



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

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IOC Circular Letter No 2983
(Available in English and French)

IOC/VR/JP/fc
29 January 2024

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with IOC
C.c. : Permanent Delegations/Observers Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
IOC Officers
Members of GOOS Committees and Panels
GOOS National Focal Points

**Subject: Nomination of Experts for the Global Ocean Observing System
(GOOS) Steering Committee**

The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) aims to provide a truly global ocean observing system that delivers the essential data and information needed for our sustainable development, safety, wellbeing and prosperity. It is led by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and co-sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Science Council (ISC).

The GOOS Steering Committee plays a pivotal role in guiding the strategic direction of GOOS, fostering collaboration, and ensuring the effective implementation of ocean observation initiatives worldwide. These efforts align with the [GOOS 2030 Strategy](#) and are in response to the evolving needs for ocean observation. Additionally, with the increased role of the GOOS Management Team as the [Ocean Decade](#) Coordination Office (DCO) for Ocean Observing, the Steering Committee will also play a vital part in shaping the strategy for ocean observing within the Ocean Decade.

[IOC Resolution XXVI-8](#) decided that the Steering Committee be comprised of up to 15 members, as well as the chairs of appropriate coordinating and implementing bodies, both within and outside IOC, in an ex-officio capacity. Of the 15 elected members, 5 are nominated by Member State "Electoral Groups" during the IOC Assembly and 10 members are appointed by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the GOOS co-sponsors. At the 32nd Session of the IOC Assembly (21–30 June 2023), the GOOS Steering Committee had its five regional expert members renewed by the Member State Electoral Groups ([IOC Decision A-32/4.8.1](#)).

Through this letter, I invite you to nominate suitable experts to serve on the GOOS Steering Committee alongside the five members nominated by the IOC Member State Electoral Groups. The current 10 appointed members have completed their two terms. For current members who wish to

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remain on the Steering Committee, we cordially invite nomination of current members as per their interest.

The Steering Committee plays an important role in guiding development and reviewing progress towards goals of the technical and operational components of GOOS and aligning the system with societal needs across key delivery areas such as weather and its forecasting, climate change, and ocean health and economy. Expertise of the Steering Committee members should support this role and include capacity in, *inter alia*, ocean observing (including *in situ* and satellite), data management, operational services, risk management, governance, resource sourcing and management, technology development, capacity development, and/or outreach and communications. The terms of reference for the Steering Committee from 2011 are provided in Annex 1.

The IOC Secretariat will appreciate receiving nominations not later than 8 March 2024 as detailed in Annex 2. Kindly send your nominations via email to Ms Forest Collins (f.collins@unesco.org).

The IOC Secretariat will thoroughly review all submissions and the IOC Executive Secretary, in consultation with the GOOS cosponsors, will appoint up to 10 experts based on relevant expertise, according to the agreed procedure listed in [IOC Resolution XXVI-8](#). Upholding criteria that promote gender balance, geographic representation, and a broad spectrum of expertise within the field of ocean observation and its governance, we aim to enhance the strength, breadth, and diversity of our Steering Committee membership. The Steering Committee meets annually for three to four days in person with online meetings throughout the year as necessary. English is the working language for all Steering Committee meetings.

The next annual Steering Committee will take place in Barcelona, Spain on 14–17 April 2024, following the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference (10–12 April 2024). New members will be invited to join this meeting alongside current members to ensure a smooth transition. It is also expected that the Steering Committee will meet an additional two to three times per year virtually.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to those members who have dedicated their time and expertise and served more than two consecutive terms or who are retiring their position on the Steering Committee. We particularly thank these members for their commitment through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic when GOOS Steering Committee members were not able to meet face-to-face. In reference to our current membership, we refer you to our regularly updated list of [GOOS Steering Committee members](#).

Thank you for your continuous cooperation.

Looking forward to your earliest reply and participation in this process, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2): 1/ Terms of Reference for the GOOS Steering Committee (Group of Experts)
2/ Nomination form

Terms of Reference for the GOOS Steering Committee (Group of Experts)

Annex to IOC Resolution XXVI-8 (2011)

Acting under the guidance and governance of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Governing Bodies, and with the active participation and support of Member States, the GOOS Steering Committee will carry out intersessional activities to:

- (i) identify the essential ocean variables to observe, and develop and update as necessary the scientific, technical and implementation plans and targets for GOOS, for approval of the IOC Governing Bodies and partners;
- (ii) monitor, promote, and provide guidance on development and operation of GOOS in accordance with agreed implementation plans;
- (iii) regularly assess the performance of GOOS in providing users with fit-for-purpose data and information products;
- (iv) identify and encourage research and operational programmes to enhance and improve GOOS;
- (v) advise on developing the capacity of all Member States to participate in and benefit from GOOS.

The GOOS Steering Committee will appoint a Chair from amongst its own membership.

The GOOS Steering Committee will produce a biennial Workplan for consideration by the IOC Governing Bodies and adoption by the Assembly. The Workplan will also be shared with other cosponsors. This Workplan will clearly identify dedicated resources and commitments necessary for each Workplan element. In executing the elements of the plan endorsed and resourced by the IOC Governing Bodies, and/or extrabudgetary sources, the GOOS Steering Committee will be supported by a GOOS Project Office within the IOC Secretariat.

The GOOS Steering Committee will have the authority to create and dissolve time limited panels according to the IOC rules of procedure within limits of resources available.

The chairs of appropriate coordinating and implementing bodies, both within and outside IOC, will be invited to participate in an ex-officio capacity. Such bodies would include, for example, subsidiary panels, the GOOS Regional Council, IODE and JCOMM.¹

The GOOS Steering Committee members can serve up to two consecutive two-year terms.

The GOOS Steering Committee may invite observers to its meetings.

Within the limits of resources available, the GOOS Steering Committee shall preferably meet annually face to face immediately preceding IOC Governing Body meetings.

¹ Please note that the JCOMM has now been replaced by the WMO-IOC Joint Collaborative Board, WMO Resolution 9 (Cg-18) / IOC Resolution XXX-2 – Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board

**Nomination Form
Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Steering Committee**

First Name	
Last Name	
Profession (title)	
Mobile phone number with country code	
Email address	
Nationality	
Name of Employer	
Gender	
Career Level	<input type="checkbox"/> Early Career (Less than 10 years post higher education) <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-level <input type="checkbox"/> Senior level
Sector of work	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organization <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization <input type="checkbox"/> Research Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector <input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Other <hr/>
Please describe the relevant experience of the candidate and motivation for the role (max 400 words)	
Please describe any previous involvement with the Global Ocean Observing System (max 200 words)	
Please share an up-to-date CV	
Please upload a statement from the employer stating the following.	<p><i>“I acknowledge in that in the case of Ms/Mrs/Mr/Mx _____ is selected to serve as a member of the GOOS Steering Committee, he/she/they will be allowed to act in a personal capacity and will not be expected to represent in any way our organization or institution but act in the interest of the Global Ocean Observing System community</i></p> <p><i>Name and signature of the representative of the employing structure”</i></p>

Nomination Submitted by:

First Name	
Last Name	
Profession (title)	
Name of your Employer	

Date	
Signature	

Nomination Forms duly completed and signed along with the requested documents (nominee's CV and signed statement from the employer) should be sent by **8 March 2024** to the IOC Secretariat by email to Ms Forest Collins (f.collins@unesco.org) through one of the following channels:

- 1. The Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC
- 2. Head of UNESCO National Commission
- 3. Permanent Delegate to UNESCO