



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(Of UNESCO)

**THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION GROUP
FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEM**

Bali, Indonesia

28 November–1 December 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Rule 48.3 of the Rules of Procedure for the primary Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System is required to report to a governing body on its sessions.

The IOC Assembly at its Thirty-second Session will be invited to consider this Executive Summary. For more detailed information on the Thirteenth Session of ICG/IOTWMS, please refer to its website at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/3672>.

1. The Thirteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS-XIII) was held in Bali, Indonesia, under the Chairpersonship of Professor Dwikorita Karnawati. The session was attended by 54 delegates from 17 Member States in the Indian Ocean region, 4 staff from United Nations agencies (including 3 from UNESCO and 1 from UNESCAP), and an additional 10 observers from 5 Member States (Australia, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, and Oman). The adopted meeting agenda is attached as Annex A.

2. **The ICG reviewed** the progress made during the intersessional period and considered the reports and recommendations from its Chair, Working Groups and Task Teams, the IOC-UNESCO Secretariat for the ICG/IOTWMS, and the IOC-UNESCO Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC). The ICG considered the IOTWMS Medium-term Strategy (2019–2024), IOWave20 Exercise Report, 2018 Capacity Assessment of Tsunami Preparedness in the Indian Ocean (2020), Tsunami Service Provider Service Definition Document (2019), National Tsunami Warning Centre User Guide, and Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) Status Reports from Australia, India, and Indonesia. The ICG also received, considered, and noted reports of the 13th, 14th and 15th meetings of the IOC-UNESCO Working Group on Tsunami and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG). Central to many of the discussions was the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the ICG considered two further and important documents: 1)

Guidelines for Tsunami Warning Services, Evacuation and Sheltering; and 2) Impacts on IOTWMS Monitoring Networks and Tsunami Service Providers.

3. **The ICG noted** the speech on 23 March 2022 of UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, where he announced the United Nations would spearhead new action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years (2027);

4. **The ICG also noted** the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme extensive goal to achieve the outcome of 100% of at-risk communities resilient and prepared for tsunamis;

5. **The ICG further noted** the efforts of the IOC Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG) to develop a better understanding of the threat from tsunamis generated by non-seismic and complex sources and develop guidance on best practices to monitor and warn for such events.

6. **The ICG further noted** the importance of seismic data for timely and accurate determination of tsunami threats by Tsunami Service Providers, and the progress made in bilateral exchange of seismic data among some Member States; and **urged** Member States, especially in the North-West Indian Ocean region, to provide all relevant seismic data in real-time to Tsunami Service Providers and other Member States.

7. **The ICG encouraged** Member States to continue reviewing their tsunami warning chains with a view to minimizing the number of steps, and clear authorization of responsibilities amongst stakeholders, especially for near-field tsunami threats.

8. **The ICG encouraged** Member States to enhance community preparedness for near-field tsunamis, including for tsunamis generated by non-seismic and complex sources, with emphasis also on self-evacuation based on natural signs.

9. **The ICG encouraged** Member States to emphasise to Disaster Management Organisations (DMOs) and Broadcasting Media the role they also play with national Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) in strengthening the national warning chain to ensure optimal community response, and to stress the importance that all agencies participate in regional tsunami governance and technical forums.

10. **The ICG noted** the successful conduct of IOWave 20 exercise by Member States, the IOC-UNESCO Tsunami Ready recognition of two (2) villages in India and nine (9) villages in Indonesia, and the Indian Ocean Tsunami Ready Workshop in Bali (Indonesia), 22–26 November 2022, and **encouraged** all Member States to consider implementing the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP) for vulnerable communities leading to IOC-UNESCO recognition.

11. **The ICG also noted** the successful outcomes of Phase 1, Phases 2a and 2b of the UNESCAP funded project “Strengthening tsunami early warning in the North-West Indian Ocean through regional cooperation”, and **further noted** efforts to develop a Phase 2c of the project involving training in inundation and evacuation mapping in support of implementation of the IOC-UNESCO TRRP in the region.

12. **The ICG endorsed** the new Terms of Reference of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC), including addition of the World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) task.

13. **The ICG decided** to conduct an IOWave exercise in September–October 2023.

14. **The ICG decided** to continue:

- Working Group 1 on Tsunami Risk, Community Awareness and Preparedness
- Working Group 2 on Tsunami Detection, Warning and Dissemination

- Sub-Regional Working Group for the North-West Indian Ocean
- Task Team on Scientific Tsunami Hazard Assessment of the Makran Subduction Zone, and
- Steering Group of ICG/IOTWMS.

15. **The ICG decided** to establish:

- Working Group 3 on Tsunami Ready Implementation
- Task Team on IOWave 23 exercise.

16. **The ICG decided** to establish Tsunami Ready Focal Points (TRFPs) nominated by each Member State to enhance communication, coordination, and implementation of the TRRP or similar initiatives across the Indian Ocean.

17. **The ICG decided** to conduct two training workshops on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the intersessional period, with one to be conducted in the western Indian Ocean region and another in the eastern Indian Ocean, in the first half of 2023 and before IOWave 23, subject to the availability of funding.

18. **The ICG decided** to continue to hold inter-sessional activities as integrated meetings to optimise resources, if available.

19. **The ICG decided** to again undertake a full Capacity Assessment of Tsunami Preparedness in the Indian Ocean in 2024 to evaluate progress of the IOTWMS since the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004, and also undertake a shorter assessment before each session of the ICG for review by Member States through an online questionnaire to continuously monitor progress after each intersessional period to help guide the work plans of the ICG/IOTWMS.

20. **The ICG decided** to extend the Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) services of the IOTWMS to include tsunamis generated by non-seismic and complex sources.

21. **The ICG elected** its officers for the next intersessional term commencing at the end of the session, whereby Prof. Dr Dwikorita Karnawati (Indonesia) was elected to continue as Chair, and Dr Yuelong Miao (Australia) and Mr Pattabhi Rama Rao Eluri (India) were elected as Vice-chairs.

22. **The ICG acknowledged with appreciation** the contribution and continued support of the Government of Australia for the IOC-UNESCO ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat and the support of the Government of Indonesia for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC).

23. **The ICG decided** to hold its 14th session in late 2024 to coincide with the 20th Commemoration of the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 and **accepted with appreciation** the offer from the Government of Indonesia to host it.

24. **The ICG accepted** with appreciation the offer from Oman to host its 15th session in 2026.

25. **The ICG expressed** its gratitude to Indonesia for the excellent host arrangements for its 13th session.