Thirty-second session of the IOC Assembly
Paris, 21 - 30 June 2023

Item 4.5 Status of the Regional Committee of the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)
Establish an intersessional Working Group in order to complete the work on: terms of reference; determination of the geographic scope; programme of work; the proposed projects and funding support; and mechanisms for coordination with adjacent Sub-Commissions; etc.

Report to the Executive Council, at its 55th session, on the status of implementation of this decision.

... To pursue further towards the establishment of the IOC Sub-Commission ..., as a framework to improve coordination of IOC Member States in the region and to ensure implementation of IOC programmes in the Indian Ocean with a view to presenting a draft resolution to the Assembly of IOC at its 32nd Session.
IOC CL No 2872

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCEANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGouvernementale
COMMUNE INTERGOVERNAMENTALE
MERCATORS 1089 43 100 6 14 200 11 20

To: Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC

Percy-Percy Delegated Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
Chair of IOC, Vice-Chairs, Chairs of IOCAFRICA, IOCINDIO, and WESTPAC

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

Subject: Invitation to Member States to nominate members of the open-ended Interim Working Group on the Matters of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

By this letter, I wish to recall that the IOC-Assembly at its Thirty-first Session, online (UNESCO, Paris, 14-25 June 2021) discussed the proposal of IOCINDIO Chair Rear Admiral (Retd) Anurag Karan Singh to change the status of IOCINDIO into an IOC Sub-Centre. That proposal was based on a corresponding Recommendation of IOCINDIO at its 8th Session, which was reflected in the Action Plan (CCQA-21/I/9) (doc) for the Assembly. The revised Assembly working document is CCQA-21/310 (doc). Both documents are available in the four working languages of the Commission.

After the initial discussion of the above proposal in the plenary meeting of the Assembly, then in three meetings of a session dedicated working group and the concluding discussion in plenary meeting, the Assembly adopted IOC Decision A-31/3.5. The Revised Summary Report of the IOC 31st Assembly is available online and contains a summary of the Item discussion and the decision.

Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, France, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Kuwait, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States of America as well as the Vice-Chair of electoral Group IV of IOC, the Chairpersons of IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC, the former Officers of IOCINDIO, the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) based in Seychelles, and observers.

28 MS + neighboring RSB + observers
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)

Decision IOC/EC-55/3.5.2.

… Notes the ongoing consultations, …

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

Invites the WG 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.
Unanimous adoption of the draft Terms of Reference of the IOC Sub-Commission for the central Indian Ocean on the understanding, with a consensual agreement, that it should not interfere with, undermine, diminish, or weaken the work and/or responsibilities of existing neighboring IOC Sub-Commissions.

For the purposes of the document, “central Indian Ocean” refers to the area of the Indian Ocean adjacent, to the West, with that of IOCAFRICA, and to the East, with that of WESTPAC.

Adequate coordination with adjacent Sub-Commissions is proposed to avoid overlaps, focusing on cooperation, collaboration, and integration of IOC activities for the benefit of all regions.