



# IOC Member States Online Information Meeting

28 May 2025

Vidar HELGESEN, IOC Executive Secretary



**unesco**

Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission



**2021  
2030** United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development

**IOC now counts 15<sup>1</sup>  
Member States**

**Welcome Liberia!**



# Proposed items for discussion:

## 1. Update on Budgetary Situation

## 2. Preparations for the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the IOC Assembly:

- **Brief overview of key agenda items:**
  - IOC Programme & Budget for 2026-2027 (Draft 43 C/5) – new Results Framework
  - External Assessment of IOC Governance & Management Processes
  - IOC & the Future of the Ocean Member States consultation – phase 1
  - Ocean Decade: Mid-term Evaluation
  - IOC Data Architecture
- **Update on elections**
- **Update on documentation**

## 3. Preparations for the UN Oceans Conference in Nice

## 4. Q & A

## 5. AOB



# Update on Budgetary Situation

## 2024-2025 Regular Programme Implementation:

2023 Decision of UNESCO Executive Board (216 EX Decision 44) and General Conference (42 C/5 Appropriation Resolution) - IOC share of UNESCO budget at **3%**

Management actions implemented in March-May 2025 to ensure prudent implementation given the high level of uncertainty surrounding the future financing of the organization

UNESCO needs to anticipate a potential overall budgetary deficit of \$75M

IOC regular budget reduced by some **3.8M** (activities & staff savings), or **5%** of the overall deficit

Main impact on GOOS, IODE & regional capacity development workplans. Staff recruitment on pause.

Negotiations underway but need to prepare for the worst case scenario and define priorities

# Update on Budgetary Situation

## 2026-2027 Programming & Budgeting – Draft 43 C/5:

### 2 ZNG scenarios and 1 ZRG (light) scenario under preparation:

- Both ZNG absorb additional costs approved by the 220<sup>th</sup> session of the Board (220 Decision/17)
- Both result in nominal allocation reduction for all sectors and services, including IOC
- IOC budgetary allocation is maintained at 3% of the total UNESCO regular budget

Regular budget for IOC:

**ZNG Option 1 - \$20.7 M**

**ZNG Option 2 - \$21.0 M**

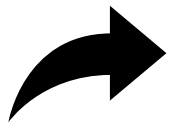
**ZRG (light) - \$21.9 M (vs 42 C/5 - \$21.1M)**

# Update on Budgetary Situation

UNESCO Executive Board - 221 EX/Decision 20:

**Decides, in view of the fact that the working assumptions in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2026-2029 (43 C/5) may change before the 222nd session of the Executive Board, to postpone its recommendation on a budget scenario to the 222nd session of the Executive Board**

**Agrees to review its decision at an extraordinary session, if necessary**



**Assembly resolution on the 43 C/5 will once more need to provide guidance 'resilient to the unknown'**

**Importance of having a strengthened mechanism for Member State consultation in intersessional period - governance review**

# 43 C/5 Programming & Budgeting

UNESCO Executive Board - 221 EX/Decision 20:

**Bearing in mind that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is established as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO, with the IOC Assembly being the principal organ under the IOC Statutes,**

**Invites the Executive Secretary of the IOC to submit the sections relating to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in Volumes I and II of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2026-2029 (43 C/5) to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session and to forward the recommendations of the IOC Assembly to the General Conference at its 43rd session;**

# 43 C/5 Programming & Budgeting

Working document IOC/A-33/5.1.Doc(1)REV

Part I – IOC part of the UNESCO 221 EX/20

Part II – IOC draft text for the Assembly

with a **new IOC Results Framework**

Restricted distribution



**unesco**

**IOC/A-33/5.1.Doc(1) Rev.**

Paris, 25 April 2024

Original: English

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)

Thirty-third Session of the Assembly  
UNESCO, Paris, 25 June –3 July 2025

Items 5.1 and 5.4 of the Provisional Agenda

**DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2026–2027 (DRAFT 43 C/5)  
FIRST BIENNIUM OF THE 2026–2029 QUADRENNIUM**

## Summary

### Introduction

Part I – Draft Programme and budget 2026–2027 as presented as part of UNESCO's draft 43 C/5 to the 221<sup>st</sup> session of the UNESCO Executive Board (221 EX/20)

Part II – Detailed IOC workplan proposal based on Member States' guidance in IOC Resolutions A-32/4 and EC-57/2

Decision proposed is referenced Dec. A-33/5.1 in the Provisional Action Paper IOC/A-33/AP Prov.



**unesco**  
Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission

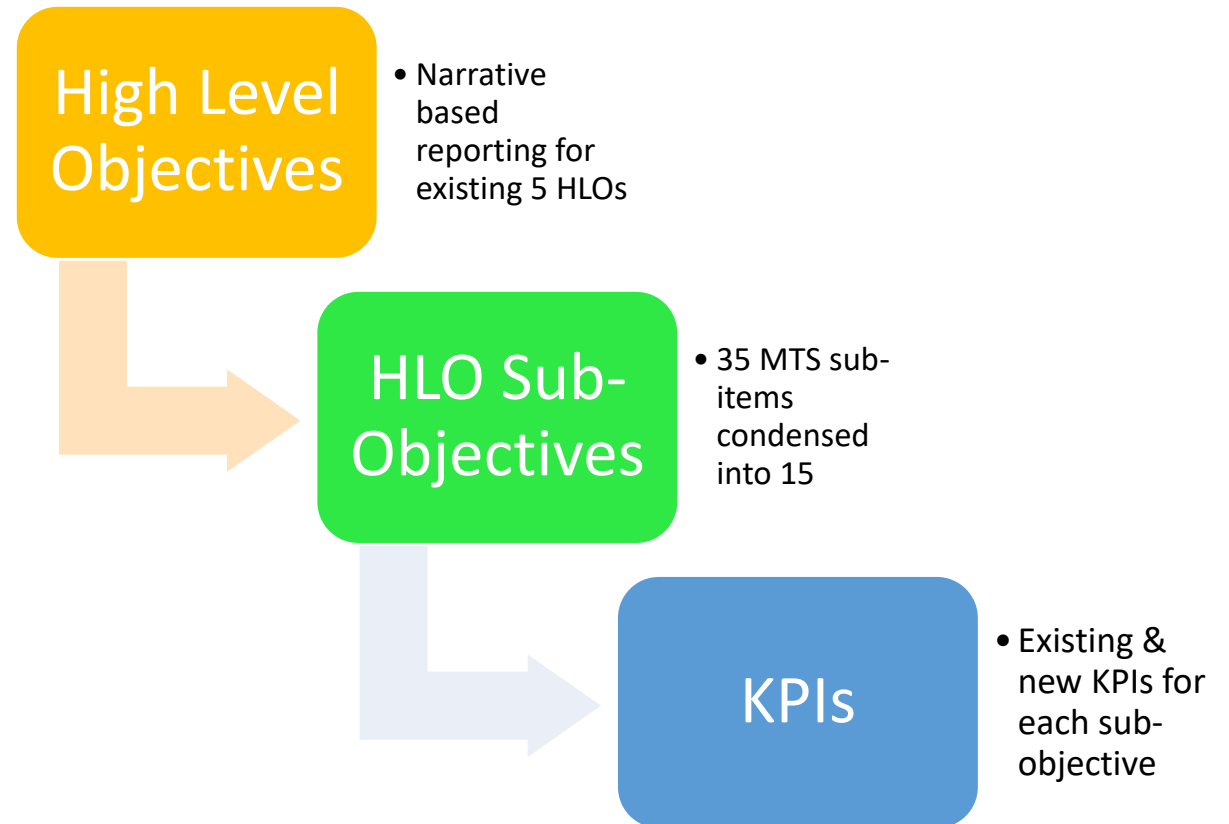


**2021  
2030** United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



# 43 C/5 Programming & Budgeting

- New IOC Results Framework, distinct from UNESCO 43 C/5
- Aligned with the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (MTS)
- Alignment of programming and budget process with IOC governance cycle
- Monitor progress towards achievement of the MTS from 2026 – 2027 by tracking status, gaps and needs in relation to IOC support to Member States
- Presented to IFAG on 16 April 2025
- Will be further refined based on discussions at the Assembly and next phases of 'IOC and Future of the Ocean' Member State consultation process



# 43 C/5 Programming & Budgeting

High Level Objectives	Sub-Objectives		
1. Healthy ocean and sustained ocean ecosystem services	1.1 Enhanced observations and data for increased understanding of ocean vulnerability to multiple stressors	1.2 Enhanced access to scientific knowledge adapted to regional and national needs to inform sustainable management of ecosystems	1.3 Enhanced application of best practices, tools and approaches for ecosystem-based management
KPIs & targets	<p>Number of Member States routinely collecting and managing FAIR EOY data on biodiversity and ecosystems through GOOS, ODIS and OBIS</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 100</u></p> <p>Increase in the number of open-access biodiversity datasets in OBIS available to Member States</p> <p><u>Target 2027: Increase of 700</u></p>	<p>Number of global and regional assessment methods and products addressing ocean ecosystems and vulnerability to multiple stressors, disaggregated by IOC-led or IOC-contributions</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 3</u></p> <p>Number of Member States making use of ODIS to discover and access ocean data and information</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 50</u></p>	<p>Number of Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (incl. Marine Spatial Planning) guidelines / tools specifically addressing ecosystem-based management approaches, biodiversity issues and/or multiple ocean stressors</p> <p><u>Target 2027 for MSP: 5</u> <u>Target 2027 for SOP: 2</u></p> <p>Number of capacity development initiatives provided to Member States to fulfil national commitments related to biodiversity under multilateral agreements including CBD and BBNJ</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 5</u></p>
2. Effective warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards	2.1 Improved ocean observations and data to underpin models and forecasting for ocean hazards	2.2 Increased access to data and information products for coastal planning and hazard mitigation	2.3 Enhanced deployment of regionally or nationally adapted decision support tools including multi-hazard early warning and mitigation systems
KPIs & targets	<p>Number of Member States engaged in advancing ocean observations and managing FAIR data required for monitoring tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards through GOOS and ODIS</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 134 (tsunami-geophysical), 94 (Africa 12, SIDS 14) (hydrometeorological hazards), 25 (ocean stressors)</u></p>	<p>Number of Member States conducting ocean research aimed at supporting forecasting and early warning systems for tsunamis and other ocean-related and coastal hazards, including sea level rise, marine heatwaves, ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms and pest species</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 20 (tsunami), 20 (hydrometeorological hazards), 10 (sea level rise, 25 (ocean stressors)</u></p>	<p>Number of Member States supported to pilot or implement tsunami and other IOC supported EWS, including through capacity development initiatives</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 100 (Africa 15; SIDS 20)</u></p> <p>Number of communities recognized as Tsunami Ready</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 200 communities in 48 MS (5 Africa MS, 21 SIDS MS)</u></p>

3. Resilience to climate change and contribution to its mitigation	3.1 Enhanced observations and data for increased scientific understanding of the ocean dimension in climate change	3.2 Enhanced access to scientific knowledge on impacts of climate change on the ocean and on ocean-based climate solutions	3.3 Enhanced application of fit for purpose tools for Member States to integrate ocean issues in National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions
KPIs & targets	<p>Number of Member States routinely collecting and managing FAIR EOY data on climate through GOOS or ODIS</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 80</u></p> <p>Number of Member States supported with capacity development for collecting and managing observations related to climate change trends including ocean acidification and sea level rise</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 100 (Africa 15; SIDS 29)</u></p>	<p>Number of Member States engaged in ocean climate research networks including ocean acidification, deoxygenation and blue carbon</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 115 (Africa 29, SIDS 21)</u></p>	<p>Number of Member States supported to integrate ocean issues in Nationally Determined Contributions or National Adaptation Plans, including through capacity development initiatives</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 5</u></p>
4. Scientifically founded services for the sustainable ocean economy	4.1 Enhanced evidence base on the societal and economic return on investment in ocean science and ocean science infrastructure	4.2 Enhanced dissemination of relevant scientific knowledge to marine industries and economic actors	4.3 Enhanced application of fit for purpose knowledge-based sustainable ocean planning and management tools
KPIs & targets	<p>Number of knowledge products, case studies, analyses contributing to the evidence base on societal, environmental and economic return on investment in ocean science and ocean science infrastructure, disaggregated by IOC-led or IOC-contributions.</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 5</u></p> <p>Number of MS contributing information to the Global Ocean Science Report relating to investment in ocean science and ocean science infrastructure</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 75 (Africa 21, SIDS 10)</u></p>	<p>Number of partnerships / networks with private sector actors related to ocean science, data cooperation and co-design of knowledge</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 5</u></p>	<p>Number of Member States engaged in and supported by IOC-led activities on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (incl. Marine Spatial Planning), including through capacity development initiatives</p> <p><u>Target 2027 for MSP: 125; Africa = 32; SIDS = 22)</u> <u>Target 2027 for SOP: 20</u></p>

5. Foresight on emerging ocean science issues	5.1 Improved capacity and processes to anticipate and prioritize emerging ocean science and technology issues	5.2 Enhanced dissemination of scientific understanding of priority emerging ocean science issues	5.3 Improved ability to account for and respond to priority emerging issues in decision making
KPIs & targets	<p>Number of Member States, including through GOOS Regional Alliances, undertaking planning or risk assessment processes for ensuring observation systems are adaptable to emerging science and technology issues</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 5</u></p>	<p>Number of global and regional assessment products addressing emerging ocean science issues disaggregated by IOC-led or IOC-contributions</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 3</u></p>	<p>Number of capacity development initiatives delivered on emerging ocean science issues</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 2</u></p>

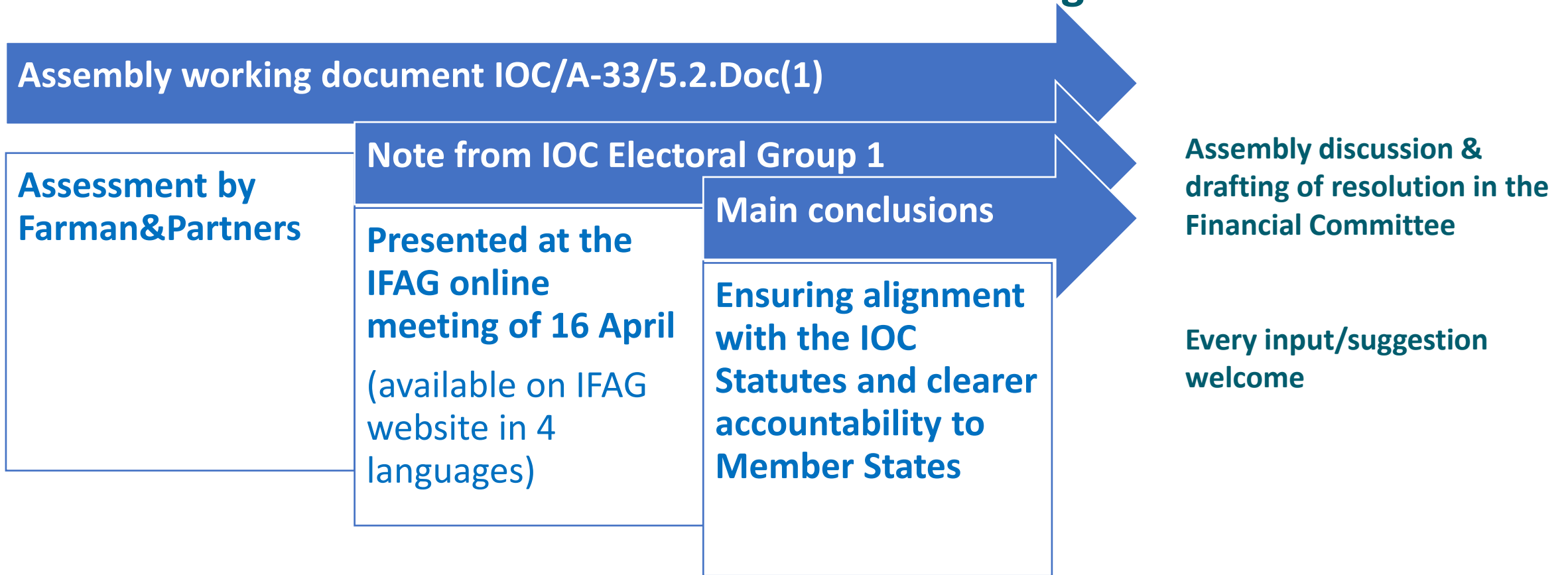
## New Results Framework

IOC/A-33/5.1.Doc(1)REV

Pages 22 - 24

# IOC Assembly – 33: Governance

## External Assessment of IOC's Governance & Management Processes



# IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation – Phase 1: Initial Results & Analyses

## GOAL:

Identify underserved Member States needs across 3 issues identified by the IOC Assembly:

- i. Sustainable Ocean Planning
- ii. UN Conventions and Frameworks
- iii. Sustainable Ocean Economy

And identify priorities through considering how ‘problematic’ these under-served needs are to Member States.

## METHODOLOGY:

- In depth interviews completed with 15 Member States, UN bodies, and private sector actors
- Regional focus group discussions in three RSB meetings and plenary discussions in remaining RSB and SOPM Working Group
- Survey of all IOC Member States (77 responses)

# IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation – Phase 1: Summary of Initial Findings

- Common themes emerged => strengthened action in a small number of core areas will lead to multiple benefits
- **Most persistent challenges:**
  - **Marine biodiversity**
  - **Nutrient cycles**
  - **Physical Oceanography**
  - **Multi-hazard EWS, disaster risk preparedness and reduction**
- **Areas where needs are mostly met:**
  - **Marine scientific research support and coordination**
  - **Biological oceanography**
  - **Marine spatial planning**
- Cross cutting issues requiring increased support => science - policy interface, broader application of ocean literacy, sustained capacity development, sustained investment models for ocean observations, and technology & innovation
- High level findings => need for increased access to and interoperability of data, expanded observing and monitoring coverage, and increased support to Member States to generate and apply scientific knowledge in areas where gaps persist
- Regional differences exist and will necessitate tailored analyses in next phases of the Consultation



# Ocean Decade Mid Term Evaluation

- Mid Term Evaluation carried out by UNESCO Internal Oversight Service & focused on delivery of the Ocean Decade
- Consultation via > 1000 survey replies, > 120 interviews with stakeholders & engagement with Decade Advisory Board
- Management response to be discussed at Assembly based on the key findings & recommendations

## Recommendations:

1. Streamline and strengthen the governance and coordination framework
2. Strengthen UN system-wide collaboration and alignment
3. Put in place a comprehensive resource mobilization framework
4. Strengthen national and regional engagement, with a focus on LDCs, SIDS
5. Enhance the mainstreaming of inclusivity, diversity, and equity
6. Strengthen the strategic focus and impact of the UN Ocean Decade Actions
7. Enhance the existing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework
8. Systematically leverage the Decade to shape UNESCO-IOC's post-2030 agenda and amplify the impact of its programmes.

# IOC Data Architecture

IOC Data Architecture that facilitates global open data exchange, connecting to the wider global data ecosystem - providing the foundational, strong data exchange for all current and future projects and activities, and aligned with other (open) architectures

- EOVS data of documented quality, following FAIR & CARE principles, available for all
- IOC providing a (federated) gateway to all ocean data, including with GOOS certified EOVS data clearly identified
- Harnessing the IOC value chain to deliver trusted information to as many as possible
- High value products that deliver EOVS data into global assessments and multilateral processes, and that can be traced back to the point of truth (i.e. observations)
- Wherever you are in the world to be able to appropriately (deliver and) access EOVS data
- Help bridge the digital divide and mature digital ecosystems globally
- IOC has a clearly defined role in digital ecosystem which is unique and investable

Next steps: Implementation plan

# IOC Assembly -33: elections


Updated [information](#) on the preparations for the elections at the **IOC ELECTIONS 2025**, accessible through the Assembly webpage

Deadline for submission:  
**27 June, 18:00 Paris time**

Please do not forget to  
submit the **nomination form**

**Video tutorial** on election  
process will be shared and  
uploaded in early June

Please verify & update national  
contacts at  
<https://oceanexpert.org/document/17716>

 **OceanExpert**  
A Directory of Marine and Freshwater Professionals

Events

Documents


Institutes

Groups

Search

Register

Log



IOC elections 2025

Other

04 May - 02 July 2025

Location

no location/online event

Organiser(s) & Staff

Participation

Overview

Agenda

IOC elections 2025

Rectangular Sign

Summary

Elections of Chairperson and Vice-chairpersons and other seats of the IOC Executive Council

[← back to \(A-33\) Assembly page](#)

Elections for Chairperson and five Vice-chairpersons (Officers) of IOC as well as for members of the IOC Executive Council are held every two years during the IOC Assembly.

There are 40 seats on the IOC Executive Council (1 Chairperson, 5 Vice-chairpersons and 34 Member States). The Executive Council is renewed as a whole every two years. The Chairperson and Vice-chairpersons are elected in their own personal capacity. They should be seconded by two other Member States and must sign the nomination form. An elected Chairperson or Vice-chairperson cannot be replaced during the term s/he is elected for. The Chairperson and the Vice-chairpersons can serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms. There is no term limitation for IOC Member States concerning re-election to the Executive Council.

The next elections will take place during the 33rd Session of the Assembly on **Wednesday 2 July 2025** *in praesentia* at UNESCO Headquarters in adherence to the IOC Rules of Procedure. Candidatures should be filed on nomination forms and duly signed and should be registered by the IOC Secretariat no later than **Friday 27 June 2025, 18.00 hrs Paris time**. [Please scroll down to see the current list of received nominations].

Please note that the IOC Secretariat does not at any time determine if a nomination is valid. It is the Nominations Committee established on the first day of the Assembly that will determine the validity of a candidature. The function of the Committee is solely to accept and forward all nominations to the Assembly, while ensuring that the procedures laid down in the IOC [Rules of Procedure](#) Appendix I are strictly adhered to. The Nominations Committee does not enter into any negotiations about a candidate or candidates in electoral groups.

The technical arrangements for the Elections of Officers of the IOC and other members of the Executive Council are provided in the IOC Rules of Procedure, Appendix I. Only [IOC Member States](#) can vote.

Nomination forms are provided in Annexes I, II and III of the IOC Rules of Procedure. The Nomination forms can also be downloaded from [IOC Basic Texts](#) (click the proper button below).

Download the nomination forms for

Chairperson

Vice-chairperson

Seat on the EC

Current Officers of the Commission (elected 28 June 2023):

Name (Country)	Electoral Group	Remark
<b>Chairperson</b>		
Mr Yutaka MICHIDA (Japan)	IV	1st term

# IOC Assembly -33: documentation

As at today, all working documents are available on the Assembly web-site, except:

## 4.2 DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE IOC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023–2030

<u>Working document</u>	IOC/A-33/4.2.Doc(1)	IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 Implementation Plan
-------------------------	---------------------	---

## 4.7 IOC CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

<u>Working document</u>	IOC/A-33/4.7Doc(1)	IOC Contributions to UN Governance Processes (2025)
-------------------------	--------------------	---

## 5.1 IOC AND THE FUTURE OF THE OCEAN CONSULTATION PROCESS

<u>Working documents</u>	IOC/A-33/5.3.Doc(1)	IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation Process: Summary of Phase 1
--------------------------	---------------------	--

# 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, June 2025

**Our role** at 2025 UNOC is to advance ocean science and knowledge as a basis for action to achieve SDG 14 & the 2030 Agenda in line with our mandate & strategic priorities.

**Our engagement will generate action and partnerships to create sustained impact to:**

- a. Fulfil critical knowledge priorities through the Ocean Decade as identified in The Barcelona Statement.
- b. Increase sustained investment in ocean science activities and infrastructure for observations and data.
- c. Accelerate sustainable ocean plans including support to Member States to develop and implement SOPs.
- d. Generate data, knowledge and capacity to support implementation of commitments under BBNJ and GBF
- e. Ensure collaborative action for disaster risk reduction and preparedness in the face of ocean hazards
- f. Accelerate efforts for 2030 goal for seabed mapping by unlocking existing data and generating new data.

**IOC Events:**



**Ocean Decade Events:**

