



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)**

**Second Meeting of the Open-ended intersessional Working Group on the Status
of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)**

Thursday, 31 March 2022, 11:30 to 13:30 (CET/Paris time)

DRAFT REPORT

The second meeting of the Open-ended intersessional Working Group (OEIWG) on the Status of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) was organized online on Thursday, 31 March 2022 from 11:30 to 13:30 (CET/Paris time).

42 participants in the meeting represented 17 IOC Member States, IOCAFRICA WESTPAC, RCOC and former officers of IOCINDIO (list of participants is in Annex 8).

1. Welcome and Technical arrangements for the meeting.

The acting Technical Secretary of IOCINDIO, M. Justin Ahanhanzo welcomed participants and provided information on technical arrangements, informing participants that the meeting was being recorded.

The Executive Secretary, Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin, welcomed and thanked participants for their attendance. He indicated that with 27 participants online, the meeting could start. He called on the Co-Chairs to proceed further with the meeting.

The Chair of the IOC, Captain Ariel Troisi and the IOCINDIO Chair, Rear Admiral (Retd) Khurshed Alam; as Co-Chairs welcomed Member States Representatives and observers and thanked the Executive Secretary, the Technical Secretary, and the IOC Secretariat as a whole for the support to the Working Group. The number of participants has increased to 30 and culminated to 42 at the end of the meeting.

The IOC Chair reminded participants that the Report of the first meeting of the Working Group was sent to participants for their consideration. He recalled that the Secretariat had also resent the Circular Letter N° 2872 establishing the Working Group together with a series of background documentation related to the Working Group as well as for the present meeting including the provisional draft Agenda, “*A proposal for changing the status of IOCINDIO in a Sub Commission of IOC for the Indian Ocean (IOCIO)*” with a new document prepared by the Executive Secretary entitled “*Elements for establishing*

IOCINDIO as an IOC Sub-Commission” that he will present. The full documentation is available on the homepage of the Working Group.

2. Presentation and adoption of the Agenda of the meeting.

The IOC Chair presented the provisional Agenda and requested comments from participants. The meeting adopted the provisional agenda without changes.

3. Adoption of the Report of the first meeting of the Working Group

The IOC Chair called on the meeting to proceed with the review and subsequent adoption of the Report of the first meeting of the Working Group.

While he was expecting interventions on this particular point of the agenda, the IOCAFRICA Chair, Professor Kouadio Affian requested the floor and made a Statement on behalf of IOCAFRICA. He recalled that IOCAFRICA is fully supportive to the creation of the Sub Commission for IOCINDIO countries. This support is based on several reasons including the following: (i) IOCAFRICA and IOCINDIO have a geographic proximity, sharing the Indian Ocean, (ii) for a good collaboration between the IOCINDIO and IOCAFRICA, both should be at the same level as Sub Commission. However, the IOCAFRICA seek clarifications on the composition of the potential IOCINDIO Subcommission. In fact, the IOCAFRICA’ support does not mean that the establishment of the IOCINDIO Sub Commission should weaken IOCAFRICA. The IOCINDIO Sub Commission should not absorb IOCAFRICA. To avoid confusion or misunderstanding, African Member States should not be asked to be part of the future IOCINDIO Subcommission because the two entities should remain separate with collaboration and cooperation on equal basis.

The IOC Chair, as a Co-Chair of the meeting informed the IOCAFRICA Chair that he would respond to his statement later once the meeting comes to this particular item of the Agenda on the future status of IOCINDIO including the composition of and adherence to the potential future Subcommission. He requested the kind collaboration and understanding of participants to stick to the order of the Agenda. He again called the meeting to comment on the Report of the first meeting.

The meeting adopted the report of the first meeting without comments.

4. Steps towards IOCINDIO with overall review of “A proposal for changing the status of IOCINDIO in a Sub Commission of IOC for the Indian Ocean (IOCIO)”.

The IOC Chair made a presentation, recalling the historical background of IOCINDIO with the view to guide the meeting based on the Report of the first meeting of IOCINDIO in Islamabad, Pakistan, 3-7 July in 1988. He recalled that at that first meeting, IOCINDIO agreed on the geographical scope together with Terms of Reference adopted without modifications by the Fifteenth (15th) Session of the Assembly of IOC in 1989. He quoted

the Paragraph 165 related to the geographical area as described in the above Report as follows:

*“The Regional Committee therefore **agreed** that, bearing in mind the large-scale ocean phenomena in the region, and subject to the concurrence of the African Member States concerned, the geographical area to be covered by IOCINDIO be, in the west, from the southern boundary of Somalia eastward to 60°E then southward to the Antarctic Convergence (about 60°S), and, in the east, the western coasts of Thailand, part of Malaysia (if the boundary is put across the Strait of Malacca at, say, 4°N), Indonesia eastward to the longitude of 120°E, north and south of Australia down to the Antarctic Convergence. **The Regional Committee so recommended to the Assembly.**”*

Regarding the Terms of Reference, he quoted the Paragraph 166 of the above same Report which is read:

“The Regional Committee agreed the Terms of Reference given in Annex IV, hereto, **and recommended** their adoption by the IOC Assembly at its Fifteenth Session.”

The Terms of Reference as indicated in the said Annex IV of the same Report included three major sections:

Section 1.: Basic functions: (i) Plan, promote and co-ordinate the implementation of co – operative regional marine scientific projects, ocean services and the supporting TEMA activities of direct interest to its Member States and to meet specific regional needs; (ii) assist in the implementation of regional components of the Commission's global ocean science programmes and ocean services; (iii) facilitate the transfer of scientific knowledge and technology in the field of marine research and related ocean services, especially to the developing countries of the IOCINDIO region; (iv) facilitate the exchange of oceanographic data and information within and outside the region; (v) identify needs for training, education, and mutual assistance in the marine sciences in its Member States.

Section 2.: Programme development: (i) Planning; (ii) Promotion; (iii) Co-ordination; (iv) Scientific and technical advice and guidance; (v) Co-operation and (vi) Evaluation.

Section 3.: Other functions: (i) Programme of work and financial requirements; (ii) Overall policy recommendation; (iii) Technical policy-making and (iv) reporting.

He drew the particular attention of the meeting on the fact that for more than three decades of existence, IOCINDIO has gathered unvaluable experiences, lessons learned and best practices that the Working Group can use to improve the Terms of Reference towards the transformation of the Committee into a vibrant Subcommission. His full presentation (Annex 2) is also available on the homepage of the Working Group.

He completed his own presentation with an introduction of the presentation prepared by the Executive Secretary entitled *“Elements for establishing IOCINDIO as an IOC Sub-Commission”*. The salient points of this presentation are the following:

1. The proposed title of the potential future Sub Commission: It is proposed to retain the title “IOCINDIO” in order to keep the corporate memory as a legacy of the Committee in the region. In fact, the title IOCINDIO is intuitive because when it is pronounced, it naturally points to the Indian Ocean and sounds clear, while IOCIO does not offer any hint of being related to the Indian Ocean.

2. The geographical area, The Executive Secretary proposed to use the publication S-23 of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), Draft 4th Edition of 2002 on Limits of Oceans and Seas. This definition is different from the one in the Report of the First meeting of IOCINDIO in 1988 as adopted by the Assembly in 1989. Appropriate cooperation and coordination with IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC with joint efforts and complementary activities are required owing to the overlapping areas.

The other elements of the presentation included the following:

- (i) programme of work with the proposed projects and funding support** (to be discussed further).
- (ii) Mechanisms for coordination with adjacent Sub-Commissions.**
- (iii) Governance of IOC programmatic activities in the Indian Ocean region.**
- (iv) IOCINDIO meetings.**
- (v) Policies and standards.**
- (vi) Draft Resolution for the transformation of the IOCINDIO into an IOC Sub Commission.**
- (vii) Adhesion of IOC Member States to IOCINDIO.**

Speaking to this particular point on the adhesion, the IOC Chair took the opportunity to respond to the clarifications requested by the IOCAFRICA Chair. He recalled that according to the IOC Statute and, Rules and Procedures, any Member State may join any Sub Commission of interest, but not forced to join any; even those Member States having coastlines in the region concerned are not forced to join.

He stressed that the Terms of Reference adopted by the Assembly in 1989 required future adjustments. For instance, Training Education and Mutual Assistance (TEMA) referred to at the time does not exist anymore and has been replaced by the IOC Capacity Development Programme. Thus, the Executive Secretary offered the following suggestions:

The Proposed Terms of Reference of the IOC Sub Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) will include the following taking into consideration the current development of IOC:

- (i). Mission**
- (ii). Objectives**
- (iii). Area of responsibility**
- (iv). Structure**
- (v) Member States:** The Sub-Commission will include the IOC Member States that appropriately informed the IOC Executive Secretary about their adhesion to the Sub-

Commission. IOCINDIO membership will not be limited to Member States geographically attached to the Indian Ocean. IOC national focal points for IOCINDIO Member States will be the same as for IOC.

(vi). Officers of the Sub-Commission

The Bureau of the Sub-Commission will comprise the Chair and two Vice-Chairs elected by the Member States of the Sub-Commission and shall serve in accordance with the Guidelines for Structure and Responsibilities of the Subsidiary Bodies of the IOC.

(vii). Working Groups or Task Teams, as required

(viii). Secretariat for the Sub-Commission: IOCINDIO Secretariat will operate as a part of the IOC Secretariat under the authority of the IOC Executive Secretary, capitalizing on UNESCO representation in the Indian Ocean region.

(ix). IOCINDIO meetings: IOCINDIO Member States will meet at least once in two years, preferably in the first part of the year of an IOC Assembly and well in advance of that Assembly to ensure quality statutory reporting. IOCINDIO meetings may include observers if agreed by the IOCINDIO Chair.

(x). Programme and budget: IOCINDIO budget will comprise regular programme budget and extra budgetary contributions, consistent with the funding for all IOC Sub-Commissions. The Sub-Commission will explore opportunities for raising additional resources for implementation of its programmes including in-cash and in-kind contributions by its Member States and other sources.

The IOC Chair, at this point passed the floor to the Executive Secretary to further extend on his presentation. The Co-Chair, Rear Admiral Khurshed Alam (retd) thanked the IOC Chair for the presentation on the historical background. He welcomed the suggestion by the Executive Secretary to keep the name IOCINDIO for the Sub Commission as a legacy. In general, he welcomed the presentation of the IOC Chair and called on the past Chair of IOCINDIO, Dr. Atmanand for comments. Dr. Atmanand indicated that he has no comments at the time.

The Executive Secretary indicated that his presentation is based on the working document prepared and presented by the former and current Chairs of IOCINDIO with the reference, **Decision A-31/3.5.6.IOC**. He invited participants to follow the presentation slide by slide in order to find a consensus or agreement on each point.

- Title/Name of the further Sub Commission: With the exception of one country (France) which requested further consultations, the Group agreed to keep the title/name of IOCINDIO for the further Sub Commission. It should be noted that a collective decision was not taken.

- Terms of Reference (ToRs)

The Terms of Reference in the working document 3.5.6 of the 31st Session of the Assembly of the IOC can serve as the starting point. However, judgments, wishful statements, statements related to current issues or wishes, and thanks need to be replaced by more “constitutional” formulations.

- **Geographic Area of Responsibility:** With reference to the definition of the Indian Ocean Limits by IHO S-23 in the draft publication of 2002, he suggested that the IOCINDIO area of responsibility will be the whole Indian Ocean, taking into account on one hand, that interactions of the Indian Ocean with the global ocean and climate variability including the Indian Ocean Monsoons and the Indian ocean dipole oscillations are global phenomena with impacts beyond its geographic limits and, on the second hand; that the Indian Ocean borders the Southern Ocean and there is no regional subsidiary body taking care of the former, all issues of relevance for the Indian Ocean and its global interactions can be considered through IOCINDIO. He deferred discussions on this point to a later stage after presenting the following points as supportive arguments.

- **Mechanisms for coordination with adjacent Sub-Commissions:** The coordination with IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC can be organized with a view of maximizing value of work on issues of common interest and minimizing duplication. It can be achieved by and will require cross-participation of Secretariat in the work of other Sub Commissions and Governing Bodies and cross-representation. Implementation plans of IOCINDIO, IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC will have to be coordinated as much as possible. Regular consultations between Sub-Commissions' Chairs, Bureaux, and Secretariats will be held.

Activities of any of three Sub-Commission may involve Member States from the other two Sub-Commissions or both of them. Capacity development and training facilities and activities may be shared depending on their thematic and regional focus.

Depending on circumstances, Sub-Commissions may delegate coordination of some of their activities to the other Sub-Commission(s). Particularly, close cooperation and coordination will be needed for the Eastern IOCAFRICA Member States and IOCINDIO Member States.

Potential specific collaborations may include training of participants from IOCINDIO at the OceanTeacher Global Academy-2 centres in India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, and Mozambique and the WESTPAC Regional Training and Research Centres. IOCAFRICA and IOCINDIO have a stronger involvement in IIOE-2 and Indian Ocean Observations programmes and systems.

The Executive Secretary concluded on this point that based on the above, all issues of relevance for the Indian Ocean and its global interactions will be considered through IOCINDIO. He requested participants to express comments and views.

Ambassador, Dr. Hellen Gichuhi, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Kenya to UNESCO took the floor and thanked both the IOC Chair and the Executive Secretary for their respective presentations. She further insisted that despite all the explanations given by the Executive Secretary of the IOC, she is still not convinced that the process of transformation of IOCINDIO into Sub Commission is not killing IOCAFRICA which Secretariat is based in Nairobi with a great potential. As Kenya Representative, she is not convinced that subsuming the IOCAFRICA under the IOCINDIO will not eventually eliminate IOCAFRICA which has good foundations. She stressed that there could be issues related to personnel number, but she does not think that these arguments justified why IOCINDIO should take over IOCAFRICA. She considered that the intention of transforming IOCINDIO into a

SubCommission was not to kill IOCAFRICA. She submitted her statement and requested that it should be included in the Report (Annex 5)

The IOC Chair clarified the point that there is no intention and objective to endanger any existing structure in moving IOCINDIO into a Sub Commission, neither IOCAFRICA, nor WESTPAC. The aim is to build synergies and cooperation among the three Sub Commissions, namely; IOCINDIO, IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC. He noted that the presentation of the Executive Secretary may have missed a clarity on the objectives, and he certified that there is no intention to kill IOCAFRICA.

The Co-Chair, IOCINDIO Chair indicated that IOCAFRICA has been created a while ago with clearly defined structures including Secretariat office, programmes and budget, meetings and reports adopted by successive Sessions of the Assembly of IOC, while IOCINDIO Sub Commission will be the last to be created. As such, the overlapping of areas shall in no way overtake activities and responsibilities of IOCAFRICA. The aim is to develop joint activities among IOCAFRICA and IOCINDIO experts and scientists. He certified that in no manner, IOCINDIO will take over the prerogatives, mission, and duties of IOCAFRICA. He ensured that in his capacity as IOCINDIO Chair alongside with the IOC Chair and the Executive Secretary, there shall be no way that IOCINDIO will kill IOCAFRICA. The purpose of a better coordinated cooperation between the IOCAFRICA and IOCINDIO may be discussed in the future with due respect to the prerogatives of IOCAFRICA with no intention and objective of killing IOCAFRICA.

Through the chat texts, several countries including Bangladesh, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan indicated that a coordination could be improved if the Regional Subsidiary Bodies are all at the same level as Sub Commissions with no prejudice for any country and region. They all concurred that IOCINDIO should not and will not kill IOCAFRICA.

The Executive Secretary indicated that he is happy that the Ambassador Gichuhi is at the meeting and has expressed her views because she speaks with a very strong analysis that helps to make progress. He indicated that his presentation misrepresented his ideas of coordination the regional subsidiary bodies. He regretted for having focussed mainly on capacity development while African programmes and interests go beyond capacity development and include blue economy, maritime spatial planning, solutions to issues, etc. He indicated that he would change the text and pointed out that the issue of coordination is complex and very difficult. Thus, there is a need to find the proper formulation to express how regions should multiply benefits for coordination to harness the knowledge of Indian Ocean to benefit both Africa and IOCINDIO countries. He considered that the intervention of the Ambassador Gichuhi is serious, therefore, he will rework the text to represent without ambiguity, the vision of coordination of plans and networks. The aim is to make the IOCAFRICA even stronger, he insisted.

The IOC Chair joined the Executive Secretary with the view to reformulate the text to make clearer the need for synergies and cooperation, avoiding misunderstanding about killing or weakening IOCAFRICA.

The IOCAFRICA Chair pointed out that the commonly expressed ideas that there is no capacity in Africa, reducing the African programmes to capacity development activities is wrong. He is happy that the Executive Secretary declared that he will reformulate his text. He took note that the adherence to any IOC regional subsidiary body or programmes is based on national will. However, he insisted that the geographic area of IOCINDIO should be reformulated and clearly defined from the onset before the establishment of the Sub Commission to avoid overlap with IOCAFRICA domain.

Ambassador Gichuhi took the floor again and thanked the Executive Secretary for indicating that the documentation will be revised. She stressed the utmost importance to have a sound reformulated document that should reflect the explicit clarifications given at the present meeting emphasizing the collaborative and cooperative nature of the Sub Commissions. The current text as presented is not acceptable in the same way that all the arguments presented do not explain why the IOCAFRICA Secretariat in Nairobi is being reduced to capacity building entity only. She further explained that there should be no misunderstanding with regards to the interventions of Eastern African countries for their support to the establishment of the IOCINDIO Sub Commission, which is precisely the reason why they attended the meeting. They indeed fully support the establishment of the Sub Commission and there is no intention to kill IOCINDIO. Instead, the sooner IOCINDIO Sub Commission will be established, better it would be for African countries for a win-win cooperation. The issue is that African countries will never accept in any uncertain terms that the area of geographic responsibility of IOCINDIO will be the entire Indian Ocean, threatening African prerogatives in the Indian Ocean. She stressed that if the entire geographic area is covered by only one regional subsidiary body, it would mean that the second body is subordinate to the earlier and that is simply unacceptable to African countries. She noted that her point is very clear and so it should be. She further noted that the document presented has not been ratified by the IOC Assembly and as such this Group should not make a decision based on its content. She also recalled that because IOCINDIO already is in existence as a Committee with a number of participating countries, the only task before the Working Group is to pursue the further steps towards its transformation into a Sub Commission with the same geographic area. The new Sub Commission can be established with the current membership of the existing Committee.

The IOC Chair thanked the Ambassador Gichuhi and assured her that the discussions of this meeting will be adequately reflected in the Report of the meeting and will help for clarifications in the final document to be presented to the 32nd Session of the Assembly of the IOC in 2023. He stressed that a right formulation is important to avoid misunderstanding with unnecessary extended discussions at the Assembly. The IOC Chair further invited the Working Group to be very clear in its intentions and in the documentation before going to the Assembly.

The Technical Secretary of IOCINDIO clarified the point that according to the IOC Manual and the updated Guidelines for Regional Subsidiary Bodies, all the regional subsidiary bodies, either Sub Commissions or Committees have the mandate to implement in their respective regions the IOC global programmes, meaning that none of them is exempted from any IOC global programmes including Ocean Observations and

Services, Ocean Sciences, Tsunamis, Ocean Governance, capacity development, etc. He also informed the Working Group that bearing from the experiences in coordinating regional programmes, there is already a very good collaboration between IOCAFRICA and IOCINDIO with mutual participation in meetings.

The WESTPAC Co-Chair, Dr. Kentaro Ando echoed the opinions of previous speakers. He suggested that the Working Group may use “Reference area” with a more focus on collaboration.

Tanzania strongly supported the comments made by the Representative of Kenya, the Ambassador Gichuhi. He highlighted that those problems are arising from the way that the geographic area of responsibility of the future IOCINDIO Sub Commission has been now presented based on the entire Indian Ocean basin. This new presentation is creating a confusion to African countries and institutions because the geographic area of the IOCAFRICA is based on countries representation which is the vision of the African Union. In fact, the African Union is also developing Pan African programmes in ocean sciences, observations, and services with African capacities in earth observations, blue economy, ocean governance and policy and maritime strategy for all African countries to work together. He recalled that in the past, there were two Regional Committees in Africa. However, due to the inactivity of both Committees, the African countries united and joined forces to create a single Sub Commission for the entire continent as IOCAFRICA in order to reinforce cooperation. The problem is that now, as suggested in the presentation of the Executive Secretary, if IOCINDIO will cover the entire Indian Ocean, then how the Eastern African countries would work together with the West African countries? He underlined that the matter was discussed at the IOC Executive Council Session last year. He called on the Executive Secretary to reconsider seriously the area of geographic responsibility to avoid confusion for the IOC itself, for the African countries in the Indian Ocean and for other institutions, in particular the African Union. The concern is of the greatest concern and as such, Tanzania does not support the new proposal related to the geographic area of responsibility of IOCINDIO.

With the view to reach a consensus, the IOC Chair presented again his first slide from the report of the first meeting of IOCINDIO on the area of geographic responsibility adopted by the IOC Assembly in 1989. He noted that this geographic definition is different from the IHO publication which presently raised serious concerns from Member States. Subsequently, he requested if the Working Group would agree to use the principle of the first meeting of the IOCINDIO rather than the geography of the Indian Ocean.

The IOCINDIO Chair reiterated that if the discussions are too lengthy, the risk is not for IOCAFRICA to be killed, but rather for IOCINDIO to die. He is amenable to see amendments that avoid prejudices to IOCAFRICA or any country.

The Representative of the United Kingdom, Prof. Alan Evans indicated that he was speaking as an observer and would like to understand the principle used to define the area of geographic responsibility of IOCINDIO. He recognized the concerns related to the IOCINDIO having a perceived authority or responsibility for areas of national jurisdiction

of Eastern African countries that do not want to be subordinate to IOCINDIO. He requested clarifications on the principle underlying the geographic area of responsibility for the previous Sub Commissions. How precisely the issues of national jurisdictions have been tackled then, he asked.

The IOC Chair responded that this situation did not happen with IOCARIBE.

The Executive Secretary conceded again that the current formulation is wrong and that he will revise the text. He acknowledged that there is a need to go for a principle of the first IOCINDIO meeting and not to the geography of the Indian Ocean to make sure that Africa benefits from IOCINDIO.

The IOC Chair requested the meeting if it would be useful to establish a small drafting or discussions group to address this particular issue of the geographical area of responsibility. He indicated that the results of the proposed small group would be later presented to the whole intersessional Working Group for discussions. This suggestion was not retained. He then later asked if the Working Group would accept to retain the initial agreed geographic area in the report of the first meeting of the IOCINDIO in 1988 which was adopted by the Assembly 1989.

The IOCINDIO Chair accepted the suggestion to keep the current definition of geographic area of responsibility as adopted at the Assembly in 1989 with the need for cooperation and coordination with the IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC.

Tanzania represented by Dr. Masalu indicated that IOCINDIO Sub Commission can start with the current membership, avoiding the new definition of geographic area.

Ambassador Gichuhi, the Representative of Kenya supported the idea that the quickest way of having IOCINDIO moving into a Sub Commission is to work with the adopted text with current membership.

Globally, the Working Group accepted the suggestion to keep the original geographic area adopted by the Assembly of the IOC in 1989.

The IOC Chair regretted that there was no map attached to the definition of the geographic area defined at the first meeting of IOCINDIO as adopted by the Assembly in 1989.

A number of participating countries suggested to add the marginal seas of the Indian Ocean to the geographic area of the further IOCINDIO Sub Commission.

The WESTPAC Representative indicated that the marginal seas in maritime continent were not included.

Following the consensus on the area of geographic responsibility, the Executive Secretary continued his presentation on the other elements with the mission and Objectives taken from the IOC Statutes but requiring modification with the geographic area.

He further highlighted two parallel and interacting processes for the establishment of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean:

- The first process relates to the formal intergovernmental design of IOCINDIO: determining its ToRs, preparing the resolution and the process leading to its endorsement and adhesion of Member States.

- The second process relates to IOCINDIO function. It should involve identification of issues and problems, opportunities in the Indian Ocean that IOCINDIO will be meaningfully addressing, leading to interest and genuine commitment of Member States.

He noted that it is imperative to start filling the agenda of emerging Sub Commission, otherwise, there is a risk that the Sub Commission will be established but will have no meaningful program of work. The Ocean Decade provides a unique opportunity to mobilize actors in the region. His full presentation is included as (Annex 4) .

Due to time constraints, there were no further discussions on the last part of the presentation.

5. Conclusions by the Co-Chairs.

The Co-Chairs thanked participants for their attendance and contributions to the discussions. They also thanked the Executive Secretary for his efforts and ensured the Group that the required modification will be made to the document. The Executive Secretary also thanked participants for good discussions.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Adopted Agenda.

Annex 2: Presentation of the IOC Chair.

Annex 3: Presentation of the Executive Secretary of the IOC.

Annex 4: The document prepared by the Executive Secretary entitled: “Elements for establishing IOCINDIO as an IOC Sub-Commission” including the suggested Area of Geographic Responsibility and Terms of Reference of the potential IOCINDIO Sub Commission.

Annex 5: The Statement of the Representative of Kenya.

Annex 6: List of participants.

Annex 1: Adopted Agenda



Open-ended intersessional Working Group (OEIWG) on the Status of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

Second (2nd) Meeting

Thursday, 31 March 2022, 11:30 to 13:30 (CEST/Paris time)

Connection details for the Zoom meeting

<https://unesco-org.zoom.us/j/99558394898>

ID: 995 5839 4898

Code: 156850

Background documents/IOC Decision A-31/3.5.6.IOC.

1. IOC Circular Letter 2872 dated 4th January 2022 (including the attachments and links for documentation), inviting Member States to nominate members of the open-ended intersessional Working Group (OEIWG) on the Status of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO).
2. A proposal for Changing the Status of IOCINDIO in a Sub-Commission of IOC for the Indian Ocean (IOCIO).
3. Draft Report of the First meeting of the Working Group (28th February 2022).

Co-Chairs of the OEIWG: IOC Chair, Captain Ariel Troisi
IOCINDIO Chair, Rear Admiral (Retd) Khurshed Alam.

Provisional agenda for comments

1. Welcome and Technical arrangements for the meeting
2. Presentation and adoption of the agenda of the meeting
3. Adoption of the Report of the First meeting of the Working Group
4. Steps towards IOCINDIO with overall review of "A proposal for changing the status of IOCINDIO in a Sub Commission of IOC for the Indian Ocean (IOCIO).
5. Conclusions by the Co-Chairs