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**IOC/A-32/Decisions**

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)**

**Thirty-second Session of the Assembly**

UNESCO, Paris, 21–30 June 2023

**ADOPTED DECISIONS & RESOLUTIONS**



## ADOPTED DECISIONS

### IOC Decision A-32/2

#### **Organization of the Session**

The Assembly,

#### **I. Agenda**

Adopts the agenda and the timetable of work as set out in documents IOC/A-32/2.1.Doc Prov. Rev. and Add.;

#### **II. Rapporteur**

On a proposal of France, seconded by United Kingdom, Germany, Côte d'Ivoire, Ukraine, Morocco, and Egypt,

Designates Ms Devin Burri of United States of America 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**

Establishes the following sessional open-ended committees and refers to them the following agenda items and responsibilities:

Financial Committee: to examine the documentation and prepare a resolution under items 3.2 (budget implementation and financial report), 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4; under the chairship of Dr Karim Hilmi (Morocco, Vice-chair) with the following Member States participating: Argentina, Angola, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Grenada, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Thailand, Togo, UK, USA, Viet Nam. 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; under the chairship of Prof. Yutaka Michida (Japan) with the following Member States participating: China, France, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Portugal Russian Federation, Thailand, USA. Mr Julian Barbière provided the Secretariat support to the Resolutions Committee.

Nominations Committee (to examine all proposals of candidates for the elections to the chair, vice-chairs and to the Executive Council at the present session, and to report on them – item 6.5): under the chairship of Mr Frederico Saraiva Nogueira (Brazil, Vice-chair) with the following Member States participating: Albania, Bulgaria, China, Congo, Gabon, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Portugal, Republic Of Korea, Thailand, USA. Bernardo Aliaga and Henrik Enevoldsen provided the Secretariat support to the Nominations Committee.

### IOC Decision A-32/3.2

#### **Report of the Executive Secretary**

The Assembly,

Having examined documents IOC/A-32/3.2.Doc(1) & Addendum, IOC/A-32/3.2.Doc(2) and IOC/A-32/3.2.Doc(3),

Thanks the Executive Secretary for a comprehensive report;

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

### IOC Decision A-32/3.3.1

#### **IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Islands States**

The Assembly,

Having examined the Executive Summary report of the 7th session of the IOC's Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, online, 15–17 March 2023 (IOCAFRICA-VII/3s),

Takes note of the progress made in the implementation of the IOCAFRICA work programme 2021–2023;

Thanks the Member States who have provided support for the implementation of IOCAFRICA programmes during the intersessional period, especially the Governments of Flanders (Belgium), China, Kenya, Norway, Sweden;

Accepts the report of IOCAFRICA-VII and the recommendations therein, including the work programme for 2023–2025;

Notes that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting matters of the Commission.

### IOC Decision A-32/3.3.2

#### **IOC Sub-commission for the Western Pacific**

The Assembly,

Having considered the executive summary report of the 14th Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub- Commission for the Western Pacific (4–7 April 2023),

Notes with appreciation the efforts made during the intersessional period in assisting Member States to address their development challenges, and taking the lead in the region to mobilize support and actions for the Ocean Decade;

Thanks the Member States and partners who have provided support, either in cash or in kind, for the development and implementation of a wide range of programmes of the Sub-Commission, in particular to:

- The Government of Thailand, through its Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, for the provision of office space and facilities for the WESTPAC Office and Decade Coordination Office, and for having hosted the UN Ocean Decade Kick-off Conference for the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas in November 2021;

- The Government of Indonesia, through its National Research and Innovation Agency, for hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Session, 4–7 April 2023, and the Regional Training and Research Centre on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health with annual training having been provided since 2016;
- The Government of China for hosting the Regional Training and Research Centre on Ocean Dynamics and Climate (Ministry of Natural Resources and its First Institute of Oceanography) with its annual training having been provided since 2011, and the Regional Training and Research Centre on Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics (East China Normal University);
- The Governments of the Philippines and Viet Nam for hosting the Regional Training and Research Centre on Coral Reef Restoration and MPAs (University of the Philippines Diliman), and Marine Toxins and Seafood Safety (Institute of Oceanography), respectively;
- Member States for their in-cash support, such as China via its voluntary contribution to the IOC Special Account, Japan via the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust, and the Republic of Korea via the UNESCO/Korean Funds-in-Trust; and those for their in-kind support for various WESTPAC programmes and activities, including China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, USA, and Viet Nam;

Expresses deep concerns over the understaffed and overstretched situation of the WESTPAC Office;

Accepts the report of WESTPAC-XIV and the decisions therein, including the Work Programme for the Sub-Commission for May 2023–April 2025;

Notes that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting matters of the Commission;

Appreciates the offer of the Government of Thailand to host the 2nd UN Decade Regional Conference in conjunction with the 11th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference in April 2024, and the offer of the Government of Japan to host the 15<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Session in early 2025, including the SGOs Roundtable 2025;

Encourages Member States and partners to consider any possibility of providing and increasing their support, either in cash or in kind, to the Sub-Commission, including secondments and loans of staff.

### IOC Decision A-32/3.3.3

#### **IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Region**

The Assembly,

Having considered the Executive Summary Report of the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Region (IOCARIBE-XVII/3s), 9–11 May 2023,

Takes note of the progress made in implementing the IOCARIBE work programme 2021–2023;

Notes with appreciation the Member States who have provided financial, technical and human resources support for the implementation of IOCARIBE programmes during the intersessional period;

Accepts the report of IOCARIBE-XVII and the recommendations therein, that form the work plan of the Sub-Commission;

Notes that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting matters of the Commission.

#### IOC Decision A-32/3.3.4

### **IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean**

The Assembly,

Having examined the Executive Summary report of the 9th session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 28–30 March 2023 (IOCINDIO-IX/3s),

Accepts the report of IOCINDIO-IX and the recommendations therein, including the work programme for 2023–2025;

Notes that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting matters of the Commission.

#### IOC Decision A-32/3.4.1

### **Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards**

The Assembly,

Having examined the executive summary reports of the recent sessions of the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XVI/3s), the IOC Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS-XIII/3s), and the report of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG-XVI),

Accepts the reports by the IOC/ICGs and TOWS-WG;

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

- (i) Tsunami exercises conducted in the Caribbean (CARIBE WAVE 22 and CARIBE WAVE 23), and Pacific (PacWave 22) regions;
- (ii) Work of the TOWS-WG *Ad hoc* Teams on Meteotsunamis and Tsunamis Generated by Volcanoes under the Task Team on Tsunami Watch Operations (TT TWO);
- (iii) Continuing expansion of capabilities and services of the Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) for each region, especially with regards to tsunami events, and

including development of new products and capabilities, such as for the maritime community and growing capability in response to tsunamis generated by non-seismic and complex events;

- (iv) Enhancements to monitoring and detection capabilities, such as growing use of GNSS data globally and installation of undersea cable systems (SMART) in the North-eastern Atlantic and Southwest Pacific Oceans;
- (v) the appointment of Dr Laura Kong, Director, International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC as the Chair of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Coalition);
- (vi) Continued progress in the implementation of UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and Caribbean and Adjacent regions;
- (vii) Efforts of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Center (IOTIC) and International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC) in preparing Tsunami Awareness, UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready and Tsunami Evacuation Maps, Plans and Procedures (TEMPP) training through the Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) platform and hybrid training workshops and training videos;
- (viii) Initiatives like Hotel Resilient, as a benchmarking and certification of hotels and resorts for disaster risk management (multi-hazard including tsunami) and climate change adaptation, as well as the example for a major hotel in Waikiki, Hawaii, United States;
- (ix) Work of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS) to develop a National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) Competency Framework (2019), and the ITIC's leadership to pilot training courses based on the Framework;
- (x) Activities undertaken by the respective regions for World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) 2022, and as part of this, the strong engagement in the #GetToHighGround Initiative, and the success achieved through United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and IOC collaboration;
- (xi) Efforts of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS) and the IOC Secretariat to coordinate and contribute to global initiatives related to Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS);
- (xii) Continuing collaboration with the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), and International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- (xiii) The ICG/PTWS for quick implementation of the Interim Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai (HTHH) Volcano Tsunami Response Procedures by 15 March 2022 (cf. IOC Circular Letter 2882).

Welcomes the appointment of the new ICG/CARIBE EWS Officers for the biennium 2023–2025;

## **I. Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CARIBE-EWS)**

### Notes with appreciation:

- (i) the planned hosting of a five-day Tides Training Course to be taught in Spanish for both oceanographic and hydrographic organizations jointly organized and funded by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, 13–17 November 2023, hosted by Costa Rica;
- (ii) NOAA's support to the Puerto Rico Seismic Network (PRSN) for hosting a training workshop for GNSS network operators in the region during the second week of August 2023;
- (iii) the strong cooperation between the Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (CTIC), the Caribbean Office of the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC-CAR), CARIBE-EWS WG4, Task Teams CARIBE WAVE and Tsunami Ready and UNDRR for advancement of preparedness, readiness and resilience to mitigate the impacts of tsunamis and other coastal hazards in the CARIBE-EWS, particularly in relation to the implementation of the Tsunami Ready programme, the dissemination and development of outreach and educational resources, support to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development including the work of the Tropical America and Caribbean Decade Safe Ocean Working Group;
- (iv) the consideration of the Central America Tsunami Advisory Center (CATAC) as a Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) in its 17th Session in 2024 to enable the IOC Executive Council to consider the final admission of CATAC as TSP in June 2024;
- (v) the decision to hold CARIBE WAVE 24 on Thursday 21 March 2024, commencing at 15:00 UTC with two scenarios: (a) an earthquake along the Puerto Rico Trench; and (b) an earthquake along the North Panama Deformed Belt based on the 1882 event;
- (vi) the decision to realign the ICG/CARIBE-EWS Working Groups (WG) around the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the EW4ALL and the ODTP pillars, including capacity development functions for all;

## **II. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS)**

### Notes with appreciation:

- (i) the successful completion and outcomes of Phases 2a and 2b of the UNESCAP funded project "Strengthening tsunami early warning in the North-West Indian Ocean through regional cooperation" and the commencement in 2023 of the Phase 2c of the project;
- (ii) the hosting of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Ready Workshop in Bali, Indonesia, 22–26 November 2022 and the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready recognition of a further nine communities in Indonesia in 2022;



- (iii) IOTWMS plans to 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;
- (iv) IOTWMS plans to hold the 14th session of the ICG/IOTWMS in late 2024 to coincide with the 20th Commemoration of the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 and the offer from the Government of Indonesia to host it;
- (v) the decision to hold the Exercise IOWAVE23 in October of 2023;

### **III. Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG)**

Decides that warning systems for tsunamis generated by volcanoes should be considered and coordinated as part of the UNESCO/IOC Global tsunami and other Ocean-related Hazards Warning and Mitigation System (GOHWMS), and also when possible be part of a MHEWS;

Acknowledges the WMO request to the WMO-IOC Joint Collaborative Board to review tsunami issues as they relate to meteotsunamis, to clarify the roles and responsibilities for the WMO and UNESCO-IOC, and to determine how best to strengthen collaboration in support of Member States;

Welcomes the organisation of a Global Scientific Symposium and establishment of an Organizing Committee composed of two Co-chairs nominated by the TT-TWO and TT-DMP, the Chair of the ODTP Scientific Committee, a representative from the Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG), a representative of the IUGG-Joint Tsunami Commission, and a representative of each of the Tsunami Information Centres to be hosted by the Government of Indonesia in December 2024 as part of the plans by the ICG/IOTWMS to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004;

Decides to endorse the 10-Year Research, Development and Implementation Plan of the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme as presented in document IOC/A-32/3.4.1.2.Doc(1);

Instructs the regional Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs) to:

- (i) encourage sea level data is sampled at one second intervals and with the highest available accuracy and transmitted in real-time as a matter of priority, given the critical need to resolve and understand the near-field threat to high at-risk communities where a tsunami generated by non-subduction earthquake sources as well as non-seismic sources (e.g. generated by volcanoes) may arrive in minutes;
- (ii) encourage sea-level network operators to undertake regular and routine calibration of their sea-level monitoring instrumentation, following recommendations of IOC Manuals & Guides 3 and 14 (Volumes I–V);
- (iii) 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;
- (iv) Consider and implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Team on Tsunamis Generated by Volcanoes with respect to the hazard assessment, monitoring and warning requirements, including costs of deploying and maintaining such systems. Where identified tsunamis generated by volcanoes may impact multiple Member States, TSPs for the relevant ocean basin tsunami warning and mitigation systems

should consider if they need to be involved in monitoring and provision of threat advice;

- (v) TSPs in collaboration with NAVAREA operators of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) test the tsunami maritime safety products in 2023/24, with a view to operationally implementing them in 2024-2025;
- (vi) add the task to the Terms of Reference of the ICGs and TICs to facilitate the implementation and functioning of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme;
- (vii) add the role of ICGs as regional Steering Committees for the ODTP in their Terms of Reference;
- (viii) undertake sub-regional exercises as part of WAVE Exercises as an efficient way to further engage Member States on exercises as appropriate;
- (ix) follow the initiative of ICG/PTWS to enable sub-regional live information sharing during tsunami events to inform neighbouring country decision-making;
- (x) investigate mechanisms for recognition of standards mechanisms similar to UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme already in place in some countries and inform the TOWS-WG TT-DMP;
- (xi) Caribbean Tsunami Information Center (CTIC) to share UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready survey questionnaire and feedback forms on implementation process to receive information from the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready communities;
- (xii) encourage the standard text in the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready signage for vertical evacuation, such as "Go to the designated building for vertical evacuation";
- (xiii) properly inform the public on the validity of the recognition, as indicated on the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready signage and certificate under the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready logo;
- (xiv) ITIC to pilot the draft PTWS National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) Competency Framework (2019) for endorsement by ICG/PTWS with the goal to develop a global framework for all ICGs to use;

Encourage Member States to provide voluntary financial contributions to the IOC special account and in-kind contributions to support the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme and UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme;

Requests the IOC Secretariat:

- (i) provide a timelier update of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready database;
- (ii) explore how to develop an automated application system for UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready application and renewal;
- (iii) enhance the renewal process of UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready and learning about the renewal experience in the United States TsunamiReady® program;

- (iv) facilitate the finalization of the OTGA basic tsunami training materials as soon as possible to support the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme;
- (v) develop a paper on the tsunami threat on coasts along the Southern Atlantic Ocean to assist concerned Member States of IOC on the decision to be part of the global Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System;
- (vi) help inform Member States widely on the potential tsunami hazard from volcanoes by distributing the Tsunamis Generated by Volcanoes Report, including the List of Tsunamigenic Volcanoes, to:
  - Volcano Observatories;
  - UNESCO/IOC Member States.

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 IOC Resolution XXIV-14 [for TOWS-WG], report IOC/TOWS-WG-VI/3, Annex II [for TTDMP] and report IOC/TOWS-WG-X/3, Annex II (Appendix 1) [for TTTWO].

Notes that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting matters of the Commission.

#### IOC Decision A-32/3.4.2

### **International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange**

The Assembly,

#### **I – 27<sup>th</sup> Session of IODE, 22–23 March 2023**

Having examined the Executive Summary Report of the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE-XXVII, 22–23 March 2023) (IOC/IODE-XXVII/3s),

Endorses the report of the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange including the recommendations and workplan for 2023–2024 contained therein;

Strongly encourages Member States to establish IODE National Oceanographic Data Centres (NODCs), Associate Data Units (ADUs) or Associate Information Units (AIUs);

Notes that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting matters of the Commission;

#### **II – The IOC Strategic Plan for Ocean Data and Information Management (2023–2029)**

Having examined the proposal contained in document IOC/A-32/3.4.2.Doc(1),

Recalling Decision IOC-XXIX/6.2.2 which adopted the IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information Management (2017–2021) and also agreed that the Plan should be regularly reviewed and revised by the IODE Committee,

Recalling further Decision IODE-XXVI.6.3 (Establishment of an inter-sessional working group to revise the IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information Management (2017-2021)),

Recognizing that IODE has developed a global network of National Oceanographic Data Centres, Associate Data Units, Associate Information Units and related networks, representing a considerable pool of expertise in data and information management and sharing, and that many IOC Member States have developed distributed networks of data management facilities involving IODE, as well as other centres, to deal with a wide variety of ocean observations,

Considering that the vision of the IOC Strategic Plan for Ocean Data and Information Management (2023–2029) is to achieve a comprehensive and integrated ocean data and information system, serving the broad and diverse needs of IOC Member States, for management, policy-making and scientific use,

Considering further that the objectives of the IOC Strategic Plan for Ocean Data and Information Management for 2023-2029 are to deliver:

- (i) interoperable, quality-controlled data on a diverse range of variables: (i) generated according to scientifically and operationally sound methods; and (ii) persistently archived in well-documented, globally applicable standards and formats;
- (ii) timely dissemination of data on a diverse range of variables (generated from observations and model outputs) both in real-time and delayed modes depending on the needs of user groups and their technical capabilities ("on demand" as well as automatically scheduled); and
- (iii) easy discovery and access to data and information about a diverse range of variables and derived products (including forecasts, alerts and warnings) in a way that is user friendly for a wide variety of users.

Endorses the IOC Strategic Plan for Ocean Data and Information Management (2023-2029) as given in document IOC/A-32/3.4.2.Doc(1),

Agrees that the Plan should be:

- (i) published and distributed widely and used as a basic data strategy throughout the programmes and projects of the IOC, and
- (ii) regularly reviewed and revised by the IODE Committee, in close consultation with all IOC programmes.

### IOC Decision A-32/3.4.3

#### **Harmful Algal Blooms**

The Assembly,

Having considered the Executive Summary Report of the 16th session (Rome, Italy, 27–29 March 2023) of the IOC-FAO Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB),

Endorses the Executive Summary Report of IPHAB-XVI and the recommendations contained therein (IOC-FAO/IPHAB-XVI/3s);

Notes that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting matters of the Commission.

### IOC Decision A-32/3.5

#### **IOC Report to the Forty-second General Conference of UNESCO**

The Assembly,

Recalling [Article 3.2](#) of the Statutes and Rule of Procedure [49.2](#),

Having examined document IOC/A-32/3.5.Doc(1),

Takes note of the report to be presented to the 42nd session of the General Conference of UNESCO, and requests the Executive Secretary to submit the report on IOC activities (2022–2023) to the 42nd session of the General Conference of UNESCO (November 2023) as document 42 C/REP.9.

### IOC Decision A-32/4.1

#### **Report of the GEBCO Guiding Committee and Outcomes of the GEBCO Governance Review 2023**

The Assembly,

Having examined the Progress report on the GEBCO Governance Review (2023) in document IOC/A-32/4.1.Doc,

Takes note of the Report of the GEBCO Guiding Committee to the IOC on its activities (2022–2023) (IOC/INF-1423);

Requests the Executive Secretary to present the outcomes of the GEBCO governance review to the Executive Council at its 57<sup>th</sup> session; and

Encourages Member States to:

- (i) cooperate to advance basin-scale campaign mapping and accelerate the delivery of GEBCO objectives and general knowledge of the ocean in particular by supporting and contributing to the Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project;
- (ii) facilitate GEBCO capacity development, including training opportunities; and
- (iii) actively participate in the next assessment, to be conducted by the Working Group on User Requirements and Contributions to GEBCO Products in 2024.

### IOC Decision A-32/4.2

#### **Second edition of the IOC State of the Ocean Report**

The Assembly,

Recalling 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 (StOR) as compiled by the IOC Secretariat in response to the dedicated IOC Circular Letter 2843 issued on 28 May 2021 (IOC/INF-1393 Rev.);

Having considered the contents and format of the Pilot edition of the IOC State of the Ocean Report as expressed by the Executive Council in its Decision IOC/EC-55/3.3,

Taking note of the outcomes of the Pilot StOR further review consultation with IOC Member States through IOC Circular Letter 2899 and the incorporation of the outcome in the revised StOR Concept Note as detailed in document IOC/A-32/4.2.Doc(1),

Welcomes the establishment of the StOR Advisory Board, taking into account the representation of the different electoral groups and the Terms of Reference annexed to this decision;

Also welcomes the continued evolution of the StOR Concept Note as a living document, based on the review provided by Member States and the advice by the StOR Advisory board, including the themes and storylines outlined;

Endorses the development of a second StOR under the guidance of the StOR Advisory Board, and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

Requests the Executive Secretary in consultation with the StOR Advisory Board to:

- (i) issue a Circular Letter with a revised Concept Note specifying the purpose, scope, target audience, and alignment of the StOR with other UN assessment reports; together with a detailed outline of the second edition of the StOR; to Member States for their comments;
- (ii) convene a virtual meeting of Member States to present the outcomes of the feedback and agree on next steps; and
- (iii) draft the second edition of the StOR for presentation at the 2024 UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona;

Also requests the StOR Advisory Board, with the support of the Secretariat, to provide a report on the second edition of the StOR to the IOC Executive Council at its the 57th Session for Member States review and additional guidance;

Invites IOC Member States to provide extrabudgetary financial resources to the realization of the IOC State of the Ocean Report.

#### Annex to Decision A-32/4.2

#### **StOR Advisory Board Terms of Reference**

1. Guide the ongoing development of the Concept Note of the State of the Ocean Report to ensure the further refinement of the purpose, frequency, scope, target audience, and alignment of the StOR with other UN assessment reports.
2. Provide advice to the Secretariat in support of the production of the StOR, including:
  - (i) defining themes relevant for the different Ocean Decade Outcomes,

- (ii) identifying the respective topics for the storylines.
  - (iii) identifying authors and reviewers for each storyline which reflect diversity in expertise, gender, geographic representation, career status and Indigenous Peoples and other coastal communities.
3. Provide regular reports on the concept and production of the StOR to IOC governing bodies.

### IOC Decision A-32/4.3

#### **IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030) and related Outreach and Communication Plan**

The Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of Capacity Development as one of the six functions of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2022–2029), enabling all Member States to participate in, and benefit from, ocean research and services that are vital to sustainable development and human welfare on the planet,

Recalling the adoption, at its 28<sup>th</sup> session, of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021),

Noting that the current Strategy will expire in July 2023,

Noting also that through IOC Decision A-31/3.5.3, the Assembly revised the Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD), instructing the Group to submit an updated IOC Capacity Development Strategy and a proposed outreach and communications plan to the Assembly,

Having examined documents IOC/A-32/4.3.Doc(1) and IOC/A-32/4.3.Doc(2),

Adopts the IOC Capacity Development Strategy, 2023–2030 as contained in document IOC/A-32/4.3.Doc(1);

Adopts also the Outreach and Communications plan for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy, 2023–2030 as contained in document IOC/A-32/4.3.Doc(2);

Agrees that, by the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IOC Assembly, IOC Primary Subsidiary Bodies (global programmes and Regional Subsidiary Bodies) should take the following actions:

- (i) develop programmatic and regionally relevant capacity development work plans based on this strategy and related needs assessments conducted in a consistent manner, building on on-going activities and making use of existing training and education facilities;
- (ii) mobilize resources in order to reinforce the Secretariat staffing of the regional Sub-Commissions, other subsidiary bodies and global programmes;
- (iii) promote the visibility and reach of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 in accordance to the outreach and communications plan to reach its target audience and appreciate the document as a guide in implementing capacity development activities;

- (iv) catalyze capacity development through global, regional, and national programme development; and
- (v) enhance collaboration and communication between its global programmes and Regional Subsidiary Bodies, to contribute to (i) and (ii) above;

Urges IOC Member States to:

- (i) identify new opportunities to participate in, and benefit from, reinforced partnerships through the IOC to achieve their capacity development goals in marine science and ocean governance;
- (ii) mobilize the knowledge, personnel, infrastructural and financial resources to support IOC's catalytic role in helping Member States achieve these goals; and
- (iii) raise the visibility of IOC's unique niche in capacity development.

#### IOC Decision A-32/4.4

#### **IOC Data Policy and Terms of Use (2023)**

The Assembly,

Recalling that the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy was published in 2003 (IOC Resolution XXII-6, 2003) and since then has only had one minor change: Clause 5 revised in 2019 by Decision IOC-XXX/7.2.1(II) of the Assembly at its 30th session, Paris, 26 June–4 July 2019,

Recognizing that:

- (i) the timely and unrestricted international exchange of oceanographic data is essential for the efficient acquisition, integration and use of ocean observations gathered by the countries of the world for a wide variety of purposes including the prediction of weather and climate, the operational forecasting of the marine environment, the preservation of life, the mitigation of human-induced changes in the marine and coastal environment, as well as for the advancement of scientific understanding that makes this possible,
- (ii) the global digital data, information, and knowledge ecosystem has radically changed since 2003,
- (iii) rapidly advancing technologies have altered the Data Stewardship paradigm,
- (iv) there is a need to improve interoperability and align the IOC data policy with those at national, regional, and international levels,
- (v) more and more Public-Private Partnerships are being established. To allow the best use of the data in this context as well as in the context of using data in journals from private publishers, the IOC data policy should provide clear guidance for commercial use of data,

Noting that partner and sister organizations are changing their data policies, which can serve as a model for updating the IOC data policy,



Noting also that principles of data sharing and licensing are becoming globally recognized and adopted, e.g., FAIR Principles and Creative Commons licences,

Decides to close the IOC Intersessional Working Group on the Revision of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy (2003, 2019) (IWG-DATAPOLICY);

Adopts the IOC Data Policy and Terms of Use (2023) as detailed in Annex to this decision;

Decides to develop guidelines for the development of detailed data and metadata sharing guidelines by all IOC programmes and projects.

#### Annex to Dec. A-32/4.4

### **IOC Data Policy and Terms of Use (2023)**

#### **Section 1. Preamble**

The timely, open and unrestricted international sharing, in both real-time and delayed mode of ocean metadata, data and products is essential for a wide variety of purposes and benefits including scientific research, innovation and decision making, the prediction of weather and climate, the operational forecasting of the marine environment, the preservation of life, economic welfare, safety and security of society, the mitigation of human-induced changes in the marine and coastal environment, as well as for the advancement of scientific understanding that makes this possible. Innovation of specialised products can be stimulated and encouraged by timely, open and unrestricted access to metadata and data. Metadata, data and products should be accessible, interoperable and openly shared with minimum delay and minimum restrictions.

#### **Section 2. Purpose**

The purpose of this data policy is to outline the requirements with respect to sharing, access, preservation, and attribution to facilitate the broad use and reuse of metadata, data and products.

#### **Section 3. FAIR & CARE principles**

To support knowledge discovery and innovation both by humans and machines and to acknowledge indigenous data governance, data should meet the FAIR Guiding Principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable)[1] and In the case of indigenous data and information, data should meet the CARE principles (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, Ethics)[2] to the greatest extent practicable.

#### **Section 4. Conditions of use**

Data should be licensed (respecting Section 8) under a minimally restrictive and voluntary common-use licence[3] that grants permission, ensures proper attribution (for example, citable using a persistent identifier) and allows others to copy, distribute and make use of the data.

#### **Section 5. Data Repositories and the IOC ocean data and information system (ODIS)**

Data should be quality controlled (using community adopted and documented best practices or standards), accompanied by complete metadata and stored in an openly discoverable and accessible long-term data repository and made available through standards-based data services. Member States shall encourage convergence and interoperability and, where possible, use IODE data centres (National Oceanographic Data Centres or Associate Data Units) or other IOC programme related data centres that share metadata and data using the IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS). ODIS is an interoperability layer and supporting technology, to allow existing and emerging ocean data and information systems to interoperate with one another.

### **Section 6: Secure long-term data archives**

To support long-term and secure archival, data and associated metadata should be submitted, to the best practicable degree, to IODE's World Ocean Database (WOD), the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS), Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS), other IOC related global data archives, and data centres linked to the World Data System (WDS), their successors or other global data archives.

### **Section 7. Access restrictions**

Data and associated metadata should be made available with minimal restrictions on use unless there are valid reasons to restrict access. Legitimate reasons to restrict access to, and reuse of, data include, *inter alia*, privacy and confidentiality, protection of species, populations or habitats of concern, and national security.

### **Section 8. Data sharing policies of Member States**

This Policy acknowledges the right of Member States and data owners to determine the terms of metadata, data and products sharing in a manner consistent with national jurisdictions, international conventions, and treaties, where applicable.

### **Section 9. Data and metadata sharing guidelines**

IOC programmes, projects as well as other communities of practice should develop and/or apply, where applicable, detailed metadata, data and products sharing guidelines that are consistent with this IOC Data Policy and Terms of Use.

### **Section 10. Definitions**

**'Data'** is a set of values, symbols or signs (recorded on any type of medium) that represent one or more properties of an entity[4].

**'Metadata'** is 'data about data' describing the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of data that allows their inventory, discovery, evaluation or use.

**'Timely'** in this context means the distribution of data and/or products, sufficiently rapidly to be of value for a given application.

**'Openly'** means data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone - subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and share alike.

**'Product'** means a value-added enhancement of data applied to a particular use.

[1] Wilkinson, M., Dumontier, M., Aalbersberg, I. *et al.* The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. *Sci Data* **3**, 160018 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18>

[2] CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance. <https://www.gida-global.org/care>

[3] For example: the Creative Commons family of licences

<https://creativecommons.org/about/cclicenses/>

[4] [Ocean Decade Implementation Plan](#)

## IOC Decision A-32/4.6

### **IOC Contributions to UN Governance Processes**

The Assembly,

Having examined document IOC/A-32/4.6.Doc,

Welcomes the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond

national jurisdiction, of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as recent developments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects, and the implementation of 2030 Agenda and its SDG 14;

Requests the Executive Secretary to continue engaging the Commission in these UN processes by providing scientific and technical support as well as supporting the development of IOC Member States capacity to contribute to achievement of the goals of these ocean governance frameworks.

#### IOC Decision A-32/4.7

### **Development of a new IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management**

The Assembly,

Having examined document IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc(1) that guides the development of a new IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management,

Welcomes the Updated Joint IOC-European Commission Roadmap to accelerate Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning processes worldwide (2022–2027) and the publication of the International Guidelines on MSP as one of the outputs of MSPGlobal project, which contributes to strengthening capacities of countries and regions in MSP implementation;

Takes note of the scope and process for developing the IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management for the period 2024–2030;

Requests the Executive Secretary to collect input on document IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc(1) from Member States, IOC programmes and technical bodies, and other relevant stakeholders and to present a revised version of the document IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc(1) at the 57th session of the IOC Executive Council;

Also requests the Executive Secretary to present the Draft Strategy to the IOC Executive Council at its 57th session.

#### IOC Decision A-32/4.8.1

### **GOOS Work Plan for 2024–2025**

The Assembly,

Having examined IOC/A-32/4.8.1.Doc (1) 'the GOOS Implementation Plan Summary for 2024–2025',

Takes note of the implementation steps 2021–2022, including work to rejuvenate the GOOS Regional Alliances PI-GOOS, GOOS-AFRICA and IOCARIBE-GOOS;

Thanks the GOOS Steering Committee for the identification of priorities and work in guiding implementation actions;

Expresses its appreciation for the work to advance GOOS Ocean Decade Programmes, Ocean Observing Co-Design, CoastPredict, and Observing Together;

Requests IOCAFRICA to work closely with the GOOS-AFRICA office in developing and implementing joint activities;

Notes the updated GOOS National Focal Point Terms of Reference (IOC Circular Letter, 2931);

Urges Member States to nominate a GOOS National Focal Point, where one does not already exist, and to consider developing a GOOS National Committee, where one does not already exist, to support the work of GOOS at national level and ensure that national priorities are brought to the attention of GOOS;

Invites GOOS Sponsors to support evolving GOOS governance that would lead to improved advice and operational support, be inclusive of additional stakeholders, and be open to advice from a process of governance change;

Requests the Executive Secretary to review progress with reform of GOOS governance to meet the needs of Member States, including any proposed actions or otherwise in response to the nine recommendations of the 'Report of the Study on Support Provided to Global and Regional Ocean Observing Systems' by Neville Smith commissioned by GOOS as referred to in the report of the GOOS Steering Committee Part 1 ([SC-10-1](#) section 4) in 2021, and to report progress to the IOC Executive Council at its 57th session in 2024;

Notes also that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting matters of the Commission;

Adopts the GOOS Implementation Plan Summary for 2024–2025 as the GOOS work plan for 2024–2025 as presented in IOC/A-32/4.8.1.Doc(1);

Noting the GOOS Regional Policy 2013 (IOC/INF-1308), which indicates the role and requirements for a regional body to be accepted by as a GOOS Regional Alliance,

Also noting the Twelfth GOOS Steering Committee Meeting (GOOS SC-12), held in April 2023, endorsed the Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS) Proposal to become a GOOS Regional Alliance;

Accepts the proposal from the Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS) to become a GOOS Regional Alliance (GRA), see IOC/A-32/4.8.1.Doc(2);

Expresses its appreciation for Member States and organizations that have provided direct and in-kind contributions for the distributed GOOS Office;

Urges Member States work with the GOOS Office to identify how they can help with implementation, including support for the three transformational GOOS Ocean Decade Programmes, and the distributed GOOS Office and Components, what their contributions will enable us to achieve together;

Invites co-sponsoring organizations of GOOS to consider how they will support implementation;

## **I. GOOS Steering Committee Regional Membership**

Recalling the GOOS SC regional membership appointment defined in IOC Resolution XXVI-8, and further recalling the IOC Circular Letter 2940 inviting Member States to the 32nd Assembly and requesting nominations of experts for appointment by Member State Electoral Groups,

Notes the appointment by the Member State Electoral Groups of a regional expert member of the GOOS SC for 2024–2025:

- Patrick Gorringe, Sweden (Group I)
- Vladislav Shaimardanov, Russian Federation (Group II)
- Matias I. Sifón, Chile (Group III)
- T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, India (Group IV)
- Suzan Mohamed El-Gharabawy, Egypt (Group V)

### IOC Decision A-32/4.8.2

#### **Summary Report on the Consultation on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction**

The Assembly,

Noting with appreciation the information provided by Member States in response to the Executive Council Decision (IOC/EC-55/3.4),

Having examined document IOC/A-32/4.8.2.Doc(1),

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

Takes note of the feedback from the global ocean observing networks (IOC/A-32/4.8.2.Doc(1)) that reported on specific issues associated with the taking of sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction;

Also takes note of the feedback from Member States with regard to the taking of sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction (IOC/A-32/4.8.2.Doc(1));

Decides to establish an ad hoc intersessional Working Group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction with the Terms of Reference annexed to this decision;

Affirms that discussions in the Working Group are in consideration of international law, including UNCLOS, as per the Terms of Reference;

Requests the Working Group to report to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session in 2025, with a progress report provided to the Executive Council at its 57th Session in 2024.

Invites Member States to volunteer to be part of this ad hoc Working Group.

### Annex to Decision A-32/4.8.2

#### **IOC ad hoc intersessional working group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction**

##### **Terms of Reference**

##### **Membership**

Membership will be sought through a call via an IOC Circular Letter on a voluntary basis.

The Working Group will select two Co-Chairs from its members and may call upon relevant experts to provide a deeper insight into topics or questions.

### **Mandate**

1. Review the report of the Experts Workshop on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction (OONJ, GOOS-246), and the information provided to IOC from Member States and GOOS Networks on their experiences and issues, respectively, regarding sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction, following the decision adopted at the Executive Council (Decision IOC/EC-55/3.4), and as synthesized in the Summary Report on the Consultation on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction (IOC/A-32/4.8.2.Doc(1)), with additional information in the Information Document for this decision (IOC/INF-1431).
2. Identify and document specific examples of problems in making sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction and an assessment of their level of impact on GOOS, and research, services, and products reliant on such GOOS data.
3. Through this process, seek additionally to identify examples of best practice relevant to the taking of sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction.
4. Should specific cases with material adverse impact on GOOS be identified, provide a diagnosis of the root cause of the problem, and identify whether potential action is within the IOC mandate, in consideration of international law, including UNCLOS, or whether other bodies need to be engaged.
5. For those where potential action fall within the IOC mandate, identify recommendations with regard to potential action, for discussion at the IOC Assembly in 2025.
6. Present the results from these discussions, with any recommendations for action on this issue, to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd Session in 2025, with a progress report provided to the Executive Council at its 57th Session in 2024.

### IOC Decision A-32/4.9

#### **Four-year Review of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board**

The Assembly,

Recalling IOC Assembly Resolution XXX-2 (2019) creating the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board (JCB), as a high-level coordination mechanism with broader engagement of the key relevant bodies of the WMO and IOC, and the decision to review, in coordination with WMO governing bodies, the performance of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board, at its 32nd session in 2023,

Having examined document IOC/A-32/4.9.Doc(1) on the progress of JCB,

Notes that the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board has a role to play in providing oversight and guidance to the functional connections and identifying areas for closer collaboration between WMO and IOC;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to oversee the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board self-evaluation review of performance, and report back with the findings to IOC Executive Council in 2024;

Encourages WMO and IOC to provide sufficient resource to support the work of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board.

IOC Decision A-32/4.10

**Report of the Joint Study Group  
on the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)**

The Assembly,

Having examined document IOC/A-32/4.10.Doc(2),

Recalling:

- IOC Assembly Resolution XVI-8 to undertake the development of a Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and participate in the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS),
- IOC Executive Council Decision EC-XLIX/Dec.4.3(IV) – ‘IOC co-sponsorship of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS): revised memorandum of understanding’,
- WMO Resolution 1 (INFCOM-1) – ‘Establishment of standing committees and study groups of the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (Infrastructure Commission)’, that established the Joint Study Group on GCOS to develop a proposal for an optimal governance and structure for GCOS that recognizes GCOS as an activity across the WMO Infrastructure Commission, the Services Commission and Research Board as well as relevant programmes of IOC, ISC and UNEP and to make recommendations on GCOS outputs,

Having examined the Final report of the Joint Study Group on GCOS (GCOS-246) and its summary (IOC/A-32/4.10.Doc(2)),

Welcomes the support of the co-sponsors of GCOS in the work of the Joint Study Group;

Takes note of the recommendations of the Joint Study Group on GCOS contained in Document IOC/A-32/4.10.Doc(2);

Recognizes with appreciation:

- (i) the important contribution of the GCOS Steering Committee and its panels in providing scientific and technical guidance to IOC and other sponsoring and participating organizations for the planning, implementation and further development of the global observing systems for climate,
- (ii) the substantial contributions made by Member States in their climate monitoring that has contributed greatly to the improved understanding of climate change,
- (iii) the collaboration of GCOS with the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS),
- (iv) the support received from national and international donors for the planning and implementation of GCOS,
- (v) the reporting by GCOS to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the state of climate observations and how they can be improved to meet current needs;

Decides to continue and strengthen institutional support to GCOS as a co-sponsored programme as regulated by the 1998 Memorandum of Understanding with partners – WMO, ISC and UNEP or any new memorandum agreed with the partners;

Requests the Executive Secretary:

- (i) to prepare a revised GCOS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the co-sponsors for consideration by the Executive Council at its 57<sup>th</sup> session, based upon the draft MoU contained in the Joint Study Group Report (GCOS-246), as recommended in High-level Recommendation 1 and available in document IOC/A-32/4.10.Doc(2);
- (ii) to continue contributing to the Climate Observing System Fund (COSF) and encourage the other GCOS co-sponsors to make their commitments (financial or/and in-kind) in order to ensure the basic resources for the operation of the GCOS secretariat, as recommended in Recommendation 14 and available in document IOC/A-32/4.10.1.Doc(2);

Invites the GCOS Chair, in consultation with the Head of Ocean Observing and Services Section of IOC, to inform IOC on the progress, performance and requirements of the global observing systems for climate;

Urges Member States to consider supporting the GCOS programme either financially or with in-kind contributions.

### IOC Decision A-32/4.11

#### **IOC Custodian Role in relation to SDG 14 indicators**

The Assembly,

Having examined document IOC/A-32/4.11.Doc(1),

Recalling IOC decision EC-XLIX/4.1 defining the strategic contributions of IOC to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDG process and acknowledging the role of IOC as custodian agency for SDG indicators 14.3.1 and 14.a.1,

Welcomes the inclusion of SDG 14.3.1 and SDG 14.a.1 data in the UN Secretary General reports and the Sustainable Development Goal Reports in 2021, 2022 and July 2023;

Encourages Member States to continue regular measurements and collections for SDG 14.3.1 and 14.a.1, as well as the support to relevant IOC mechanisms, in particular the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network, the Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability Ocean Decade programme, the SDG 14.3.1 data portal working groups, the GOSR report and tracker.



### IOC Decision A-32/5

#### **IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Sustainable Delivery and Expansion of IOC Activities**

The Assembly,

Having examined document IOC/A-32/5.Doc(1),

Noting the key role of ocean science, data, observations, services, and related policy interface in addressing the global challenges of our time,

Taking into account the IOS Evaluation of the strategic positioning of the IOC and the corresponding Action Plan as a significant step forward and a framework for reporting on progress to the UNESCO Executive Board and the IOC Governing Bodies,

Agrees to initiate a consultation on how IOC could on the basis of its purpose as defined in its Statutes optimally facilitate activities of Member States and other stakeholders in science-based sustainable ocean planning, ocean science support to implementation of UN environmental conventions and frameworks, and development of a sustainable ocean economy;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to prepare and initiate the consultation involving Member States via Circular Letter and appropriate stakeholders and present a progress update to the IOC Executive Council in 2024.

### IOC Decision A-32/6.1

#### **Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (Draft 42 C/5)**

The Assembly,

Having examined documents IOC/A-32/6.1.Doc(1) and Resolution EC-55/2,

Takes note of document IOC/A-32/6.1.Doc(1), subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion and adoption in plenary.

### IOC Decision A-32/6.2

#### **Follow-up to Resolution A-31/2 and EC-55/2 on Review & Update of the Rules of Procedure and Guidelines for Reporting on in-kind Contributions**

The Assembly,

Having examined document IOC/A-32/6.2.Doc(1) and IOC/A-32/6.2.Doc(2),

Takes note of document IOC/A-32/6.2.Doc(1) and Resolution EC-55/2 and Annexes subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion and adoption in plenary.

IOC Decision A-32/6.3

**Draft Action Plan in Response  
to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning**

The Assembly,

Having examined document IOC/A-32/6.3.Doc(1),

Takes note of the document IOC/A-32/6.3.Doc(1) subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion and adoption in plenary.

IOC Decision A-32/6.5

**IOC Elections 2023**

The Assembly,

Elects the members of its Executive Council for the period 2023–2025 as follows:

**I. Chair of the Commission**

- Mr Yutaka Michida (Japan)

**II. Vice-chairs of the Commission**

- Ms Marie-Alexandrine Sicre (France) (Group 1)
- Mr Nikolay Valchev (Bulgaria) (Group 2)
- Mr Juan Camilo Forero Hauzeur (Colombia) (Group 3)
- Mr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala (India) (Group 4)
- Mr Amr Zakaria Hamouda (Egypt) (Group 5)

**III. Other Members of the Executive Council**

And the following Member States by electoral group:

- Canada, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America for Group 1;
- Romania, Ukraine for Group 2;
- Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Grenada, Panama, Peru for Group 3;
- Australia, Bangladesh, China, Cook Islands, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Thailand for Group 4;
- Congo, Kenya, Gabon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Togo for Group 5.

IOC Decision A-32/6.6

**Dates and Places of next sessions of the Executive and Assembly**

The Assembly,

Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 56th session (Dec. EC-56/4),

Decides to hold:

- (i) The 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Council for 3.5 days in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris over the period of 25–28 June 2024;
- (ii) The 33rd session of the Assembly for a duration of 6.5 days plus one Ocean Science Day, at UNESCO Headquarters, in June–July 2025, preceded by a one-day session of the Executive Council (58th session) acting as the steering committee of the Assembly.

IOC Decision A-32/7

**Adoption of Resolutions and Modalities  
for the Finalisation of the Summary Report**

The Assembly,

Having considered the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 56<sup>th</sup> session (Dec. EC-56/3.4) on organization matters,

Adopts the decisions and four resolutions of the session;

Takes note of the draft summary report of the session; and

Requests the Executive Secretary to circulate the narrative part of the report to Member States in the four working languages of the Commission by 30 July 2023 at the latest for its approval by correspondence by 15 September 2023.

## ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

### IOC Resolution A-32/1

#### **Establishment of an IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

**Recalling** IOC Resolution XX-14 'IOC Programme Group for the central Indian Ocean' and Decisions A-31/3.5.6 and IOC/EC-55/3.5.2 on the 'Status of the Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean',

**Having examined** the final report of the open-ended intersessional Working Group on the status of the regional committee for the central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) 2022-2023 proposal for the establishment of an IOC sub-commission for the central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) (IOC/A32/4.5(Doc.1),

**Taking into consideration** that:

- (i) the central Indian Ocean plays an important role in, inter alia, regional, and global climate, including the monsoons, El Niño-Southern Oscillation, precipitation and snow in Eurasia, weather, and extreme events,
- (ii) after more than three decades of activities, IOCINDIO has gathered invaluable experiences, learned lessons, and developed best practices, which contributed to the deliberations of the Open-ended Intersessional Working Group (OEIWG) on the transformation of IOCINDIO into an IOC Sub-Commission,

**Noting with appreciation** that there is a strong interest in many IOCINDIO Member States to work together towards the establishment of the Sub-Commission, strengthen implementation of the IOC programmes in the region, achieve the objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), and develop the capacity of IOCINDIO Member States in ocean sciences and sustainable ocean management,

**Noting further** that it is the practice of the IOC to invite all Member States to participate in the work of the Commission and its regional subsidiary bodies,

**Acknowledges** the leadership and **appreciates** the commitment of both the IOC Chairperson and IOCINDIO Chairperson, who acted as Co-Chairs of OEIWG;

**Expresses its appreciation** to:

- (i) the Member States which participated in and contributed to the deliberations of OEIWG;
- (ii) the IOC Vice-Chairperson for Electoral Group IV and Chairpersons of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA) and the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) for their contributions to the work of the OEIWG, as well as to the IOC Executive Secretary and the Technical Secretary of IOCINDIO for the support provided;

**Decides:**

- (i) to establish the IOC Sub-Commission for the central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) with the Terms of Reference annexed to this Resolution;

- (ii) that IOCINDIO as an IOC Sub-Commission will enter into force after nine (9) formal Letters of Adhesion have been received by the IOC Executive Secretary from competent national focal points of IOC Member States;
- (iii) that the IOCINDIO as an IOC Regional Committee will be dissolved at the beginning of the first meeting of the IOC Sub-Commission;

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to:

- (i) issue, within four (4) months following the adoption of the present Resolution, a Circular Letter inviting Member States to submit a Letter of Adhesion to the IOCINDIO Sub-Commission;
- (ii) upon entry into force of the present Resolution on establishment of IOCINDIO as an IOC Sub-Commission, call the first Session of the Sub-Commission at which its Officers will be elected.

Annex to IOC Resolution A-32/1

**Terms of Reference  
for the IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)**

**1. Title**

IOC Sub-Commission for the central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

**2. Mission**

The IOC Sub-Commission for the central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) is a primary regional intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, with its area of interest within central Indian Ocean<sup>1</sup>, and its purpose is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services, and capacity development, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States.

**3. Objectives**

The Sub-Commission shall:

- (i) Promote international cooperation and coordinate activities agreed by the governing bodies of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO;
- (ii) Make recommendations to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO on issues and areas of its competency;
- (iii) Prepare a plan for implementation of the agreed activities;
- (iv) Offer a platform for identifying regional issues and solutions based on international cooperation;
- (v) Cooperate with relevant organizations, agencies, and institutions;
- (vi) Cooperate with other subsidiary bodies and programmes of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO on matters of common interest, in particular with adjacent Sub-Commissions, IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC.

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<sup>1</sup> The "central Indian Ocean", as IOCINDIO area of interest, is adjacent, to the West, to that of IOCAFRICA, and to the East, to that of WESTPAC.

#### **4. Structure**

The Sub-Commission will include:

- Member States
- Officers
- Thematic or subregional Working Groups or Task Teams, as required; and
- Secretariat.

#### **5. Member States**

The Sub-Commission will include the IOC Member States that have appropriately informed the IOC Executive Secretary about their adhesion. IOCINDIO membership will not be limited to Member States geographically attached to the Indian Ocean. IOC national focal points for IOCINDIO Member States will be the same as for IOC.

#### **6. Officers**

The Board of Officers of the Sub-Commission will comprise the Chair and two Vice-Chairs elected by its Member States. The Board shall serve in accordance with the Guidelines for Structure and Responsibilities of the Subsidiary Bodies of the IOC.

#### **7. Working Groups and Task Teams**

The Sub-Commission will establish its subsidiary working bodies as required and in accordance with the Guidelines for Structure and Responsibilities of the Subsidiary Bodies of the IOC. Joint subsidiary working bodies, especially with IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC, may be established.

#### **8. Secretariat**

The IOCINDIO Secretariat will operate as a part of the IOC Secretariat under the authority of the IOC Executive Secretary.

#### **9. Meetings**

IOCINDIO Member States will meet for the intergovernmental session of the Sub-Commission regularly, at least once in two years, preferably in the first part of the year of an IOC Assembly and well in advance of that Assembly to ensure quality statutory reporting.

#### **10. Budget**

The IOC Sub-commission for the central Indian Ocean shall be funded from the IOC Regular Budget and extrabudgetary contributions. IOCINDIO should actively explore opportunities for raising additional resources for implementation of its programmes.

#### **11. Mechanisms for coordination with adjacent Sub-Commissions**

The principle will be to maximise the value of joint work of adjacent IOC Sub-Commissions on issues of common interest, exclude duplication, and ensure no interference in governance of IOC subsidiary bodies, including adjacent bodies. Cooperation on issues of common interest and using capacity development opportunities of adjacent regional subsidiary bodies is encouraged. Coordinated contribution of regional subsidiary bodies to IOC global programmatic activities is strongly encouraged. Regular consultations between Sub-Commissions' Chairs, Boards of Officers, and Secretariats will be established to achieve co-design, co-development, and co-delivery. Normative and standard setting functions will be uniform and global, at the IOC level. Regional implementation shall follow global standards and contribute to the development of common best practices, taking into account, where required, regional differences and circumstances.

IOC Resolution A-32/2

**Improving Climate Observations**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

**Recalling:**

- (i) IOC Assembly Resolution XVI-8 to undertake the development of a Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and participate in the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS),
- (ii) the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) [Decision 19/CP.22](#) entitled 'Implementation of the Global Observing System for Climate',
- (iii) the conclusions of SBSTA 52–55 ([UNFCCC/SBSTA/2021/3](#) – items 63, 65, 70) that welcomed the [GCOS Status Report 2021](#) (GCOS-240), noted with concern the status of the global climate system, and encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to strengthen support for sustained systematic observations of the climate system for monitoring changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and on land,
- (iv) the conclusion of SBSTA 57 ([UNFCCC/SBSTA/2022/L.20](#) – item 7) that welcomed the 2022 GCOS Implementation Plan and the 2022 GCOS Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) Requirements, and encouraged Parties and relevant organizations, as appropriate, to work towards the implementation of the 2022 GCOS Implementation Plan, in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention,

**Noting** that the GOOS 2030 Strategy (GOOS-239) has one of its key delivery areas focused on supporting climate services and decision-making,

**Having examined** the 2022 GCOS Implementation Plan (GCOS-244, GOOS-272) and the 2022 GCOS ECVs Requirements (GCOS-245),

**Having also examined** the IOC Supplement to the GCOS Implementation Plan 2022 (IOC/A-32/4.10.Doc(1)),

**Having considered** the parallel WMO Resolution 4.2(9)/1 (Cg-19) 'Improving Climate Observations',

**Endorses** the conclusions of the 2022 GCOS Implementation Plan (GCOS-244, GOOS-272) and the 2022 GCOS ECVs Requirements (GCOS-245);

**Encourages** Member States to collaborate with national partners with the view to addressing the full set of actions pertaining to the ocean and relevant above ocean atmospheric variables provided in the 2022 GCOS Implementation Plan (GCOS-244, GOOS-272);

**Urges** Member States to take action to address the relevant actions highlighted in document IOC/A-32/4.10.Doc(1);

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to facilitate the coordination and implementation of the relevant actions provided in the IOC Supplement to the GCOS Implementation Plan 2022 (IOC/A-32/4.10.Doc(1)).

IOC Resolution A-32/3

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

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

**Recalling** IOC Resolutions EC-53/1, A-31/1 and EC-55/1 on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), thereafter the Decade,

**Considering** document IOC/A-32/4.12.Doc(1) on the Status of the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030),

**Takes note** of the establishment of new Decade coordinating mechanisms such as Decade Coordination Offices (DCOs), Decade Collaborative Centres (DCCs), Decade Implementing Partners (DIPs), and National Decade Committees (NDCs) as presented in document IOC/INF-1424;

**Further takes note with satisfaction** of the contribution of the Decade Advisory Board (DAB) to the implementation and strategic development of the Decade, and **acknowledges** the process for renewing its membership for the period 2024–2025 in accordance with its terms of reference;

**Welcomes** the development of the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 process aimed at enhancing the strategic delivery of the Decade under its 10 Decade Challenges;

**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;

**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, Belgium (Government of Flanders), Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, as well as REV-Ocean, Panerai, and FUGRO for their financial contributions to the Decade;

**Further thanks** the Government of Spain for offering to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, 10–12 April 2024, and the Government of Thailand for offering to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Ocean Decade regional conference in Bangkok, 22–25 April 2024, and **encourages** all Member States to actively take part;



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

- (i) The Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme;
- (ii) OBIS 2030 – The biodiversity data hub for the Ocean Decade Actions;
- (iii) Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the Northeast Atlantic, Mediterranean Region to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards;

**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) WESTPAC Secretariat acting as DCO for the Western Pacific Region;
- (ii) IOCARIBE Secretariat acting as DCO for the Tropical Americas and Caribbean Region;
- (iii) IOCAFRICA Secretariat acting as DCO for Africa;
- (iv) IODE Programme Office acting as DCO for Ocean Data Sharing;
- (v) GOOS Project Office acting as DCO for Ocean Observations;

**Welcomes** the establishment of the Ocean Decade African Task Force aimed at operationalising the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap and its nine priority actions, and the plans for the establishment of a Tropical Americas and Caribbean Regional Task Force with the support of the IOCARIBE Secretariat;

**Notes** the remaining gaps in the development of Decade Actions led by partners in Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, and **welcomes** the establishment of the Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility supported by the Government of Belgium/Flanders;

**Takes note** of the resource needs identified by IOC-led DCOs and IOC Programmes to fulfil Decade coordination functions;

**Further invites** Member States, partners, and donor organizations to support IOC-led 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 catalysers of further actions within and beyond the Decade.

#### IOC Resolution A-32/4

### **Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

**Having examined** documents:

- (i) IOC/A-32/3.2.Doc(2)– Report on 2022–2023 (41 C/5) budget implementation as at 31 December 2022,
- (ii) IOC/A-32/3.2.Doc(3)– Financial situation of the IOC Special Account as at year end 2022 and forecast for 2023,

- (iii) IOC/A-32/6.1.Doc(1)– Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 (Second Biennium 2024–2025—42 C/5),
- (iv) IOC/A-32/6.2.Doc(1)– Second Proposed Revision of the IOC Rules of Procedure,
- (v) IOC/A-32/6.2.Doc(2)– Report of the Chairperson of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (intersessional period December 2022–June 2023),
- (vi) IOC/A-32/6.3.Doc(1)– Draft Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning,

## I.

### **Report on 2022–2023 (41 C/5) budget implementation as at 31 December 2022 and Financial situation of the IOC Special Account as at year end 2022 and forecast for 2023**

**Confirms** that the IOC budget for 2022–2023, as reported in IOC/A-32/3.2.Doc(2), has been executed in accordance with the Approved Programme and Budget 2022–2023 (41 C/5), including the adjusted budgetary appropriations for the IOC Special Account as approved by the IOC Assembly at its 31<sup>st</sup> session through IOC Resolution A-31/2 and further reviewed by the IOC Executive Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> session through Resolution EC-55/2;

**Notes** that while the overall extrabudgetary resource mobilisation targets set for the 2022–2023 biennium has been achieved, there were still some gaps in funding for Functions B, C and F as at year end 2022;

**Thanks** Member States who have contributed extrabudgetary funds for the 2022–2023 programme implementation;

**Acknowledges** the information on the financial situation of the IOC Special Account as at year end 2022 and forecast for 2023 provided in IOC/A-32/3.2.Doc(3);

**Approves** the revised budgetary allocations for 2022–2023 for the IOC Special Account as proposed in Table 1 of IOC/A-32/3.2.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 for all IOC Functions, preferably to the IOC Special Account;

**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.

### **Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 (Second Biennium 2024–2025 – 42 C/5)**

**Acknowledges** the Secretariat’s proposal contained in IOC/A-32/6.1.Doc(1) and prepared as an integral part of the UNESCO Draft Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5), submitted by the Director-General of UNESCO to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 216<sup>th</sup> session, as consistent with the guiding principles set out in Resolution EC-53/2 and the High Level Objectives defined in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029;

**Notes with appreciation** the increase in regular budget allocation to the IOC proposed by the Director-General of UNESCO to the 216<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO Executive Board in the Base Case scenario as responding to Member States priorities, while also expressing concern

regarding the negative impact of the Zero Nominal Growth scenario on the IOC's ability to maintain its core programmes and to fulfil its role in the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), hereafter the Ocean Decade;

**Thanks** Member States for including in the agenda of the 216<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO Executive Board item 44 'Urgent requirement for increased and more stable resources to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)';

**Welcomes** the UNESCO Executive Board's decision to recommend that the UNESCO General Conference at its 42<sup>nd</sup> session agree to an increase in the IOC's share of the UNESCO regular budget of [1%], not to be decreased by transfers of funds to other parts of the budget and 'that a baseline be identified and agreed for the IOC's share of UNESCO's regular budget under document 42 C/5 and future C/5 documents and that no reduction to this baseline be made in the future unless agreed by the General Conference';

**Noting** the High Level Objectives defined in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029, the information contained in the IOC Circular Letter 2912 and recommendations reflected in 216 EX/Decision 44, including the invitation to 'take into consideration the budgetary necessities for capacity development, staff allocation and proper functioning of the regional subsidiary bodies, while planning for disbursement of the additional allocation',

**Recommends** to the IOC Executive Secretary that the following high-level principles should guide allocation of additional regular budget resources resulting from uplift of the IOC budget by 1% of the UNESCO budget:

- (i) priority should be given to stabilizing the functions of the IOC, including human resources, to address shortfalls and critical risks in order to provide a strong platform for the future;
- (ii) ensure that an increase of no less than 1% of the IOC regular budget is allocated to IOCAFRICA, in line with the UNESCO Global Priority Africa, taking into account the need to avail adequate resources for programme implementation;
- (iii) supplementary to fulfilment of (i), input on specific needs for regular budget investments in the targeted activities identified in paragraph 15(ii) should be informed by appropriate input from:
  - a) requests to the relevant IOC programmes and/or subsidiary bodies for their top one or two priority activities;
  - b) the estimate of resources required, prepared by the IOC Executive Secretary distributed to Member States in Circular Letter 2912 in October 2022;
  - c) any further consultations with Member States or programmes or bodies as may be needed or appropriate to facilitate targeted investment in activities;
- (iv) aim at respecting the ratio of staff- versus non-staff costs supported from regular budget, as previously advised by the IOC Assembly in Resolution XXVII-2;
- (v) stabilization of regular budget allocations across all IOC Functions should permit the IOC to secure and assimilate targeted additional investments and to continue to seek voluntary contributions to fully achieve the integrated budgetary framework targets;

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary that additional regular budget for 2024–2025 be allocated to IOC Functions in two respects, with the advice that each of these should receive at least one third of additional resources:

- (i) recognizing the importance and existing balance of all IOC Functions, the uplifted regular budget for 2024–2025 should be allocated, for example pro-rata to stabilize all IOC existing functions, where the indicative pro-rata basis for distribution is based on the IOC Executive Secretary’s proposal for the regular budget distribution in the Draft 42 C/5 presented to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 216<sup>th</sup> session, including non-staff and staff costs as included in Annex 1 to this Resolution;
- (ii) recognizing also the need for targeted additional regular budget investment focused on critically vulnerable areas, the increased regular budget for 2024–2025 should be allocated to:
  - a) IODE
  - b) GOOS
  - c) Capacity Development
  - d) Regional Subsidiary bodies;

**Also requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to compile scenarios from the above-mentioned consultations and provide the appropriate input to Intersessional Financial Advisory Group for their deliberation and for the purposes of developing and providing recommended allocations to the programmes or bodies in paragraph 15(ii) to the IOC Executive Council at its 57<sup>th</sup> session in 2024;

### III. Governance and Working Methods

#### A. Review of the IOC Rules of Procedure

**Recalls** that the IOC Assembly at its 31<sup>st</sup> session through IOC Resolution A-31/2 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 Governing Bodies’;

**Also recalls** that the IOC Executive Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> session through Resolution EC-55/2:

- (i) acknowledged that, upon further examination of the matter by legal experts and IFAG, the preparation of such separate sets of Rules of Procedure constituted a more challenging exercise than appeared *prima facie*;
- (ii) agreed that the separation process had to be assessed against statutory constraints and notably Article 6.B.3 of the IOC Statutes stating that ‘the Assembly shall determine the Commission’s Rules of Procedure’;
- (iii) welcomed 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,
- (iv) recommended that the IOC Assembly at its 32<sup>nd</sup> session adopt the overall approach as presented in IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1) and based on the proposal to:
  - a) refrain from engaging in a procedure of amendment of the IOC Statutes;
  - b) 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;

- c) 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 Governing Bodies,
  - d) 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;
- (v) noted the non-exhaustive set of comments provided by legal experts in the Annex of IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1) highlighting areas where Member States could consider the benefit of further clarifications, requiring a more in-depth review of the Rules of Procedure;
- (vi) invited the IOC Executive Secretary to prepare the revised draft Rules of Procedure for review and adoption by the IOC Assembly at its 32<sup>nd</sup> session in 2023 without any substantive changes, based on the discussions at the IOC Executive Council;

**Welcomes** the Second Proposed Revision of the IOC Rules of Procedure as respectful of Member States recommendations and decisions;

**Endorses** the text as proposed in IOC/A-32/6.2.Doc(1), with modifications to Appendix IV 'Guidelines on the working methods for online sessions', as presented in Annex 2 to this Resolution;

**Invites** the IOC Executive Secretary to prepare guidelines to support Member States' preparation for and participation in the elections, in accordance with the IOC Statutes and Rules of Procedure, and to consider having an information session prior to the vote;

#### B. Reporting on In-Kind Contributions (IKC)

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

**Also recalls** that the IOC Executive Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> session:

- (i) welcomed the more systematic and inclusive approach to reporting on IKC proposed by IFAG and presented in IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(2) as more inclusive and equitable;
- (ii) invited the IOC Executive Secretary to launch the pilot reporting exercise for calendar year 2022 and to submit the resulting report to the IOC Assembly at its 32<sup>nd</sup> session for review and decision on future reporting;

**Expresses satisfaction** with the result of the pilot exercise presented in Table 6 of IOC/A-32/3.2.Doc(2);

**Welcomes** the methodology approved by the IOC Executive Council in document IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(2);

**Invites** Member States and **requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to continue future reporting based on the same approach, in consultation with IFAG, to ensure adherence to the approved methodology;

**IV.**  
**Draft Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation  
of the IOC Strategic Positioning**

**Recalls** that the Draft Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning presented in IOC/EC-55/3.2.Doc(1) was positively received by the IOC Executive Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> session;

**Notes** that the Draft Action Plan presented to the IOC Assembly as document IOC/A-32/6.3.Doc(1) benefitted from Member States' feedback solicited through IOC Circular Letter 2912 and includes updates on progress, where relevant, in line with the decision EC-55/3.2;

**Acknowledges** that the specific decision made by the IOC Executive Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> session requesting the IOC Executive Secretary to prepare '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' was implemented through IOC Circular Letter 2912;

**Welcomes** the Draft Action Plan as presented in document IOC/A-32/6.3.Doc(1);

**Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to:

- (i) move forward with its implementation considering the IOC's evolving situation, including the resources available, proposing adjustments accordingly and reporting on progress both to IOC and UNESCO Governing Bodies;
- (ii) support the work of IFAG by providing timely information on the relevant governance, programming and budgetary processes and matters, in order to facilitate informed decision-making by IOC Member States at the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the IOC Executive Council in 2024.

Annex 1 to IOC Resolution A-32/4

Function/Activity title	Scope	Impl. unit	41 C/5*		Draft 42 C/5 (as presented to the 216th session of the UNESCO Executive Board)																			
			Regular Budget Allocations (in US\$)		Base Case Scenario							ZNG Scenario												
			\$	%	Regular Budget			VC		total IBF		Regular Budget			VC		Total IBF							
					Non-Staff	Staff	Total	\$	%	\$	%	Non-Staff	Staff	Total	\$	%	\$	%						
				Posts																				
<b>FUNCTION A - Ocean Research</b>			135 745	8%	264 500	8%	3,02	990 477	1 254 977	9%	795 000	4%	2 049 977	6%	162 280	8%	965 749	10%	1 128 029	10%	671 813	4%	1 799 842	6%
WCRP	GLO	IOC	33 000		50 000										30 000									
Ocean Carbon Sources & Sinks	GLO	IOC	49 745		107 250										66 140									
CC impact on ocean & coastal ecosystems	GLO	IOC	53 000		107 250										66 140									
<b>FUNCTION B - Observing System &amp; Data Management</b>			503 205	29%	933 715	28%	6,27	2 122 406	3 056 121	23%	5 375 000	25%	8 431 121	24%	591 220	29%	2 097 678	22%	2 688 898	23%	4 542 974	25%	7 231 872	24%
#REF!	GLO	IOC	192 025		270 525										243 790									
GOOS Projects thr IOCAFRICA	AFR	NAI	33 715		33 715										20 000									
GOOS Regional Alliances	GLO	IOC	26 500		66 500										33 640									
Observing system integration & delivery	GLO	IOC	52 975		117 975										59 000									
Ocean forecast systems & applications	GLO	IOC	43 040		45 000										46 270									
IODE & OBIS core systems	GLO	IOC	54 300		133 270										62 840									
IODE & OBIS products & services	GLO	IOC	44 365		133 270										62 840									
IODE & OBIS training & education	GLO	IOC	56 285		133 460										62 840									
<b>FUNCTION C - Early Warning &amp; Services</b>			261 045	15%	541 146	16%	6,67	1 930 828	2 471 974	19%	3 620 000	17%	6 091 974	17%	320 220	15%	1 906 101	20%	2 226 321	19%	3 059 071	17%	5 285 392	18%
Promote integrated & sustained warning systems	GLO	IOC	79 885		167 455										104 300									
Tsunami-Ready - Educating communities at risk	GLO	IOC	38 345		65 505										40 800									
Tsunami-Ready - Caribbean	LAC	IOC	22 655		41 925										26 110									
Tsunami-Ready - Pacific	APA	API	26 480		43 676										26 480									
Building capacities for assessment	GLO	IOC	39 730		83 280										51 870									
Building capacities for assessment Indian Ocean	INT	JAK	26 980		56 555										35 230									
HAB & NIS Research & Monitoring	GLO	IOC	26 970		82 750										35 430									
<b>FUNCTION D - Assessment &amp; Information for Policy</b>		IOC	136 235	8%	282 750	8%	2,62	827 274	1 110 024	8%	1 140 000	5%	2 250 024	6%	158 300	7%	802 546	8%	960 846	8%	962 509	5%	1 923 355	6%
Follow-up to SDGs, WOA & STOR	GLO	IOC	49 265		75 000										57 130									
GEBCO	GLO	IOC	20 000		40 000										25 400									
Reducing nutrient enrichment	GLO	IOC	26 970		82 750										33 070									
CC adaptation in coastal zones Africa	AFR	NAI	20 000		30 000										20 000									
CC adaptation in coastal zones	GLO	IOC	20 000		55 000										22 700									
<b>FUNCTION E - Sustainable Management &amp; Governance</b>			448 760	26%	760 000	22%	7,40	2 741 677	3 501 677	26%	6 700 822	31%	10 202 499	29%	458 238	22%	2 444 945	26%	2 903 183	25%	5 787 015	31%	8 690 198	29%
IOC Governing bodies	GLO	IOC	240 000		240 000										240 000									
IOCARIBE	LAC	IOC	26 970		30 000										22 000									
IOCAFRICA	AFR	NAI	26 970		30 000										22 000									
WESTPAC	APA	BGK	26 970		30 000										22 000									
IOCINDIO	APA	IOC	20 000		30 000										22 000									
IOC Communication & Outreach	GLO	IOC			85 000										20 238									
UN partnerships	GLO	IOC	47 400		75 000										50 000									
UN Decade preparation/coordination	GLO	IOC	20 000		155 000																			
ICAM & MSP	GLO	IOC	40 450		85 000										60 000									
<b>FUNCTION F - Capacity Development</b>			228 418	13%	600 180	18%	3,52	1 346 355	1 946 535	15%	4 200 000	19%	6 146 535	17%	383 720	19%	1 247 444	13%	1 631 164	14%	3 422 441	19%	5 053 605	17%
CD & TMT&GOSR & Ocean Literacy	GLO	IOC	49 963		180 000										60 800									
Ocean Literacy contribution to IP2	GLO	VNI			20 000																			
CD IOCAFRICA	AFR	NAI	57 315		145 180										105 900									
CD IOCARIBE	LAC	IOC	50 570		85 000										72 340									
CD WESTPAC	APA	BGK	50 570		85 000										72 340									
CD IOCINDIO	APA	IOC	20 000		85 000										72 340									
<b>IOC PROGRAMS NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>			1 713 408		3 382 291	1	29,50	9 959 017	13 341 308	1	21 830 822	1	35 172 130	1	2 073 978	1	9 464 463	1	11 538 441	1	18 445 822	1	29 984 264	1
Common country programming 1%			17 848		33 823				33 823				33 823		20 740				20 740				20 740	
Evaluations 3%			53 544		101 469				101 469				101 469		62 219				62 219				62 219	
IOC Training & Development					20 000				20 000				20 000										0	
IOC Operating costs			50 000		50 000				50 000				50 000						50 000				50 000	
<b>TOTAL NON STAFF</b>			1 834 800		3 587 583										2 206 937									
<b>TOTAL STAFF COSTS</b>			9 401 200		9 959 017										9 464 463									
<b>TOTAL</b>			11 236 000		13 546 600				13 546 600				21 830 822		35 377 422				11 671 400		18 445 822		30 117 222	

\*as approved by the IOC Assembly through IOC Resolution A-31/2 - ref. document IOC/A-31/4.2.Doc





Annex 2 to IOC Resolution A-32/4**Appendix IV: Guidelines on the working methods for online sessions****I. General recommendations**

- (i) The IOC Assembly, the Executive Council and their subsidiary bodies shall hold online sessions only during periods of emergency or in exceptional circumstances rendering “in-person” meetings impracticable.
- (ii) The Rules of Procedure shall apply to online sessions.
- (iii) Participation and use of online platforms accessible to all Members of the Board, representatives of the United Nations, observers of Member States and of non-Member States and observers of intergovernmental or international non-governmental organizations shall be ensured on equal terms in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, while at the same time ensuring the security of the online platforms.
- (iv) Taking into consideration the practical and technological limitations of an online session, the agenda and timetable of work shall be adopted keeping in mind the need to maximize time for quality decision-making.
- (v) Efforts should be made to consider as many items on the agenda as possible without debate.
- (vi) The online platform for an online session should be safe, secure and user friendly. All efforts shall be made by the Secretariat to ensure confidentiality of the private meetings.
- (vii) Keeping in mind the differences in time zones, efforts shall be made to facilitate the full participation of all as per the Rules of Procedure.
- (viii) Considering the technological means available to the Secretariat at the moment of the adoption of these Guidelines, secret ballots will be held in praesentia. All possible efforts will be made to ensure the participation of all Member States in secret ballots.
- (ix) As per the current practice, all possible efforts shall be made to adopt decisions on the basis of consensus in online sessions.
- (x) Since negotiation of a text during an online session could be time consuming and complicated due to technological constraints, Member States may consider convening informal meetings and negotiations as appropriate on draft decisions and amendments before the session. In order to better prepare the formal discussion in session, the Secretariat is also encouraged to organize online information meetings and open-ended informal consultations on relevant items of the agenda.
- (xi) It is of utmost importance that the Secretariat provide enough staff to be able to follow the questions and demands communicated through the appropriate tool or other functions of the online platform.

## II. Guidelines on the working methods for online sessions

Titles	Second Proposed Reorganisation and Adaptation of the IOC Rules of Procedure (2023)	Guidelines on the working methods for online sessions
<p><b>Regulatory periodicity of governing body and major subsidiary body sessions</b></p>	<p><b>Rule 12</b></p> <p><i>The Executive Secretary shall ensure the convening and servicing of all sessions of the Assembly, of the Executive Council and of primary and secondary subsidiary bodies of the Commission. The Executive Secretary shall also ensure that appropriate arrangements are concluded for the convening and servicing of subsidiary bodies established or convened by the Commission jointly with other organizations. The Executive Secretary or designate shall act as the Secretary at each session of the Assembly, of the Executive Council and of subsidiary bodies of the Commission and shall participate appropriately in any body established or convened jointly.</i></p>	<p>The IOC Statutes and the Rules of Procedure require that one ordinary session of the Assembly be held every two years (Art. 6c) and that two ordinary sessions of the Executive Council be held between two ordinary sessions of the Assembly.</p> <p>Respecting the periodicity of governing bodies requires that these bodies, during periods of emergency or in exceptional circumstances rendering in-person meeting impracticable, organise their session online.</p> <p>The Executive Secretary shall ensure the convening and servicing of all sessions of the Assembly, of the Executive Council and of primary and secondary subsidiary bodies of the Commission. The Executive Secretary shall also ensure that appropriate arrangements are concluded for the convening and servicing of subsidiary bodies established or convened by the Commission jointly with other organizations. During periods of emergency or in exceptional circumstances rendering “in-person” meeting impracticable, the Executive Secretary, acting on the decision of the body concerned, will ensure the servicing of online sessions. The Executive Secretary or designate shall act as the Secretary at each session of the Assembly, of the Executive Council and of subsidiary bodies of the Commission and shall participate appropriately in any body established or convened jointly.</p>
<p><b>Consultation process on holding online sessions</b></p>	<p><b>Rule 37</b></p> <p>1. <i>The Assembly, the Executive Council and their subsidiary bodies may hold online sessions only during periods of emergency or in exceptional circumstances rendering ‘in-person’ sessions impracticable. Online sessions shall be held in accordance with the “Guidelines on the working</i></p>	<p>The consultation by means of a circular letter of Member States by the Chairperson on the proposal to organize an online session should clearly state the emergency or exceptional circumstances rendering “in-person” session impracticable. The Chairperson may at the same time provide advanced information on the dates considered for the virtual session, the draft provisional agenda</p>

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	<p><i>methods for online sessions” reproduced in Appendix IV to these Rules of Procedure.</i></p> <p>2. <i>At an ordinary or extraordinary session, the Assembly, the Executive Council and their subsidiary bodies may decide to hold an online session by a simple majority of members present and voting.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Should the approval of the Assembly or the Executive Council or one of their subsidiary bodies to hold an online session be required while not in session, the chairperson of the body concerned, in consultation with the officers of the body concerned and in agreement with the Executive Secretary, shall consult the Member States by correspondence. The Assembly or the Executive Council or one of their subsidiary bodies shall hold an online session unless one-third of the members of the body concerned disagree to the proposal.</i></p> <p><b>Rule 38</b></p> <p><i>Following the instructions of the Executive Council or the Assembly, the Chairperson or the Executive Secretary may consult Member States of the Commission by correspondence on substantial matters prior to taking action and may establish a reasonable time limit for replies.</i></p>	<p>and timetable; the online meeting platform used; and the special arrangements notably proposed for the elections, if any.</p> <p>The Chairperson may convoke an online meeting of the Officers.</p>
<b>Provisional Agenda &amp; Timetable</b>	<p><b>Rule 43</b></p> <p>The opening and closing dates of an ordinary session shall be fixed by the Executive Secretary under guidance from the Executive Council and</p>	<p>The application of the rules related to the agenda and the duration of a session could be ensured through the adoption of practical arrangements, such as follows:</p>

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	<p>taking into account any preference which the Assembly may have expressed previously. The opening and closing dates of an extraordinary session shall be fixed by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Officers of the Commission.</p> <p><b>Rule 45</b></p> <p>1. The Provisional Agenda of an ordinary session of the Assembly shall be made up of items requiring a decision by the Assembly and shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) statement of the Chairperson on the state of IOC;</li> <li>(b) report by the Executive Secretary on programme implementation;</li> <li>(c) report by the Executive Secretary on Programme and Budget for the next biennium;</li> <li>(d) items whose inclusion has been decided by the Assembly itself;</li> <li>(e) items proposed by any Member State of the Commission;</li> <li>(f) items proposed by the Executive Council;</li> <li>(g) items proposed by the Executive Secretary of the Commission;</li> <li>(h) items proposed by the Executive Head of any organization of the United Nations system on behalf of that organization, in particular the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Given the complexity of having Member States join the meetings across different time zones, the duration of the meetings should be reduced to a maximum of three hours a day.</li> <li>- Submission of a simplified agenda and timetable taking into account the availability of time and the order of priority of the agenda items.</li> <li>- Consideration of as many agenda items as possible without debate.</li> <li>- Possibility of deferring certain items for decision through a correspondence process or at a future face-to-face meeting.</li> </ul>

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	<p>organizations referred to in Article 2.2 of the Statutes;</p> <p>(i) items proposed by other organizations invited to participate in the work of the Commission;</p> <p>(j) review of reports and composition of its subsidiary bodies, as covered in Rules 7, 31 and 50.</p> <p>2. The provisional agenda of an extraordinary session shall include only the items for whose consideration the extraordinary session was convened.</p> <p>3. The Provisional Agenda of a session of the Assembly shall be prepared by the Executive Secretary in accordance with decisions of the Executive Council.</p> <p>4. The Provisional Agenda of a session shall be circulated at the same time as the notice of the date and place of session.</p>	
<b>Languages</b>	<p><b>Rule 16</b></p> <p>1. <i>The official languages of the Commission shall be English, French, Russian and Spanish.</i></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>1. <i>Interpretation needed for conducting meetings of subsidiary bodies shall be provided in the appropriate working languages according to the needs of the representatives of Member States of</i></p>	<p>The online meeting platform shall ensure interpretation in the official languages of the Commission, the organisation of break-out groups and sessional committees and must ensure that the debate are open unless decided otherwise.</p>

Titles	Second Proposed Reorganisation and Adaptation of the IOC Rules of Procedure (2023)	Guidelines on the working methods for online sessions
	<i>the Commission or of the individual expert members participating at such meetings.</i>	
<b>Sessional Committees, side meetings</b>	<p><b>Rule 49</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. During the course of a session, the Assembly shall establish such committees and such other subsidiary bodies as may be required for the transaction of its business.</li> <li>2. The Committees of the Assembly shall include a Nominations Committee, a Resolutions Committee, upon the proposal of the Executive Council pursuant to Rule 53.2, and a Financial Committee.</li> <li>3. A Financial Committee shall be established by the Assembly and be open to all Member States of the Commission.</li> </ol>	<p>The full application of these Rules may be ensured by holding all sessional committees and working group meetings in the format of separate online events. The Secretariat shall avoid the overlapping of meetings.</p> <p>The technological means would allow the holding of private meetings during an online session.</p>
<b>Publicity of debate</b>	<p><b>Rule 24</b></p> <p><i>Meetings of the Assembly or the Executive Council shall be open unless the Assembly or the Executive Council decides otherwise.</i></p>	<p>The application of this rule is ensured by the setting up of a webcast allowing the public to view the meeting without interaction with it.</p>
<b>Members present and voting</b>	<p><b>Rule 26</b></p> <p><i>For the purpose of these Rules, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.</i></p>	<p>The “members present” shall refer to the Member States actually attending in the online meeting and officially recorded by the Secretariat after formal notification prior to the session.</p>

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<b>Identification of members</b>	<p><b>Rule 39</b></p> <p><i>Each Member State of the Commission shall notify the Executive Secretary of the Commission of the names of its designated representatives, alternates and advisers for each session of the Assembly.</i></p>	<p>Additionally, the Secretariat should inform the Member States and the participants of the naming convention set up for the meeting to quickly identify the entity represented and role and status of each participant on the online meeting platform (Head of delegation, delegate, expert, observer organisation, observer Member States, speakers, Officers, member of the secretariat, etc.).</p>
<b>Quorum</b>	<p><b>Rule 18</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>A simple majority of the Member States of the Commission shall constitute a quorum in the Assembly.</i></li> <li>2. <i>A simple majority of the members of the Executive Council and of subsidiary bodies shall constitute a quorum therein.</i></li> </ol>	<p>The application of this rule requires the following arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption of a naming convention for participants according to their officially designated role during the session (Head of delegation, delegate, expert, observer organisation, observer Member States, speakers, Officers, member of the secretariat, etc.)</li> <li>- Access by all participants to the meeting's virtual room approximately 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.</li> <li>- Authentication by the Secretariat of the identity of the participants before giving access to the meeting.</li> <li>- After checking the presence of the members present on the platform, the Chairperson shall announce whether the quorum has been established.</li> </ul>
<b>List of speakers</b>	<p><b>Rule 20</b></p> <p><i>The Chairperson shall call upon speakers in the order in which they have expressed the desire to speak.</i></p>	<p>The application of this Rule is ensured through the adoption of practical arrangements, such as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request for the floor by participants by clicking on the appropriate icon on the meeting platform.</li> <li>- The Chairperson has access to the list of participants where the "shows of hand", requests to speak, appear in the order of requests (List of speakers). The naming convention of</li> </ul>

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		<p>participants allows the chairperson to call upon speakers in the order of precedence appropriate to the body concerned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Showing an updated list of participants ensure that delegations know when it is their turn to speak.</li> <li>- The Secretariat will ensure that all participants receive good practice instructions during online meetings according to the meeting platform used regarding the request for the floor, audio and video settings etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Point of order</b></p>	<p><b>Rule 19</b></p> <p>1. <i>The Chairperson shall declare the opening and closing of each session, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these Rules of Procedure, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He shall rule on points of order and, subject to these Rules, shall control the proceedings and the maintenance of order. [...]</i></p>	<p>The application of this Rule as regards the maintenance of order by the Chairperson is ensured through the adoption of practical arrangements, such as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using appropriate tools on the meeting platform to allow participants to formally raise procedural motions and points of order.</li> <li>- Ensuring that the Secretariat shall immediately draw the attention of the Chairperson to the fact that such a motion <b>and point of order</b> has been raised.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Rule 21</b></p> <p><i>During the discussion on any matter, a Member State of the Commission participating in the Assembly, or a member of the Executive Council, or subsidiary body, as the case may be, may at any time raise a point of order, and the point of order shall be forthwith decided by the Chairperson. Any such member may appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson which can only be overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. Such member may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.</i></p>	



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<b>Voting by secret ballot</b>	<p><b>Rule 2</b></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>4. The five Vice-Chairpersons shall be nationals of Member States of different electoral groups (listed in Appendix II to these Rules of Procedure) and shall be elected in a single ballot following the procedure set forth in Appendix I to these Rules of Procedure.</p>	<p>Considering the technological means available to the Secretariat at the moment of the adoption of these Guidelines, secret ballots will be held in praesentia. All possible efforts will be made to ensure the participation of all Member States in secret ballots..</p>
<b>Voting by show of hand or roll call</b>	<p><b>Rule 25</b></p> <p>1. Unless otherwise provided in these Rules of Procedure, or unless the Assembly or the Executive Council shall decide that a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting is required on a particular matter, decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting.</p> <p>2. Decisions whether a particular matter, not specified in these Rules of Procedure, shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at the Assembly or the Executive Council, shall be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting.</p>	<p>If consensus, which is desirable, is not reached, the application of the Rules on a vote by show of hands and roll call is possible as long as the security of the online platform and authentication and identification of participants are in place.</p> <p>The Chairperson may use the “show of hand” tool of the online platform to organise a silent vote and check with the assistance of the secretariat whether the simple or the two-thirds majority of the members present and voting is reached.</p> <p>The members, represented by the Head of delegation, who have raised hands are considered as the members present and voting.</p>
	<p><b>Rule 27</b></p> <p>Voting shall normally be by show of hands, except that any member may request a roll call. The vote and abstention of each member participating in a roll call shall be inserted in the record.</p>	