

Resolution XXX-3

FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE COMMISSION

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

Having examined documents:

- (i) [IOC-XXX/2 Annex 2](#) – ‘Report on budget execution 2018 and outline of 2019 budget’,
- (ii) [IOC-XXX/2 Annex 9](#) – ‘Draft Programme and Budget for 2020–2021 (Draft 40 C/5)’,
- (iii) [IOC-XXX/2 Annex 10 Rev.](#) – ‘Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029: Preliminary Proposals by the Secretariat’,
- (iv) [IOC-XXX/2 Annex 8](#) – ‘Recommendations on Governance, Working Methods and Procedures of the Commission – Report on progress by the Chair of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group’,
- (v) [Resolution EC-LI.2](#) – ‘Financial Matters of the Commission’, and in particular Annex 1 ‘Implementation Plan of the Recommendations of the UNESCO Open-ended Working Group on Governance’ and Annex 2 ‘Financial Regulations applicable to the Special Account for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO’,

I

Report on budget execution 2018 and outline of the 2019 budget

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

II

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to:

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

Urges IOC Member States to:

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

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

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

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to:

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

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

III

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

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

Expresses its appreciation to:

- (i) the IOC Officers for their guidance to the Secretariat at the annual Officers' meeting, 15–17 January 2019;
- (ii) Member States that participated in the work of the IFAG on this matter;

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

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

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

- (i) revise the 'Vision' statement by simplifying the language and add the Decade societal outcomes 'clean ocean... etc.', including visuals;
- (ii) include social and human sciences;

- (iii) provide a visual presentation to clarify the nature/hierarchy of entities/ programmes/ activities mentioned in paragraph 15 of Annex 1 and how they contribute to functions and High Level Objectives;
- (iv) enhance consistency by applying the format and style of paragraph 18 of Annex 1 to paragraphs 16–20 describing functions' contributions to objectives;
- (v) open the section 'IOC within the UN system' with a paragraph reflecting that the IOC is a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO and enjoys a recognized role in the UN system, in accordance with the IOC Statutes;
- (vi) develop paragraph 28 of Annex 1 to describe the IOC's interaction with UNESCO programmes in order to maximize the comparative advantage of UNESCO's comprehensive interdisciplinary approach to key societal issues;
- (vii) harmonize the length and style of paragraphs 36-39 describing the IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies;
- (viii) with regard to the section 'Working closer to the field', continue reflecting on ways to enhance communication and engagement with Member States and their initiatives in regions not covered by existing Regional Subsidiary Bodies;
- (ix) further develop the section 'Communication & visibility', including the communication strategy and channels that will map the implementation of the objectives of the MTS to the various target audiences and consider a visual presentation illustrating the above;

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

IV Follow-up to Resolution EC-LI.2

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

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

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

Expresses its appreciation to:

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

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

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

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

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

IV.B

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

Expresses its appreciation to the IOC Executive Secretary for the preparation of the Revised Financial Regulations applicable to the Special Account for the IOC, aimed at addressing 38 C/Resolution 86 and at aligning, to the extent possible, the existing financial regulations with the new standard Financial Regulations as approved by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 200th session in document [200 EX/19](#) and consistent with [201 EX/Decision 24.I](#);

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

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

Annex 1 to Resolution XXX-3

DRAFT IOC MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2022–2029



CONTENTS

PREFACE

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

OUR MISSION

The purpose of the Commission is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States¹

OUR VISION

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

PREFACE

Ocean, the largest ecosystem on our planet, provides to our civilization a range of existentially important services. To keep benefitting from them, an equilibrium must be reached between the continuously increasing use of ocean space and resources and restoring and maintaining ocean's health, which is currently in fast decline. Actions required to achieve such a balance are all science-intensive. The pivotal role of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO is therefore to bring together the scientific communities, the governmental decision-making system, and a broader set of stakeholders within our Member States, including the private sector and the civil society as a whole, in creating an efficient

¹ IOC Statutes, Article 2.1

science-based integrated ocean management. Never in the history of our civilization has such cooperation been in a higher demand.

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

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

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

Peter M. Haugan
Chairperson

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

OUR HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

1. Through international cooperation, IOC aspires to help its Member States build and apply scientific knowledge to collectively achieve the following high-level objectives (HLOs), with particular attention to ensuring that all Member States have the capacity to meet them:
 1. Healthy ocean ecosystems and sustained ecosystem services
 2. Effective early warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards
 3. Increased resilience and adaptation to climate change and variability
 4. Scientifically-founded services for the development of the sustainable ocean economy
 5. Enhanced knowledge of emerging ocean science issues
2. Objective 1: Identifying robust indicators of ocean status and in support of locating their tipping points relative to marine ecosystem functioning is important for the prediction or early detection of changes in ecosystem states and in the evaluation of ecosystem resilience. Such knowledge and analytical tools will be very valuable in ocean management in general and in transforming management of individual sectors into an ecosystem-based approach and underpinning the

sustainable development of Blue Economy. The local and regional capacities, in terms of knowledge and tools, are also central for understanding how much an ecosystem can be stressed before it moves to other states from which recovery may be difficult. Current research on these topics is still piecemeal and needs coordination.

3. **Objective 2:** The ultimate objective of this HLO is to reduce risk, by encouraging communities to implement effective mitigating measures and become aware of the hazards they face. As coastal development continues at a rapid pace, society is becoming increasingly vulnerable to coastal flooding and other extreme sea-level events such as tsunamis. Ensuring that nations have access to the necessary information for coastal adaptation planning is dependent on continued progress in the implementation of tsunami and ocean observing systems, improvements of models of the climate systems and the development of local decision-support tools.
4. **Objective 3:** Climate variability and change impact many elements on which human well-being depends, modifying patterns of rainfall and drought, sea-level and coastal erosion, and through temperature changes and ocean acidification, adding stress to ecosystems and impacting on the goods and services they provide. Thus, human development goals including food security, access to water resources, and preparedness and resilience to disasters are threatened. Ocean plays a key role in climate. IOC will therefore assist its Member States in developing capacities for climate change impact mitigation and adaptation that are based on specialized scientific knowledge.
5. **Objective 4:** Ocean observations, data and information management, forecasting, and knowledge-based management approaches, such as marine spatial planning and coastal zone management, provide effective services to positively impact the sustainable ocean economy. IOC will facilitate the development of applications of ocean science that would maximize their societal benefit and stimulate the growth of sustainable marine industries.
6. **Objective 5:** A broad range of emerging environmental issues—such as new contaminants, ocean acidification, altered patterns of the ocean carbon cycle, de-oxygenation, the impacts of climate change on new ecological conditions, synergies among multiple stressors and their impacts on ocean health—jeopardize the conservation and sustainable use of marine spaces, the resources therein, as well as the marine ecosystems and the societal benefits they provide. Our understanding of the opportunities and changes that are occurring within the ocean, including the deep sea is still forming. Further scientific research, technical analyses and syntheses of scientific data are required to generate the information needed to effectively address these emerging issues, inform policy-making in the context of relevant regional and global conventions, and advance solutions involving multiple stakeholders at multiple levels in a timely and transparent manner.
7. **Global Priority Africa:** Africa is an overarching priority for UNESCO and IOC will ensure that it is mainstreamed in all its programmes and that it is reflected in its performance indicators. IOC will provide the science base necessary for the development of the Blue Economy in Africa as outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063 (*The Africa we want: A shared Strategic framework for inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development*) and the 2050 Africa's *Integrated Maritime Strategy* (2050 AIM Strategy). The 2050 AIM Strategy specifically recognizes the role of IOC/UNESCO in the promotion of scientific research and capacity development as well as transfer of technology in marine sciences.
8. **Global Priority Gender Equality:** The IOC contribution to Global Priority Gender Equality will focus on ensuring that international science cooperation for peace and sustainability allows for representation and voice for women and men, and that conditions for both women and men to be agents of mitigation, adaptation, resilience and sustainability are provided. IOC is committed to promoting the equal presence of men and women in the marine sciences community, as well as to encouraging activities to include women in marine sciences, starting from early career to increase presence in senior leadership roles, through effective measures

and policies and promoting role models for young women. The IOC's *Global Ocean Science Report* will continue to provide the latest disaggregated information on women in marine science to monitor progress and assist Member States in their efforts to achieve gender equality for women in ocean science, based on international assessment.

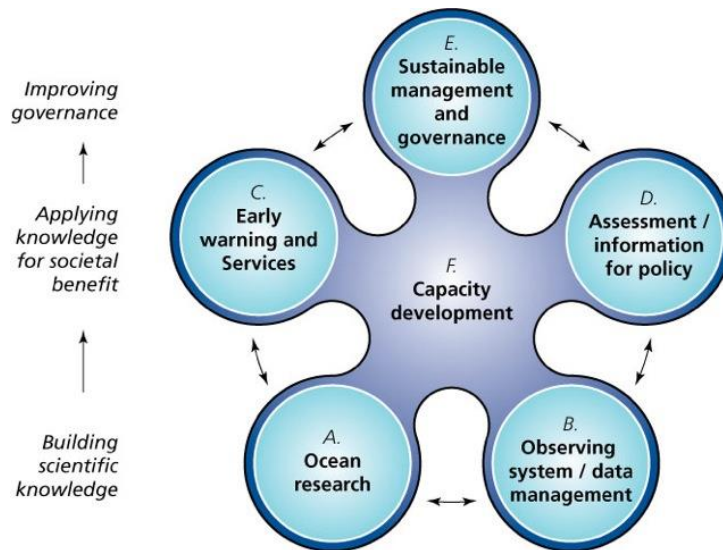
9. **Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Action Plan:** The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway highlights the significant risks posed by sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change. It also points to the fact that growth prospects of SIDS have been hindered by the impacts of natural disasters and the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems. The Samoa Pathway calls for increased attention by the international community to extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification. It calls for heightened technological development and deployment, enhanced financing and capacity development in the context of climate change adaptation, calling for assistance to improve baseline monitoring of island systems. IOC's engagement in support of SIDS will continue to focus on the building of SIDS actions related to tsunami early warning systems, the development of marine scientific and technological capacity of SIDS, and enhanced cooperation to assess ocean acidification impacts.

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

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

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

13. When working towards the high-level objectives, IOC will focus on the broad areas of:
 - strengthening scientific knowledge of the ocean and human impact on it,
 - applying that knowledge for societal benefit, and
 - building institutional capacities for sound management and governance



14. The strategy is organized in a conceptual framework of *functions* required to advance towards the IOC Vision:
- A. Foster research to strengthen knowledge of ocean and coastal processes and human impacts upon them [*Ocean research*]
 - B. Maintain, strengthen and integrate global ocean observing, data and information systems [*Observing system / data management*]
 - C. Develop early warning systems, services, and preparedness to mitigate the risks of tsunamis and ocean-related hazards [*Early warning and services*]
 - D. Support assessment and information to improve the science-policy interface [*Assessment and Information for policy*]
 - E. Enhance ocean governance through a shared knowledge base and improved regional cooperation [*Sustainable management and governance*]
 - F. Develop the institutional capacity in all of the functions above, as a cross-cutting function [*Capacity Development*]
15. These functions correspond broadly to and will be realized by existing and on-going IOC programmes, IOC regional subsidiary bodies and various mechanisms of cooperation, such as the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board and the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE), the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), the Tsunami Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs), World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the Ocean Sciences programme, Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM), Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB), and Capacity Development (CD). Calling out these functions therefore simplifies Member State engagement in the programmes of the Commission, and makes the programme and budget exercise more transparent.
16. *Functions contributing to Objective 1:* In order to generate the knowledge relative to marine ecosystem functioning at the appropriate time scale and resolution, it is essential to build capacity and a globally managed and quality controlled knowledge base. The strategy will therefore include: development and coordination of essential research on ocean processes, marine biodiversity and ocean ecosystem health; reinforcing the development of biology and ecosystems sustained observing networks as a part of the voluntary collaboration under the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS); a focus on strengthening the existing IODE global

network of data (and information) centres including the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), with an emphasis on data/information product/service development contributing to continuous monitoring of the identified indicators; support to the United Nations World Ocean Assessment and other related processes; and development of capacity to ensure strong science-policy interfaces in ocean management.

17. Functions contributing to Objective 2: In terms of early warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and ocean-related hazards, the strategy will focus on four areas: (i) support for the intergovernmental coordination of regionally harmonized tsunami warning systems; (ii) strengthening the work of regional Tsunami Information Centres that provide a clearinghouse for the development of educational and preparedness materials; (iii) targeted capacity development and technical assistance to enhance Member States own ability to develop preparedness and awareness in a multi-hazard framework; and (iv) support for enabling observations, modelling, research and policy development that lead to improved tsunami and ocean-related warning systems and preparedness.
18. Functions contributing to Objective 3: IOC will address the objective of increased resiliency to climate change and variability through scientifically founded services, adaptation and mitigation strategies with an end-to-end effort that:
- begins with an ocean observing system sustainably monitoring the major global scales of climate (both physics and ocean carbon), and they key variables used in operational services, building readiness and capacity in providing local information required in adaptation at the coast and to address the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on marine and coastal ecosystems, and linked to a data management system built on global standards and best practices,
 - coordinates ocean climate research that improves the understanding of ocean processes and climate change, the predictability of climate variability and change; builds a knowledge base on linked ocean ecosystem changes and adaptation strategies;
 - partners with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in the development of next-generation services; informs IOC and other assessment processes; and
 - applies the scientific knowledge base to improve regional management and governance of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, building capacity through demonstration projects and shared tools.
19. Functions contributing to Objective 4: Ocean knowledge and open access to ocean information and data have the power to generate profits and jobs in the marine economy sector and to maintain it on progressively sustainable path. By 2030, the ocean economy, buoyed by growth in tourism, mariculture and renewable energy, is predicted to significantly increase its share in many national economies, in both developed and developing countries. Engagement and strengthened partnerships along the whole value chain from ocean observations and research to the benefit creation by end-users will be pursued. Innovation and new technologies, delivery of predictions, services, and scientific assessments will support maritime economy and facilitate the identification of sustainability pathways. Defining optimal boundaries for economic operations, reducing conflicts between human uses of the ocean, sustaining ocean health and protecting the marine environment will be promoted through ecosystem-based approaches such as Marine Spatial Planning and Large Marine Ecosystems.
20. Functions contributing to Objective 5: In order to identify and monitor emerging issues, it will be essential to coordinate scientific research and call out these issues in a way that can be communicated to policy. Strengthened and expanded ocean observation and associated global data/information management systems will support the research in emerging issues. Resolving conflicts among the numerous existing and emerging uses of the maritime domain

represents a challenge. To properly address these issues and to use the results of the research effectively requires improved international collaboration. It will also be essential for negotiation capacities to be built in Member States so that they are able to bring emerging national and regional issues for consideration in UN and other intergovernmental fora.

Capacity Development Strategy

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

ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS

25. In accordance with its Statutes, the 'Commission will collaborate with international organizations concerned with the work of the Commission, and especially with those organizations of the United Nations system which are willing and prepared to contribute to the purpose and functions of the Commission and/or to seek advice and cooperation in the field of ocean and coastal area scientific research, related services and capacity-building'.²

IOC WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM

26. IOC enjoys collaboration with many UN agencies and has on-going collaboration at the programmatic level and/or via co-sponsorship of joint programmes. Examples include IAEA, IMO, ISA, ITU, UNCLOS, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNEP, and WMO. Global and regional

² Article 2.2 of the IOC Statutes

intergovernmental agreements and conventions require contributions from international bodies such as IOC or call for national cooperation and reporting among and via IOC Member States.

27. IOC contributes to a number of established and recent UN global agreements including the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular of the Goal 14; the recognition of the role of the ocean in the UNFCCC Paris Climate Agreement; the endorsement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Samoa Pathway.
28. UN Oceans is the interagency collaboration mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the UN system. Through UNOceans, the Commission will work in cooperation with other UN agencies in the development of “SDG enabling activities”. In the context of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, IOC will foster the development of joint activities in support of the 2030 Agenda, SIDS Action Plan, Sendai Framework, UNFCCC COP processes, and other relevant mechanisms. The IOC will continue to cooperate with UNESCO programmes to maximize the comparative advantage of UNESCO’s comprehensive interdisciplinary approach to key societal issues.
29. New forms of cooperation and, potentially, stronger formal links of IOC with UN partners will be explored based on the understanding that ocean science represents a crosscutting underpinning force for fulfilling mandates of such UN agencies. Such cooperative agreements will be especially promising for successful implementation of the Decade. The enhanced role of ocean science in assisting Member States in achieving the goals of sustainable development, implementing international agreements and addressing national priorities, may warrant a reinforced coordination between UN agencies and a review of the IOC role and position in the UN System.³

EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS & RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

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

WORKING CLOSER TO THE FIELD

34. The United Nations is reforming to provide a better response to the needs of its Member States, with a strong emphasis on its regional dimension. Ocean is of high environmental, social and economic importance to the livelihoods of people and prosperities of countries. By recognizing

³ Article 11.3 of the IOC Statutes.

Member States' national development goals and internationally agreed development priorities, IOC intends to improve the delivery of its mandates, mainly through its regional subsidiary bodies and complementary to that, where no such bodies exist, by linking with the relevant activities of – groups of – its Member States on the ground..

35. The IOC regional subsidiary bodies (WESTPAC, IOCARIBE, IOCAFRICA, and IOCINDIO) have a dual role to fulfil. They are instrumental in carrying out IOC global programmes and priorities in the regions, whilst they develop, execute and coordinate projects and activities, and foster regional partnerships, in response to the needs identified by their respective Member States. Given the needs for capacity development varying from one region to another, regional subsidiary bodies take an adaptive approach to capacity development for their respective regions while taking into account all activities and actions contained in IOC's strategy. These regional mechanisms are of paramount importance for the IOC value delivery chain, ensuring solid ownership of programmes by Member States.
36. WESTPAC, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific, intends to introduce Big Data approaches in marine science, advance monitoring, modelling and predictive capabilities, enhance scientific inputs for informed decisions, and develop a knowledge-action network in order to advance the global understanding of the ocean processes and climate, balance economic and ecological benefits, and safeguard ocean ecosystem and human health in the Western Pacific and its adjacent waters.
37. IOCAFRICA, the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, will focus on ocean observations and monitoring, ocean sciences and assessments, data and information management and capacity development for marine science and technology. In particular, IOCAFRICA will address ocean modelling and forecasting, disaster preparedness and mitigation, impacts of climate change and variability on the coastal zones including coastal erosion, establish marine spatial planning, ocean literacy and the translation of ocean science to policy in order to provide governments and societies with the information required for sustainable development of the oceans and coastal areas.
38. IOCARIBE, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, will focus on assisting Member States in achieving sustainable use of the ocean and coastal resources, foster the generation of knowledge, sharing of information, expertise and experiences to facilitate the scientific community in reducing scientific uncertainties, including those due to climate change, effectively encourage the adoption of pertinent measures for reducing human and material losses associated with the increased frequency of extreme ocean and meteorological hazards. The Sub-commission will also assist Member States to develop their capacity to formulate national and regional policies and plans to meet their needs in ocean science and technology, and reinforce and broaden scientific cooperation, regionally and internationally through networking and institutional arrangements with organizations of the UN system, IGOs, NGOs and the scientific community. IOCARIBE recognises the importance of communication with stakeholders and particularly young scientists and decision-makers and intends to include in its capacity development plan ocean sciences communication and media training.
39. IOCINDIO, the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean, will consolidate its reactivation in order to assist its Member States to reinforce their national and regional networks of Ocean observations and monitoring, modelling and forecasting capabilities. The Committee will foster active networking of marine academic and research institutes of its Member States, notably the UNESCO Category II Centres in oceanography, the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre, which will help to establish national regional mapping of critical ecological systems and coastal vulnerability due to sea-level rise, storm surges and climate change. IOCINDIO will reinforce cooperation with regional institutions in Indian Ocean such as the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) and relevant NGOs.

40. Complementing the work of regional subsidiary bodies, IOC will enhance its communications with Member States and their initiatives in regions without such bodies. IOC also aims to build visibly on these activities of its Member States, acknowledging their significant capacities, often already deployed in many of the global IOC programmes. IOC will liaise with relevant national, regional and large-scale international initiatives of those Member States with a view to take them into account in the execution of its various functions.

COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

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

Annex 2 to Resolution XXX-3

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

As a follow-up exercise to [Resolution EC-LI.2\(III\)](#) (2018) and the recommendations to improve governance, working methods and procedures of the Commission, the new documentation referencing is adopted as follows, with a view of making governing body documentation more user-friendly, including the facilitation of downloading documents by agenda item and in a sequential manner (Recommendation no. 8 in Annex 1 to EC-LI.2).

CURRENT REFERENCE CODE	NEW DOCUMENTATION CODING	DOCUMENT TITLE
	<p><i>Proposed documentation coding:</i></p> <p><i>IOC/GOV acronym-session number in Arabic numeral/agenda item n° + type of document</i></p> <p>Three documents have a coding with no reference to the agenda:</p> <p>Action Paper: AP</p> <p>List of documents: Doclist</p> <p>Summary report: SR</p>	
Documentation for an IOC Executive Council session: EC		
IOC/EC-LI/1 Prov. Rev.	IOC/EC-51/2.1.Doc Rev.	Revised Provisional Agenda
IOC/EC-LI/1 Add. Prov. Rev.	IOC/EC-51/2.1.Doc Add. Rev.	Revised Provisional Timetable
IOC/EC-LI/2 prov.	IOC/EC-51/AP	Provisional Action Paper
IOC/EC-LI/4 Prov	IOC/EC-51/Doclist	Provisional List of Documents
IOC/EC-LI/Inf.1	IOC/EC-51/2.4.Inf	Working arrangements for the session

CURRENT REFERENCE CODE	NEW DOCUMENTATION CODING	DOCUMENT TITLE
IOC/EC-LI/Inf.1 Add.	IOC/EC-51/ 2.4.Inf. Add.	Template for submission of written records to the Executive Council summary report
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 1	IOC/EC-51/3.1.Doc(1) ⁴	Report of the IOC Executive Secretary on the work accomplished since the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly (July 2017-June 2018)
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 1 Add.	IOC/EC-51/3.1.Doc(1) Add.	Update on IOC Communication activities (follow-up to the IOC Communications Advisory Report)
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 2	IOC/EC-51/3.1.Doc(2)	Report on Budget Execution 2016–2017 and outline of 2018–2019 budget
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 2 Add.	IOC/EC-51/3.1.Doc(2) Add.	Extrabudgetary resource mobilisation targets: proposals for 2018–2019
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 3	IOC/EC-51/4.1.Doc(1)	Abridged version of the Roadmap for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 4	IOC/EC-51/4.1.Doc(2)	Terms of Reference of the Decade Planning Group (Planning Phase: 2018–2020)
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 5	IOC/EC-51/4.2.Doc	Enhanced coherence, impact and future orientations of the IOC Ocean Science portfolio in support of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and 2030 Agenda
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 6	IOC/EC-51/4.4.Doc	Update on IOC custodianship role in relation to SDG 14 indicators
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 7	IOC/EC-51/4.5.Doc	First Report of the IOC Regular Working Group on User Requirements and Contributions to GEBCO Products
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 8	IOC/EC-51/4.7.Doc	Global Ocean Observing System 2030 Strategy
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 9	IOC/EC-51/4.8.Doc	Evolving capabilities of the Argo profiling float network
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 10	IOC/EC-51/4.9.Doc	The IOC contribution to Ocean Literacy activities: perspectives and development in view of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 11	IOC/EC-51/5.1.Doc	Concept for a Joint WMO-IOC Committee for Oceanography and Meteorology (JCOM)
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 12	IOC/EC-51/6.Doc(1)	Updated Introduction to the IOC Medium-Term Strategy, 2014–2021
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 13	IOC/EC-51/6.Doc(2)	IOC Governance: Draft Implementation Plan of the Recommendations of the UNESCO

⁴ Numbers in brackets to be used where there is more than one document of the same type under the same agenda item

CURRENT REFERENCE CODE	NEW DOCUMENTATION CODING	DOCUMENT TITLE
		Open-ended Working Group on Governance
IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 14	IOC/EC-51/6.Doc(3)	Revised Financial Regulations for the IOC Special Account
IOC/EC-LI/3 (Pt.1) Prov	IOC/EC-51/SR(1) Prov.	Part 1 of the provisional Summary report
IOC/EC-LI/3	IOC/EC-51/SR	Final Summary report

Documentation for an IOC Assembly document: A		
IOC-XXIX/1 Prov. Rev.	IOC/A-29/2.1.Doc Rev.	Revised Provisional Agenda
Decisions		
<u>EC Decision</u> IOC/EC-LI/Dec.3.3.3(I) IOC Decision EC-LI.3.3.3(I)	IOC Decision EC-51/3.3.3(I)	
<u>Assembly Decision</u> IOC-XXIX/Dec.3.3.3(I) IOC Decision IOC-XXIX/3.3.3(I)	IOC Decision A-29/3.3.3(I)	
Resolutions		
<u>EC Resolution</u> EC-LI.4	IOC Resolution EC-51/4	<i>Resolutions are numbered after their adoption. This digit should not be confused with the agenda item n°.</i>
<u>Assembly Resolution</u> XXIX-4 IOC Resolution XXIX-4	IOC Resolution A-29/4	

Annex 3 to Resolution XXX-3

GUIDELINES

Responsibilities of the Officers of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

Background

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

The Commission defines and implements its programme according to its stated purposes and functions and within the framework of the budget adopted by its Assembly and the General Conference of UNESCO⁵.

⁵ Statutes (of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, IOC), Article 1 ([IOC/INF/1148](#))

‘During the course of each ordinary session, the Assembly shall elect a chairperson and, taking into account the principles of geographic distribution, shall elect five Vice-chairpersons who shall be the Officers of the Commission, its Assembly and its Executive Council...’⁶

In accordance with the IOC Rules of Procedure⁷, the Chairperson shall be elected from individuals nominated for their personal qualifications and shall not act as a representative of his/her state. The five Vice-Chairpersons shall be nationals of Member States of different electoral groups (listed in [Appendix II to the IOC Rules of Procedure](#)).

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

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

Given the highly specialized mandate of the Commission and consistent with the provisions of the IOC Statutes for selecting representatives to the Executive Council⁸, in electing the Officers, *Member States [...] shall endeavour to appoint persons experienced in matters related to the Commission.*

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

Guiding principles

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

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

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

All Officers:

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

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

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

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

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

⁶ Statutes (of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, IOC), Article 6.B.5

⁷ Rules of Procedure of the IOC, Article V, Rule 13 ([IOC/INF/1166](#))

⁸ Statutes (of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, IOC), Article 7.A.3

Vice-Chairpersons:

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

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

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

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