Subject: Arrangements for the Election of Officers of the IOC’s Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRIA)

At its recent sixth session held online on 13–15 April 2021, the IOC’s Sub-commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRIA) faced a difficult situation: no nominations were received to renew its Bureau (one Chairperson and three Vice-chairpersons) by the deadline of 9 April as was initially invited by the IOC Circular Letter, 2838 of 20 March 2021.

Moreover, the Sub-commission noted the challenges of holding online elections by secret ballot, and requested the secretariat to send a fresh call for candidates and explore the possibility, as the last resort, of holding elections during the 31st session of the IOC Assembly in June 2021.

On behalf of the current IOCAFRIA Officers who accepted to stay in office during the interim period leading to the holding of new elections, I invite nominations from IOCAFRIA Member States for elections of one Chairperson and three Vice-chairpersons.

In view of the unprecedented situation and the difficulty that resulted from deferring the IOCAFRIA election process to the Assembly, I would particularly encourage IOCAFRIA electoral groups to strive to find consensus on presenting one candidate per group for the posts of Vice-chairperson. The same request applies to the nomination for Chairperson. I rely on the current Officers of the Sub-commission to energize the understanding and cooperation of IOCAFRIA Member States in this process. I take this occasion to thank very much the outgoing IOCAFRIA Officers for their efforts and the work delivered during their terms of service, which were extremely challenging due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Relevant information on elections is annexed to this letter. The deadline for receiving candidatures by the IOCAFRIA secretariat (oceans.nairobi@unesco.org) is Wednesday 2 June 2021 at 17.00 UTC.
At present, it is impossible to exclude an undesirable case when holding IOCAFRICA elections during the 31st session of the Assembly becomes necessary. In that case, IOCAFRICA Member States will be represented in elections in praesentia by the delegate who will have the right to vote in the elections of Members of IOC Executive Council and Officers. Through the Circular Letter, 2842, IOC Member States were requested to provide the name of such a delegate (one per Member State) by 10 June 2021. Once again that person will be expected to cast the ballot in his/her physical presence at the UNESCO Headquarters.

I truly hope that the elections will not be needed and the new Members of IOC Executive Council, Officers of IOC and Officers of IOCAFRICA will all be elected by acclamation. However, more information on the modalities of the elections will be provided in case they are needed.

I count on your participation and collaboration and remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2):
IOCAFRICA Elections: Nomination forms
IOCAFRICA Elections: Electoral Groups and additional information
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)  

ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE IOC SUB COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND THE ADJACENT ISLAND STATES

Nominations

Nominations of individuals to either the post of Chairperson or the posts of Vice-chairpersons shall be submitted by Member States through the officially designated national coordinating body specified for liaison with the Commission (Rule 26.2), namely through the IOC Focal Point in the Member State or the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO.

Nominations shall be submitted in writing using Form A (Chairperson) or Form B (Vice-chairperson) and must reach the IOC Secretariat not later than 17:00 UTC on Wednesday 2 June 2021.

Each nomination shall contain a declaration from the candidate that he/she is prepared to stand for the post for which he/she has been nominated and is willing to take on the obligations that would devolve upon him/her, should he/she be elected.

Each candidate for chairperson must be seconded by two Member States of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, from different electoral groups than that of the nominating Member State. In the case of nominations for Vice-Chairperson, the two seconders should be of the same Electoral Group as that of the nominee’s Member State.

Elections

Should voting be necessary, the election procedure will follow the technical arrangements annexed to the IOC Rules of Procedure, in particular paragraphs 2.2 (secret ballot) and 2.3 (majority).

IOCAFRICA ELECTORAL GROUPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP A</th>
<th>GROUP B</th>
<th>GROUP C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>Cabo Verde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Egypt** (Chair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Gambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cote d’Ivoire</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Guinea-Bissau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR Congo</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>Libya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
<td>Madagascar* (Vice Chair)</td>
<td>Mauritania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>Seychelles</td>
<td>Senegal* (Vice Chair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria* (Vice Chair)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current composition of IOCAFRICA Bureau (2019–2021)¹

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson:</td>
<td>Prof. Mr Mohamed Ahmed Said (Egypt)</td>
<td>2nd term completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-chairpersons:</td>
<td>Dr (Mr) Adesina Adegbie (Nigeria, Group A)</td>
<td>2nd term completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr John Bemiasa (Madagascar, Group B)</td>
<td>2nd term completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Hamet Diaw Diadhiou (Senegal, Group C)</td>
<td>2nd term completed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Elected for a maximum of two consecutive terms.
IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States

Elections

Form A – Chairperson

Name of Member State: ……………………………………………………………………...

Name of Nominee: ……………………………………………………………………………

I declare that I am prepared to stand for election to the post of Chairperson of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States and, if elected, to take an active part in the work of the Sub Commission.

Signature of the Nominee: ……………………………………………………………

Seconder 1

Member State of the IOCAFRICA

Name in capitals

Position

Signature

Date sent to the IOC Secretariat

Seconder 2

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat
IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States

Elections

Form B – Vice-chairperson

Name of Member State: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Name of Nominee: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Electoral Group: ………………………………

I declare that I am prepared to stand for election to the post of Vice-chairperson of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States and, if elected, to take an active part in the work of the Sub Commission.

Signature of the Nominee: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Seconder 1

Seconder 2

Member State of the IOCAFRICA

Name in capitals

Position

Signature

Date sent to the IOC Secretariat

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat

2 should be of the same Electoral Group as that of the nominee’s Member State.