



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO – 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP, France
<http://ioc.unesco.org> - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 03 18
E-mail: v.ryabinin@unesco.org

IOC Circular Letter No 2926
(Available in English only)

IOC/VR/JA
5 January 2023

To : Member States of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

cc. : IOC Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with the IOC
National Commissions for UNESCO, and
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO of IOC Member States
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC
Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of IOCINDIO, IOCAFRICA, WESTPAC, IOCARIBE
Directors, UNESCO Offices in IOCINDIO region

Subject: Invitation to the Ninth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-IX), Dhaka, Bangladesh, 28–30 March 2023

I have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in the Ninth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-IX), to be generously hosted by the Government of Bangladesh from 28 to 30 March in Dhaka.

The session will bring together national competent governmental agencies, marine scientific communities and other relevant IOC stakeholders in the region, as well as the representatives from the IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies with the view to foster regional and international dialogue, partnerships and cooperation, ocean science-policy interface, advance ocean science development, enhance technical and institutional capacities, and co-design ocean science solutions to critical challenges for sustainable development in the central Indian Ocean.

IOCINDIO-IX will comprehensively review the implementation of the Committee workplan since its last session in May 2021. The Committee will be updated on global ocean-related developments, including the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), and will deliberate on its engagement in and contribution to the Ocean Decade, for example through the establishment of national Decade Committees. Special attention will be given to the progress review of the IOC open-ended intersessional Working Group on the Status of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (cf. [IOC/A-31/3.5.6.Doc](#)) in view of the transformation of the Committee into an IOC Sub-Commission, and to the supporting actions mobilized.

During the session, a **Senior Governmental and Regional Officials' Forum** chaired by the host country will be organised to express high-level commitments to the work of the IOC, the Ocean

Chairperson

Mr Ariel Hernan TROISI
Technical Secretary
Navy Hydrographic Service
Av. Montes de Oca 2124
C1270ABV Buenos Aires
ARGENTINA

Executive Secretary

Dr Vladimir RYABININ
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Vice-Chairpersons

Dr Marie-Alexandrine SICRE
Directrice de Recherche
Centre national de la recherche scientifique
(CNRS)
3 rue Michel Ange
75016 Paris
FRANCE

Dr Alexander FROLOV
Assistant to the President
National Research Center "Kurchatov Institute"
Academika Kurchatova pl., 1
123182 Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr Frederico Antonio SARAIVA NOGUEIRA
Navy Captain (Ret) Directorate
of Hydrography and Navigation
Rua Barao de Jaceguai S/N
24048-900 Niterói
BRAZIL

Dr Srinivasa Kumar TUMMALA
Director
Indian National Centre for Ocean
Information Services (INCOIS)
Pragati Nagar, Nizampet
P.O. 500090 Hyderabad
INDIA

Dr Karim HILMI
Directeur de Recherche
Institut National de Recherche
Halieutique (INRH)
02, Boulevard Sidi Abderrahmane
Ain Diab
20180 Casablanca
MOROCCO

Decade and to the IOCINDIO with regard to its reinforcement and enhancement in view of its transformation into an IOC Sub-commission for the central Indian Ocean.

An **IOCINDIO Youth Forum** is also planned during the Session with the view to foster involvement of students and early careers ocean scientists in the work of IOCINDIO and promote networking, mentoring and enhancement of national and regional capacity development. In order to achieve a full representation from the region, Member States are strongly encouraged to ensure the participation of their national youth associations and networks, notably students and early career scientists.

Taking into consideration the scientific and technical nature of the work of the IOC and the Committee, Member States and partners are strongly encouraged to ensure technical competencies and experiences required for their Delegations, also ensuring a gender balance.

In order to exchange views, receive advice from adjacent Sub-commissions and to foster inter-regional cooperation and co-design, their Officers and Technical Secretaries are cordially invited and strongly encouraged to attend the Session in Dhaka.

Please, kindly communicate in writing the names, positions, and contact addresses of the members of your delegations to me and Mr Justin Ahanhanzo (j.ahanhanzo@unesco.org) with copy to Ms Elena Iasyreva (e.iasyreva@unesco.org) at your earliest convenience but no later than 31 January 2023.

Relevant information and logistics arrangements for participants, will be forwarded to you via electronic means and will be posted on the [IOCINDIO-IX webpage](#) in due course. A copy of the Provisional Agenda is attached for your information as Annex 1. Given the extensive agenda of the session scheduled over three days only (tentatively including a half day for field study), I would like to kindly request Delegations to focus their interventions on the vision, guidance, and recommendations for concrete support actions to the IOC programmes, the implementation of the Ocean Decade in the region and the transformation of the Committee into an IOC Sub-commission. Member States and Observers are invited to submit a written national report on past activities by 14 March 2023 using the template attached in annex 2.

In connection with logistical arrangements, I am pleased to inform delegates that the Government of Bangladesh is graciously offering in-kind contributions for the organization of the session, including:

- (i) Accommodation with breakfast and lunch to participants with a priority order given to representatives of Member States, the IOC Regional Sub-commissions, regional intergovernmental institutions, science networks and programmes in the Indian Ocean and Overseas partners, such as the IORA, PEMSA, IIOE-2, etc. (fifty–50) participants expected);
- (ii) Terminal pick up from the airport to the hotel and back;
- (iii) Local logistics.

At the IOCINDIO-IX Session, Member States will elect the Officers of the Committee, i.e., one Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons for the next 2-year intersessional period, April 2023–April 2025. Elected Officers may be re-elected for one additional term of office. Information about the election procedure and prescribed nomination forms are attached hereafter as Annex 3. Kindly note that nominations should be sent to me with a copy to Mr Justin Ahanhanzo, Acting Technical Secretary of IOCINDIO at (j.ahanhanzo@unesco.org) and Ms Elena Iasyreva at (e.iasyreva@unesco.org), no later than 28 February 2023 at 18:00 p.m. (Paris time). As a reminder, be advised that the current IOCINDIO Officers are the following: Chair, Rear Admiral (retd) Khurshed Alam (Bangladesh), Vice Chairs Dr Maryam Ghaemi (Iran) and Dr Saif AlGhais (United Arab Emirates) serving their first term.

Current IOCINDIO Member States are: Australia, Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (3): Provisional Agenda
Template for national reporting
Election Procedures & Forms

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Ninth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-IX), Dhaka, Bangladesh, 28–30 March 2023

PROVISIONAL AGENDA (Version 1)

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

- 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- 2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEURS FOR THE SESSION
- 2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION

3. STATUTORY REPORTS

- 3.1 STATEMENT OF THE IOCINDIO CHAIR
- 3.2 REPORT BY THE ACTING TECHNICAL SECRETARY OF IOCINDIO ON INTERSESSIONAL PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION
- 3.3 PROGRESS REPORT ON PRIORITY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS
 - 3.3.1 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COASTAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING, SEA-LEVEL RISE, AND STORM SURGES PREDICTION AND FORECASTING
 - 3.3.2 BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, OCEAN ECOSYSTEM AND HUMAN HEALTH
 - 3.3.3 OCEAN OBSERVATIONS AND DATA MANAGEMENT
 - 3.3.4 TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEM
 - 3.3.5 IIOE-2
- 3.4 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UNESCO, THE IOC, AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO IOCINDIO

4. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1 UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CONTRIBUTION OF IOCINDIO MEMBER STATES
- 4.2 PREPARATION FOR THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE IOCINDIO INTERNATIONAL OCEAN SCIENCE CONFERENCE TOWARDS THE SECOND UN DECADE CONFERENCE
- 4.3 PROGRESS REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE STATUS OF IOCINDIO (A-31/3.5.6.IOC)
- 4.4 INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH IOC SUB-COMMISSIONS (IOCAFRICA, WESTPAC, IOCARIBE)

5. REGIONAL OWNERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP IN OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

5.1 SENIOR GOVERNMENTAL AND REGIONAL OFFICIALS' FORUM

5.2 IOCINDIO YOUTH FORUM

6. IOCINDIO SYMPOSIUM ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

6.1 UNESCO CATEGORY 2 CENTRES IN THE IOCINDIO REGION

6.2 UNESCO CHAIRS IN THE IOCINDIO REGION

6.3 OCEAN TEACHER ACADEMY IN THE IOCINDIO REGION

7. REVIEW OF IOCINDIO WORK PLAN AND BUDGET, ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAMME/PROJECT/WORKING GROUPS FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 2023– APRIL 2025

Note: Due to time constraints, national reports will be uploaded in advance on the webpage of the Session in order to avoid oral presentations. Posters of programmes, projects, and WGs are encouraged for displayed at the meeting venue.

8. ELECTIONS

9. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

10. OTHER MATTERS

11. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. CLOSURE

Ninth Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-IX)
Dhaka, Bangladesh, 28–30 March 2023

Template for national Report (deadline for submission: 14 March 2023)

Please, provide a brief description of the country programmes related to the IOCINDIO Work programme based on the IOC global functions.
NB: Feel free to provide additional programmes even if different of the below listed.

Country:

Presenter(s) full names and position:

Full contacts address of the presenter(s):

Names of members of national delegation attending IOCINDIO-VIII

<u>IOC Function A : Ocean Science and Research</u>				
<u>IOCINDIO Programme:</u> Effects of human induced changes: Ocean acidification, eutrophication, hypoxia, harmful algal blooms (HABs) in coastal waters of the North-western Indian Ocean				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
<u>IOC Function B: Observing Systems & Data</u>				
<u>IOCINDIO Programme:</u> Ocean observations, coastal zone management, circulations and fisheries.				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
<u>IOC Function C: Ocean Hazards</u>				

<u>IOCINDIO Programmes</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coastal vulnerability assessment for sea level rise and storm surges. - Monitoring with Responsible Response of Oil Spill in inner ROPME Sea. 				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
<u>IOC Function D: Assessments & information for Policy</u>				
<u>IOCINDIO Programmes: 2050 Integrated Ocean Policy Advice for Proactive Planning and Management for IOCINDIO Member States.</u>				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
<u>IOC Function E: Governance</u>				
<u>IOCINDIO Programme: Blue Economy Business opportunities in the context of climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.</u>				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
<u>IOC Function F: Capacity Development</u>				
<u>IOCINDIO Programme: IOCINDIO Networking Research Infrastructures, Facilities and Human Resources.</u>				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
ANY OTHER PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS RELEVANT TO IOC, IOCINDIO AND THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021-2030)				

Election Procedures and Forms (deadline for submission: 28 February 2023)

As customary, at its Ninth Intergovernmental Session, the **IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-IX), Dhaka, Bangladesh, 28–30 March 2023**, shall elect one Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons, for the term April 2023–April 2025.

The Chairperson shall preside over the sessions of the Regional Committee and carry out the duties which are entrusted to him/her. The Vice-Chairpersons assist the Chairperson in his/her functions and substitute him/her where necessary. The Vice-chairpersons will be entrusted with specific responsibilities.

The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of an IOC Subsidiary Body shall not remain in his/her mandate for more than two successive terms, according to the IOC Rules of Procedure.

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 Head of Delegation to the IOCINDIO-IX or through the IOC Focal Point in the Member State or the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO.

Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary using **Form A** (Chairperson) or **Form B** (Vice-chairperson). They must reach the Executive Secretary or his representative by the specified deadline for nomination (as indicated in the Circular Letter of IOCINDIO-IX) .

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 nomination shall also contain a CV with the profile of the candidate (**Form C**).

Each candidate must be seconded by two Member States of IOCINDIO other than the nominating Member State.

Elections

The IOC general practice is working and deciding by consensus (Rule 38.2).

Should voting be necessary, decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting (Rule 43.1), by secret ballot.

Current IOCINDIO Chairperson and Vice-chairpersons

Chairperson: Rear Admiral (retd) Khurshed Alam (Bangladesh)
Vice-chairpersons: Dr Maryam Ghaemi (Iran) and Dr Saif AlGhais (United Arab Emirates)

They were elected, by acclamation at the Eighth Intergovernmental Session of IOCINDIO (IOCINDIO-VIII), 17–19 May 2021 (online).

Ninth Intergovernmental Session of IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean
(IOCINDIO-IX), Dhaka, Bangladesh, 28–30 March 2023

Biennial Elections for Chairperson

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 **IOCINDIO** and, if elected, to take an active part in the work of it.

Signature of the Nominee:

Seconder 1

Seconder 2

Member State of the IOCINDIO

Name in capitals

Position

Signature

Date sent to the IOC Secretariat

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat

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(IOCINDIO-IX), Dhaka, Bangladesh, 28–30 March 2023

Biennial Elections for Vice-Chairperson

Form B – Vice-Chairperson

Name of Member State:

Name of Nominee:

I declare that I am prepared to stand for election to the post of Vice-Chairperson of the **IOCINDIO** and, if elected, to take an active part in the work of it.

Signature of the Nominee:

Seconder 1

Seconder 2

Member State of the **IOCINDIO**

Name in capitals

Position

Signature

Date sent to the IOC Secretariat

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat

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Ninth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean
(IOCINDIO-IX), Dhaka, Bangladesh, 28–30 March 2023

Biennial Elections for Chair and Vice-Chairpersons

Form C– CV of Nominee

[NAME]

Date of birth:

Languages:

Address:

Phone number:

Fax number:

Email:

CURRENT POSITION

[Please insert text]

EDUCATION

[Please insert text]

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[Please insert text]