



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

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

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**IOC Circular Letter No 2928**  
(Also available in French and Spanish)

IOC/VR/JB/ic  
12 September 2023

- To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with IOCAFRICA  
UN and Regional Organizations Co-operating with IOCAFRICA
- C.c. : Other Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC  
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States  
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States  
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission  
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies  
(Scientific, Technical and Regional)

**Subject: Interim Arrangements – Acting Head of the Secretariat of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA)**

Mr Mika Odido, Head of the IOCAFRICA Secretariat, retired on 31 August 2023. His position is currently in the final stages of recruitment, with an appointment expected before the end of the year.

The IOCAFRICA region needs strong support from the Secretariat to meet the needs of Member States and to deliver the ambitious IOCAFRICA and Ocean Decade workplans for the region. Accordingly, I have requested Mr Julian Barbière, Head of Marine Policy and Regional Coordination at IOC Secretariat in Paris, and the global coordinator for the Ocean Decade, to act as interim Head of the IOCAFRICA Secretariat in close consultation with the Director of the UNESCO Office in Nairobi. I have informed Professor Kouadio Affian, IOCAFRICA Chairperson, of my decision.

Yours sincerely,

*[signed]*

Vladimir Ryabinin  
Executive Secretary

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