



**IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean
(IOCINDIO)**

First Session of the IOCINDIO (IOCINDIO-1)

(Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, 21–23 May 2025)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 48.3 ([IOC/INF-1166](#)), IOCARIBE, as a primary Subsidiary Body of IOC, is required to report to an IOC Governing Body on its sessions.

The documentation for the session and more information is available [online](#).

The IOC Assembly at its 33rd Session (Paris, France, 25 June - 3 July 2025) will be invited to consider the Executive Summary as presented in the Action Paper (IOC/A-33/AP Prov.) and by the Chairperson of the Sub-commission in plenary as well as the recommendations contained in this document.

Introduction

1. The First Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (SC-IOCINDIO-1) was held in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, from 21 to 23 May 2025. The session was attended by fifty (50) participants including representatives of fourteen (14) countries, two (2) local agencies and four (4) regional organizations. At this session, the Sub-Commission reviewed progress made during the Intersessional period 2024–2025 (through regional committee) and adopted twenty-two (22) recommendations.
2. The Sub-Commission thanked the Government of UAE for hosting the First Session of the IOCINDIO Sub-Commission, and to the UNESCO New Delhi regional office for its support to this historical landmark.
3. The Sub-Commission acknowledged the support offered from the Government of India for hosting the Secretariat at UNESCO New Delhi regional office and expressed the need to expedite execution of the same at the earliest.
4. The Sub-Commission welcomed the commitment received from the Government of Mauritius through the adhesion letter expressing the country's interest to join IOC-UNESCO and to become actively engaged in the IOCINDIO activities in the region; and welcomed Mauritius as the newly joined member.

Main Outcomes of the Session

5. The Sub-Commission took note of the Technical Secretary's report and acknowledged the significant progress of the work to facilitate international cooperation in ocean research, services and capacity development across the region.
6. The sub-commission welcomed the report from the Chair, IOCINDIO regional committee on the progress during the online biennium and the tenure of the present board of the regional committee that oversaw the transformation of the regional committee to the sub-commission level. The member states also took note that the regional committee will be dissolved at the end of the session and membership to the sub-commission would be through providing an adhesion letter. The sub-commission also urged all the member state of the regional committee to provide the adhesion letters, if not yet done so.
7. The sub-commission took note of the global processes and expressed its agreement to support those through national programs as well as the SC workplan.
8. The member states acknowledged the importance of UN Ocean Decade and supported initiatives in catalysing regional cooperation for ocean science, policy and governance. The member states in particular agreed to strengthen relatively less pursued initiatives such as Cities with Oceans and Ocean Literacy.
9. Four sessional groups were created to facilitate effective formation of the workplan for the next biennium. These were comprised of the delegates attending the session and according to their expertise. Their recommendations culminated in the workplan with priority actions, potential partners and estimated budget requirements.
10. Mr. Vidar Helgesen, IOC Executive Secretary and UNESCO ADG/IOC, noted that it would be difficult to address all the budget issues during the next biennium due to ongoing processes in governance management, planning, and budget, which will be finalized at the 33rd Session of the IOC Assembly in June 2025, and due to new financial uncertainties related to a potential withdrawal of USA from UNESCO. He also recommended that subsequent Intergovernmental Sessions of IOCINDIO be held during

the third quarter of the year prior to an IOC Assembly to better align with the planning and budgeting cycle of IOC.

Elections of the Board of Officers of the Sub-Commission

11. Member States elected the Board of Officers for the 2026-2027 biennium in accordance with the applicable rules of procedure. Dr Saif AlGhais (UAE) was elected as Chairperson unanimously. For the positions (two) of vice-chairs, Dr Balakrishnan Nair TM (India) & Dr. Maryam Ghaemi (Iran) were elected through the election process overseen honorarily by Mauritius. The first Board of Officers of the sub-commission was welcomed by acclamation and the member states thanks Mauritius for volunteering and for the transparent and smooth conduct of the electoral process.
12. The Sub-Commission expressed its sincere appreciation to RA (Retd) Khurshid Alam (Bangladesh) for his years of dedicated service to IOCINDIO regional committee and for catalysing its ascent to the sub-commission level, following his retirement and departure from the Board.

Dates and Place of the second Session of the IOCINDIO Sub-Commission

13. The Sub-Commission decided to hold its second Intergovernmental Session during the second half of 2026 to better align with the timeline of IOC's work plan and budgeting period for 2028-2029. The IOCINDIO-SC accepted the offer from Indonesia to host the next session. Furthermore, the INCINDIO welcomed the proposal to host future sub-commission meetings as much feasible, in conjunction with IGOOS integrated meetings so to ensure cost-effectiveness as well as carbon conscious travel planning.
14. The IOCINDIO sub-commission welcomed the possibility to host the following session in Saudi Arabia and took note that the decision will be finalized after being proposed at the national committee level in coming weeks.

Adoption of Decisions and Recommendations

15. The Sub-Commission adopted twenty-two (22) Recommendations as follows:

No.	Title
1	IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management
2	IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Consultation Process
3	UN Ocean Conference 2025
4	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Process
5	Cooperation with IOCAFRICA
6	Cooperation with IOCCARIBE
7	Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia (RCOWA)
8	International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOcean)
9	OTGA Specialized Training Centre - BMKG, Indonesia
10	UN Ocean Decade
11	Decade Collaborative Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (DCC-IOR)
12	DCC-OceanPredict : Indian Ocean Task Team (DCC-OP IO-TT)

13	Cities with Oceans (Coastal Cities) initiative
14	Indian Ocean- Global Ocean Observing System
15	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE)
16	Capacity Development (CD) and OTGA
17	ICG/IOTWMS and Ocean Decade Tsunami Program
18	Ocean Literacy
19	Bay of Bengal Programme
20	Indian Ocean Commission
21	Indian Ocean Rim Association
22	Sasakawa Peace Foundation

Annex

RECOMMENDATIONSRecommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.1**IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Aim to actively participate in the identification of relevant government officials responsible for sustainable planning and management of ocean resources in respective Member States, as well as good practices on SOPM, and to explore ways to mobilize resources to develop capacity among Member States who wish to embark or upscale sustainable ocean planning and management practices

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.2**IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Consultation Process**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Taking note of the briefing and the process undertaken so far

Encourages the highest consideration of the member states to contribute to the same going forward so to reflect regional priorities.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.3**UN Ocean Conference 2025**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Invites Member States to engage actively in the UN Ocean Conference and participate in IOC events, and highlight in their national statements the importance of ocean science and knowledge as a basis for action SDG14 and emphasise the need to build on existing IOC cooperative frameworks globally and regionally

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.4**Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Process**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Invites Member States:

- a) to liaise with national representatives attending the BBNJ Preparatory Commission and raise awareness about the mandate of IOC and existing mechanism that could potentially support BBNJ implementation.
- b) Identify regional activities to increase technical and scientific capacity for BBNJ (e.g. Training, biological observations, eDNA monitoring, etc) as part of IOCINDIO implementation
- c) To encourage member states to ratify the BBNJ treaty

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.5**Cooperation with IOCAFRICA**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Taking note of the proposed collaboration pathways.

Acknowledging the alignment of priorities between IOCAFRICA and IOCINDIO, particularly regarding capacity development, ocean observation, and regional coordination

Accepts IOCAFRICA's proposal for a set of focused and practical collaborative actions viz.,

- Establish a Joint IOCAFRICA–IOCINDIO Coordination Platform to align workplans, co-develop programmes, and facilitate regular exchange, specifically pertaining to the marine scientific research.
- Co-design a UN Ocean Decade Action focused on Indian Ocean resilience and ocean-based climate adaptation solutions.
- Launch a South–South Capacity and Technology Exchange Programme linking African and Asian institutions to share expertise, tools, and training opportunities.

Encourages the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to support exchanges among the regional Sub-Commissions

Encourages both the sub-commissions (secretariats, member states) to explore practical modalities to implement the proposals, including through joint programming and the use of existing IOC frameworks.

Further agrees to consider the integration of these proposals within future workplans and coordination mechanisms of both Sub-Commissions, in line with the objectives of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. as a timely step toward enhancing regional coherence, scientific cooperation, and mutual support across the Indian Ocean basin. It was agreed that these proposals would be further considered within the respective planning processes of both Sub-Commissions, with a view to establishing concrete modalities for implementation.

Requests the Technical Secretary to work closely with the IOCAFRICA Sub-Commission to benefit from governance and coordination efforts already in place, enabling member states of the Central Indian Ocean to accelerate activities in the priority thematic areas.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.6**Cooperation with IOCARIBE**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Taking note of the offer of support from IOCARIBE

Acknowledging the value of engagement with, and participation in, the working groups of IOCARIBE, and requested that nominations should be sought to join relevant IOCARIBE working groups.

Encourages the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to support exchanges among the regional Sub-Commissions.

Requests the Technical Secretary to work closely with the IOCARIBE Sub-Commission to benefit from governance and coordination efforts already in place, enabling member states of the Central Indian Ocean to accelerate activities in the priority thematic areas.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.7**Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia (RCOWA)**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Acknowledging RCOWA's strategic engagement in the region through its collaborative programmes, including:

- Hosting 39 regional and international workshops and training courses in diverse fields of ocean science and technology;
- Organizing two international conferences on oceanography, both in collaboration with IOCINDIO;
- Building capacities of over 3,500 marine experts, researchers, and students from West Asia Member States and the Indian Ocean region;
- Actively engaging with IOCINDIO, IORA, ITCOOcean (India), UNESCO Tehran Office, and other key stakeholders in support of regional scientific cooperation and knowledge sharing.

Appreciates RCOWA's contribution to the regional marine science and education landscape, including its efforts to:

- Mobilize national, regional, and international knowledge networks;
- Encourage co-design and implementation of joint projects;
- Promote evidence-based policies for sustainable development of the marine and coastal environments.

Accepts RCOWA's call on all stakeholders to continue supporting such collaborative mechanisms, and C2C RCOWA will support IOCINDIO Initiatives, and this collaboration enables us to act as regional platforms for innovation, knowledge exchange, and scientific regional cooperation.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.8**International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOOcean)**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Agrees to the need for Initiating Ocean Literacy Programs under UN Ocean Decade framework in partnership with DCC-IOR and ITCOO.

Recommends the exchange of Professionals/experts in areas/fields of needs by the IOCINDIO Member States.

Calls for co-designing and delivering courses based on Learner Needs Survey created in close consultation of IOCINDIO member states.

Further recommends ITCOO to conduct courses targeting towards skill enhancement of ECOPS and ECSN for the translational research and operational oceanography.

Requests ITCOOcean to initiate Capacity Development activities as per the needs of IOC-CD program, IORA, and the Indian Ocean Commission for its member states.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.9**OTGA Specialized Training Centre - BMKG, Indonesia**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Accepts the BMKG STC's recommendation for future training programs explore joint thematic planning and resource mobilization involving multiple UN entities.

Welcomes BMKG-STC's call for establishing co-financing frameworks and shared training platforms could significantly increase the efficiency, reach, and impact of capacity development initiatives, particularly in resource-limited regions.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.10

UN Ocean Decade

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Invites member states to work on the definition of regional priorities for the Ocean Decade, in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Decade Collaborative Centres

Decides to establish a regional taskforce composed of experts to advise on the implementation of the Ocean Decade in the region with a focus on identifying specific priority knowledge and capacity development gaps for the region and a resulting vision and plan for diverse stakeholders to convene around a common set of priorities for the implementation of the Ocean Decade in IOCINDIO.

Further invites the DCU to develop Terms of Reference, building on the practices in other regional Decade Task Forces (namely in the Caribbean and Africa), for consideration by the IOCINDIO Board of officers and facilitate the constitution of such Task Force.

Invites IOCINDIO member states to engage in the preparatory process of the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference

Encourages Member States that have not yet done, to establish National Decade Committees (NDC) in region and engage in the Ocean Decade Alliance.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.11

Decade Collaborative Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (DCC-IOR)

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Appreciates the role of DCC-IOR to assist in endorsing any activities of IOCINDIO Member States of relevance to Ocean Decade.

Taking note the need to collaborate with IOCINDIO Member States for jointly working with decade challenges.

Agrees to the need to organize joint cruises involving Member States taking into account the safety and security of individual countries.

Approves to organize collaborative capacity building activities for enhancing the skills of the people in Indian Ocean region.

Encourages the member states to jointly respond to the calls of the Decade for the mutual benefit of the IOCINDIO Member States.

Further appreciated the offer from DCC-IOR to enhance collaboration among the NDC of the countries within the IOCINDIO and help in setting up of NDC for those countries with in IOCINDIO who are yet to form.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.12**DCC-OceanPredict: Indian Ocean Task Team (DCC-OP IO-TT)**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Welcomes the call for the expansion of the steering team with active participation from experts in member states, focusing on the following themes:

- Ocean observations for operational oceanography
- Ocean forecasting: Physics & Biogeochemistry and Ocean forecasting: Climate
- Digital Twins
- Capacity building & user engagement
- Ocean health
- Ocean literacy

Emphasizes the need to share regional datasets—such as high-resolution bathymetry and locally collected measurements—suited to the needs of operational oceanography. These datasets are crucial for enhancing ocean forecasts, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Further welcomes the call for dedicated capacity-building initiatives in SIDS to support operational oceanography, including training in best practices and tools developed under the OceanPrediction DCC, such as the ETOOFS Guide and other technical resources.

Agrees to the proposed expansion of the ocean observation network in the Indian Seas, with active involvement from SIDS to generate measurements tailored to operational oceanographic requirements and for forecast validation.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.13**Cities with Oceans (Coastal Cities) initiative**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Welcomes the establishment of the Cities with the Ocean Platform as a new IOC-UNESCO initiative supporting the sustainable development of coastal urban territories

Recognizes its potential to enhance the interface between science, policy, and urban decision-making across the region.

Acknowledges the lack of proper representation from the region.

Takes note to leverage the Platform to localize the Ocean Decade priorities, particularly in addressing urban resilience, marine pollution, biodiversity loss, and the development of inclusive sustainable blue economies.

Encourages more coastal cities and ports in the central Indian ocean region to endorse the Call to Action and engage in Decade Actions under the Platform.

Recommends closer collaboration between IOCINDIO and the Cities with the Ocean Platform to co-design regional knowledge products, training tools, and joint activities tailored to the needs and opportunities of IOCINDIO coastal cities and communities.

Further recommends the integration of the Cities with the Ocean Platform in regional policy dialogues and requests the IOC Secretariat to fast track the establishment of a regional node to on board cities within the region into the platform.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.14**Indian Ocean- Global Ocean Observing System**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Urges member states to revise IOGOOS Strategy to put it in the synchronization to GOOS priorities and align UN Ocean Decade and work-plans.

Welcomes the call for connecting the science planned with the observations with social science for effective policymaking.

Expressed the need of better connections among GOOS Regional Alliances (GRAs) on collaborative activities (observing systems and capacity building activities) and sharing of scientific knowledge and experience.

Underlined the requirement of implementing the addendum to the IIOE-2 science plan and revised implementation strategy aligned with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Recommends initiating Ocean Literacy Programs under UN Ocean Decade framework in partnership with DCC-IOR and INCOIS.

Encourages the member states to strive for the successful conduct of International Indian Ocean Science Conference (IIOSC)-2025.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.15**International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE)**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Urges its Member States to (i) designate or update their IODE national coordinator for data management; (ii) consider the establishment of an IODE national oceanographic data centres or IODE Associate Data Unit and to contact the IODE Secretariat for guidance in this regard.

Further urges all the Member States to participate in the Ocean Data and Information System via the creation of ODIS Nodes to increase the visibility of their data holdings to the world, and to enable improved and more efficient access to global Ocean data by member states.

Encourages Member States that have created decade actions, to contact the DCO for Data Sharing for collaboration and guidance on data management methodology

Invites Member States to provide or increase provision of biodiversity to OBIS nodes in the region.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.16**Capacity Development (CD) and OTGA**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Commended the work of the IOC GE-CD in the development of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030 draft Implementation Plan and expressed support with the overarching recommendations put forward by the Group to strengthen capacity development in the region:

Urges IOCINDIO Member States to:

- Strongly support the implementation plan for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030 by nominating national CD focal points with active engagement in the implementation process;

- Work closely with the IOC CD Secretariat for central coordination of the implementation and alignment efforts with ongoing and new IOC-wide capacity development initiatives including the Ocean Decade, Data Architecture, SOPM, BBNJ, etc. in the region;
- Actively participate in the next iteration of the IOC biennial CD needs assessment survey and encourages the regional secretariat to coordinate with the IOC CD Secretariat and the Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD) for a joint implementation and conduct of the survey;
- Increase support to OTGA Regional and Specialized Training Centres, including joining efforts to co-sponsor the development and improvement of training activities in the benefit of the alumni in the region;
- Recommend potential joint collaborative initiatives for regional capacity development by co-designing and co-developing regional CD workplan in close coordination with the IOC CD Secretariat and IOC GE-CD.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.17

ICG/IOTWMS and Ocean Decade Tsunami Program

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Noting with appreciation the strong engagement of IOCINDIO Member States in the IOTWMS activities including Wave Exercises, Capacity Assessment Surveys and Capacity Development Initiatives;

Takes note of the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (ODTP) and its two primary goals of 1) Improved accuracy and timelines of the tsunami warnings through enhance and new observing systems, and 2) 100% of at-risk Communities resilient and prepared for the tsunami threat by 2030;

Further noting 2nd UNESCO-IOC Global Tsunami Symposium Banda Aceh Statement on Global Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System: Building Sustainability for the next decade through Transformation and Innovation (IOC/BRO/2025/1), UNESCO and its partners call on States and civil society to drastically step up their investments and efforts to strengthen Tsunami Early Warning Systems and achieve 100% of Tsunami Ready Communities across the world by 2030,

Encourages Member States to address the below:

- Continue strong engagement with the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Programme through the ICG/IOTWMS and the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme to strengthen the end-to-end tsunami early warning and mitigation system
- Consider recommendations of the IOWave23, 2024 IOTWMS Capacity Assessment of Tsunami Preparedness and the Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICGs) sessions of the IOTWMS-XIV into their work plans
- Strengthen tsunami observing networks in gap areas and take necessary steps for implementation of the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP) within their vulnerable coastal communities, including the setting up of National Tsunami Ready Boards.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.18

Ocean Literacy

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Accepts the proposal to establish a Dedicated Working Group on Ocean Literacy under IOCINDIO sub-commission. This will create a permanent coordination mechanism under

IOCINDIO focused on Ocean Literacy, inclusive of Member States from South Asia, Gulf nations, island states, etc. and ensure representation of gender, Indigenous voices, educators, and technical experts.'

Encourages the development of a Regional Toolkit and Translation Plans. This is aimed at co-developing a modular, culturally relevant Ocean Literacy Toolkit, with local marine knowledge, traditional stories, and visual learning aids. Translate into major regional languages to ensure access and equity.

Expresses the need to conduct Pilot Global Blue Schools Across Multiple Countries. This may be achieved by the launch of Global Blue School network across 6–10 countries in the region—including small island states, coastal communities, and Gulf cities. Provide experiential, place-based learning. Connect students with local marine ecosystems and global ocean goals. Additionally, as AI-enabled learning tools, such as a mobile app may be developed as a citizen science initiative.

Urges the member states to explore feasibility in hosting a landmark Ocean Literacy Forum in 2026, to promote bringing together scientists, ministers, educators, youth, Indigenous leaders and best practices, and private sector champions — including oil, gas, ecotourism and shipping sectors; so to achieve (including but not limited to) launching declarations, showcasing innovations, unifying efforts towards sustainable ocean health.

Recommends advancing Policy-Level Inclusion of Blue Curriculum, in order to support governments across the region to integrate Blue Curriculum into school curricula, teacher training, marine policy, and climate strategies. Encourage oil and gas sectors to adopt Ocean Literacy as part of ESG and CSR frameworks—ensuring industry aligns with intergenerational stewardship.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.19

Bay of Bengal Programme

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Welcomes the active participation of BOBP-IGO and its commitment to advancing regional science-policy cooperation in the Central Indian Ocean.

Recognizes the value of initiatives such as BOB-SAN, BIMReN, and the BOBLME Project as critical enablers of cross-country capacity development and regional science networking.

Considers IOCINDIO's leadership in facilitating co-development of eco-sensitive Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories, coastal early warning systems and strengthen ocean observation for fisheries and coastal resilience.

Takes note of the alignment of the Bay of Bengal Regional Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (2025–2032) with the IOC Ocean Decade Challenges 3 and 4 and SDG 14, and encourages regional coordination to address unmanaged and illegal fishing.

Supports the integration of fisheries perspectives into regional marine pollution monitoring efforts, including plastic impact assessments, to advance the blue health agenda.

Facilitates the co-design of training modules on ocean governance targeting fisheries and environmental institutions, within the broader Ocean Decade capacity development framework.

Proposes joint initiatives on data sharing and ecosystem science, particularly in the areas of ecosystem-based fisheries management (EAFM), species vulnerability assessments, and ocean acidification studies.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.20**Indian Ocean Commission**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Recommends closer collaboration from the member states with the Indian Ocean Commission.

Expresses that working with the Indian Ocean Commission could prove to cater needs of the island states in the southwest Indian Ocean.

Takes note that the collaboration may foster fulfilling the goals of UNESCO's Global Priority Africa.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.21**Indian Ocean Rim Association**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Takes note with appreciation on IORA's MoU with the IOC-UNESCO.

Welcomes the proposal on IOCINDIO serving as the implementing partner of the MoU in the Indian Ocean region, on behalf of the IOC-UNESCO

Urges IOC-CD secretariat to facilitate the implementation process in close collaboration with UNESCO C2C and OTGA RTCs/STCs in the region.

Expresses the need to ensure that the implementation may benefit the member states of both the sub-commissions in the region viz IOCAFRICA and IOCINDIO.

Recommendation SC-IOCINDIO-1.22**Sasakawa Peace Foundation**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO),

Takes note of the activities and plans of SPF in the region.

Requests IOC CD secretariat to explore potential collaboration for a joint fellowship programme supported by the SPF.

Encourages member states to facilitate the process at their end.