

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies



**IOC Group of Experts
on Capacity Development**

GE-CD Working Group on the revision of the IOC
Capacity Development Strategy

First Meeting Report
25 January 2022

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1. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The session was opened by Mr Ariel Troisi, IOC Chair and GE-CD Co-Chair. He thanked everyone for attending the first meeting of the Working Group on revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy. He provided a brief overview of the background of the working group.

Mr Alan Evans, IOC GE-CD Co-Chair also welcomed the participants. He referred to the Decade as an opportunity for IOC to be at the core of CD activities but jointly with other partners, stressing the need for a joint or complementary approach. In this regard he also referred to the BBNJ where we are working together through the CHM/TMT.

Mr Troisi then invited the Working Group to review and adopt the provisional agenda, available from the website on https://ioc-cd.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventAgenda&eventID=3376. Any new items or issues proposed by the Group were noted and discussed under Agenda item 6.

The Working Group adopted the agenda.

2. ELECTION OF WG CHAIR

This agenda item was introduced by Johanna Diwa, IOC CD Secretariat.

As decided in its third session, the GE-CD decided to establish the Working Group on the revision of the IOC CD strategy ([Document IOC/GECD-WG/1/2.1](#)). An online correspondence sent to the Working Group members last December 17, 2021, called for nominations for WG Chair. The Group was invited to nominate and elect WG Chair from its membership.

Mr Troisi called for volunteers. Mr Alan Evans raised for clarification whether the Chairmanship was also open for CD focal points, which Mr Troisi answered in the affirmative. Mr Troisi nominated Mr Alan Evans, and asked the Group if there were additional members who would like to volunteer. Prof. Suzan Kholeif volunteered to help as WG Co-Chair.

The Working Group elected Prof Suzan Kholeif and Mr Alan Evans as Co-Chairs of the Working Group on revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy.

Mr Troisi then invited the new Co-Chairs to take over the chairing of the meeting.

3. WG TERMS OF REFERENCE AND TIMELINE

This agenda item was introduced by Johanna Diwa.

She referred to the WG TORs and its membership which were finalized and adopted by the GE-CD through online correspondence ([Document IOC/GECD-WG/1/3.1](#)).

IOC Working Group on the revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy

The IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development,

Recognizing the importance of Capacity Development as one of the six functions of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2014–2021), enabling all Member States to participate in, and benefit from, ocean research and services that are vital to sustainable development and human welfare on the planet,

Recalling the adoption, at its 28th Session, of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021) published as IOC/INF-1332,

Welcoming the contributions of its Member States towards capacity development at the global and regional level through financial and in-kind contributions,

Stressing the need to share, across programmes and regions, experience and expertise in capacity development, and to coordinate efforts to increase efficiency and maximize impact,

Noting that the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021) published as IOC/INF-1332 will expire on 31 December 2021,

Noting further the Capacity Development Chapter of the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030),

Establishes the IOC Working Group on the revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy with Terms of Reference as detailed in Annex I below.

Annex I: Terms of Reference of the IOC Working Group on the revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy

Objectives

The Working Group will

- Prepare the Draft IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030), based upon the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021) published as IOC/INF-1332, and taking into account the results and recommendations made by the *GE-CD Task Team relating to the revision of IOC CD Strategy*, from the following inputs:
 - (i) Outcomes of the 2nd IOC Capacity Development Survey (September 2020 - January 2021);
 - (ii) Capacity Development Chapter of the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030);
 - (iii) Consultations with IOC global and regional programmes related to Capacity Development;
 - (iv) Consultations with UN specialized agencies, non-UN IGOs, Global and Regional organizations, programmes and projects, NGOs and private sector partners.
- Submit a preliminary Draft IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030) to the Group of Experts on Capacity Development during its 4th Meeting on October 2022 for its review and subsequent submission of the final Draft IOC

Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030) for adoption by the 32nd Session of the IOC Assembly.

- The Working Group will carry out its work via electronic means.

Membership:

1. The following members of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development:

BARROW, Lorraine	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
BROWN, Bradford	UNITED STATES
EKAU, Werner	GERMANY
EVANS, Alan	UNITED KINGDOM
GONZÁLEZ-QUIRÓS, Rafael	SPAIN
KABANGI, Patrick	CONGO
REED, Allison	UNITED STATES (replaced by Joe Naughton)
SAKYA, Andi Eka	INDONESIA
TROISI, Ariel	ARGENTINA

2. The following IOC CD focal points:

KHOLEIF, Suzan	EGYPT
YAO, Koffi Marcellin	COTE D IVOIRE

3. IOC CD Secretariat:

DIWA, Johanna	PHILIPPINES
PISSIERSSENS, Peter	BELGIUM

Mr Troisi noted the need to capture the views of regional programmes and other organizations/institutions with a view to link up their initiatives in the Strategy. Mr Eka suggested making a list of organizations/institutions that organize CD actions. This was supported by Mr Troisi. He suggested setting up a Google docs where the members of the WG can add content. Mr Pissierssens recommended inviting the IOC regional colleagues to assist with compiling the list.

Mr Pissierssens suggested to use the table in https://ioc-cd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8&Itemid=104 and ask what related CD actions do global and regional programmes, UN specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and national aid programmes, etc., undertake. He suggested to engage a consultant to do a review of ongoing CD initiatives. He also mentioned that external funding can be possibly obtained but asked what will be the timeline. Mr Sakya stated that this will indeed be helpful and he supported the proposal. Mr Troisi, referring to outputs and activities, noted that it is 90% similar to the Decade CD and any major changes were not expected. This adds layer of complexity as the WG needs to look at what global and regional programmes, UN specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and national aid programmes, etc. are doing including the need to look at what Decade actions plan to do regarding CD. Ms Diwa referred to the CD survey of the Decade covering the 32 decade programmes. This should reveal CD needs and opportunities between and among these

programmes and identify potential cooperation which will be useful for subsequent discussions of the working group.

Mr Evans recommended that the study should not be perfectly aligned with the timing of the work of the WG but can be implemented in parallel throughout 2022, where the consultants inputs could be digested by the WG during Autumn 2022. He also recommended that this should be maintained online as a “portal”.

Ms Diwa recalled that during the 3rd session of the GE-CD, the Group agreed on the following timeline relating to the revision of the IOC CD Strategy. She invited the WG members to discuss and agree on the work flow and assignments under each task. A framework for expectations, assignments and guide on how to undertake each item will be developed.

vii) revise the IOC Capacity Development Strategy and prepare a proposal for submission to the IOC Assembly at its 32 nd Session;	June 2023
- <i>WG meetings for IOC CD Strategy 2023-2030</i>	<i>January-March 2022</i>
- <i>WG write inputs for consideration by the GE-CD</i>	<i>April 2022-June 2022</i>
- <i>WG prepare first draft</i>	<i>July 2022</i>
- <i>Review first draft at GE-CD-IV</i>	<i>November 2022</i>
- <i>WG revise first draft</i>	<i>January 2023</i>
- <i>Secretariat to finalize the new IOC CD Strategy 2023-2030 for submission to the IOC-XXXII Session</i>	<i>March 2023</i>

The Working Group decided to develop a compendium of CD activities by other global and regional programmes, UN specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and national aid programmes, etc., to be maintained as an online portal, and requested the Secretariat to seek external funding to hire a consultant to carry out the work.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

This agenda item was introduced by Johanna Diwa.

She recalled the recommendations of the Task Team's review and summarized highlights of proposed revisions ([IOC/INF-1396](#)) for the consideration by the Working Group in discussing its workplan:

a. Vision Statement, Rationale and Objectives

The IOC CD Strategy's vision statements, rationale and objectives need to be aligned with the Ocean Decade's focus on capacity to do the science, as well as on the capacity to influence the design of the science, and participate in co-design efforts to develop solutions for sustainable development. This implies increased capacity to understand why ocean science is important for achieving the SDGs, as well as capacity development targeting a wide range of sustainable development solutions (for example, evidence based policy-making, management, innovation or technology). In this sense, the IOC Capacity Development strategy should be formulated targeting not only scientists, but also the users of knowledge such as governments, policy-makers, managers and innovators.

b. Strategic Framework

The strategic framework and the proposed approach of capacity development efforts throughout the Ocean Decade builds on that contained in the IOC CD Strategy 2015 – 2021, which itself was developed following an analysis of the capacity development plans and strategies of partner UN agencies. As such, the principles, expected outcomes and priority activities in the Ocean Decade CD chapter closely align with the outputs and activities in the current IOC CD Strategy. Nevertheless, there were several substantial elements in the Ocean Decade CD Chapter that may need to be synchronized and harmonized, without discarding current outcomes and activities that are still relevant, detect changes and reflect them in the strategy by 2030.

c. Implementation Plan

Concerning the development of an overall Implementation Plan for the IOC CD Strategy:

- As it is clearly stated in the Ocean Decade IP, the integration of natural sciences and societal disciplines into a holistic assessment of the marine

environment must also be a general principle in CD strategies and initiatives. Sustainable resource management requires an understanding of the seas and our use of them via an integrated system which merges the natural and human aspects. Therefore, conceptual frameworks that integrate human and social sciences into holistic assessments of the marine environment are required;

- Clearer links between CD and global reporting needs that would enable developing countries gain access to necessary resources and training e.g. through GEF;
- History of the IOC and IOC CD Best Practice in international cooperation; strengthen the Best Practices concept in CD activities at national level;
- Since ocean observation is very expensive, successful collaboration need be introduced particularly showing the successful indicator for supporting the collaboration.

D. Priority

Although SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs are already a priority in the IOC CD Strategy, this role has to be more specific and reinforced by:

- Strengthening the science-policy interface through the development and/or delivery of decision-making support tools and inclusive stakeholder's engagement processes for evidence-based policy and trade-offs development, consensus building and integrated solutions.
- Encouraging policies to promote technological upgrading; strengthening science and technology and increasing investment in basic and related research facilities / institutions are central and priorities for the future sustainability of these countries.
- Strengthening and highlighting the key role of marine science, as essential to deliver the tools needed to tackle the root causes of existing vulnerabilities and to identify climate and ocean environment-related security risks faced in coastal areas, in particular by SIDS.
- Ocean science informs coastal ecosystem restorations and, in that context, the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS should be recognized.

E. Scope

The role of gender, of traditional and indigenous knowledge and social inclusion, in general, must be reinforced in the IOC CD Strategy. This includes:

- Helping indigenous people to collect and document their traditional knowledge scientifically, and incorporate traditional knowledge and engage in ocean science and resource management organically.
- Social inclusion. Ensuring the needs of disadvantaged social groups such as indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, older persons, youth and women are understood and addressed to remove barriers to full gender, generational, and geographic diversity, and ensure an equitable and accessible ocean for all.

Prof Kholeif stated the need to have more information on current capacity in SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs and suggested to reach out to these countries especially those which are not members of the regional sub-commissions. Mr Troisi noted that the two CD surveys gathered initial information though quite limited.

Mr Pissierssens noted that especially for these groups of countries there is a need to focus on key priorities due to limited resources so there's a need to look at their CD needs with research and management requirements, which are very different from developed countries.

Mr Evans noted the different ways other UN organisations communicate when designating CD focal points. IOC does not communicate at high governmental level contrary to other UN agencies. He noted that the failure to deliver an implementation plan under the 2015-2021 strategy was unfortunate, as having such a document provides the impetus and focus and ability to capture what's being done.

Mr Brown noted that the survey was weighted to individuals and their personal capacity needs to be broader and focus on regions and institutions. IOC regional bodies are a good place to start to get this wider perspective. To get real change, the perspectives of institutional bodies such as higher education institutions should be considered. He also referred to the USAID CD policy which deals also with how CD needs to be carried out to be effective. He suggested distributing this document to the WG. (Document added on the meeting page - https://www.ioc-cd.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=29841)

Prof Kholeif agreed with Mr Pissierssens but she stressed the need to know about how we can help SIDS, LDCs by working together with these countries. Mr Troisi stated that the WG need to work at a strategic level in capturing major concerns in the strategy and in the implementation plan and bring it to the attention of 150 MS. For example, the highlight on bullet E regarding wider scope of gender, traditional, indigenous, etc, is something where the perspectives of SIDS would be very relevant so the WG can look at this from a strategic level. Mr. Rafael Gonzales agreed with Suzan to look at the needs of SIDS, LDCs, LLDCs, etc. but it would take too much time, and agreed that WG approach this at a strategic level.

Mr Troisi referred to IOC Decision A-31/3.5.3 including a task for the GE-CD reading "iv) repeat the CD survey at regular intervals in 2022 and biannually thereafter, possibly including CD implementation impact monitoring/metrics, also taking into account other methods such as regional reviews, science conferences etc.;" and WG also needs to work closely with GOSR, which can provide basic information on requirements/needs and capacities so the WG can focus its work at a strategic level.

Mr Pissierssens suggested that we need to look beyond our "traditional" IOC subject areas and related CD and take into account the other sectors of society, communities like indigenous etc and bring all these together in the strategy and implementation plan.

The Working Group recognized the recommendations from the Task Team and agreed to continue the discussion on substantial actions in the next WG meetings in February and another in March.

5. DATE OF NEXT WG MEETING

Mr Troisi recommended the WG meet in February and in March. A Doodle poll will be set up for this purpose.

The Working Group agreed to undertake Doodle polls to agree on dates for future meetings.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. CLOSING OF MEETING

Mr. Alan Evans closed the meeting at **15:05 CET.**