.

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII, Recommendation

Report of the IOCARIBE Secretary on Programme and Budget

The Sub-commission,

1. Having examined document IOCARIBE Technical Secretariat Report,
2. Takes note of the report of the IOCARIBE Secretary on programme and budget implementation, including the report on budget execution..

17. The representatives of ____ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

4. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

4.1. SESSION ON IOC AND THE FUTURE OF THE OCEAN

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(4)	Consultation Process - IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Sustainable Delivery and Expansion of IOC Activities
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/4.1	IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Phase 1 Consultation of Member State Focus Group Discussions-Information Note
<u>Reference Document</u>	IOC/INF-1412	IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029
<u>Reference Document</u>	IOC/EC-57/52.Doc(1)	Action Plan in Response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC's Strategic

		Positioning – Update on Implementation
<u>Refere</u>	IOS/EVS/PI/197	UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service published The Evaluation of the Strategic Positioning of IOC-UNESCO (Sep 2021)

18. Ms Alison Clausen, Deputy Global Coordinator of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) introduced this item. She provided a reminder of the rationale and structure for this process as documented in IOC Resolution EC-57/2 Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission. She reminded Member States that the first phase of the consultation process involves a Member States survey to which 65 responses have been received, interviews with key informants and regional workshops, including the IOCARIBE workshop to be held in the sidelines of this session. Ms Clausen reported on the key initial findings of the consultation process to date and highlighted the importance of this work to inform IOC programming and budgeting in the long-term, the development of the next iteration of the IOC Medium Term Strategy. She encouraged active participation in the regional workshop to be held during the session.

19. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

4.2. DRAFT STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/EC-57/4.3.Doc(1) Rev.)	Draft Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management
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20. Ms Fanny Douvère, IOC UNESCO Senior Project Officer introduced this agenda item. At its 32nd session, the IOC Assembly first took note of the scope and process for developing the IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (SOPM) for the 2024-2030 period through document IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc(1), and requested the IOC Secretariat to collect input from Member States, IOC programmes and technical bodies, and other relevant stakeholders, and to present a revised document to the IOC Executive Council at its 57th session. The draft IOC-SOPM Strategy was presented to the 57th session of the IOC Executive Council, through document IOC/EC-57/4.3.DOC(1).Rev. The draft IOC-SOPM was based on input solicited through IOC Circular Letter 2968, a survey which was developed and rolled out to better understand the existing landscape for SOPM and identify the needs of stakeholders regarding technical and scientific support. Inputs received were synthesized in document IOC/INF-1537 and its addendum and two online consultation meetings were organized with IOC Member States in May 2024.

21. The IOC Executive Council through decision EC-57/4.3 instructed the establishment of the IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management with the task inter alia to finalize the draft IOC-SOPM Strategy and a supporting Implementation Plan. The Working Group met two times, online on 6 February 2025 and in person from 4-6 March 2025 and provided feedback through two additional consultation rounds. A third online meeting was organized on 10 April where the final IOC-SOPM Strategy and Implementation Plan was finalized by the working group. Given the need to establish a mechanism to track and guide the implementation of the Strategy during the period 2025-2030, and to consider the outputs of the IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation process as these relate to Sustainable Ocean Planning. Terms of Reference for the continuation of the IOC Working Group on SOPM

have been drafted for consideration by the IOC Assembly.

22. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

4.3. DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR IOC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023-2030

<u>Information Document:</u>	<u>IOC/GE-CD-VI</u>	Report of the Sixth Session of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (22–24 October 2024, Oostende, Belgium)
<u>Reference Document:</u>	<u>IOC/INF-1433</u>	IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030

23. Ms. Johanna Diwa-Acallar, Deputy Coordinator of the IOC UNESCO's Capacity Development Global Coordination unit presented this agenda item. She recalled that the Assembly, at its 32nd session, through Decision A-32/4.3, adopted the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030 published as document IOC/INF-1433 and its Outreach and Communications Plan (IOC-32/4.3.Doc(2)). She reported on the outcomes of the sixth session of the IOC GE-CD, which was held at Oostende, Belgium on 22-24 October 2024. To deliver the tasks under the new TOR of the Group (Annex Decision EC57/4.6), a Task Team on Needs Assessment and an Implementation Plan Working Group were established to start developing a draft Implementation Plan for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030 to be presented to the 33rd Session of the IOC Assembly in June 2025.

24. Ms Elva Escobar, Chair of the IOCARIBE Capacity Development Working Group, joined the Task Team on Needs Assessment as representative of Ms Lorna Innis of the IOCARIBE Secretariat. Since the adoption of the IOC CD Strategy in 2023, the IOC CD Secretariat has been working with the RSBs on mapping the priority needs of the regions. IOCAFRICA and IOCARIBE provided inputs in the discussions during the sixth session of the GE-CD as members of the Task Team. The new IOCINDIO Head, upon the start of his engagement from January 2025, began close consultation with the IOC CD Secretariat and provided inputs to the Implementation Plan on time.

25. The Task Team convened in nine online meetings between November 2024 and January 2025 to develop a methodology to capture the regional inputs to be incorporated in the CD Strategy Implementation Plan, based on the identified priority CD needs in their respective regions as discussed in the regional sessions and outcomes of the IOC CD biennial surveys. A template for preliminary consultation with the RSBs was developed by the Task Team which will serve as an initial basis of a full needs assessment with the Member States during the next iteration of the IOC Biennial CD Survey which will be jointly conducted and implemented with the RSBs.

26. The draft Implementation Plan (IP) aims to translate the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030 into concrete, actionable steps that address the specific needs and challenges of regions and Member States, aligning with the objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science. The IP will provide a structured pathway to achieving these objectives, ensuring that the Strategy translates into measurable, region-specific actions that support the global mission of sustainable ocean science development. It will also articulate in greater detail how the Actions listed in the Strategy will be implemented and how progress and effectiveness will be monitored.

27. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

5. IOCARIBE CONTRIBUTION TO UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)

5.1. UN OCEAN DECADE: GLOBAL UPDATE

<i>Working document:</i>	IOC/2025/ODS/53	Ocean Decade Progress Report July 2023 - June 2024
	IOC/2024/ODS/55	2024 Ocean Decade Conference - Barcelona Statement
	IOC/2024/ODS/50	Ambition, Action, Impact: The Ocean Decade Pathway to 2030. Consolidated Outcomes of the Decade 2030 Process

28. Ms Alison Clausen, Deputy Global Coordinator of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) provided an update on implementation of the Ocean Decade at the global level. She highlighted that the Decade is at the mid-point of its implementation and that the portfolio of Decade Actions is continuing to grow rapidly with strong thematic diversity across all Ocean Decade Challenges. She reminded the session of the importance of the priorities contained in the Barcelona Statement emerging from the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference and the accompanying report: 'Ambition, Action, Impact: a pathway for the Ocean Decade to 2030'. She underscored the importance of the work of the Decade Advisory Board and highlighted the emergence of a growing network of regional and thematic decentralized coordination structures to support the work of the Decade Coordination Unit. She also recalled that 40 National Decade Committees are now operational and that a specific procedure exists to support SIDS Member States to nominate individual Ocean Decade focal points. She reminded Member States that a number of Decade Actions and coordination structures are led by IOC and that, if adequately resourced, these initiatives have the potential to substantively contribute to the sustained growth, positioning and impact of IOC. She also highlighted the importance of the mid-term evaluation process that has been carried out over the last 12 months and drew attention to the IOC management response to the evaluation that sets out the broad direction for the Decade delivery in the next 5 years. She recalled the urgent need for increased investment and engagement by Member States in the Decade in order to ensure effective implementation of the actions identified in the management response related both to central coordination by the IOC, as well as IOC-led decentralized coordination structures and Decade Actions.

5.2. UN OCEAN DECADE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

5.2.1. TASK FORCE FOR THE TAC REGION

29. Mr Tadzio Bervoets provided a report on this agenda item. Since its establishment, the Task Force for the TAC Region has led a multiyear co-design process involving thousands of stakeholders, culminating in the release of the Ocean Decade Roadmap for the Tropical Americas and Caribbean in November 2024. The Roadmap defines ten regional priorities and outlines a strategic, inclusive approach to implementing over 120 endorsed Decade Actions, 108 of which are led by institutions in the region. The region also launched a TAC Ocean Decade Network and is finalizing a resource mobilization plan to support continued implementation. The Roadmap ensures alignment with global Ocean Decade goals while addressing regional needs, especially for SIDS and vulnerable coastal communities.

5.2.2. ROAD MAP FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE TAC REGION

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/2024/ODS/59	Road Map for the Implementation of Ocean Decade in the TAC region
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30. Mrs Loreto Duffy-Mayers presented this agenda item. The Road Map for the Ocean Decade in the TAC Region was officially published in November 2024, following a robust co-design process initiated in 2017 and validated during a Task Force meeting in Costa Rica in June 2024. It outlines a regional framework for inclusive and science-driven action aligned with ten strategic priorities, including marine pollution reduction, climate adaptation, ocean literacy, and support for small-scale fisheries. The Road Map emphasizes national implementation, enhanced collaboration, and the establishment of enabling environments through capacity development, policy alignment, and resource mobilization. The Roadmap is also a valuable guide for SIDS, particularly those without in-country specialists or resources, offering concrete actions and mechanisms to strengthen participation and benefit from the Ocean Decade. As part of its operationalization, regional coordination structures such as the TAC Ocean Decade Network and the Decade Coordination Office have been activated, with a monitoring framework and implementation plan currently under development.

5.2.3. UN OCEAN DECADE COORDINATION OFFICE FOR THE TASK FORCE IN THE TAC REGION UPDATE

31. Ms Lorna Inniss, IOCARIBE Technical Secretary, presented this agenda item and introduced Dr Marko Tosic as the new Head of the Decade Coordination Office.

32. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

6. REVIEW OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS, WORKING GROUPS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

6.1. OCEAN RESEARCH

6.1.1. Harmful Algal Blooms

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/6.1.1	Progress Report of the IOC Regional Working Group on Harmful Algal Blooms in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE-ANCA)
<u>Reference Document</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/6.1.1/Inf	Individual Consulting Report: Update the IOC-UNESCO ANCA Haedat Platform

33. Mr Ernesto Mancera provided a report on this item. During the intersessional period, the IOCARIBE-ANCA working group achieved several goals proposed from SC-IOCARIBE-XVII. Research on epiphytic toxic dinoflagellates was strengthened, and progress was made in initiatives on HAB early warning systems. However, challenges remain, including achieving greater participation from the region's countries and strengthening training and outreach activities to coordinate with the tourism and public health sectors. The development of data and information integration projects is essential for enhancing capabilities, and there are opportunities to enhance the dissemination of IOCARIBE-ANCA activities globally through platforms like Harmful Algae News (HAN). The IOC Training Course and Identification Qualification in Harmful Marine Microalgae 2023 involved four countries: Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, and Venezuela. The RLA7025 2025 initiative expanded to include eight countries: Argentina, Colombia, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Brazil, Guatemala, and El Salvador (RLA7028). A key goal was to expand the ANCA network to include new countries,

successfully establishing focal points for Trinidad & Tobago and Puerto Rico. This expansion is particularly important as it helps Caribbean countries participate more actively in addressing harmful algal blooms.

6.1.2. Ocean Acidification

<u>Reference Document</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/6.1.2	OA report to SC-IOCARIBE XVIII
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34. Ms Lorna Inniss, IOCARIBE Secretary, presented this agenda item on behalf of the Ocean Science Section (OSS), referring to the OA report of the SC-IOCARIBE XVIII provided by the OSS. It was noted that the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network has a Caribbean Hub, established in 2023 and comprising 28 members from 16 countries. It was also noted that in relation to the Sustainable Development Goal indicator 14.3.1, average marine acidity (pH) was measured at an agreed set of representative sampling stations with IOCARIBE countries submitting national data to UNESCO-IOC (as the custodian for the indicator) including Brazil, Colombia, Cuba and Mexico.

35. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

6.2. OBSERVATIONS, SERVICES, DATA AND INFORMATION, AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

6.2.1. IOCARIBE GOOS

<u>Working document:</u>	IOCARIBE-GOOS-WG-I	First IOCARIBE GOOS WG meeting Report
<u>Working Document</u>	OCG-16	Sixteenth Meeting of the Observations Coordination Group / IOCARIBE Joint Session Report
<u>Background Document</u>	GOOS-SC-14	Fourteenth Session of the GOOS Steering Committee Report
<u>Background Document</u>	IOCARIBE-GOOS TOR	IOCARIBE-GOOS Terms of Reference for the Working Group

36. Ms Lorna Inniss, IOCARIBE Secretary, introduced this agenda item regarding the establishment of an IOCARIBE GOOS Working Group, recalling that during IGM XVII, Mr John

Cortinas was named IOCARIBE GOOS Coordinator. As Mr Cortinas has since retired, IOCARIBE is seeking a new coordinator for IOCARIBE GOOS. Reference was made to Terms of Reference for the IOCARIBE GOOS Working Group.

37. Mr Douglas Wilson, Coordinator of TAC Ocean Observing and Forecasting System (Oofs) Ocean Decade Project presented the results of GOOS implementation during the biennium. He discussed the achievements of the last year, including the first official Working Group meeting on November 8th, 2024, formation of a new governance structure, and highlighting the outcomes of the IOCARIBE GOOS Workshop held during the GOOS Observations Coordination Group (OCG) meeting in Brest, France from April 7-10th. Representatives of IOCARIBE-GOOS attended to gain input from global leaders of observation networks, exploring how the GOOS OCG could provide expert advice on best practices for implementation, mobilization, and technical guidance to aid in the development of the IOCARIBE-GOOS Work Plan and 2025+ goals. The work plan will be drafted and published for the coming biennium.

38. Ms Nadia Pinardi, Director of Decade Collaborative Center for Coastal Resilience, presented proposed regional activities through the CoastPredict Ocean Decade Programme.

6.2.2. International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE)

<u>Working Document</u>	IOC/IODE-28/3	Summary Report of the 28th Session of the IODE Committee
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39. Ms Paula Sierra, Co-Chair of IODE presented this agenda item. The IODE-28 Committee noted the request to support the IOCARIBE region in the development and implementation of a plan for Caribbean SIDS and island territories to maximize their benefits from, and contributions to, ocean data and information management, using a value chain approach.

40. The IODE-28 Committee welcomed the request to support the integration and use of data and information from national projects within IOCARIBE Member States, as well as from the Secretariat's projects and programs, focused on addressing the region's needs

41. The IODE-28 Committee agreed to the request to explore options for further cooperation beyond the Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) and IOC's Ocean Data Information System (ODIS) during the 2026-2027 biennium, including the development of a regional Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) network

42. The IODE-28 Committee calls on all IOCARIBE Member States to establish National Oceanographic Data Centres (NODCs) or Associate Data Units (ADUs), and to refresh their data and information management capabilities. It was recognized that for SIDS, establishing fully fledged NODCs may not be possible and that alternatively they could establish small ADUs or agreements for increased collaboration with each other.

43. The Session recognized that Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) can assist in capacity development and continuous professional development.

6.2.3. ADAPT PROJECT

<u>Working Document</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/6.2.3	Adapting Ocean Best Practices to the local context: Caribbean Pilot Project Summary for SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII
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44. Ms Paula Sierra, Co-Chair of IODE, presented this agenda item. ADAPT is a proposal for training and for supporting collaborative development of guidelines on ocean observation and best practices, using the Caribbean as a pilot region. It is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and is being developed among the Ocean Best Practices team, in collaboration with several experts, as well as OTGA, INVEMAR, and IOCARIBE.

45. The ADAPT initiative is conducting in-person workshops and creating educational resources to address the need for capacity development in ocean observation within the Caribbean region. These experiences will be used to develop an online training course that will be accessible to a wider audience. The project's ultimate goal is to encourage the adoption and adaptation of best practices and methodologies for ocean observation in regions with limited infrastructure, tailored to their capabilities and regional context, while maintaining interoperability.

46. The Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Capacity Development team aimed to address data gaps in best practices for ocean observation by developing a training program in collaboration with local and regional institutions. The ADAPT training scheme was built in three phases: A Preliminary Assessment (phase 1), in which an online survey gathered inputs from project partners and regional stakeholders, receiving 50 responses from 18 countries and 6 organization types. The survey highlighted interest in marine biodiversity data and management, focusing on best practices for field data collection; A training content outline, leading to a pilot training program (phase 2); and an Expert Advisor Group (phase 3) in which professionals with expertise in relevant topics were invited to co-develop the training content and materials, in collaboration with OBPS ambassadors and local partners such as INVEMAR.

47. The first ADAPT workshop in Spanish will take place at INVEMAR next 28 April to 2 May 2025, with 16 students from 7 countries, and three trainers.

6.2.4. ICG CARIBE EWS

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/ICG-CARIBE EWS-XVII/3s	Executive Summary Report of the Seventeenth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS), 6–9 May 2024, Managua, Nicaragua
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48. Ms Silvia Chacon Barrantes, on behalf of Mr Gerard Metayer as the Chair of ICG/CARIBE-EWS, presented this agenda item and shared the report of ICG/CARIBE-EWS XVII (6-9 May 2024, Managua, Nicaragua).

49. Ms Chacon informed that ICG/CARIBE-EWS XVII requested the newly established ICG/CARIBE-EWS Steering Committee to develop a strategy for effective coordination with IOCARIBE, UNDRR, WMO, and other regional stakeholders, especially noting that one of the priority areas of IOCARIBE is early warning systems for regional hazards with a strong need to strengthen cooperation between IOCARIBE and ICG/CARIBE-EWS.

50. Ms Chacon further recalled that the ICG/CARIBE-EWS XVII requested the newly established ICG/CARIBE-EWS Steering Committee to revamp the initiative of the Group of Experts (GoE) on the work and implementation plan to enhance the early warning system by including other coastal hazards within the framework of MHEWS and EW4All.

51. The establishment of this GoE on the work and implementation plan to enhance the

early warning system by including other coastal hazards was decided at the ICG/CARIBE-EWS XII (10–12 May 2017, Puntarenas, Costa Rica, adopted Recommendation ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XII.7) and its report was noted at ICG/CARIBE-EWS XIV (8–11 April 2019, Punta Leona, Costa Rica). An action plan was defined by the GoE including a survey to gather Member States input and advice on how to address EWS for other coastal hazards in the framework of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS. However, this activity was not completed, mainly due to the GoE Chair stepping down and due to the challenging conditions resulting from the COVID pandemic.

52. Ms Chacon also highlighted the results of the CARIBE WAVE 2025 exercises that mobilized approximately 500,000 people in total on 20 March 2025.

53. Within the ICG/CARIBE-EWS, a total of 23 communities from 14 Member States (of which 10 are SIDS) are now recognized as Tsunami Ready under the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Program.

54. The next session of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS (ICG/CARIBE-EWS XVIII) will take place online during 5-9 May 2025.

55. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

6.3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE

56. Ms Elva Escovar, Chair of the IOCARIBE Capacity Development Working Group, introduced this item. Capacity needs in the IOCARIBE region include higher education human resources developed at the national and regional scales, training for the tourism, fisheries, management and decision-making sectors, and continuous professional development through networking with the SIDS Blue Schools and the New Blue Curriculum in topics such as e-DNA, Marine Spatial Planning, and Blue Economy, among others. Internships, fellowships, and on-board training programs from SCOR, POGO, ISA and Ocean Decade Opportunities offer great opportunities to the region, as do the visiting lecturer/scholar/researcher programmes, professional exchanges from these programs as well as the NASEM GRP UGOS, NOAA, and Geo BON Blue Planet initiatives.

57. Sargassum and HABs are among the priority topics of interest for which training materials and tools are welcomed, such as using remote sensing, metagenomics, coastal hazard early warning systems, and marine spatial planning. These topics link to the seven Ocean Decade endorsed projects in the region. Collaboration with other organizations on a mentoring programme and exploring partners and funders to establish an IOCARIBE travel grant “fund” are among the near-term objectives, as are liaising with global networks to strengthen capacity development in ocean observing to have better forecasting capabilities for policy and regional climate change planning, both in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and in regional Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). Both established and emerging ocean-based industries in the WTAC region require strengthening the bridge between science “generators” and science “users,” and potentially open funding channels while maintaining scientific independence. Knowledge is needed to support the effective stewardship of ocean sciences in the region into the future and beyond the UN Ocean Decade to gain this knowledge the region requires equitable access to ocean infrastructure and substantial investment in capacity building and science by the potential funders.

58. With regards to integrating ocean science into basic education curricula, there are several opportunities where the region is participating, such as the Blue Schools SIDS network and a New Blue Curriculum. Capacity development hands-on at sea for ECOPs could also be a new opportunity worth exploring. All of these opportunities include gender, generational and geographic diversity perspectives. Redefining ocean literacy is required to engage local communities in the ocean programs and reconnect people with the ocean. The role of local communities is important in funding capacity development programs and good science. The region has a great need for human capacity to structure expert groups in marine research.

The ratio of researchers as a proportion of the total population in the IOCARIBE region is still small, as is funding for capacity development and science. Financial support is required to attract, retain and sustain local talent in the long-term to build regional ocean research groups in the science topics that are needed. Capacity development in the region requires building equitable partnerships by ensuring inclusivity. “Parachute science” can be a limiting factor in equal partnerships during collaborations at sea and it has been documented to maintain inequalities in capacity development and local expert leadership.

59. Local and national capacity development needs have been recognized to strengthen access to technology, physical infrastructure, data and information in themes of ocean acidification, microplastic pollution, harmful algal blooms, eutrophication, essential ocean variables, and tsunamis.

6.3.1. Ocean Literacy

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOCARIBE-OL-TT-I	IOCARIBE Ocean Literacy Task Team First Meeting Report
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60. Ms Rahanna Juman of Trinidad and Tobago’s Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) provided a report on this item. During the first meeting of the Capacity Development Working Group, the proposal of the IOCARIBE Board of Officers to establish an IOCARIBE Task Team on Ocean Literacy was endorsed. The first meeting of the IOCARIBE Task Team on Ocean Literacy took place on 15 November 2024. Member States and partner Organizations were engaged and encouraged the Sub-Commission to continue building the regional Ocean Literacy Network.

61. Ms Paola Diaz, IOCARIBE Consultant provided a report on the CARIBE Blue School Coordinators Training for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, which was held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 1 to 3 April 2025. The training brought together participants from 13 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, all committed to advancing ocean literacy through the Blue Schools Network. A key focus was on adapting global models of ocean literacy to regional and local contexts, ensuring relevance and cultural resonance. The program featured presentations from experienced Blue Schools coordinators who shared their successes and challenges in implementing the model, offering valuable lessons for emerging coordinators. Partners and stakeholders also contributed actively, highlighting the importance of inclusive collaboration across institutions and communities. Participants engaged in interactive sessions including role-playing by sector, governance planning, partner mapping, and group discussions. Together, they co-developed practical tools such as application forms, evaluation surveys, and strategies for implementation. Emphasis was placed on inclusive and intergenerational education, working with indigenous and coastal communities, building strong partnerships, and ensuring long-term sustainability through adaptive governance. The training created a collaborative platform for exchange and reinforced regional ownership and innovation within the global Blue Schools framework.

62. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

6.3.2. UNDP/GEF/UNOPS PROCARIBE+ Project

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII-6.3.2/inf	UNDP/GEF/UNOPS Procaribe+ Project ProDoc
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63. Mr Patrick Debels, Regional Project Coordinator, provided an overview of this flagship

regional GEF project. PROCARIBE+ (2023-2028) is a successor to the CLME and CLME+ Projects - in which IOCARIBE was also strongly engaged - and supports the continued implementation of the regional CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

64. Mr Debels highlighted the relevance of several elements under the Project Results Framework for IOCARIBE and its Member States, both in terms of the project's regional-level outputs as well as the project's support for specific in-country activities.

65. Mr Debels further highlighted the role of IOCARIBE as a key PROCARIBE+ co-executing partner, in particular on matters relating to capacity development and marine spatial planning, and emphasized the catalytic role of PROCARIBE+ in operationalizing the regional "Coordination Mechanism for Integrated Ocean Governance in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems" - the "Ocean Coordination Mechanism" or "OCM" (see also Agenda Item 7.1.4), and the mobilization of wider-ranging "ocean" partnerships (e.g. on ocean data and information).

66. Mr Debels encouraged both IOCARIBE's as well as the Member States' active and timely engagement in the PROCARIBE+ activities in the region, as well as the promotion of synergies with other ongoing projects and activities, in support of the project's successful implementation and with the aim of maximizing its benefits for the countries and the region.

67. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

6.3.3. Marine Spatial Planning

<i>Working documents:</i>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII-6.3.3/inf	Terms of Reference for UN to UN Transfer Agreement (UNESCO and UNOPS)
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68. Mr Alejandro Rojas, IOCARIBE Consultant, presented this agenda item. Under the UNDP/GEF/UNOPS Procaribe+ Project, IOCARIBE is responsible for implementing the following lines of intervention:

69. Capacity development activities related to marine spatial planning have been and will continue to be carried-out in collaboration with the UNESCO Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Global Project, the UNDP/UNEP/GEF IW:Learn Project and other regional partners. One Regional MSP Forum and training has taken place from 18-21 February 2025 in Panama City, Panama.

70. IOCARIBE activities in Colombia include supporting the development of multi-sector MSP processes for Cartagena Bay and adjacent areas (~274 km²). In the Dominican Republic, activities include supporting one coarse-scale MSP covering a substantial part of the EEZ (min. 150,000 km²) and at least one additional finer-scale MSP, covering a "high-priority" marine-coastal area of no less than 1,400 km². Presently, IOCARIBE is in negotiation with partners in Colombia and the Dominican Republic to establish agreements for the implementation of these MSP exercises.

71. IOCARIBE has been advocating a further increase of MSP efforts in the Wider Caribbean Region including regional exchange of experiences between MSP practitioners.

72. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

6.3.4. Sargassum

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/6.3.4	Sargassum Working Group Updates for SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII
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73. Ms Audrey Hasson, Chair of the GeoBluePlanet Sargassum Working Group (WG), presented this agenda item. The Sargassum WG has been active during the biennium, meeting monthly and sharing sargassum research through presentations by WG members.

74. Since 2011, large blooms of pelagic sargassum have affected the tropical Atlantic, causing major disruptions. To mitigate these impacts, remote sensing, in situ data, and predictive models are used for monitoring and early warning. A working group of 44 experts from 17 countries is coordinating international efforts. The group operates through four task teams focusing on information sharing, community tools, observation systems, and organizing a Sargassum forum.

75. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

6.3.5. Deep Sea and Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

<u>Working document:</u>	IOCARIBE-CD-GE-I	First Meeting of the IOCARIBE Capacity Development Working Group
	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/6.3.5/inf	The Agreement 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 (BBNJ Agreement)

76. Ms Elva Escobar, Chair of the IOCARIBE Capacity Development Working Group, presented this agenda item. She noted that deep-sea data gaps are particularly evident in the steep decline in records with increasing depth, particularly from pelagic and seafloor areas of EEZs of nations within and bordering the TAC region. This trend drops to almost zero records at lower bathyal depths (3,000 m), while pelagic data have a wider spatial coverage. A few exceptions in both pelagic and benthic data are found at time series stations in the Gulf of Mexico and the Bahamas, or in specific ecosystems such as deep-sea hydrothermal vent fields in the Cayman Islands and the Lesser Antilles, where major exploration efforts have taken place. Regional deep-sea databases are orders of magnitude smaller, with most existing data stored in international global repositories, highlighting the need for more systematic sampling in the IOCARIBE region. Data published in OBIS and GBIF could track progress on Ocean Decade challenges and can guide deep-sea research priorities through the UN Ocean Decade.

77. Marine litter has been reported to a lesser extent in the WTAC deep-sea, entering mostly from land-based sources requiring verification. Conservation is limited with only a few nations in the region protecting their deep-sea ecosystems. Plans exist to expand existing marine protected areas (MPAs), sanctuaries, parks and reserves or to add other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures. The expansion from shallow to deeper waters is based on identifying priority conservation areas in offshore and deep-sea zones where conservation efforts are currently minimal. Recent collaborative exploration efforts are contributing to deep-sea knowledge and to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework target

of 30x30. These efforts control fishing, although management challenges still exist and as do the risks from deep-sea oil and extraction. Many MPAs require baseline research and further scientific knowledge.

78. Global assessments of the deep-sea technical capacity Bell et al. (2022, 2023) demonstrated the region's limited access to infrastructure and technology. National evaluations of scientific impact are based on the number of publications while the capacity of conducting locally-led deep-sea studies should be a priority.

79. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____

7. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

7.1. STATUS OF COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

7.1.1. Agreement with the Georgia Aquarium

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII, Recommendation

The Sub-Commission:

1. Having examined the information and offer from the organization to support the region in Ocean Literacy and the expansion of the Blue Schools Caribe Network.

Agreed to enter into an agreement with the Georgia Aquarium.

80. Ms Lorna Inniss, Secretary of IOCARIBE, presented this agenda item. She noted that during the biennium, the Sub-Commission began to collaborate with the Georgia Aquarium especially in the area of capacity development and Ocean Literacy. The Georgia Aquarium has agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UNESCO IOC to support the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade in the IOCARIBE region.

7.1.2. MoU with GeoBluePlanet

<i>Working document:</i>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/7.1.2	IOCARIBE – GEO Blue Planet Memorandum of Understanding
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IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII, Recommendation

1. The Sub-Commission

Having examined the report of the Sargassum Working Group implementation, as well as plans for the 2026-2027 biennium

Agree that the Sub-Commission should enter into a Cooperation Agreement with GeoBluePlanet, to jointly support and guide the Sargassum working group.

81. Ms. Audrey Hassen, GeoBluePlanet Executive Director, provided a presentation on this item. GEO Blue Planet is a GEO initiative that uses ocean and coastal observations to inform sustainable policy and decision-making. It operates as an open, global network of experts and stakeholders. GEO Blue Planet invites IOCARIBE to become a Partner Organization and formalize their long-lasting partnership through a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support collaboration and shared objectives.

7.1.3. Cooperation with One Ocean Hub

<u>Reference Document:</u>	IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII/7.1.4	Presentation on the Work of One Ocean Hub
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IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII, Recommendation

1. The Sub-Commission, having received the report of the organization and clarified the opportunities for the region

Agree that an implementing agreement should be negotiated with One Ocean Hub to support the region in the organization's areas of expertise

82. Dr Philile Mbatha, Deputy Director One Ocean Hub provided a report on this item. The One Ocean Hub is an international programme of research for sustainable development, working to promote fair and inclusive decision-making for a healthy ocean whereby people and the planet flourish. The One Ocean Hub collaborates with IOC UNESCO as an implementing partner for the UN Ocean Decade. Their efforts extend beyond traditional ocean literacy to encompass "Ocean Literacies" and "Ocean Fluency," aiming to empower coastal communities by amplifying local voices and providing capacity development. They co-develop innovative, scalable participatory, and arts-based approaches for ocean health, using storytelling to influence decisions and breaking barriers. The Hub also collaborates on marine resource management and supports marine spatial planning for sustainable use. In shaping the blue economy, they advocate for growth that respects human rights and culture. Additionally, they influence law and policy by providing capacity building for decision-makers, governments, and the private sector, and engage stakeholders for transformative ocean governance.

7.1.4. The Regional Ocean Coordination Mechanism (OCM)

<u>Reference Document:</u>		MoU OCM
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IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII, Recommendation

The Sub-Commission:

urges IOCARIBE Member States who have not yet joined the Ocean Governance Coordination Mechanism, to give due consideration to doing so at their earliest convenience with the support of the IOCARIBE Secretariat and the PROCARIBE+ Project Unit

83. Mr Patrick Debels provided an update on the regional “*Coordination Mechanism for Integrated Ocean Governance in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems*” - the “*Ocean Coordination Mechanism*” (OCM) - its mandate, structure, functions, and current status of operationalization.

84. Mr Debels debriefed the meeting on the OCM’s commencement on the 19th of December of 2024 and on key activities expected from the OCM in the coming years, with special attention to those planned for the current year (2025), including the First Meeting of the OCM Steering Group (i.e. its member countries) during the month of May.

85. Mr Debels noted how the current OCM membership already includes IOCARIBE as well as 8 other Intergovernmental Organizations with an oceans-relevant mandate, and 18 IOC of UNESCO member states.

86. Mr Debels highlighted how the creation of the OCM is considered a historic breakthrough towards enhanced regional-level ocean governance. Of particular relevance in the context of the work of IOCARIBE is how the OCM can support the region-wide strengthening of the science-policy interface and enhance marine data and information management, and how the OCM provides a platform that can support the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade.

87. The OCM will work to reduce duplication and increase coordination and collaboration amongst countries and IGOs in the Wider Caribbean Region on ocean and coastal issues for healthier and stronger, climate resilient blue economies.

88. Current* States and Territories Signatories of the OCM MOU are: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, the Bahamas, Belize, Costa Rica, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Netherlands on behalf of: Bonaire - Saba - Sint Eustatius, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, United States of America (*status on 15 April 2025).

89. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report:

7.1.5. All Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA)

<u>Reference Document:</u>		
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Mr Roberto de Pinho, Vice–Chair of IOCARIBE, provided a presentation on the All Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA). He highlighted that AAORIA has engaged with the Board of Officers of IOCARIBE and the Secretariat with a view to strengthen engagement and encourage Member States of IOCARIBE to join AAORIA.

8. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

8.1. REPORT BY IOC ON THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR NEW BIENNIUM 2026-2027

<u>Working documents:</u>		
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90. IOC presented this agenda item. During this presentation it was noted that the Governing Bodies meetings of the regional Sub-Commissions will be shifted from the first

quarter of the second year of the biennium to the third quarter of the first year.

8.2. ELECTIONS OF THE BOARD OF OFFICERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION

91. [Rules of Procedure No. 25(3) and Appendix I] *[On xxxx the Sub-Commission is expected to elect its Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (Rules of Procedure 13 and 17) for a two-year period (intersessional)].*

8.2.1. Election of the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission

8.2.2. Election of Vice-Chairpersons of the Sub-Commission

<u>Information:</u>	Procedure for Elections of the Officers of the IOCARIBE Sub-Commission
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92. The Chairperson of the Nominations Committee introduced this item. The Committee worked in conformity with the technical arrangements for the elections of the Officers of the Sub-Commission as laid down in Appendix I of the Rules of Procedure. The list of nominations (to be received by 18.00 hours local time on 24 April 2025) was put before the Sub-Commission.

93. The Chairperson of the Nominations Committee thanked former members of the Board for the great work accomplished during their term and asked them to take the floor to address the Session. The Chairperson of the Nominations Committee congratulated the newly elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and asked them to take the floor.

94. The Sub-commission congratulated newly elected Officers.

95. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

8.3. DATES AND PLACE OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION

96. The IOCARIBE Chairperson introduced this item. He recalled that Regional Sub-Commissions of IOC should meet every two (2) years, preferably before the IOC Assembly, to review their activities and timely submit their Recommendations and budgetary requests to the main governing body of IOC.

97. The IOCARIBE Chairperson requested Member States to present their offers to host the 19th Session of the IOCARIBE Sub-Commission during the 3rd quarter of 2026.

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII, Recommendation

Dates and Place of next Session of the IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions IOCARIBE

The Sub-commission,

1. Decides to hold:

(i) xxxx,

2. xxxxx

9. OTHER MATTERS

98. The Chairperson inquired to plenary if there were other matters to discuss in the SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII prior to the decisions and recommendations agenda item.

10. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Working document:

Addendum for Adoption of Decisions and Recommendations

99. The Chairperson of the Recommendations Committee reported to the Sub-Commission on the work of the Committee during the session.

100. The Chairperson of the Session invited the Sub-Commission to adopt the Draft Recommendations of its present Session.

IOC/SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII, Recommendation

Adoption Decisions Recommendations

The Sub-Commission,

1. Adopts the Recommendations and Draft Summary Report for the present session;
2. Requests the IOCARIBE Secretary to circulate the summary report to Member States within one month after the closure of the session.

11. CLOSURE

101. Mr Marck Oduber, IOCARIBE Chairperson, closed the SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII on 25 April 2025 at xxx.