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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)**

Thirtieth Session of the Assembly

UNESCO, Paris, 26 June-4 July 2019

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT

Part 4

(Agenda items 9, 10.2, 12.5-12.6, 13 & 14)

*Decisions will be published separately in document IOC-XXX/Decisions
at the end of the session*

9. ASSESSMENT AND INFORMATION FOR POLICY

9.1 REPORT OF THE IHO-IOC GEBCO GUIDING COMMITTEE

1 VADM (ret.) Shin Tani, Chair of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC), introduced this item.

2 He reported on the activity of the GGC during the intersessional period (2017–2019) based on documents IOC/INF-1381 and GGC35/13 including activities of its sub-committees, status of the Nippon Foundation–GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project (Seabed 2030) and amendment to terms of reference and rules of procedure for the GGC.

3 He also asked Member States to cooperate to advance mapping and accelerate the delivery of GEBCO objectives and general knowledge of the ocean, in particular by: supporting and contributing to Seabed 2030; facilitating GEBCO capacity development and training opportunities; and actively participating in the next assessment to be conducted by the Working Group on User Requirements and Contributions to GEBCO Products.

4 The representatives of 18 Member States and 2 observers took the floor. All Member States and observers highlighted the great value of the GEBCO activities. Many Member States expressed continuous support to GEBCO and declared providing bathymetric data and/or participating in GEBCO committees.

5 Many Member States and observers recognized the importance of high quality bathymetry for many scientific and operational purposes including tsunami warning. Some Member States reaffirmed the importance of assessing user requirements to improve GEBCO products. China announced its intention to provide additional funding support to GEBCO in 2019.

6 The representative of IHO explained the importance of increasing the global bathymetric coverage and noted that a considerable number of government-owned research vessels still transit to their observation area with switched-off sonars. He called on Member States to switch on sounding systems whenever at sea, adjust their tracks towards poorly covered areas of the ocean, and make the resultant data freely and openly available, including their transmission to GEBCO.

10. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

10.2 INTEGRATED COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (ICAM) STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

7 Mr Alejandro Iglesias-Campos, ICAM Technical Secretary, introduced this item and provided a progress report on the implementation of the ICAM Strategy, covering activities that are being developed in the field of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), coastal hazards mitigation, large marine ecosystems and decision-support tools for coastal and ocean management. He highlighted the work that IOC is leading in supporting ecosystem-based management practices and the implementation progress of the IOC and European Commission Joint Roadmap to accelerate marine spatial planning processes worldwide defining the priority areas and strategic objectives for cooperation. The five priority areas and subsequent key actions of the roadmap focus on: developing guidance on transboundary MSP; the implementation of two regional case studies in the West-Mediterranean and the South Pacific; developing the “blue economy” in the context of the 2030 Agenda; enabling ecosystem-based MSP; pursuing capacity building; and building a mutual understanding for communicating MSP.

8 Member States expressed support to the IOC Secretariat work on the implementation of the MSPglobal Initiative (2018–2021), funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund of the European Union, with the participation of policy-makers, scientists, citizens and other stakeholders. MSPglobal will improve cross-border and transboundary cooperation where the MSP practices already exist and promote MSP in areas where it is yet to be implemented with the objective to triple the marine area benefiting from MSP by 2030 with regard to the current state of affairs.

9 The ICAM Technical Secretary also reported on the implementation of the European funded project AQUACROSS. The final report and the multilingual storytelling tool of the case study at the Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve of the Mediterranean: Andalusia (Spain) – Morocco on the establishment of green and blue infrastructures was presented.

10 The Technical Secretary recalled that the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium) continue providing support to the Secretariat in the context of the 3rd phase of the SPINCAM project (2017–2019) dedicated to the coastal and marine ecosystem integrated approach for sustainable blue growth in the Southeast Pacific.

11 IOC was commended for its role in providing technical support to the community of Large Marine Ecosystems (LME). The technical Secretariat of LMEs established at IOC facilitates sharing of knowledge related to transboundary management and building of technical capacity. As well it supports South-to-South and North-to-South learning in the context of the LME:LEARN project led by IOC and UNDP and funded by the Global Environmental Facility. Yet the need to ensure the sustainability of the secretariat established in IOC since 2019, in order to continue supporting the LME activities at global and regional scale, was highlighted.

12 The Assembly noted the participation of the secretariat in more than 50 events dedicated to training and dissemination of the objectives of the ICAM Strategy in Africa, America, Asia-Pacific and Europe in 2018–2019. Three thousand people from 98 different countries participated in and benefitted from training materials in Spanish, French, Portuguese and English.

13 The Technical Secretary called on Member States and regional partners to organize more training, especially in Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Atlantic Coast of Latin America, and with the European Commission in the context of MSPglobal project and the MSPforums.

14 The representatives of 7 Member States and of UNDP took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Chile, India, Netherlands, Peru, Spain.

12. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

[cf. Part 1]

12.5 PREPARATION FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IOC (1960–2020)

15 The IOC Chair introduced this item. He informed that the matter was discussed by the IOC Officers at their annual meeting at UNESCO Headquarters, 15–17 January 2019. A range of possible activities was discussed.

16 Through IOC Circular letter 2767 dated 25 April 2019, the Secretariat solicited information from Member States on archived documents as well as photos and other visual documents of interest. This could form a basis for an objective compilation and

summary of the IOC history in a professional scientific historic publication. The intention is to complete it by the end of 2020 or in early 2021.

17 Member States supported the suggestions and initial ideas for the commemoration of the 60 year anniversary of IOC. Member States stressed the importance of having a documented history. Some participants mentioned their plans for responding to the Circular Letter. Chile suggested that the Ocean Conference in Lisbon 2–6 June 2020 could provide an opportunity for a side event to mark the IOC's 60 anniversary in connection with the conference. WMO mentioned that Peter Dexter, former Co-president of JCOMM, has been working on a history/memory of JCOMM, which could be developed into a contribution to the commemoration.

18 The Executive Secretary encouraged Member States and regional bodies to consider and inform the Secretariat about events that can contribute to a 60-year anniversary portfolio of activities.

19 The Assembly invited the outgoing chair in consultation with Officers to offer guidance to the secretariat on the further developments on activities that may contribute to the commemoration of the 60 year anniversary of the IOC.

20 The representatives of four Member States and one observer (WMO) took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report:
_____.

12.6 ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

21 Dr Sang-Kyung Byun, Chair of the Nominations Committee, reported on this item. He informed the Assembly that all the nomination forms received as of Friday 28 June 2019 at 18.00 hrs by the Committee were valid and had therefore been forwarded to the Assembly as document IOC-XXX/NOM/WP3.

22 He informed the Assembly that on Tuesday 2 July 2019 prior to the 5th meeting of the Nominations Committee, USA withdrew its candidature for a seat on the Executive Council. The Nomination Committee subsequently communicated that development to the Assembly as document IOC-XXX/NOM/WP4.

23 He further informed the Assembly that: (i) TURKMENISTAN – belonging to Electoral Group IV and EQUATORIAL GUINEA (5 April 2019) belonging to Electoral Group V had joined IOC since the 29th session of the Assembly; (ii) the number of seats on the Executive Council had not changed since the 25th session of the Assembly; and (iii) following the adoption of Resolution XXV-15 concerning the expansion of the quota of seats of Group II, the allocation of seats for Groups I and II, is 10 seats for Group I and 3 seats for Group II; (iv) the quotas of seats for Groups III, IV and V remain unchanged.

12.6.1 Election of the Chairperson of the Commission

24 The Assembly noted that there were two candidates for the position of Chair.

Mr Ariel Hernán Troisi from Argentina

and

Mr Ashley S. Johnson from South Africa

25 The Chair invited in accordance Par 2.10 of Appendix I of the IOC Rules of Procedure one speaker to introduce each candidate. Ms Chafica HADDAD (Deputy Permanent Delegate) of Grenada to UNESCO introduced Mr Troisi and Mr Sateesh Chandra Shenoi, Head of the IOC Delegation of India, to introduce Mr Johnson.

Following a ballot Mr Troisi was elected as Chair.

12.6.2 Election of the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission

26 The Assembly noted that there was only one candidate for each of Electoral Groups I, II, III, IV and V for the positions of Vice-Chair. The following were therefore elected by acclamation:

Ms Monica Breuch-Moritz (Germany) – Group I

Mr Alexander Frolov (Russian Federation) – Group II

Mr Frederico Antonio Saraiva Nogueira (Brazil) – Group III

Mr Satheesh Chandra Shenoi (India) – Group IV

Mr Karim Hilmi (Morocco) – Group V

12.6.3 Election of the Members of the Executive Council

27 The Assembly noted that there were 9 candidates for the remaining Member State seats on the Executive Council for Electoral Group I, and that the number of those remaining seats was 9 and consequently a ballot would be needed for Electoral Group I.

28 The Assembly noted that there was 1 candidate (Bulgaria) for the remaining Member State seat on the Executive Council for Electoral Group II, whereas the maximum number of those seats was 2. The candidate Member State was therefore declared elected by acclamation.

29 The Assembly noted that there were 7 candidates for the remaining Member State seats on the Executive Council for Electoral Group III, and that the number of those remaining seats was 7 and consequently a ballot would be needed for Electoral Group III.

30 The Assembly noted that there were 8 candidates for the remaining Member State seats on the Executive Council for Electoral Group IV, and that the number of those remaining seats was 8 and consequently a ballot would be needed for Electoral Group IV.

31 The Assembly noted that there were 11 candidates for the remaining Member State seats on the Executive Council for Electoral Group V, and that the number of those remaining seats was 8 and consequently a ballot would be needed for Electoral Group V.

32 After the first ballot to elect the representatives to the Executive Council from Electoral Groups V, the Assembly elected:

Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Oman, Senegal, South Africa to the Executive Council for Electoral Group V.

33 The membership of the Executive Council for the next intersessional period and the 31th session of the Assembly is given in Annex _____ to the present report.

34 Subsequently to the closure of the elections, Ukraine took the floor and chose to provide record of its plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report.

13. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND SUMMARY REPORT

35 The Chair thanked the Rapporteur Ms Suree Satapoomin from Thailand for her excellent work in support of the work of the session.

36 The representative of 2 Member State took the floor. The Executive Secretary responded by clarifying the approach taken by the IOC in preparing for the Dialogue with Permanent Delegations to UNESCO on the future Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029 (41 C/4) in the context of Pillar 3 of UNESCO's Strategic Transformation. He confirmed that the meeting devoted to the IOC Draft Medium-Term Strategy will be held on 19 July 2019 and the Secretariat will keep Member States on its outcomes through the open-ended Intersessional Financial Advisory Group, which will be reconstituted for the intersessional period 2019/2020.

14. CLOSURE

37 The Assembly met in plenary session during 6.5 days from 26 June to 4 July, considered 42 items on its agenda and approved 30 decisions and 3 resolutions. The plenary meeting was supported by 3 preparatory meetings, 11 meetings of sessional committees and 18 information and side events during the session. The Assembly considered 42 agenda items, adopting 30 decisions and 3 resolutions.

38 The Chair thanked the Member States, the Officers of the Commission and the Secretariat for their commitment to making this session a true success. Many important issues have been considered and addressed constructively, setting context for effective action moving forward. (See the full text of the intervention in Annex __)

39 The Executive Secretary in his concluding remarks described this session of the Assembly as a true milestone. The Commission defined ambitious goals and is fit for the purpose through true commitment and ownership of its Member States. A lot of work is ahead of us, but the way Member States could come together at this Assembly session, makes us all look to the future with enthusiasm and enhanced commitment. He thanked the Chair Professor Peter M. Haugan for his exceptional leadership that inspired both the Member States and the Secretariat. The high standards set by him will guide the next team of Officers in taking the Commission to its future achievements.

40 The Chair of the Commission closed the 30th Session of the Assembly at 11:19 on 4 July 2019.