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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Fifty-fifth Session of the Executive Council
UNESCO, Paris, 14–17 June 2022

SUMMARY REPORT

This document contains the narrative report of the discussion prepared by the Secretariat during the session. The decisions and resolutions contained in this report were adopted in plenary session.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	page
1. OPENING.....	1
2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	2
2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.....	2
2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR	2
2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS	2
2.4 INTRODUCTION OF TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION	2
2.5 ROGER REVELLE MEMORIAL LECTURE	3
3. IOC MATTERS AND REPORTS	4
3.1 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY (July 2021–May 2022).....	4
3.2 INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICE (IOS) EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGIC POSITIONING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC-UNESCO).....	8
3.3 PRESENTATION OF THE PILOT <i>IOC STATE OF THE OCEAN REPORT</i>	8
3.4 OCEAN OBSERVATIONS IN AREAS UNDER NATIONAL JURISDICTION	12
3.5 REPORTS OF IOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES	15
3.5.1 Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards	15
3.5.1.1 <i>Regional Early Warning Services</i>	15
3.5.1.2 <i>Global Coordination of Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards</i>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
3.5.2 Progress Report of the Intersessional Open-ended Working Group on the Status of the Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)	23
4. IOC RELEVANT ISSUES RELATED TO UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENTS	25
4.1 REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030).....	25
4.2 OTHER UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVES.....	28
5. GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING	29
5.1 FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION A-31/2: GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING MATTERS OF THE COMMISSION.....	29
5.2 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE	31
5.3 PREPARATION OF THE NEXT SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.....	33

6.	ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND MODALITIES FOR THE FINALISATION OF THE REPORT	34
7.	CLOSURE.....	34

1. OPENING

1. The Chair, Mr Ariel Hernan Troisi, opened the 55th session of the IOC Executive Council at 10.00 a.m.
2. UNESCO Deputy Director-General Xing Qu welcomed the IOC Executive Council on behalf of UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. In his intervention the Deputy Director-General acknowledged the Ocean Decade as an opportunity that UNESCO and the IOC must seize to better understand, protect and raise awareness of the ocean. He noted the Commission's unique framework which allows to rise to the challenges of deepening our scientific knowledge of the ocean and to drive our actions to better protect this crucial resource. (Refer to annex__ for full text.)
3. The Chair thanked Deputy Director-General and asked him to convey to the Director-General the profound appreciation of IOC Member States for her continued support to IOC and inspiring leadership.
4. In his opening speech, the Chair suggested that as the IOC governing bodies return to face-to-face meetings, it may be time to consider a return to the practice of dedicating an item to the IOC and the Future of the Ocean to ensure a continuous discussion on the strategic positioning of the IOC and fulfilment of our lofty goals. Acknowledging both the scope of issues covered by Ocean Decade and the critical need for active communication and partnership to reach its objectives, he updated the Member States on the intersessional work of the IOC Officers. Finally, he acknowledged the role of the Ocean Decade in raising visibility for the ocean, while also reminding Member States of the bedrock status of the IOC and its many valuable activities, products and services and called on them to consider enhanced financial support of core programmes. (Refer to annex__ for full text.)
5. The representatives of four Member States took the floor.
6. The United States of America delivered a statement on behalf of 37 Member States denouncing the Russian Federation's 24 February 2022 aggression against Ukraine echoing the UN Secretary-General's statement in this regard.
7. Russian Federation reaffirmed its commitment to the objectives of the IOC, as one of the founding Member States of the Commission, and expressed concern that political considerations outside the scope of IOC's work may be prejudicial to the promotion of international scientific cooperation.
8. One Member States expressed concern over the overlap of the IOC Executive Council session with the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB-ICC).
9. The Chair invited the Executive Council to pay tribute to the distinguished individuals who had participated in the work of the Commission and passed away recently. The participants stood for a minute of silence to honour: Allen Varley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 1932–2022), Valery Eremeev (Ukraine, 1942–2020), and Satya Prakash (India, 1979–2021).
10. The following delegations chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Kenya, Russian Federation and United States of America.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

11. The Chair introduced this item by presenting the provisional agenda and timetable for the session.
12. The Chair clarified that the report of the session will be finalised by correspondence, while decisions and resolutions will be adopted in session.
13. The Executive Secretary informed the Executive Council that the Secretariat received one draft resolution on the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (agenda item 4.1) by the deadline of 9 June 2022. The draft resolution was published in the Action Paper (EC-55/AP) in the four official languages of the Commission. As per usual, the draft resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission (agenda item 5.2) would be prepared during the session by the Financial Committee.
14. Two Member States questioned the practice of adopting decisions and resolutions in English only. They requested the decisions be examined on the screen in English and French as is customary in UNESCO's governing bodies.
15. One Member State questioned the request recalling the specificity of the IOC Statutes and Rules regarding the working languages of the Commission.
16. The Executive Secretary proposed that necessary technical arrangements be put in place to allow decisions and resolutions to be adopted in English and French from the following day. This offer was accepted and it was implemented on the same day starting after the lunch break.

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

17. The representatives of three Member States took the floor.
18. On a proposal of Portugal seconded by Morocco, Dr Suzan EL Gharabawy of Egypt was designated Rapporteur for the session.

2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

19. The Chair invited the Executive Council to form two sessional committees, the Resolutions Committee and the Financial Committee, and invited proposals for sessional working groups. No proposals were made.

2.4 INTRODUCTION OF TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

20. The Executive Secretary introduced this item. He reminded that draft decisions were to be adopted at the end of the discussion of each agenda item. The Action Paper was intentionally drafted as a pre-report in order to streamline the reporting process during the session. The Executive Secretary noted that one draft resolution was received before 9 June 2022 at 10:00 a.m. All draft resolutions were examined for adoption under agenda item 6. The complete set of adopted decisions and resolutions in all four languages would be made available at the end of the session, in line with the established UNESCO practices. The narrative part of the report will be drafted by the Secretariat during the session in English. The translation and the finalization of the report in four languages will be done by correspondence after the session. Member States that wished to have specific, particularly important, plenary interventions recorded, were invited to provide written records thereof using a dedicated template through an e-mail address (iocgovbody@unesco.org) set up for this purpose.

21. The representatives of three Member States took the floor under item 2.
22. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-55/2.

Organization of the Session

The Executive Council,

I. Agenda

Adopts the agenda and the timetable of work as set out in documents IOC/EC-55/2.1.Doc and Addendum without modification.

II. Rapporteur

On a proposal of Portugal, seconded by Morocco,

Designates Dr Suzan EL Gharabawy of Egypt, Rapporteur for its present session to assist the Chairperson and the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the draft provisional report of the session;

III. Sessional Committees and Working Groups

Establishes the following sessional open-ended committees:

Financial Committee: to finalise a resolution under items 5.1 and 5.2; under the chairship of Dr Karim Hilmi (Morocco, Vice-chair) with the following Member States participating: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, France, Germany, Grenada, Japan, Kuwait, Morocco, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Türkiye, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom, and United States of America. Ms Ksenia Yvinec provided the Secretariat support to the Financial Committee.

Resolutions Committee: to report on all draft resolutions duly presented for consideration at the session by 9 June and on the draft resolution covering financial matters drafted during the session; under the chairship of Prof. Yutaka Michida (Japan) with the following Member States participating: Brazil, France, India, Japan, Portugal, Russian Federation, and United States of America. Julian Barbière provided the Secretariat support to the Resolutions Committee.

2.5 ROGER REVELLE MEMORIAL LECTURE

23. The Chair introduced this item and reminded that the Roger Revelle Lecture series was established by the IOC in 1991 to recognize outstanding contributions to climate related ocean sciences by inspired researchers, who communicate their knowledge and global vision of the challenges facing our planet in order to shape a better future for humankind. The lecture is dedicated to Roger Revelle (1909–1991) who was among the early scientists to study anthropogenic global warming. He was also one of the founding fathers of the IOC.
24. Prof. Dr Hans-Otto Pörtner, Alfred-Wegener-Institute, Germany, was invited to give the IOC Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture 2022 in recognition of his leadership in climate science and climate negotiations for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC), and for his key role in making climate change recognized as ocean change.
25. The IOC has for long been, and continues to be, deeply involved in climate research as well as the interface between climate science and policy. With a Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture by a leading scientist as Prof. Dr Hans-Otto Pörtner, the IOC wish to emphasize this further and to draw the attention of the broadest possible audience to the challenges posed to the ocean and humanity.
26. The 2022 lecture focussed on the topic “Climate change is Ocean change: a physiologist's view”.

27. With the series of IPCC reports as the basis Prof. Pörtner described how climate change drivers in the ocean entail ocean warming, acidification and loss of oxygen due to warming and enhanced stratification. These drivers individually and together affect ocean life. While some approaches compare the effect size of these individual drivers, other approaches strive to develop an integrative view. Based on principle considerations, temperature emerges as a master variable shaping the functioning of all life forms in the ocean. Such functioning depends on the thermal performance curve as a reaction norm characterizing individual species and their life stages. Unifying principles around the thermal performance curve of species emerge and explain species vulnerability to climate change. Overlapping thermal performance curves characterize the temperature range at which species can co-exist at ecosystem level. Prof. Pörtner's lecture put each of the drivers into context and gave an emphasis on how the interaction of drivers plays a role in the thermal tolerance and performance of marine animal species. Prof. Pörtner also addressed the ecosystem implications of such findings.
28. The Executive Council applauded Prof. Pörtner for his lecture and for providing an updated overview of key data documenting climate and ocean change.

3. IOC MATTERS AND REPORTS

3.1 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY (JULY 2021–MAY 2022)

29. The Executive Secretary introduced this item using a PowerPoint presentation.
30. He recalled that the strategic analysis presented in the Report of the IOC Executive Secretary to the 31st IOC Assembly in June 2021 (IOC/A-31/3.2.Doc(1)) remains valid, and that his presentation focuses on the main developments and accomplishments since June 2021 and some items requiring the attention of the Executive Council.
31. The analytical programme implementation report on the full quadrennium 2018–2021, including the assessment of performance against adopted programmatic targets, is available for Member States in document IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(1) and its addendum gives a very detailed information on delivery by IOC function.
32. The Executive Secretary highlighted that despite the complex international situation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the geopolitical tensions due to, inter alia, the military conflict in Ukraine, the year 2022 is supposed to be the “year of the ocean”. Its start was marked by the ‘One Ocean Summit’, the first One Planet Summit entirely dedicated to the Ocean, which was organized in Brest (France) on 9, 10 & 11 February 2022 in the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and with the support of the United Nations. UNESCO Director-General spoke at the high-level segment of the Summit in presence of many Heads of State and government. The IOC mobilized UNESCO's contribution to the Summit, organized and/or participated in key Summit events.
33. The Seventh ‘Our Ocean Conference’ in Palau (13–14 April 2022) provided additional momentum for ocean stakeholders, particularly in generating ocean commitments for and from SIDS and the Pacific. The “ocean route” of 2022 will continue through: the 10–12 May 2022 African Conference on Priority Setting & Partnership Development for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in Cairo, Egypt, setting the Ocean Decade roadmap for the continent; the 22nd meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea focusing on ocean observing (6–10 June 2022); and the Ocean and Climate Dialogue of the UNFCCC (also in June 2022). After the 55th session of the IOC Executive Council, the IOC will focus on the critically important ‘United Nations Ocean Conference’ in Lisbon (27 June–1 July 2022), co-hosted by Portugal and Kenya. Conclusions and commitments from all the above events should shape the ocean dimensions of the 2022 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on

Biological Diversity (CBD CoP-15 (Part 2), Kunming, China) in the third quarter of 2022, determining the global post-2020 biodiversity agenda. Later this year, the UN Climate Change Conference 2022 (UNFCCC CoP-27) in Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt, 7–18 November 2022) should be key for strengthening the ocean and climate nexus, catalyzing ocean-based climate action and setting a solid course for the climate change agenda in Africa.

34. The Executive Secretary expressed his hope that IOC Member States will be satisfied with the pilot edition of *the State of Ocean Report (StOR)*, which was first proposed in his oral report to the Executive Council at its 53rd session (February 2021). The pilot version capitalizes on data from IOC-sponsored programmes and affiliated networks. It is hoped that future editions will include contributions from other UN agencies and key actors outside of the UN System (agenda item 3.3).
35. The Executive Secretary highlighted the good progress of the Ocean Decade, with the Decade Coordination Unit ably supporting the unprecedented scale of activities. The Decade Alliance is acquiring momentum, with the involvement of leaders of the world at the highest level of authority, as exemplified by the recent admission of H.E. Mr Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of Norway, and H.E. Mr Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles. Twenty-seven (27) National Decade Committees are in place, and more are in the making. The Decade Stakeholder Forum, expert roster, four informal working groups on cross cutting issues (Ocean Data, Innovation and Technology, Communication and Monitoring/evaluation) are providing advice on the co-design of actions and the Decade engagement strategy.
36. Mobilization of resources remained a key challenge for the Decade during the transition from the planning phase to the action phase. The Executive Secretary expressed confidence that the IOS Evaluation of the IOC's strategic positioning and the related Action Plan (IOC/EC-55/3.2.Doc(1)) presented for consideration by the Executive Council will help guide future efforts of the Commission in this regard.
37. More than half of the current Decade actions highlight the Decade challenge of integrated ocean observing system. Ensuring that these initiatives contribute to coordinated observing systems is vital for supporting the transformation envisioned under the Ocean Decade. Therefore, IOC through GOOS proposed a Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Observations to facilitate this work.
38. The Executive Council at this session will consider a recent report, the result of a multi-agency workshop, which proposes a number of potential solutions for facilitating ocean observations within areas under national jurisdiction, such as the EEZs, to be implemented through UN agencies (agenda item 3.4).
39. At the 'One Ocean Summit' in Brest a major commitment was made on establishing, on the basis of Mercator International, an intergovernmental organization in Europe, which will be spearheading ocean data processing and forecasting. This organization may become a new key contributor to IOC goals, creating a new level of delivery of processed ocean data, in real time and delayed mode, also acting as a Decade Collaborative Centre.
40. The Executive Secretary reported that the development of Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) and its key component, Ocean InfoHub, is progressing well. Ocean data and the issue of their openness and access, are becoming a "hot topic", and many new players and partners are joining the ocean data quest. A highlight for IOC was the successful International Ocean Data Conference organized in Sopot (Poland) in February 2022. With major Ocean Decade programmes and other developments, conditions are becoming more and more conducive for creating a "digital ecosystem of the ocean" or "the digital twin of the ocean", enabling transparent and informed ocean management.

41. He also informed the Executive Council that the 8-step revision process of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy was proposed through IOC Circular Letter 2864 (12 November 2021). A desk study was implemented and all IOC programmes (global and regional) were invited to designate representatives to the IOC inter-sessional working group on the Revision of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy (IWG-DATAPOLICY). The first meeting of the IWG-DATAPOLICY was held on 5–6 April 2022. He also provided the update on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IOC-UNESCO and the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ, Belgium) for the hosting of the IODE Project Office in Ostend (Belgium).
42. Following the successful completion in October 2021 of the EC-funded MSPGlobal Project, which resulted, *inter alia*, in the publication on a new *MSPGlobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning*, the European Commission to support a new phase of MSPGlobal expanding marine spatial plans in the world in support of a new MSP Roadmap covering the period 2023–2028. Another DG MARE-sponsored project focusing on ocean literacy, started in 2022. Long-term fruitful collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, UNDP and UNEP continued under the IW:Learn umbrella with a new four-year project and two new regional projects focusing on Large Marine Ecosystems in the Sargasso Sea and in the Black Sea.
43. The Executive Secretary further reported that the 38th Meeting of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) took place in Monaco at the IHO on 20–22 April 2022. The GGC approved the terms of reference of a new Sub-committee on Education and Training (SCET) to develop and coordinate the education and training strategy of the GEBCO Programme. This new Sub-committee aims to raise awareness amongst academic institutions of gaps in education and training that may impact on the progress and development of ocean mapping and in particular, the objectives of the GEBCO Programme. Recognising the need to periodically review the governance of organizational frameworks and acknowledging recent important new developments with the two parent organizations (e.g. IOC-IHO new strategic frameworks, the Ocean Decade, the Nippon Foundation/GEBCO Seabed Project), the GGC also agreed to launch a governance review of GEBCO. The Terms of Reference developed by a review group with IOC and IHO Secretariat representatives and three GEBCO members from the GGC are presented, together with the Terms of Reference of SCET, in document IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(4). The outcome of the governance review will be reported to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session and the IHO Assembly in 2023.
44. The representatives of 27 Member States and 2 observers took the floor.
45. They were unanimous in thanking the Executive Secretary for his report and commending the entire Secretariat for the significant amount of work that has taken place in the intersessional period, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.
46. Highlighting the critical importance of the IOC's work, the Executive Council welcomed the Secretariat efforts in broadening visibility and engagement across the UN system. In this context, Member States expressed satisfaction with the very significant progress in advancing implementation of the Decade. A number of very promising partnerships are being established, including the key support structures like Decade Coordination Office and Decade Collaborative Centres.
47. The Executive Council highlighted the African Conference on Priority Setting & Partnership Development for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development hosted by Egypt in May 2022 as an important step towards an inclusive ownership and implementation of the Africa Roadmap for the Ocean Decade. Member States are looking to Secretariat's follow to ensure strong engagement of policy-makers and other stakeholders in Member States. Strong links must be built with the actions of the African Union.
48. 'Our Ocean Conference 2022' in Palau, was a key moment for SIDS stakeholders to discuss concrete and significant actions to protect the ocean. IOC's work in mitigation and early warning of

ocean hazards, and in particular its Tsunami Ready community recognition programme, was highlighted as of particular relevance and important in this context.

49. Many speakers referred to the UNESCO Executive Board's 214 EX/Decision 29 'UNESCO and the Ocean' that sets a framework for increased intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration between IOC and UNESCO's programmes.
50. Member States highlighted the importance of developing a robust and ambitious new Capacity Development Strategy in co-design with the IOC regional subsidiary bodies, supported by the network of regional training centres under the Ocean Teacher Global Academy, as key vehicles in its operationalization.
51. Member States agreed with the report's description of increasing demands on the Secretariat in respect of the IOC's core programme while the success of the Ocean Decade itself is ultimately critically dependent on the success of core activities. Consequently, it is concerning to note that impacts are being experienced on the capacity to deliver on core programmes. IOC's work on data observation, data management and data accessibility is of paramount importance and a concrete way of putting into practice the recently endorsed UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science. Knowledge is a shared common good, and making it accessible to all for generating solutions and actions, including in the pursuit of the objectives of the Ocean Decade, is a shared vision at the heart of the Commission's mandate. The Decade should help the Commission grow and deliver across its entire value chain in response to the increasing demands of Member States and other stakeholders.
52. Increases in voluntary contributions and in-kind contributions will continue to be very important and every effort needs to be pursued to broaden and diversify IOC's donor base. However, these alone are unlikely to provide the necessary budgetary stability needed to support the core activities which are so essential to many Member States, especially if they continue to be mostly earmarked and project-based.
53. In his response to the debate, the Executive Secretary thanked Member States for their commitment and engagement, without which none of the achievements could have occurred. He reiterated IOC's commitment to spare no effort in ensuring that the power of science and data is fully utilized to help all Member States to achieve optimal sustainable ocean management. He fully shared the opinion that IOC regional subsidiary bodies—all of which are already showing exciting new developments and initiatives—would be critical to strengthening IOC's delivery on the ground, aligning priorities and fostering synergies with key regional and sub-regional stakeholders. He outlined several steps that will be required to engage African stakeholders in the implementation of the African Decade Roadmap. He reassured IOCARIBE Member States that all efforts will be deployed to have the Head of the IOCARIBE Office hired as soon as possible. He confirmed the firm intention of IOC to work with SIDS guided by the Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029.
54. The Ocean Decade is a tremendous opportunity to engage at the highest national levels and the Lisbon conference is an important milestone of this process. The Decade Alliance counts many high-level patrons and keeps growing, while national coordination structures emerge in many Member States due to the increased visibility of ocean affairs in the international development agenda. Exciting new development like the ambitious goal for tsunami ready communities and the project on the digital twin of the ocean, to name just them, will require true collective commitment. Progress will be monitored through the *Global Ocean Science Report* and StOR, providing updated information complementary to global assessments like WOA and IPCC.
55. Executive Secretary indicated that responses of Member States show progress in the developing of national ocean governance based on science, with national coordinating mechanisms in place and ocean policies emerging in nations. He commented that IOC StOR will be a complement rather than a duplication of existing reports and assessments. He responded to

questions related to the workload and existing resources if the IOC Secretariat and reassured the Members that despite the increased workload there were no programmes for which implementation was not completed in the previous biennium. He commented on the outcomes of the IOC participation in the UNESCO Structured Financial Dialogue.

56. He concluded his response by reiterating the possibility to achieve major progress in sustainably managing the ocean on the basis of science, engaging the whole value chain of IOC activities, and on the basis of effective division of labour between UN agencies with ocean mandate.
57. The following delegations chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Norway (observer), Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and IHO.
58. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-55/3.1.

Report of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Council,

Having examined documents IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(1) & Add., IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(2), IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(3) and IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(4), and reports on various programme,

Thanks the Executive Secretary for a very comprehensive report;

Takes note of the information provided, welcoming significant advances in many programmatic areas;

Further takes note of the establishment of the GEBCO Sub-committee on Education and Training (SCET), and of the Terms of Reference of the GEBCO Governance review;

Requests the Executive Secretary to present the outcomes of the GEBCO governance review to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session; and

Refers documents IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(2) and IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(3) to the sessional Financial Committee for further examination.

3.2 INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICE (IOS) EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGIC POSITIONING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC-UNESCO)

59. The Executive Secretary introduced this item.
60. He recalled that in September 2021, UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service published "The Evaluation of the Strategic Positioning of IOC-UNESCO IOS/EVS/PI/197" (the Evaluation).
61. The Evaluation included a set of six recommendations and suggested actions. IOC's Management Response accepted all recommendations. The key findings of the evaluation, its recommendations and the management response were presented to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 212th session (212 EX/9).
62. Drawing on the main conclusions of the Evaluation, internal consultations and discussions with the IOC Officers at their meeting on 14–17 January 2022, the Secretariat prepared document IOC/EC-55/3.2.Doc(1) for consideration by the Executive Council. It synthesises key challenges and opportunities facing IOC-UNESCO, as highlighted in the Evaluation, and introduces a draft Action Plan that seeks to turn the Evaluation's recommendations into actions.

63. He concluded by inviting Member States to discuss the report, its recommendations and the proposed Draft Action Plan. This feedback would be invaluable to the IOC Secretariat in its further efforts to finalise the full-fledged Action Plan for the 32nd session of the IOC Assembly in 2023 and, in some instances where there is full consensus, engage in implementation and provide the Assembly with an update on progress.
64. The representatives of 13 Member States and 1 observer took the floor.
65. The Executive Council thanked the Executive Secretary for presenting the insightful findings of the IOS evaluation. Member States expressed their satisfaction with the professional way in which this evaluation has been performed and the careful thought and consideration given by the IOC Secretariat to the recommendations. They viewed the recommendations as useful in not only addressing some of the challenges faced by the Commission but also in harnessing opportunities.
66. The issue of strategic positioning is crucial to the IOC in order to strengthen programme implementation and cement its leading role in its fields of competence. While coordinating the ambitious and transformative UN Ocean Decade, it is imperative to ensure that core IOC programmes continue to move forward in the following years. Member States stressed that this requires strengthening the organization's budget while keeping a balance between funding sources. To achieve this, it is essential to consider how the draft action plan aligns to the UNESCO programme and budget-making processes.
67. The Executive Council expressed overall satisfaction with the draft action plan and sought clarification on the way for Member States to engage more fully in its review and have an opportunity to provide input in writing after this session of the Executive Council.
68. The Executive Secretary thanked Member States for the extremely useful feedback, including some very concrete proposals that the Secretariat took careful note of. He confirmed that Member States would be provided with updates and progress reports throughout the process of finalization and implementation of the action plan.
69. The IOC Chair confirmed that, in accordance with the wishes expressed by Member States, the Secretariat would be sending a circular letter to solicit further input in order to improve the Draft Action Plan prior to its review by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session in 2023. Moreover, an information session with UNESCO and IOC Member States will be organized to facilitate direct interaction.
70. The following delegations chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Argentina, China, Germany, Kenya, Norway (observer), Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and IOCARIBE.
71. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-55/3.2.

Internal Oversight Service Evaluation of the Strategic Positioning of IOC

The Executive Council,

Taking note of the Draft Interim Action Plan in response to the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) Evaluation Report (IOS/EVS/PI/197) as presented in document IOC/EC-55/3.2.Doc(1),

Taking into account IOC Resolution XXX-3 requesting the Executive Secretary to provide Member States with an estimate of the necessary budget to effectively operate the IOC at the expected level, in order to identify what additional resources need to be secured,

Also taking into account IOC Resolution A-31/2, which Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to reinforce human resources of the IOC,

Further taking into account Recommendation 1 of the IOS Evaluation report IOC/EC-55/3.2.Doc(1) to follow up on the request of the IOC Assembly at its 30th session by estimating the necessary resources to effectively operate the IOC,

Recalling UNESCO Executive Board 214 EX/Decision 29 'UNESCO and the Ocean' highlighting on the importance of scientific knowledge of the ocean, and the role and mandate of the IOC,

Urgently requests the IOC Executive Secretary to provide by September 2022 an estimate of the budget, including the needs in human resources, necessary to sustainably deliver IOC's core programmes and to expand its activities in response to increasing demands of Member States and other stakeholders (reference Resolution IOC-XXX-3) and share it with all IOC Member States through a circular letter;

Invites the Secretariat to reflect the discussions under this agenda item in preparing the final version of the Action Plan;

Further invites the Executive Secretary and the IOC Officers to continue to refine the draft Action Plan on the basis of feedback received from Member States and to prepare a final version of the Action Plan for consideration and adoption by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session.

3.3 PRESENTATION OF THE PILOT IOC STATE OF THE OCEAN REPORT

72. The Executive Secretary introduced the pilot edition of the IOC *State of the Ocean Report* (StOR). The report represents a first stab and aims at stimulating feedback from IOC Member States on the definitive structure of the StOR as a summary of key changes in the state of the world ocean, based on essential variables, key findings of ocean research on emerging ocean issues, and a systematic assessment of developments regarding integrated ocean management. The pilot edition of the StOR was developed also considering its need to contribute to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. It reflects the demands and views expressed by Member States following the Circular Letter 2843 on an IOC StOR and benefits from the expert scoping and peer-reviews of experts in all of the areas of the IOC Functions and geographic and gender balance.
73. The pilot edition of the StOR builds on examples from IOC-led or joint initiatives and it is structured around the initial Challenges of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021–2030, not including Challenge 3 on sustainable food from the ocean. It was authored by 65 authors and peer reviewed by 40 experts.
74. The pilot edition of the StOR reveals that although society is aware in principle of what is happening in the ocean, and what should be done about it ('established' facts), the quantitative description of the ocean is limited and incomplete. As a result, current knowledge is insufficient to effectively inform solutions addressing the degradation of ocean health and related threats to human well-being. The pilot edition of the StOR also reveals a lack of benchmark information in many aspects of ocean knowledge resulting in many sections of the report to be rather descriptive and qualitative. Thus, the pilot edition of the StOR identified an urgent need for a quantitative description of the state of the ocean with established benchmarks and the capacity to report changes. Future editions of the StOR will report on progress (or lack of) wherever possible, and will continue to establish benchmark proxy and indicators on the state of the ocean across the globe.
75. As Executive secretary stated, the overall aim remains to produce a brief, accessible, one-stop overview of the current state of the ocean, and to mobilize global society to act towards 'the ocean we need for the future we want' as a contribution to sustainable development, and in particular to SDG 14. To achieve this, the full StOR must be more encompassing, e.g. including key proxies addressing Challenge 3 of the Ocean Decade. For subsequent editions, the IOC will invite contributions from UN agencies and professional organizations, turning the StOR into a pan-UN publication.
76. The representatives of 21 Member States took the floor.

77. The Executive Council commended the Executive Secretary and his team on the Pilot edition of the StOR and recognized the time constraints in delivering it. The StOR was referred to as being important for sustainable development and to track changes in the Ocean, as well as progress in addressing the Decade Challenges. The Executive Council recognized the role of the StOR to strengthen ocean governance and the science-policy interface, as well as raising awareness. The Executive Council expressed its appreciation of the consultation with Member States in the preparation of the pilot edition of the StOR. It was referred to as a potential major contribution to the Ocean Decade, as well as to—and complementary to—the World Ocean Assessment, and as guidance to and resource for Member States in addressing each Decade Challenge. The Executive Council welcomed the concept of the StOR as a pan-UN publication and an outcome of the Decade.
78. However, the Executive Council regretted that too short time to analyse the pilot edition (IOC Technical Series, 73 annexed to working document IOC/EC-55/33.Doc(1)) was provided prior to the session.
79. The Executive Council noted that the pilot edition of the StOR provided an excellent baseline, but that it would be desirable to identify key indicators for each Challenge. It was also stressed that the StOR has to be based on data whenever these exist and that the identification or reconfirmation of data gaps is equally important.
80. The Executive Council overall commended the structure of the pilot edition of the StOR around the Decade Challenges. Several Member States urged for the report to be more condensed and concise and possibly with focus on specific developments in the period covered by each StOR edition and with a holistic assessment of changes. Key high-level messages were recommended to be spelled out stronger, including the expected or documented impact on society.
81. On the periodicity, the Executive Council expressed its concern for the capacity of the IOC Secretariat to develop a StOR on an annual basis and a biannual cycle (every second year) was proposed by several Member States.
82. Several Member States reflected on the audience of the StOR, and referred to the initial concept of a report for general consumption by the broad public. It was also suggested to cooperate more with local and regional marine organizations and to consider to incorporate national and regional data and information in order for Member States to be able to use StOR more directly for their own management.
83. The Executive Council concluded the debate by strongly supporting the continued development of the StOR and by recognizing that it is essential that human and budgetary resources are secured for its further development and delivery.
84. The Executive Secretary responded to the interventions by Member States by recognizing that the preparation of the pilot edition of the StOR had been a comprehensive learning exercise comparable to the preparation of the *Global Ocean Science Report* recently. He also noted that not all viewpoints expressed might be compatible, but expressed confidence to find a way through continued communication with Member States. He invited Member States to review the pilot report and to send their review and recommendations to the Secretariat. A formal communication process to further improve the scope, frequency, drafting and review process, as well as further plans, will be established via a circular letter to be sent to Member States shortly after the 55th session of the Executive Council of the IOC.
85. The following delegations chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Argentina, Brazil, China, Canada, Colombia, Germany, India, Kenya, Norway (observer), Philippines, Portugal, Republic de Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

86. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-55/3.3.

IOC State of the Ocean Report

The Executive Council,

Taking into account the needs and views of IOC Member States with regard to the value-added, contribution, contents and structure of an IOC State of the Ocean Report as compiled by the IOC Secretariat in response to the dedicated IOC Circular Letter issued on 28 May 2021 (IOC/INF-1393 Rev.),

Also taking into account the recommendations of the informal expert consultation on the possible scoping of an IOC State of the Ocean Report (IOC/INF-1393 Rev.),

Noting the suggested contents and format of the pilot edition of the *IOC State of the Ocean Report* in IOC/EC-55/33.Doc(1),

Welcomes the regular publication of the *IOC State of the Ocean Report* building on the model provided by the pilot edition of the Report and taking into account the comments made during the 55th session of the Executive Council;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to issue a circular letter summarizing the discussions held at the 55th session of the Executive Council and seeking guidance of Member States on the scope, process, frequency and plans going forward with a view to improve the pilot *IOC State of the Ocean Report* to be presented to the Assembly at its 32nd session;

Also requests the IOC Executive Secretary to coordinate the production of the Report;

Invites IOC Member States to provide extrabudgetary financial resources to the realization of the Report as per the typology of expenses presented in the pilot edition of the *IOC State of the Ocean Report*;

Also invites all scientific partners of the IOC to contribute to, and rely on the Report, to present their findings on the status and trends of our common ocean from the perspectives of ocean health and needed management interventions;

Calls upon the IOC Executive Secretary to promote the findings on the *IOC State of the Ocean Report* through appropriate communication channels.

3.4 OCEAN OBSERVATIONS IN AREAS UNDER NATIONAL JURISDICTION

87. The acting Head of the IOC Ocean Observations Section, Emma Heslop, introduced this item. She recalled the successful history of IOC in developing a cooperative framework for the real-time sharing of ocean data collected in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), in particular the IOC was successful in creating a Member State-agreed framework and mechanism, in compliance with United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), for the provision of data from floats in the global Argo Programme that drift into EEZs.
88. The 2018 IOC Decision EC-LI/4.8 supporting an extension of the Argo notification scheme to include six biogeochemical variables—oxygen, pH, nitrate, chlorophyll, backscatter and irradiance—has been a recent and important step forward in the recognition of the need for a wider range of sustained observations. It was also an endorsement of the value the Argo Programme brings to global ocean observing and of the trust developed in the IOC mediated solutions. However, many other ocean observing implementers, and the Argo Programme itself in terms of float deployment, still face important challenges when seeking consent to undertake ocean observations in waters under national jurisdiction.
89. In 2019, the WMO held a Technical Workshop on “Enhancing ocean observations and research, and the free exchange of data, to foster services for the safety of life and property”. The workshop resulted in two resolutions passed at the WMO Eighteenth Congress. Resolution 45 (Cg-18) clarifies the legal regime under which the Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS) network and surface observing platforms operate in taking marine meteorological observations, as operating outside of UNCLOS Part XIII and therefore allowing unhindered operation in EEZs. Resolution 46 (Cg-18) notes the twenty-year history of work by the IOC to develop a cooperative framework

regarding the sharing of ocean data in EEZs, and decides to work closely with the IOC in order to explore mechanisms that make the highest-impact subsurface ocean data freely available.

90. In February 2020, GOOS organised an Experts Workshop on “Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction” (OOJN, GOOS Reports, 246), following a number of requests from the implementers of global ocean observing networks to consider the many challenges of ocean observations in EEZs. The workshop discussed a number of ‘real life’ issues that the sustained global ocean observing networks face in undertaking observations in areas under national jurisdiction, in particular the coastal States EEZs, it also discussed the value of observations to coastal States, and potential concerns of coastal States regarding sustained ocean observations in areas under their national jurisdiction, and proposed a number of potential and practical solutions within UNCLOS, to be implemented through collaborative action across UNESCO, WMO and the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS).
91. Requests for marine scientific research (MSR) clearance can be subject to geopolitical issues that go far beyond the realm of ocean science, and therefore requires higher level action by intergovernmental bodies such as the IOC, WMO, DOALOS, and the United Nations General Assembly which has declared its competence to review developments in ocean and law of the sea matters. The recommendations from the OOJN Workshop include:
- (i) IOC to consider initiating a process equivalent to the Argo notification scheme applicable to other platforms/variables;
 - (ii) IOC, with DOALOS and WMO support, to set up an informal meeting to discuss and share different practices in the implementation of MSR clearance procedures by States;
 - (iii) IOC/GOOS, WMO and DOALOS to consider a joint workplan or initiative to raise awareness of the issues and the value gained from ocean observations, nationally and globally, especially in the context of the aims of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;
 - (iv) WMO to consider how resolutions could be supportive in highlighting the need for sustained ocean observations from EEZs;
 - (v) DOALOS to assess if there is appetite to pursue gaining a mandate from Member States to develop an update to the DOALOS “Revised Guide to the Implementation of the Relevant Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on MSR”; and
 - (vi) IOC to consider initiating a pilot, using the IOC Article 247 process (IOC/INF-1222).
92. The decision proposed under this item calls on the IOC, WMO and DOALOS to work together on implementing the potential and practical solutions within UNCLOS frameworks and on raising awareness of the value of ocean observations to coastal States in providing information needed to adapt in the face of climate change and to build resilient and sustainable economies.
93. Member States of the IOC Executive Council were invited to develop the two prerequisites for further work in this area modelled on the process that yielded the Argo notification scheme in the 2000s through: (i) setting up an intersession Member State consultation to propose updated Terms of Reference for a reconstituted IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS), considering a mixed scientific and legal competency, to engage with the IOC Member States and the observing community and prepare proposals for adoption by the IOC Assembly; and (ii) requesting GOOS to work with the sustained networks to bring a limited number of clear and specific descriptions of difficulties/issues with possible solutions, for discussion by a reconstituted IOC/ABE-LOS. This body might also treat questions larger than GOOS brought by other IOC or Ocean Decade programmes.

94. Unlocking the full potential of ocean science within the existing framework of UNCLOS will be a major step forward in making change under the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science (2021) and make the ocean more accessible and sustainably managed, ultimately contributing to the vision of the Ocean Decade: “the science we need for the ocean we want”.
95. The representatives of 19 Member States and one organization took the floor.
96. The need for ocean observations as a foundation for sustainable development, to support adaptation to climate change, for use in weather forecasts, for safety of life at sea, forecasting extreme events and to coastal communities in sustainably managing ocean resources, was noted many times. The need for an integrated and global ocean observing system including observations in areas under national jurisdiction to provide this vital information to support sound policy.
97. There were advocates for a balanced approach to the issues raised in the report, balancing the rights of Member States and the need of data to improve the management of ocean resources.
98. Member States recognised UNCLOS as the governing framework regarding scientific research in areas under national jurisdiction, with several States noting that they have specific procedures identified to facilitate the processing of requests to conduct MSR, following Part XIII of UNCLOS, some identifying the number of MSR clearances provided to research vessel projects in the last years. Most identified that for their State sustained ocean observing fell under MSR; the USA does not consider that routine ocean observations are marine scientific research but acknowledged that other States do not hold the same view.
99. Many Member States noted that the Experts Workshop on “Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction” was useful to understanding the issues with regard to sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction, and in identifying potential solution spaces within UNCLOS that could mitigate these challenges. Member States appreciated the work undertaken by GOOS, in partnership with DOALOS and WMO in this regard.
100. A number of Member States noted that the issues were identified in the report were generalised and requested more detail on these issues, in order to be able to understand, for example, what is most critical, or higher priority, in terms of impacting our ability to implement a global ocean observing system.
101. Several Member States noted the need of those undertaking sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction to abide by the terms of Part XIII of UNCLOS, for example to ensure that the data collected is made available (in a timely manner) to the coastal State granting consent, and that scientific collaboration with the coastal State is considered in planning, before the request is made.
102. Several Member States noted the success of the IOC in creating the stakeholder agreed framework for the Argo Programme, the Argo Notification Scheme. IOC was also noted as the appropriate forum for discussion of the technical issues regarding the taking of sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction, within the framework of UNCLOS.
103. The draft decision had suggested that an open-ended consultation be undertaken with Member States in the intersessional period to revise the Terms of Reference of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS), and that GOOS should provide some examples or test cases for a revised IOC/ABE-LOS to consider. Although several Member States supported this proposal, the majority did not. Several Member States suggested that an open-ended consultation process should assess if IOC/ABE-LOS was the right approach to the issues identified in the Experts Workshop Report, and GOOS be requested to provide more detailed information on the issues that sustained ocean observing implementors face in areas under national jurisdiction. One State opposed the draft decision.

104. With no consensus on the draft decision an ad hoc 3.4 Drafting Working Group was set up to develop an alternative decision. This Drafting Working Group met on 16 June, with 16 Member States in attendance, and reached agreement on a revised decision. This decision focuses on gathering more information, on the issues from GOOS, and the experiences of Member States, with regard to sustained ocean observing in waters under national jurisdiction, including the issues identified by GOOS. The information from these two exercises is to be compiled, summarised and reported back to the IOC Assembly in 2023.
105. The following delegation chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya; Philippines, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and IHO.
106. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-55/3.4.

Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction

The Executive Council,

Considering the unique convening power of the IOC between Member State representatives and the scientific community,

Takes note of the report of the Experts Workshop on “Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction” (GOOS Report 246);

Invites GOOS to provide detailed information on the issues regarding sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction identified in the report of the workshop;

Requests the Executive Secretary to invite Member States to provide information on their experiences regarding sustained ocean observations in Areas under their National Jurisdiction including on the issues identified by GOOS;

Further requests the Executive Secretary to compile and summarise the information received and report back to the IOC Assembly in 2023;

Also invites GOOS to propose awareness-raising and capacity building activities to help States realize the value of observations, including positive impact on States’ adaptation to climate change and sustainable economic development.

3.5 REPORTS OF IOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES

3.5.1 Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards

3.5.1.1 Regional Early Warning Services

107. The IOC Chair introduced this item by informing the Council that three coordinating groups of Regional Early Warning Services had met during the intersessional period and would report to this session of the Executive Council. He welcomed the Chairs of the ICG/IOTWMS, ICG/NEAMTWS and ICG/PTWS.
108. Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati, Chair Intergovernmental Coordination Group for Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, highlighted the Inter-sessional session was held online on 23–24 November 2021 as a result of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were over 100 participants from 19 Member States, including for the first time a large number of disaster managers. The session was held to provide progress reports on the workplans of the ICG and to prepare for a deferred 13th session of the ICG/IOTWMS in Bali, Indonesia, in late 2022.
109. Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati reported the ICG had initiated workplans to begin addressing the issues raised in the 2020 report on Capacity Development of Tsunami Preparedness in the IOTWMS. On 10 November 2021, a webinar was held on “A Strategic Pathway for the Indian

Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System within the Context of United Nations Decade for Ocean Science” to identify opportunities to further develop the IOTWMS so that it delivers more timely and accurate tsunami warnings to 100% Tsunami Ready at-risk coastal communities. Challenges to be addressed include continuing issues with regards timely and open exchange of seismic and sea-level data required for warnings, greater engagement of disaster management community in the work of the ICG/IOTWMS, maintaining community awareness and education, greater capacity development supporting SIDS and LDCs. It was decided to hold the next IOWave Exercise in 2023. Efforts continue to address the challenges of warning for tsunamis generated by non-seismic and complex sources.

110. Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati announced the extension of the agreement between the Government of Indonesia (through BMKG) and IOC-UNESCO in support of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC) to enable it to continue its critical work on education and training. The Government of Australia extended its support to the Secretariat Office of the ICG/IOTWMS. The UNESCAP-funded project “Strengthening Tsunami Warning in the North West Indian Ocean through Regional Collaboration” successfully completed Phase-1 and received funding to begin Phase-2. Lessons learnt from that project are to be extended across the Indian Ocean, including maintaining effective national tsunami warning chains through revised training programmes on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs), Disaster Management Offices, and the broadcast media.
111. Prof. Karnawati also reported on other recent achievements of the ICG/IOTWMS were highlighted, including work in progress by Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisik Geofisika (BMKG) in Indonesia to develop ISO 22328-3 guidelines for tsunami warning systems to complement the Tsunami Ready recognition programme. The IOC-BMKG IOTIC has also developed tools in support of Tsunami Ready Programme, including a board game and a set of 14 short animations. The community of Tanjung Benoa in Indonesia was recently recognised as Tsunami Ready. The certification ceremony was held as part of IOTIC and BMKG’s promotion in general of the Tsunami Ready Programme at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Bali, Indonesia in May 2022 (GPDRR 2022). The need to include critical infrastructure as part of the Tsunami Ready Programme was demonstrated, with a programme being implemented by BMKG to prepare two major airports in Indonesia.
112. Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati also advised that INCOIS in India has been operating the International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOOcean) since 2013, providing several courses in support of Tsunami Programme in 2021/22. The BMKG Training Centre in Indonesia now also serves as an OTGA Specialized Training Centre (STC Indonesia), delivering a Tsunami Ready OTGA Training Course in late 2021.
113. Prof. Maria Ana Baptista, Chair of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS), presented the report of the ICG/NEAMTWS. She informed that the 17th session of the ICG/NEAMTWS was held online on 24–26 November 2021.
114. Prof. Baptista highlighted the successful results of the fourth tsunami exercise for the region, NEAMWave21 conducted between 8 and 10 March 2021 and the major increase in media interest.
115. She reported on the continued national efforts in several countries to increase awareness on tsunami hazards and preparedness in line with and as contributions to the 5 November World Tsunami Awareness Day 2021, as well as the tsunami exercises conducted in France and Malta. A new Task Team on Tsunami Ready was established. Prof. Baptista reported progress made by communities of Bouches-du-Rhône and Cannes (France); Kos (Greece); Israel; Minturno, Pachino, Palmi (Italy); Marsaxlokk (Malta); Azores, Cascais, Lagos, Lisboa, Madeira, Portimão, Setúbal

(Portugal); Chipiona (Spain), Bodrum and Istanbul (Turkey) towards becoming Tsunami Ready and prepared.

116. She also reported on the support of the European Commission (EC) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in capacity development, including infrastructure and research and new sea-level instrumentation and provision of measurements, especially for the Last Mile Project Phase 2 implemented in Malta, and the support provided to the organization of the first end-to-end tsunami exercise on 5 November 2021.
117. Prof. Baptista announced the approval of a new European Union DG-ECHO project on “Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean Region to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards”. The project is being implemented in seven countries.
118. She announced the target to establish at least ten Tsunami Ready recognized communities in Mediterranean countries in the next two years, contributing to making 100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030 through the implementation of the IOC-UNESCO Tsunami Ready Programme and other initiatives. She also reported that there is ongoing discussions with countries to update the nominated Tsunami Ready communities.
119. She reported the finalization of a new ICG/NEAMTWS 2021–2030 Strategy in line with the UN Ocean Science Decade for Sustainable Development and encouraged Member States and partners to contribute to its implementation.
120. She announced the new sea level observation network launched by Italy to help enhance the detection, monitoring of tsunamis, and other sea level hazards in the Mediterranean Region.
121. She also reported that recently a side event was organized on ‘Resilient and Safer Coasts’ at the African Conference on Priority Setting and Partnership Development for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 10–12 May 2022, Cairo, Egypt.
122. Finally, Prof. Baptista informed the Executive Council that the fifth regional tsunami exercise (NEAMWave23) will be conducted within the first week of November 2023.
123. Mr Yuji Nishimae, Chair of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, introduced this item. The 29th session of the ICG/PTWS (1–2 and 7–8 December 2021, online) was well attended with 116 participants from 27 countries. During this meeting, seven recommendations were adopted and new ICG/PTWS leadership was elected, including Mr Nishimae (Japan) as Chair, and Dr Wilfried Strauch (Nicaragua) and Mr David Coetzee (New Zealand) as Vice-Chairs. The next ICG/PTWS session is planned for November 2022 in Japan.
124. Mr Nishimae noted that PTWS decided to conduct PacWave22 between September and November 2022, including regional exercises and one live communication tests on 13 October 2022. He reported that the ICG/PTWS Strategy 2022–2030 had been finalized, focussing on four strategic objectives: (i) understanding and managing tsunami hazard risk; (ii) tsunami detection, warning and dissemination; (iii) enhancing tsunami preparedness for effective community response; and (iv) international coordination and cooperation and partnerships. With regards to the UN Ocean Decade, the PTWS established a Task Team on PTWS involvement in the Ocean Decade. Other important recommendations include the decision to expand the PTWS Earthquake Source Zone to contain the southernmost Atlantic including the South Sandwich Islands, and agreement to start Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC) full functionality on the interim service in January 2022.

125. Regarding the governing structure of ICG/PTWS, several new Task Teams (TT) were established: TT on PTWS involvement in the UN Ocean Decade; TT PacWave Exercises, under WG2 the TT TSPs; and under the Regional WG South China Sea, the TT Capacity Development and Services. The following task teams were dissolved: TT PacWave20 Exercises, upon publication of the report, and TT Establishment of a South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center under the Regional Working Group for the South China Sea region.

126. Mr Nishimae next reported on the PTWS response to the recent Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami (15 January 2022), which caused tsunami waves observed at near and distant tide gauges, with tsunami waves over 1 m detected in California (US), Chile, and Japan. In response to the event, the PTWS held three debrief meetings with the goal to begin development of interim volcanic tsunami SOPs and set up a temporary Task Team to this effect, as well as review tsunami warning centres' experiences of the event. The Secretariat disseminated post-assessment survey questions to Member States, the results of which is due to be published in the second half of 2022.

3.5.1.2 Global Coordination of Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards

127. Dr Alexander Frolov, Chair of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG), introduced this item. He noted the high operational readiness of TWSs in providing accurate, actionable forecasts of tsunami waves through regular staff training, development of observing systems and improving data processing methods. Through a collaborative effort between government agencies, scientists and the public, more than 30 coastal communities have achieved the IOC Tsunami Ready designation. The "Standard Guidelines for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme" is now available as IOC Manuals & Guides, 74.

128. Dr Frolov reminded that through Decision A-31/3.4.1, the IOC Assembly at its 31st session approved the establishment of the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme, with TOWS-WG serving as the Global Steering Committee for this Programme, a Scientific Committee to prepare the Draft 10-Year Research, Development and Implementation Plan, and the establishment of a Tsunami Ready Coalition.

129. In this capacity, the TOWS-WG selected 11 experts for the Scientific Committee led by Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala (India). In selecting expert members, due consideration was given to their scientific expertise as well as geographic, generational and gender balance. The Draft 10-Year Research, Development and Implementation Plan for the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme will be developed by the end of 2022.

130. The TOWS-WG at its 15th meeting reviewed the status of implementation of Decision A-31/3.4.1 and confirmed that the UN Ocean Decade provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to leverage novel sensing platforms, techniques and/or infrastructures in order to more quickly and accurately detect and warn for tsunamis and increase community preparedness and resilience.

131. The TOWS-WG-XV recommended that the IOC Executive Council at this session consider approving the establishment of the IOC-UNESCO Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme as described in the working document "Tsunami Ready Programme – Proposal for endorsement by IOC" dated 21 February 2022.

132. The TOWS-WG-XV recommended also that the IOC Executive Council adopts the Tsunami Coalition's terms of reference and some clarifications in the terms of reference of the TOWS-WG and Scientific Committee as outlined in the draft decision for this item.

133. The representatives of 17 Member States, one observer and WMO took the floor on both items 3.5.1.1 and 3.5.1.2.

134. India, Kenya, Türkiye, and USA reported on progress and plans to implement the IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme.
135. China, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Türkiye, and reported on their implementation of Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) in the various ocean basins and improvement in collaboration to enhance monitoring capacity and exchange of real time data. In response to a question of one Member State, the Secretariat confirmed that the interim phase of the Central America Tsunami Advisory Center (CATAC) is an intermediate phase conducting to a full operational status to be recommended by the ICG/PTWS on fulfilment of agreed technical parameters described in the technical documentation of the IOC.
136. Chile, Italy, Peru and Türkiye advised on the implementation of new sea level and seismic monitoring stations and the willingness to share data to support other Member States and TSPs.
137. India and USA supported the recommendation to GOOS that bottom pressure be considered an Essential Ocean Variable (EOV), given its importance to tsunami warning and other applications such as climate monitoring. They also supported the potential use of SMART Cables to support the goal of the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme to enhance tsunami monitoring capabilities of the global tsunami warning and mitigation system to improve timeliness and accuracies of warnings.
138. Portugal announced that it is preparing a major contribution to the monitoring system in the North-eastern Atlantic, which is the implementation of a SMART Cable (Telecommunication cable instrumented with sensors) in the CAM Ring that links the Portuguese mainland with the Azores and Madeira region, which will improve detection and monitoring capability for tsunamis in that region.
139. Colombia, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya and USA supported establishment of the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme to meet the goal of the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme of 100% at-risk coastal communities being Tsunami Ready by 2030, and supported the establishment of the Tsunami Ready Coalition to help enable resources and its widespread implementation. Kenya requested that due consideration is given to African organizations in the membership of the Tsunami Ready Coalition.
140. Australia recalled its funding support of the IOC Secretariat for the ICG/IOTWMS since 2005 and its ongoing commitment to this support. It also expressed its appreciation to Indonesia for its extension of support for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC).
141. With regards to further enhancing IOC and WMO collaboration on hazards related to sea level, Indonesia (observer) suggested having back-to-back meetings of the ICG/IOTWMS-XIII session and the next meeting of the WMO Tropical Cyclone Committee, given they are both planned for Bali, Indonesia in late 2022. A joint session could also be explored.
142. France, India, Indonesia and Peru noted the importance of developing the capability to warn for tsunamis generated by non-seismic and complex sources, following the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami of 15 January 2022.
143. With respect to the ICG/PTWS proposed recommendation to expand the PTWS earthquake source zone to include the southernmost seismic region of the Atlantic, Argentina expressed that it shares the concern regarding the potential risks that tsunamigenic events present for the coastal populations and for the vessels operating in the affected regions, as well as the importance of having timely information to warn mariners of the possibility of occurrence of a tsunami as far in advance as possible and to disseminate said information among those responsible for the Antarctic activity carried out in the area of interest. Argentina emphasized that in the area, Argentina has assumed international responsibilities of maritime security in the area, both in terms of the

dissemination of Maritime Safety Information in the so-called "NAVAREA VI", as well as in the provision of the Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) service. However, and because the Executive Council had not sufficient elements to analyze the suggested expansion, Argentina indicated that the subject requires a more detailed analysis with the participation of all parties under potential risk.

144. The following delegations chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia (observer), Italy, Japan, Kenya, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Türkiye, and United States of America.

145. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-55/3.5.1.

Warning and Mitigation Systems of Ocean Hazards

The Executive Council,

Taking note of the executive summary reports of the recent sessions of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS). and the report of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (IOC/TOWS-WG-XV),

Also taking note of the reports by the IOC/ICGs and TOWS-WG;

Expressed its solidarity with the people who are affected by the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami on 15 January 2022;

Notes with satisfaction the progress made during the intersessional period, including:

- (i) the wave exercises conducted in the Caribbean (CARIBWAVE21) and NEAM (NEAMWave21) regions during the ongoing pandemic;
- (ii) the finalization and publication of the IOC Manual and Guides, 74 "Standard Guidelines for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme" and IOC Manual and Guides, 86 "Multi-Annual Community Tsunami Exercise Programme: Guidelines for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions";
- (iii) the continued progress in the implementation of Tsunami Ready in the NE Atlantic and Mediterranean and connected seas, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Caribbean regions, which indicates that Tsunami Ready has now established itself as a globally popular and recognized tsunami preparedness tool;
- (iv) the development and production of a global Tsunami Ready Interactive Map Viewer and the hosting of the Tsunami Ready web site by the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC);
- (v) the development and production of a new Tsunami Ready Board Game and supporting animation video series prepared by IOTIC, bearing in mind that additional resources will be required for the production and translation of Tsunami Ready Board Game into several languages;
- (vi) the efforts of the IOTIC, BMKG (Indonesia) and ITIC in preparing Tsunami Ready and Tsunami Evacuation Maps, Plans and Procedures (TEMPP) training through the Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) platform as well as offering hybrid training workshops and training videos;
- (vii) the near finalisation of a global Key Performance Indicators (KPI) framework with goals, targets and corresponding measures in alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development – A Safe Ocean; IOC Tsunami Programme; Tsunami Ready; current ICG Strategies; and the ICG/PTWS KPI Framework completed in 2018/2019;
- (viii) the work of the PTWS to develop a National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) Competency Framework (2017), and the ITIC's leadership to pilot training courses based on the Framework;

- (ix) the activities undertaken by the respective regions for WTAD 2021, and the success achieved by UNDRR;
- (x) the 2022, WTAD theme will highlight Sendai Framework Global Target G: Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030;
- (xi) the efforts of the CARIBE-EWS and the Secretariat to coordinate and contribute to global initiatives related to Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems;

Welcomes the appointment of the new ICG/PTWS Officers for the biennium 2021–2023.

**Part I:
Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS)**

Notes with appreciation the development of workplans to address issues raised in the 2020 report on the Capacity Development of Tsunami Preparedness in the IOTWMS;

Also notes with appreciation the planning to utilise the Tsunami Programme of the UN Decade for Ocean Science to deliver more timely and accurate tsunami warnings to 100% Tsunami Ready at-risk coastal communities;

Further notes with appreciation the efforts to expand capacity development for SIDS and LDCs;

Notes the efforts continuing to address the challenges of warning for atypical tsunami events;

Notes with concern the continuing challenges with regards to timely and open exchange of seismic and sea-level data for tsunami warning;

Congratulates IOTWMS Member States for the successful completion of Phase-1 of the UNESCAP funded project “Strengthening Tsunami Warning in the North West Indian Ocean through Regional Collaboration”;

Encourages Member States to promote the engagement of more disaster managers in the work of the ICG/IOTWMS, especially with regards to the widespread implementation of the Tsunami Ready Programme;

Welcomes the extension of the Government of Indonesia (BMKG) and IOC-UNESCO agreement in support of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC);

Also welcomes the extension of the Government of Australia support for the Secretariat Office of the ICG/IOTWMS;

Further welcomes the decision to organize and conduct the next Indian Ocean Wave Exercise in 2023 (IOWave23);

**Part II:
North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean
and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS)**

Notes with appreciation the organization of NEAMWave21 conducted between 8 and 10 March 2021 and the major increase in media interest;

Notes the continued national efforts to increase awareness on tsunami hazards and preparedness in line with and as contributions to the World Tsunami Awareness Day, 5 November 2021;

Further notes the establishment of a new Task Team on Tsunami Ready and the progress made by communities in several countries towards becoming Tsunami Ready and prepared;

Appreciates the continued support of the European Commission (EC) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in the development of NEAMTWS;

Further appreciates the approval of a new European Union DG-ECHO project on “Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean Region to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards”;

Notes on the study prepared by the Secretariat on Coastal Multi-Hazard Risk Perception, Resilience and Survey Questionnaires to contribute to the implementation of the new project;

Welcomes the target to establish at least ten Tsunami Ready recognized communities in the Mediterranean countries in the next two years, contributing to making 100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030;

Congratulates the ICG/NEAMTWS for the finalization and publication of a new ICG/NEAMTWS 2021-2030 Strategy in line with the UN Ocean Science Decade for Sustainable Development;

Welcomes the decision to organize and conduct the next North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas Wave Exercise in 2023 (NEAMWave23);

**Part III:
Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System
(ICG/PTWS)**

Notes the establishment of a Task Team of the Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) under ICG/PTWS Working Group 2 and a Task Team on UN Ocean Decade with particular reference to the Ocean Decade Tsunami programme;

Congratulates the ICG/PTWS for the finalization and publication of the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS) Strategy 2022–2030;

Further notes the start of the Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC)'s full functionality as interim service for PTWS as of 17 January 2022;

Welcomes the decision to organize and conduct a tenth Exercise Pacific Wave in 2022 (PacWave 22) in the months of September through November 2022 to support International Disaster Risk Reduction Day (13 October) and World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November), as a series of regional exercises organized through the PTWS regional working groups;

Further welcomes the hosting of a scientific meeting of experts on the New Hebrides Trench and a scientific meeting of experts to discuss tsunami sources, hazard and risk associated with the Chile-Perú subduction zone;

Recommends that Member States make data from their GNSS networks publicly available in real-time, and that all stations within 200 km of the coast are included since such inland stations also provide valuable constraints on tsunami excitation;

**Part IV:
Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related
to Sea Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG)**

Recalling IOC Assembly Resolution XIV-14 proposing the establishment of a Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG),

Further recalling IOC Assembly Decision IOC-31/3.4.1 establishing the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (the Programme) with TOWS-WG serving as the Global Steering Committee for the Programme,

Reiterates that the UN Ocean Decade provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to leverage novel sensing platforms, techniques and/or infrastructures in order to more quickly and accurately detect and warn for tsunamis and increase community preparedness and resilience including through the Tsunami Ready programme;

Approves the establishment of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme as described in the working document “Tsunami Ready Programme – Proposal for endorsement by IOC” dated 21 February 2022;

Approves also:

- (i) the amendments to the Terms of Reference of the TOWS-WG, including new functions assigned to it by the Decision IOC-31/3.4.1. in the context of the UN Ocean Decade as in Annex 1 to this decision;
- (ii) the Terms of Reference for the Tsunami Ready Coalition, as included under Annex 2 to this decision;
- (iii) the amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee, as included under Annex 3 to this decision;

Recommends that GOOS consider ocean bottom pressure as an Essential Ocean Variable (EOV), given its importance for the detection and characterisation of tsunamis and computation of general ocean circulation;

Instructs the regional Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs):

- (i) to encourage sea-level network operators to undertake regular and routine calibration of their sea-level monitoring instrumentation, following recommendations of IOC Manuals and Guides, 3 and 14 (Volumes I-V),
- (ii) to routinely monitor the status of seismic and sea level related observing networks to identify and better help rectify gaps in coverage and free and open data exchange,
- (iii) that Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) and National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) identify all coastal areas or near-shore faults that could generate large earthquakes and submarine landslides and be prepared to issue warnings as appropriate,
- (iv) the addition of the task to facilitate the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme to the Terms of Reference of each ICG Tsunami Information Centre;

Requests the PTWS to:

- (i) share their local source SOPs efforts with other ICGs, with a view toward developing consistent approaches,
- (ii) share its document on NTWC Competency Framework (2017), with other regions, and invite comments and feedback with a view toward developing a global framework;

Supports continuation of the strong collaboration between the IOC and UNDRR for World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November), noting that the WTAD 2022 will highlight Target F of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

Extends the tenure of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems and its Task Teams on: (i) Disaster Management & Preparedness (TTDMP), and (ii) Tsunami Watch Operations (TTTWO), with terms of reference as given in Annex 1 for TOWS-WG, IOC/TOWS-WG-VI/3, Annex II for TTDMP and IOC/TOWS-WG-X/3, Annex II (Appendix 1) for TTTWO;

Agrees that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall IOC Programme and Budget resolution A-31/2.

3.5.2 Progress Report of the Intersessional Open-ended Working Group on the Status of the Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

146. In his capacity of Co-Chair of the Open-ended Intersessional Working Group (OEIWG) on the Status of the Regional Committee of the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO), Mr Ariel Troisi, presented the progress report on the subject. He recalled that the IOC Assembly at its 31st session discussed and welcomed the IOCINDIO-VIII Recommendation for changing the status of the Regional Committee into an IOC Sub-commission and the supporting views of Member States to the proposal. The Assembly then decided to undertake the necessary remaining steps towards the establishment of the IOC Sub-commission for the Indian Ocean through the creation of a dedicated intersessional open-ended Working Group taking into account the above proposal as a framework to improve coordination between IOC Member States and ensure implementation of IOC programmes in the Indian Ocean.

147. The Working Group was constituted in January 2022 following IOC Circular Letter 2872. The group is co-chaired by the Chairpersons of IOC and IOCINDIO and its Terms of Reference define three specific tasks:

- identify necessary steps for the establishment of the IOC Sub-commission for the Indian Ocean,
- present a written progress report for discussion by the Executive Council at its 55th session,
- prepare a proposal for the establishment of an IOC Sub-commission for the Indian Ocean including its title, terms of reference; geographic area of responsibility; programme of work with the proposed projects and funding support; mechanisms for coordination with adjacent sub-commissions, and other necessary specifications; and

submit it to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session as a working document as well as a draft resolution on the above subject.

148. The Working Group held three online consultation meetings before the Executive Council. The results of its discussions were summarized in document IOC/EC-55/3.5.2.Doc(1) for the consideration of this session of the Executive Council. The work of the Working Group developed according to plan of its activities in order to present the specifications of the emerging Sub-commission and related draft resolution to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session in 2023.
149. Following the presentation of the Co-Chair, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, H.E. Mr Khondker M. Talha, provided a complementary presentation on behalf of Rear Admiral (Retd) Khurshed Alam, OEIWG Co-Chair. The Ambassador recalled ongoing discussions of the Working Group on the geographic area, the mechanism for coordination with Adjacent Sub-commissions and scientific programmes in the region. He recalled that the lack of a regional Secretariat based in the region to support the activities of the Committee is hampering progress of its work. Finally, he called for upgrading the status of the Committee to the level of Sub-commission.
150. The representatives of 12 Member States, 3 observers, 2 sub-commissions and 1 organization took the floor.
151. Overall, Member States supported the transformation of the IOCINDIO into an IOC Sub-commission.
152. At the same time, a strong view was expressed that the establishment of the Sub-commission should not undermine existing adjacent Sub-commissions, notably IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC. More specifically, there were objections against overlap between IOCINDIO and IOCAFRICA as well as against transfer of responsibility and tasks from one Sub-commission to another, insisting on the fact that IOCINDIO should not cover the entire Indian ocean. The current membership should serve as the basis for the establishment of the IOCINDIO Sub-commission. Some delegates recalled the UNESCO Operational Strategy for Priority Africa, in particular its Flagship Programme 5 on science, which would provide an important contribution of African Member States to the work of IOCINDIO. Other delegates highlighted the need to reinforce IOCAFRICA in light of its role in delivering the IOC Medium-Term Strategy in the region, and essential support towards the implementation of the African Union Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 (AIMS 2050) as well as the Decade of African Oceans and Seas (2015–2025).
153. Reservations were also raised about the geographic area of the future IOCINDIO Sub-commission with the insistence that rights of coastal adjacent States should be observed based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
154. There was a suggestion for a review report of IOCINDIO including commitments from Member States of the region in order to ensure sustainability. The establishment of WESTPAC and IOCARIBE was based on such a review, which is a best practice.
155. Member States also called for a balance between the staffing needed for the operations of regional subsidiary bodies compared to the staffing level required at Headquarters.
156. The Co-Chair of the Working Group and Chair of the IOC, Mr Ariel Troisi, summarized the main points of interventions as follows:
- Best practices with the development of a review report for IOCINDIO, drawing from IOCARIBE and WESTPAC experiences;
 - Concerns about Areas of geographic scope;

- Concerns about potential undermining of the responsibilities of existing Sub-commissions.

157. The IOC Chair drew the attention of Member States to the fact that the current session of the Executive Council is not making a decision on the establishment of the Sub-commission. The Working Group was requested by the Assembly at its 31st session to present a progress report at its 32nd session in view of taking a final decision by way of a resolution proposed by one or several Member States. He subsequently invited Member States to send their recommendations for a further guidance on the work of the Working Group.
158. The following delegations chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Bangladesh (observer on behalf of OEIWG Co-Chair), China, Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of Africa Group of UNESCO), France, India, Indonesia (observer), Japan, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand, United States of America, WESTPAC and SCOR.
159. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-55/3.5.2.

**Progress Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Status
of the Regional Committee of the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)**

The Executive Council,

Having examined document IOC/EC-55/3.5.2.Doc(1) that conveys the progress report of the Intersessional Open-ended Working Group on the Status of the Regional Committee of the Central Indian Ocean established by Decision A-31/3.5.6 of the IOC Assembly at its 31st session,

Thanks the Co-Chairs for leading the Working Group;

Notes the ongoing consultations, taking also into account the comments made at its 55th session, and their focus on such necessary specifications of the potential future IOC Sub-commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) as its title, terms of reference, programme of work with the proposed projects and funding support and the mechanisms for coordination with adjacent Sub-commissions on geographical areas of common interest while avoiding duplications;

Welcomes and appreciates the comments and inputs of IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC in the Working Group deliberations;

Invites the Working Group to continue its consultations with the IOC Sub-commissions and to submit its final report and recommendation, avoiding duplications and respecting geographic coverage of other Sub-commissions, for consideration by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session.

4. IOC RELEVANT ISSUES RELATED TO UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)

160. The Executive Secretary made a short introduction to this item and Mr Barbière, Head of the Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section and IOC focal point for the Decade, presented an overview of the progress in operationalizing the Implementation Plan. Julian Barbière reported on the outcome of the Call for Decade Actions No. 02/2021, the establishment of the Decade Advisory Board in December 2021 on the basis of the ToRs adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session, the engagement and resource mobilisation strategy for IOC to support its Decade coordination role well as its IOC programmatic contributions. He also reported on the establishment of Decade coordinating mechanisms (DCOs, DCCs, DIPs, NDCs). He indicated that the Co-Chairs of the Decade Advisory Board were not available to attend the Council session but would be invited to the next session of the Assembly.
161. The representatives of 27 Member States, 2 subsidiary bodies and 2 organizations took the floor.

162. A large number of Member States expressed ongoing support for the Decade and the work of the IOC Secretariat in its role as coordinator of the Decade, as well as reporting on Decade activities within their countries and the work of National Decade Committees. Issues raised by Member States included the need to avoid dispersal of the Secretariat across broad functions that detract from core programmatic work and the need to fully recognise Decade Actions led by United Nations agencies that are formally endorsed via parallel processes. Questions were raised regarding the need for guidance on the governance structures to be adopted by National Decade Committees, as well as the engagement of SIDS in Decade governance structures including the Decade Advisory Board. Member States asked for clarification on the status of resource mobilisation to date and whether the resource needs of the Decade Coordination Unit are met. Member States also stressed the need to ensure robust measurement of impacts of the Decade.
163. In response the Secretariat noted that IOC-led Decade Actions align strongly with programmatic work and note that other agenda items of the Executive Council are discussing the need to build a strategic approach to use the Decade to strengthen programme work including new funding. The Secretariat confirmed that UN registered Decade Actions are included in the reporting of Decade Actions and indicated that 15 United Nations led Actions have been registered. The Secretariat reminded the Executive Council that no parallel processes exist for formal recognition of UN led actions. The registration process for UN led actions is via the IOC Secretariat and the mechanism contained in the Implementation Plan. The Secretariat informed the Council that in 2022 it will undertake a mapping exercise of Decade related initiatives within sister UN entities and gaps to see where gaps may exist and where additional contributions could be catalysed. The Secretariat notes that the function and governance of National Decade Committees are not prescriptive as each Member State and Committee has its own context and needs. The Secretariat indicated that the emerging network of National Decade Committees provides a framework to share experience on governance models. The Secretariat confirmed that there is SIDS representation on the Decade Advisory Board and in the Alliance and cited the work of the Tropical Americas and Caribbean Regional Planning Group as an example of SIDS engagement in the Decade. The Secretariat indicated that the programmes that are submitted for endorsement are partially funded (on average about 24%) and notes that the Decade Coordination Unit plays a matchmaking between programmes and donors. The Secretariat noted that the last group of programmes submitted to Call for Decade Actions No. 02/2021 reported generally a higher percentage of secured resources and informed the Council of the advice of the Decade Advisory Board to collect additional information on secured resources to optimize this matchmaking process. The Secretariat confirmed that close to USD 15 million has been leveraged to directly support Decade Actions in sponsored Calls for Decade Actions. The Secretariat confirmed that the current baseline financial needs of the Decade Coordination Unit are met for the rest of 2022 and early 2023. Finally, the Secretariat noted that the roll-out of the monitoring and evaluation framework would commence in July 2022.
164. The following delegations chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, France, India, Indonesia (observer), Italy, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Thailand, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, IOCARIBE, WESTPAC, PICES, and SCOR.
165. The Executive Council adopted IOC Resolution EC-55/1 submitted by Brazil, Colombia, India, and Morocco.

**Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)**

The Executive Council,

Recalling IOC Resolutions EC-53/1 and A-31/1 on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), thereafter the Decade,

Part 1 – Decade Coordination

Considering document IOC/EC-55/4.1.Doc(1) on the Status of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and its addendum presenting the Outcomes of the 2nd Decade Call for Actions and scope of the 3rd Call,

Takes note of the establishment of Decade coordinating mechanisms (Decade Coordination Offices, Decade Collaborative Centres, Decade Implementing Partners, National Decade Committees) as presented in document IOC/INF-1413;

Also takes note of the establishment of the Decade Advisory Board (DAB) and its rules of procedure as presented in document IOC/INF-1414;

Thanks the members of the Interim DAB for their contribution up to December 2021;

Invites Member States and partners to:

- (i) provide voluntary financial contributions to support the work of the IOC Secretariat in coordinating the Decade including in-kind support (such as staff loans) and secondments to the Decade Coordination Unit (DCU);
- (ii) offer to host and fund Decade Actions, DCOs, and DCCs as described in the Decade Implementation Plan;
- (iii) establish NDCs with a view to stimulating national activities and international cooperation; and
- (iv) host regional or international Decade stakeholders events, including in the context of the International Ocean Decade Conference Series.

Further invites UN-Oceans members, UN Member States, international scientific and academic organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to support the Decade in collaboration with IOC, and contribute to its implementation by proposing Decade Actions in accordance with the Decade Implementation Plan;

Thanks the Governments of Canada, China, France, India, Japan, the Kingdom of Belgium (Government of Flanders), Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland as well as REV-Ocean, Panerai, and FUGRO for their financial contributions to the Decade;

Further thanks the Government of Germany for their hosting of the “High Level Launch of the Ocean Decade – First International Ocean Decade Conference” and the UN Ocean Decade Laboratories, the Government of Egypt for hosting the “African Conference on Priority Setting & Partnership Development for the Decade”, the Government of Thailand for hosting “UN Ocean Decade Kick-off Conference for the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas”, the Governments of Colombia and Barbados for hosting the “Regional Kick-off Conference for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030 for the Tropical Americas and the Caribbean Region”, and the Kingdom of Morocco through the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection for hosting the “Second Ocean Decade Foundations Dialogue”;

Part 2 – IOC Contribution to the Decade

Supports the registration of IOC-led Decade Actions, specifically:

- (i) E-DNA expeditions in marine World Heritage sites (UN8);
- (ii) OceanTeacher Global Academy: Building Capacity and Accelerated Technology Transfer for the Ocean Decade (UN10);
- (iii) Pacific Islands Marine Bioinvasions Alert Network (UN11);
- (iv) Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific (UN21);
- (v) Stem the tide of Asia’s riverine plastic emission into the ocean (UN22);
- (vi) Accelerating capacity development transformations Western Pacific – Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science (UN23);
- (vii) Explore the strongest ocean current in the Western Pacific: the 2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and adjacent regions (UN24);
- (viii) An Ocean Data and Information System supporting the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development – OceanData 2030 (UN25);

- (ix) Enhancing capacity development in the Tropical Americas and the Caribbean (TAC) Region (136.2);
- (x) Integrating Coastal Hazard Warning Systems for TAC (138.2);
- (xi) MACHC-IOCARIBE Seabed 2030 Project (140.2);

Also supports the active role of the IOC Regional and Technical Subsidiary Bodies and Programmes in facilitating Decade regional and thematic coordination and engagement activities, and in particular of:

- (i) IOC WESTPAC Secretariat acting as Decade Coordination Office for the Western Pacific Region;
- (ii) IODE Programme Office acting as Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Data Sharing;
- (iii) GOOS Project Office acting as Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Observation;

Welcomes the development of the Ocean Decade African Roadmap and its nine priority actions;

Notes the remaining gaps in the development of Decade Actions led by partners in Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, and **supports** the Secretariat in its ongoing efforts in engagement activities and resource mobilization in view of reducing these gaps;

Invites IOCAFRICA and IOCARIBE to consider acting as DCO for the implementation of regional Decade Actions and to develop terms of reference and identify resource needs for the strengthening of their respective regional Secretariats;

Takes note of the resource needs identified by IOC Programmes to fulfil Decade coordination functions; and **thanks** the Government of Thailand for its support to strengthen the IOC WESTPAC Office;

Further invites Member States, partners, and donor organizations to support these Decade Actions and Coordination mechanisms, including through allocation of extra-budgetary resources to relevant IOC programmes and regions, to achieve their transformative ambitions, guide their respective communities, and act as catalyzers of further actions within and beyond the Decade.

4.2 OTHER UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVES

166. Mr Barbière, Head of the Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section, introduced this agenda item by highlighting a number of UN processes relevant to ocean affairs, in which IOC contributed during the intersessional period.
167. The Secretariat ensured strong representation at the UNFCCC COP26 Climate Change Conference (Glasgow, UK, 1–13 November 2021), where it organized several side events focusing on the Ocean Decade, ocean acidification, ocean observations, blue carbon and marine spatial planning. A key ocean-related outcome of the UNFCCC can be expected from the recently established regular “ocean-climate” dialogue held by the Chair of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). The IOC Secretariat plans further engagement in both the Ocean-Climate Dialogue as well as the Research Dialogue under UNFCCC SBSTA.
168. Julian Barbière reported that IOC actively contributes to the negotiation process on an International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). During the intersessional work, IOC participated in two webinars on the Clearing-House Mechanism (14 October and 2 November 2021) for transfer of Marine Technology and presented the work of IOC in relation to Capacity Development and Data and Information Management, as well as the IOC Clearing-House Mechanism currently in development as part of the Ocean InfoHub Project. He reported that the fourth Intergovernmental Conference (IGC-4) took place in New York on 7–18 March 2022 but did not conclude its work. As a result, a 5th IGC will be conducted in New York on 15–26 August 2022. There is currently no consensus on the management and modalities of the Clearing-House, however there is some convergence that the Clearing-house be managed by the BBNJ Secretariat, potentially with support from other bodies (including IOC).

169. Finally, Mr Barbière highlighted the preparations for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal (27 June–1 July). The central theme of the Conference is “Scaling up Ocean Action based on science and innovation for the period 2020–2030: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”. The Conference will also provide input to the review of SDG 14 by the High Level Policy Forum that will meet in July 2022. He reported that IOC directly supported the conference by leading the preparation of concept papers for the interactive policy dialogues that will structure the core programme of the conference. IOC had also advanced in planning a series of high-level events to be held during the conference proceedings related to the Decade, as well as IOC programmatic areas. The Conference will adopt a final Declaration which in its draft form includes a reference to the role of the IOC and the Ocean Decade. He further reported that both the IOC Executive Secretary and the UNESCO Director-General have been invited to address the UN High Level Policy Forum taking place at UN Headquarters from 5 to 15 July, which will focus *inter alia* on the review of SDG 14.
170. The representatives of four Member States took the floor.
171. Member States expressed support for the continued efforts of the Secretariat and IOC officers in promoting the importance of ocean science within other UN fora, including in the forthcoming 5th Intergovernmental Conference (BBNJ) and welcomed the reference to the Commission’s role in implementing the Decade in the Draft final Lisbon Declaration as well as the numerous events to promote the Decade.
172. The following delegations chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Brazil, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.
173. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-55/4.2.

IOC in Other Initiatives

The Executive Council,

Considering documents IOC/EC-55/4.2.Doc(1) and IOC/INF-1387 (Non-paper on existing and potential future services of the IOC in support of a future ILBI for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ),

Welcomes the outcome of the UNFCCC COP-26 Glasgow Climate Pact and its provisions related to the ocean, in particular the establishment of an annual Ocean-Climate Dialogue, in the context the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to strengthen the ocean-based action, and further invites IOC to contribute actively to its work;

Takes note of the decision to organise the 5th meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ (15–26 August 2022), and recalling Decision IOC-XXX/10.1, requests the Executive Secretary, Chairperson or designated Officer of IOC to represent the Commission at meetings of the Intergovernmental Conference, and further invites IOC Member States to support the role of the Commission and its possible contributions on the basis of information contained in the Non-Paper (IOC/INF-1387);

Invites IOC Member States to actively take part in the UN Ocean Conference, 27 June–1 July 2022 in Lisbon, and highlight their contribution to IOC and the Ocean Decade reinforcing the importance of ocean science towards the achievement of SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to continue engaging with these processes by providing scientific and technical support as relevant.

5. GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

5.1 FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION A-31/2: GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING MATTERS OF THE COMMISSION

174. The Executive Secretary introduced this item.

175. He recalled that by Resolution A-31/2, adopted during its 31st session in 2021, the Assembly requested “the IOC Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the UNESCO Legal Advisor and IFAG, a preliminary proposal for the revised separate sets of Rules of Procedure for the IOC Assembly and Rules of Procedure for the IOC Executive Council, making the necessary clarifications and aligning language versions, for review and adoption by these two bodies.”
176. Accordingly, the Secretariat, in consultation with UNESCO Legal Office, identified a competent legal consultant to provide the initial analysis of the feasibility and potential complications of drafting separate sets of Rules of Procedure for the IOC Assembly and for the IOC Executive Council. This analysis was presented to the IOC Officers during their annual meeting, 17–21 January 2022, and shared with the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (IFAG) by the IFAG Chair in his email communication of 14 April 2022.
177. The main conclusion is that while the preparation of such separate sets of Rules of Procedure does not seem to be barred by obstacles rendering it unfeasible, it however constitutes a more challenging exercise than would appear *prima facie*. First, the separation process must be assessed against statutory constraints. Secondly, it entails a careful consideration of the existing provisions of the Rules of Procedure, which do not evenly apply to the Assembly and Executive Council. Thirdly, the analysis concurs that the current Commission’s Rules of Procedure evidently suffer from a defective alignment of the language versions, as pointed out in the Report of the IFAG Chair to the 31st session of the Assembly (IOC/A-31/4.3.Doc). There are obvious discrepancies between the English and French versions of the current Rules, which may lead to significant difficulties in interpreting and implementing the relevant provisions.
178. Separating the current Rules of Procedure into two sets of rules respectively applicable to the Assembly and the Executive Council is therefore only feasible on the basis of a clear identification of the object and purpose of existing provisions.
179. For the reasons given above, the document (IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1)) presented for consideration by the Executive Council is based on the proposal to:
- refrain from engaging in a procedure of amendment of the IOC Statutes;
 - in conformity with Article 6.B.3 of the Statutes, maintain a single set of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, to be formally determined by the Assembly;
 - revise the current Rules of Procedure on the basis of a distinction among general rules, rules applicable to the Assembly and the Executive Council, and rules applicable only to one of these bodies;
 - amend Rules 55 and 56 in order to acknowledge and specify the competence of the Executive Council to amend or suspend rules relating to its organization and functioning.
180. The Executive Secretary attracted Member States’ attention to the fact that the Annex to document IOC/EC-55/5.1Doc(1) also contains a non-exhaustive set of comments by legal experts indicating where Member States may wish to consider the benefit of further clarifications, requiring a more in-depth review of the Rules. He also highlighted that a more detailed analysis of the matters at stake is available for Member States attention on document IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(2) ‘Report of the Chair of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (intersessional period December 2021–June 2022)’.
181. He concluded by inviting Member States to actively participate in the work of the sessional Financial Committee that will examine the proposed draft Rules of Procedure and formulate the draft resolution for adoption in plenary under agenda item 5.2. This will guide the work of the Secretariat in preparing the pre-final version for adoption by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session.

182. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-55/5.1.

Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission

The Executive Council,

Having examined documents IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1) and IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(2),

Takes note of the documents IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1) and IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(2) subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion and adoption in plenary.

5.2 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

183. The Chair of the Financial Committee, Vice-Chair of IOC Karim Hilmi (Morocco), reported to the Executive Council on the results of the Committee's examination of the items entrusted to it by the plenary in addition to the statutory ones foreseen in the Rule of Procedure 8.1(c).

184. The Executive Council adopted Resolution EC-55/2 submitted by Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, France, Germany, Grenada, Japan, Kuwait, Morocco, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Türkiye, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

Governance, programming and budgeting matters of the Commission

The Executive Council,

Having examined documents:

- (i) IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(2) – Report on 2020–2021 (40 C/5) Budget Implementation as at 31 December 2021 and outline of the 2022–2023 Integrated Budgetary Framework,
- (ii) IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(3) – Financial situation of the IOC Special Account as at year end 2021 and forecast for 2022-2023,
- (iii) IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1) - Proposed Revision of the IOC Rules of Procedure – First Draft,
- (iv) IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(2) - Report of the Chair of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (intersessional period December 2021–June 2022),

I. Report on 2020–2021 (40 C/5) Budget Implementation as at 31 December 2021 and outline of the 2022–2023 Integrated Budgetary Framework

Confirms that the IOC budget for 2020–2021, as reported in Part I of IOC/EC-53/3.1.Doc(2), has been executed in accordance with the approved UNESCO Programme and Budget for 2020–2021 (40 C/5), including the adjusted budgetary appropriations for the IOC Special Account as approved by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session (IOC/A-31/3.2.Doc(3)) through IOC Resolution A-31/2;

Notes that the extrabudgetary resource mobilisation targets set for the 2020–2021 biennium have been achieved to the level of 92% overall, but with considerable variances between the Commission's Functions;

Thanks Member States who have contributed extrabudgetary resources and in-kind contributions for the 2020–2021 programme implementation;

Expresses its satisfaction that the Integrated Budgetary Framework for 2022–2023 approved by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 41st session and presented in Part II of IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(2) is consistent with the budgetary allocations approved by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session (IOC/A-31/4.2.Doc) through IOC Resolution A-31/2;

Acknowledges the information on the financial situation of the IOC Special Account as at year end 2021 and forecast for 2022–2023 provided in IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(3);

Approves the revised budgetary allocations for 2022–2023 as proposed in Table 1 of IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(3);

Encourages all Member States to provide voluntary contributions to ensure full achievement of the collectively agreed extrabudgetary resource mobilization targets for 2022–2023, preferably to the IOC Special Account;

Urgently requests the IOC Executive Secretary to provide by September 2022 an estimate of the budget, including the needs in human resources, necessary to sustainably deliver IOC's core programmes and to expand its activities in response to increasing demands of Member States and other stakeholders as referenced in IOC Resolution XXX-3, and share it with all IOC Member States through a circular letter;

Also requests the IOC Executive Secretary to continue efforts to obtain further voluntary contributions, including from private sector donors and other partners and to achieve full implementation of the Commission's programmatic targets for 2022–2023;

II. Governance and Working Methods

A. Review of the IOC Rules of Procedure

Recalls that the IOC Assembly at its 31st session through IOC Resolution A-31/2 requested the IOC Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the UNESCO Legal Advisor and the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (IFAG), a preliminary proposal for the revised separate sets of Rules of Procedure for the IOC Assembly and Rules of Procedure for the IOC Executive Council, making the necessary clarifications and aligning language versions, for review and adoption by these two bodies;

Acknowledges that, upon further examination of the matter by the Office of UNESCO Legal Advisor and IFAG, the preparation of such separate sets of Rules of Procedure constitutes a more challenging exercise than appeared *prima facie*;

Agrees that the development of separate sets of Rules of Procedure for the IOC Assembly and Executive Council must be assessed against statutory constraints and notably Article 6.B.3 of the IOC Statutes stating 'the Assembly shall determine the Commission's Rules of Procedure';

Welcomes the proposal contained in IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1) as respectful of Member States' wish to refrain from any substantial review of the Rules of Procedure by reorganizing them, rather than truly reviewing them;

Recommends that the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session adopt the overall approach as presented in IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1) and based on the proposal to:

- (i) refrain from engaging in a procedure of amendment of the IOC Statutes,
- (ii) in conformity with Article 6.B.3 of the Statutes, maintain a single set of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, to be formally determined by the IOC Assembly,
- (iii) revise the current Rules of Procedure on the basis of a distinction among general rules, rules applicable to the IOC Assembly and the IOC Executive Council, and rules applicable only to one of these bodies,
- (iv) acknowledge and specify the competence of the IOC Executive Council to temporarily suspend rules relating to its organization and functioning, noting that any amendment to the rules can only be adopted by the decision of the IOC Assembly;

Notes that, should the IOC Assembly adopt this recommendation, the IOC Executive Council will not need to hold an extraordinary session immediately following the 32nd session of the IOC Assembly in order to adopt its own separate set of Rules of Procedure, as was initially foreseen in IOC Resolution A-31/2;

Further notes the non-exhaustive set of comments provided by the Office of UNESCO Legal Advisor in the Annex of IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1);

Invites the IOC Executive Secretary to prepare the revised draft Rules of Procedure for review and adoption by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session in 2023 without any substantive changes, based on the discussions in IFAG and at the IOC Executive Council and in line with the following recommendations:

- (i) improve clarity and align language versions, focusing on fixing only what needs to be fixed,
- (ii) develop guidelines for consultations by correspondence, applicable both to the IOC Assembly and the IOC Executive Council, based on prevailing best practices and UNESCO experience,
- (iii) include in the Rules of Procedure a provision for holding online meetings, but only as an exceptional measure,

- (iv) submit draft guidelines for online meeting to the IOC Assembly along with the revised draft of the Rules of Procedure;

B. Reporting on in-kind contributions (IKC)

Recalls that IOC Resolution A-31/2 invited IFAG 'to develop a proposal for a systematic approach and methodology for reporting in-kind contributions, consistent with the updated Guiding Principles for Programming and Budgeting (Annex I to IOC Resolution EC-53/2) and Article 10 of the IOC Statutes, to be considered by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session';

Welcomes the more systematic and inclusive approach to reporting on IKC as proposed by IFAG and presented in IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(2);

Invites the IOC Executive Secretary to launch the pilot reporting exercise for calendar year 2022 according to the following timeline:

September 2022–January 2023: The IOC Secretariat issues a Circular Letter to Member States in September 2022 conveying the methodology and requesting formal statements of contributions in calendar year 2022 by 20 January 2023 at the latest,

February 2023: The complete report on IKC is shared with IFAG (intersessional mandate 2022–2023) for discussion and potential proposal for revisions to methodology for consideration by the IOC Assembly in 2023;

Further invites the IOC Executive Secretary to submit the above report to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session for review and decision on future reporting;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to work on the matters covered by this Resolution in consultation with IFAG over the intersessional period 2022–2023.

5.3 PREPARATION OF THE NEXT SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

185. The Executive Secretary reminded the Council of IOC Decision A-31/4.6 of the Assembly at its 31st session on the dates and duration of the 32nd session of the Assembly in 2023. Following this decision, the Secretariat made an initial reservation of rooms from 19 to 30 June 2023 at UNESCO Headquarters.
186. The Secretariat asked the Council about possible conflicts with other meetings of interest to the oceanographic community but also with other important programme meetings at UNESCO. The World Meteorological Congress and the International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) were mentioned with dates set before those envisaged for the IOC Executive Council.
187. The option of an extraordinary session of the Executive Council dedicated to the adoption of a separate set of Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council set forth in Decision A-31/4.6 was not retained after the discussion of this issue under item 5.1-5.2.
188. In his concluding remarks, the Executive Secretary recalled the Council that in 2023, it will have an important role to play in the selection process of the new IOC Executive Secretary, including selecting, in an *in camera* meeting, a list of up to six preferential candidates to be submitted to the Director-General of UNESCO.
189. The Executive Council adopted IOC Decision EC-55/5.3.

Preparation of the 32nd session of the Assembly and next sessions of the Executive Council

The Executive Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 54th session (EC-54, Dec. 4) and IOC Decision A-31/4.6 of the Assembly at its 31st session,

Noting that the extraordinary session of the Executive Council dedicated to the adoption of a separate set of Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council is no longer required,

Decides to hold:

- (i) The 32nd session of the Assembly for a duration of 6.5 days plus one Ocean Science Day, at UNESCO Headquarters, over the period from 20 to 30 June 2023, preceded by a one-day session of the Executive Council (56th session) acting as the steering committee of the Assembly;
- (ii) The 57th session of the Executive Council for 3.5 days in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris in June/July 2024.

6. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND MODALITIES FOR THE FINALISATION OF THE REPORT

190. The Chair of the Resolutions Committee, Prof. Yutaka Michida from Japan, reported to the Council on the work of the Committee, which reviewed two Draft Resolutions and held two meetings during the session.
191. The IOC Chairperson then invited the Executive Council to adopt, in plenary, two resolutions in addition to the decisions already adopted under each agenda item.
192. The Executive Secretary informed the Council that as is now customary, the Secretariat is drafting the narrative part of the summary report for the session in English only. The text will only be available shortly after the session, together with the compilation of adopted decisions and resolutions, and translated for the consideration of the members of this Council.
193. The Chairperson thanked the Rapporteur Dr Suzan El-Gharabawy of Egypt for her excellent work in support of the work of the session.
194. The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-55/6.

Adoption of resolutions and modalities for the finalisation of the Report

The Executive Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 52nd session (EC-LII, Dec.3.3) on organization matters,

Adopts the decisions and two resolutions of the session;

Requests the Executive Secretary to circulate the draft report of the session to Member States in the four working languages of the Commission by 30 July 2022 at the latest for its adoption by correspondence by 30 September 2022.

7. CLOSURE

195. The Council met in plenary session during 3.5 days from 14 to 17 June 2022, considered 18 items on its agenda and approved 11 decisions and 2 resolutions. The plenary meeting was supported by some 8 side meetings, and 1 information side meeting organized by Canada on North Atlantic Biogeochemical Carbon Pump. The plenary meetings were broadcast on the IOC website in four languages but did not allow for remote participation to the discussion.
196. In their concluding remarks, the Chairperson and the Executive Secretary expressed their appreciation to the members of the Bureau and the delegations who had to cope with conditions that were still difficult for some to be represented at this session. In spite of all circumstances, the IOC is moving sustainable ocean planning and management forward. It relies ever more on its

community of experts and the engagement of the national stakeholders and partner organizations to build up the strategy for the ocean we need and the future we want.

197. The chairperson of the Commission thanked all behind the scenes, notably the many UNESCO services and the members of the secretariat who made this session possible.
198. The Chair of the Commission closed the 55th session of the Executive Council at 12.22 hours (Paris time) on 17 June 2022.