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IOC/EC-57/Decisions

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)**

Fifty-seventh Session of the Executive Council

UNESCO, Paris, 25–28 June 2024

(Non-edited compilation)

ADOPTED DECISIONS & RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED DECISIONS

IOC Decision A-57/2

Organization of the Session

The Executive Council,

I. Agenda

Adopts the agenda and the timetable of work as set out in documents IOC/EC-57/2.1.Doc. and Add.

II. Rapporteur

On a proposal of Colombia seconded by Grenada, Chile, Argentina, South Africa, Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, and Italy,

Designates Mr Frederico Antonio Saraiva Nogueira of Brazil 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 referred to them the following agenda items and responsibilities:

Financial Committee: to finalise a resolution under items 3.1, 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3; under the chairship of Mr Juan Camilo Forero Hauzeur (Colombia, Vice-chair) with the following Member States participating: Brazil, Egypt, France, Japan, and United States of America . 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 by 20 June and on the draft resolution covering financial matters drafted during the session; under the chairship of Mr Joseph Naughton (United States) with the following Member States participating: Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. Mr Julian Barbière provided the Secretariat support to the Resolutions Committee.

IOC Decision EC-57/3.1

Report of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Council,

Having examined documents IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(1), IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(2), and IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(3),

Thanks the Executive Secretary for a very comprehensive report;

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

IOC Decision EC-57/3.2.1

Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards

The Executive Council,

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-XVII/3s), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS-XVII/3s), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS-XXX/3s) and the report of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG-XVII),

Expresses solidarity with those affected by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and tsunami, in Japan, on 1 January 2024;

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

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

- (i) exercises conducted in 2022 from October to December (Exercise Pacific Wave), in 2023 in the Caribbean on 23 March (CARIBE WAVE 23), the Indian Ocean on 4, 11, 18, and 25 October (IOWave23) and the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and connected seas on 6–7 November (NEAMWave 23), as well as in 2024 in the Caribbean on 21 March (CARIBE WAVE 24);
- (ii) the continuing work of the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme Scientific Committee (ODTP-SC);
- (iii) the publication of the Research, Development and Implementation Plan for the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (ODTP-RDIP) (IOC/2023/TS/180);
- (iv) the publication of the report on Monitoring and warning for tsunamis generated by volcanoes (IOC/2024/TS/183) prepared by the TT-TWO Ad Hoc Team on Tsunamis Generated by Volcanoes (TGV);
- (v) the update on the IUGG meetings organised in 2023–2024, including the participation of IUGG members on the ODTP-SC meeting on 25 January 2024, collaboration in organising the 8th IOC/ICG/PTWS–IUGG Joint Tsunami Commission (JTC) Technical Workshop on 11 September 2023 during ICG/PTWS-XXX on Understanding and Lessons Learned from Tsunami Generated by the Hunga Tonga - Hunga Ha’apai Volcano Eruption on 15 January 2022, expected participation in the UNESCO-IOC Second Global Tsunami Symposium on the Reflection of the Two Decades Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004 Commemoration, 11-14 November 2024, and its contributions towards several reports, including the report IOC/2024/TS/183;
- (vi) the work of ITIC and the ICG/PTWS in the development of a PTWS NTWC Competency Framework and the work of ITIC to develop and pilot the NTWC Minimum Competency training course;

- (vii) the extensive preparation work and the support of Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency (BMKG) of Indonesia in hosting the UNESCO-IOC Second Global Tsunami Symposium, 11–14 November 2024 in Banda Aceh;
- (viii) the work of the TT-TWO in developing specialized TSP bulletins for the maritime community in consultation with the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) Sub-Committee on the World Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS-SC);
- (ix) the role of the Tsunami Information Centres (TICs) in the efforts of the Task Teams on Disaster Management Preparedness and Tsunami Watch Operations;
- (x) the roles of Tsunami Information Centres (TICs) in developing community awareness and preparedness in support of helping effective community responses to tsunami warnings, and the critical support provided to Member States in facilitating tsunami preparedness and resilience, and the advancement of the work programmes of the TOWS-WG and its Inter-ICG Task Teams;
- (xi) the continued progress in the implementation of UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP) in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Pacific region, and in the NEAM region, as well as the work of ITIC to host the TRRP website;
- (xii) Cannes Municipality (Alpes Maritimes), France, as the first UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready recognized community in France, the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the connected seas region, and new communities in Indonesia (Nagari Tapakih) in the Indian Ocean, Barbados (Christ Church West) and Saint James Central, Costa Rica (Cahuita), Dominica (Portsmouth), Guadeloupe (Deshaies), Saint Lucia (Laborie) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Saint George) in the Caribbean, and Costa Rica (Dominical, Dominicalito and Barú; Playa Hermosa; Puerto Jiménez and Tivives), Fiji (Navuevu, Sila) and Federated States of Micronesia (Weno Municipality and Pohnpei State) in the Pacific;
- (xiii) the progress made by ICG/PTWS concerning exploring mechanisms of how to include national tsunami preparedness and readiness programmes and initiatives in the UN Ocean Decade Programme, and that Tsunami Ready Equivalency Approach framed under other similar initiatives seeks to enable reporting on tsunami preparedness in a manner compatible with the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP), using existing national frameworks and requirements;
- (xiv) the continued collaboration between the UNDRR and UNESCO-IOC on the World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) in 2023, and the success achieved in scaling up the #GetToHighGround Campaign mobilizing action globally;
- (xv) the work done in Indonesia on several types of critical infrastructures: (1) Yogyakarta International Airport Tsunami Ready, (2) Bali Tsunami Ready Hotel, and (3) the needs of Industrial Zone Ready for Tsunami learning from Cilegon Industrial Estate. These could form the basis for the development of guidelines for Tsunami Ready Critical Infrastructure, as an effort to achieve goal no 2 of ODTP on achieving 100% people at risk to be ready and resilient to tsunami by 2030;
- (xvi) progress and status of ISO 22328-3 in Indonesia (Community-based Early Warning Systems for Tsunamis) which is targeting the large-scale private sector to be Tsunami Ready;

Also notes with appreciation the work of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation systems and encourages closer collaboration with JICA;

Further notes with appreciation the important commitments of Barbados, Indonesia, and USA to host the CTIC, IOTIC, and the ITIC to support the ICGs, and Australia to host the ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat Office;

Welcomes the appointment of the new ICG/NEAMTWS and ICG/PTWS Officers for the biennium 2024–2025 and 2023–2025, respectively;

Part I:

Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS)

Notes with appreciation:

- (i) the establishment of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS Steering Committee as an efficient instrument of results-based management, especially in providing an oversight in the execution of its decisions and recommendations, also marking a step towards harmonization among the global ICG governance structures;
- (ii) the continued full functionality of the Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC) on an interim basis and the review of CATAC as a Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) in its eighteenth session in 2025 to enable the IOC Assembly to consider the final admission of CATAC as TSP in June 2025;
- (iii) the planning of the CARIBE WAVE 2025;
- (iv) establishment of a Task Team dedicated to Tsunami Ready in recognition of the need to further focus on the identification and employing corresponding strategies in the Caribbean and adjacent regions to reach the second objective of the ODTP that 100% of communities at risk to be prepared and resilient to tsunamis by 2030 through efforts like the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP);
- (v) the possibility to hold its future sessions from 2026 onwards in-person only every second year, and online every other years, noting that UNESCO aims to reduce its carbon footprint to meet its set target of reducing its emissions by 31% by 2030, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement;

Part II:

Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS)

Notes with appreciation:

- (i) the positive results of the fifth tsunami exercise for the region, NEAMWave23 conducted on 6–7 November 2023;

- (ii) Cannes Municipality (Alpes Maritimes), France as the first UNESCO IOC Tsunami Ready Recognized Community in mainland France and North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the connected seas region, and the ceremony organized in Cannes on 19 January 2024;
- (iii) the recently new approved two-years DG-ECHO funded CoastWAVE Project – Phase II (CoastWAVE 2.0) project starting on 1 July 2024 on “Scaling-Up and Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards”;
- (iv) the offer of Egypt to host ICG/NEAMTWS-XIX in October 2024 and Italy’s intention to host the ICG/NEAMTWS-XX session;

Part III:

Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation (ICG/PTWS)

Notes with appreciation:

- (i) the eleventh Exercise Pacific Wave in 2024 (PacWave 24) scheduled in the months of September through to November 2024 to support International Disaster Risk Reduction Day (13 October) and World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November), as reflected in the Terms of Reference;
- (ii) the offer of China to host the 31st Session of the ICG/PTWS in April 2025 in Beijing and the offer of France to host the 32nd Session of the ICG/PTWS in 2027 in Nouméa, New Caledonia;
- (iii) the hosting by Vanuatu of the Expert Meeting on Tsunami Sources, Hazards, Risk and Uncertainties Associated with Vanuatu, San Cristobal and New Britain Subduction Zones, 14–17 May 2024;
- (iv) the ICG/PTWS decision to start official full functional operations of Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC), with the specific starting date to be decided after the coordination with the ICG/CARIBE-EWS;
- (v) the approval of the PTWS National Tsunami Warning Centre competencies, framework, and training requirements, as described in IOC/ICG/PTWS-XXX Working document: *Report from the Task Team on the Minimum Competency Levels for National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) Operational Staff*;

Notes:

- (i) the concerns of ICG/PTWS regarding the seismic activity in the Scotia Arc region as reflected in the Executive Summary of the ICG/PTWS-XXX (IOC/ICG/PTWS-XXX/3s);
- (ii) that tsunami bulletins are issued by the PTWC for the ICG/CARIBE-EWS and ICG/PTWS for earthquakes in the Scotia Arc and its adjacent seismic zones for events fulfilling certain criteria as reflected in the IOC Technical Series, 130, ‘Tsunami Watch Operations-Global Service Definition Document’;

- (iii) the need for the active engagement of Argentina with the ICG/CARIBE-EWS and ICG/PTWS regarding Argentinian Search and Rescue (SAR) and NAVAREA VI coordination responsibilities;

Requests PTWC to finalize necessary preparations to provide special tsunami maritime safety products specifically for ships for all NAVAREA Coordinators in the Pacific and in the Southwest Atlantic (e.g. NAVAREAs VI, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, and XVI) to transmit to the NTWCs to be forwarded to the NAVAREA Coordinators of their countries, or upon their request directly to the NAVAREA Coordinators in the absence of a NTWC;

Part IV:

Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG)

Decides that IOC should collaborate more closely with the WMO to connect tsunami activities with the Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and UN Secretary General Early Warning for All Initiative (EW4All), such as the WMO Coastal Inundation Forecasting Initiative (CIFI) that is an example of a multi-activity addressing coastal inundation, no matter the source of the coastal inundation;

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;

Instructs the regional Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs) to:

- (i) consider performing exercises outside of working hours, in particular during the night, but being careful to take into consideration difficulties and possible issues of involving the public in night-time drills;
- (ii) consider whether Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) may also need to provide services where volcano generated tsunamis may impact several Member States;
- (iii) utilise exercises and communication tests as an opportunity to simultaneously monitor data availability and quality;
- (iv) utilise and promote the use of multi-purpose sea level monitoring stations in support of MHEWS to enhance data coverage and reduce costs;
- (v) share information and procedures on deployments of new technologies to monitor sea level variations used for tsunami warning purposes, such as the ongoing project of the CAM SMART cable off Portugal, TAM TAM SMART cable between New Caledonia and Vanuatu, undersea cable installations being deployed by Indonesia and India, and the InSEA Wet Demo smart cable in the Ionian Sea offshore Sicily;
- (vi) TSPs identified for each ICG to trial dissemination of maritime bulletins to respective NAVAREA operators in their Area of Service (AoS) in the second half of 2024 for full operational implementation where possible in 2025;

- (vii) ICG/PTWS Task Team Tsunami Ready to share the ICG/PTWS guidance on Tsunami Ready Equivalency for further consideration by TT-DMP, as a potential mechanism for reporting toward this goal;
- (viii) ICG/IOTWMS WG1 and WG3 to develop and share guidelines for Tsunami Ready Critical Infrastructure;

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;

Recommends for locations that will not feel the earthquake, the use of the standard text in the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready signage such as “*In case of any official tsunami message, go to high ground or inland*” as an alternative to ‘*In case of a strong or long (duration) earthquake, or any official message, go to high ground or inland*’;

Requests the IOC Secretariat to:

- (i) advise all Member States via Circular Letter (CL) that TSP fax transmissions of tsunami information products will cease from 6 months of CL date, unless Member States advise within three months that fax transmissions of tsunami information products is essential for National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) functions and there is no other back-up;
- (ii) develop a reporting mechanism to allow ICGs to report progress on related projects within the Ocean Decade and against the ODTP-RDIP KPIs, aligning this with the proposed Global KPI Framework for the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Programme;
- (iii) distribute the report on *Monitoring and warning for tsunamis generated by volcanoes* (IOC/2024/TS/183), including the List of Tsunamigenic Volcanoes, to Volcano Observatories and UNESCO-IOC Member States;
- (iv) organise online webinars for each ICG involving relevant Volcano Observatories and Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers (VAACs) to:
 - (a) brief on the report on *Monitoring and warning for tsunamis generated by volcanoes* (IOC/2024/TS/183) and its recommendations,
 - (b) highlight the hazard and vulnerable Member States,
 - (c) initiate the required partnerships between NTWCs and Volcano Observatories and VAACs,
 - (d) Initiate consideration of whether TSPs may also need to provide services where tsunami generated by volcanoes may impact several Member States;
- (v) organise in 2024 webinars in coordination with IHO for the NAVAREA operators and back-up METAREA operators to introduce the new service and products for the maritime community, and obtain and advise TSPs of the contact information for their respective NAVAREA and METAREA operators to disseminate the new maritime bulletins;

- (vi) with TICs' lead, develop and share a Tsunami Ready Toolkit to assist Member States in implementing the TRRP. The toolkit may include a standard and clear procedure, format, and method for submitting the Tsunami Ready application and its supporting documentation, including clarification on the definition of community in the frame of the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme;
- (vii) inform Member States on the Tsunami Ready Toolkit's availability via IOC Circular Letter to the Tsunami National Contacts, National Tsunami Ready Boards, and widely through attaching this as an appendix of the Standard guidelines for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (IOC/2022/MG/74);

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 TOWS-WG will review and revise the TT-DMP and TT-TWO Terms of Reference for adoption at the next IOC Assembly in 2025;

Also 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 EC-57/4.1

Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Governance

The Executive Council,

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.1.Doc(1),

Restating that GOOS is a priority for the IOC,

Recalling the GOOS Strategy 2030 and noting the Vision 2030 white paper on Challenge 7 '*Expand the Global Ocean Observing Systems*',

Mindful of Decision A-32/4.7,

Welcomes the information and proposed actions provided in the document IOC/EC-57/4.1.Doc(1);

Endorses the proposed actions to evolve GOOS governance as outlined in document IOC/EC-57/4.1.Doc(1), including any amendments as may be requested by Member States.

IOC Decision EC-57/4.2

Progress Report of the IOC Ad hoc Intersessional Working Group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction

The Executive Council,

Recalling Assembly decision A-32/4.8.2,

Welcomes the establishment of the Working Group and election of its co-chairs;

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.2.Doc(1),

Encourages the Working Group to continue its work, including reviewing any additional documents that may provide relevant information to support its work,

Encourages more Member States to contribute to the work of the group by responding to IOC Circular Letter 2938 and to give permission for their responses to be shared with the Working Group.

IOC Decision EC-57/4.3

**Draft IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning
and Management (2024-2030)**

The Executive Council,

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.3.Doc(1) Rev.,

Recognizing the importance for the IOC to develop a comprehensive framework to deliver knowledge and capacities for sustainable ocean planning and management needs of IOC Member States, in accordance with its Statutes, and in support of the IOC Medium Term Strategy (2022–2029), and adopted Programme and Budget 2024–2025 (42 C/5),

Welcomes the draft IOC wide-Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management;

Decides to establish the IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management with the Terms of Reference in the annex to this decision;

Requests the Working Group to report to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session.

Annex to Decision Dec. EC-57/4.3

**Terms of Reference the IOC Working Group on
Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (WG-SOPM)**

The IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management is composed of experts nominated by IOC Member States responding to a call by circular letter and representatives of IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies and governing bodies of IOC programmes (where applicable).

The Working Group will elect two co-chairs from its members.

The IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (WG-SOPM) is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Revise the draft SOPM Strategy in line with the discussion in the 57th session of the IOC Executive Council as reflected in the report and annexes, and present a revised version for consideration by the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session;
2. Identify activities related to ocean planning and management across all IOC programmes, addressing specific programme-related issues as well as emerging issues;
3. Propose a SOPM implementation plan to be considered by the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session;
4. Ensure coordination with the Decade Programme of Sustainable Ocean Planning, and its interim advisory group.

IOC Decision EC-57/4.4

GEBCO Governance Review (2023) and Triennial Review of User Requirements

The Executive Council,

I - Triennial Review of User Requirements

Recalling Decision IOC/A-32/3.5.1 to, *inter alia*, conduct the Review of User Requirements and Potential Contributions to GEBCO on a biennial basis,

Having examined the report of the Working Group on User Requirements and Contributions to GEBCO Products presented in document IOC/EC-57/4.4.Doc(2),

Recognizing the continued need of the IOC scientific community for bathymetric products and the fact that access to high quality bathymetry is important not only for navigation, but also for other purposes, such as tsunami warning and preparedness, conservation of marine ecosystems and biological diversity, marine spatial planning, extended continental shelf and climate and marine modelling,

Noting that significant amounts of bathymetric data are collected by the scientific and commercial sector for purposes other than chart improvement, but are not easily made discoverable or available for secondary purposes,

Takes note of the conclusions of the working group contained in document IOC/EC-57/4.4.Doc(2);

Requests the Executive Secretary to:

- (i) convey the conclusion of this review to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the GEBCO Guiding Committee;
- (ii) identify ways and means to increase the participation of respondents, particularly representing the interest of IOC programmes, as well as regional subsidiary organs, in future assessments carried out by the working group;
- (iii) share the findings of the review with relevant IOC communities;

Decides to conduct the next Review of User Requirements and Potential Contributions to GEBCO, with the next assessment to be presented to the IOC Assembly in 2027;

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;

II – GEBCO Governance Review and Strategy

Recalling IOC Decision A-32/Dec.4.1,

Having considered document IOC/EC-57/4.4.Doc(1) containing the Report and Recommendations of the GEBCO Governance Review Project Team (2024) and IOC/INF-1538, which presents the New GEBCO Strategy,

Takes note of the report and its recommendations, as well as of the GEBCO Strategy;

Requests the GEBCO Guiding Committee to consider the recommendations, identify the implications, if any, of their implementation, and report progress to the Governing Bodies of IOC and IHO through the report of the GEBCO Chair, including an Implementation plan.

IOC Decision EC-57/4.5

Report on the Second Edition of the IOC State of the Ocean

The Executive Council,

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.5.Doc(1),

Welcomes the publication of the second edition of the IOC State of the Ocean Report 2024 published as IOC Technical Series, 190;

Appreciates the work of the StOR Advisory Board and its guidance, and the need for its continued efforts to enhance the StOR in line with its intended purpose;

Welcomes the updated concept note and the consultations hold as detailed in IOC Circular Letter [2963](#);

Endorses the continued publication of the StOR, reliant on further refinement and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding;

Requests the StOR Advisory Board to strive to ensure the StOR reflects diversity in expertise, gender, geographic representation and career status of the authors and reviewers, and includes the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;

Invites IOC Member States to provide extrabudgetary financial resources to the realization of the IOC StOR.

IOC Decision EC-57/4.6

Implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023-2030)

The Executive Council,

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.6.Doc(1) and report IOC/GE-CD-V/3,

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 of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 through IOC Decision A-32/4.3,

Mindful of the role of the GE-CD in informing and, where relevant, assisting the Secretariat in implementing IOC Capacity Development initiatives,

Decides to continue the role of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development and to revise its Terms of Reference as in the annex to this decision;

Annex to Dec. EC-57/4.6

Terms of Reference

IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD)

The IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD) is composed of experts nominated by IOC Member States responding to a call by circular letter detailing the GE-CD membership.

The IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD) is responsible for the following tasks:

1. assist global and regional programmes with the implementation of capacity development needs assessments in a consistent manner;
2. also assist global and regional programmes with the development of programmatic and regionally relevant capacity development work plans based on the IOC CD strategy and related needs assessments, building on ongoing activities and making use of existing training and education facilities;
3. develop an implementation plan for the current IOC CD Strategy 2023-2030 for submission to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session in June 2025;
4. provide advice to global and regional programmes on the implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 and on relevant methods and tools to improve the quality and impact of CD efforts;
5. advise the IOC CD Secretariat on the design and implementation of the biennial CD survey in close collaboration with the regions, possibly including CD implementation impact monitoring/metrics, also taking into account other methods such as regional reviews, science conferences, etc.;

6. ensure coordination of the work of the Group of Experts and its Task Teams with GOSR and CD aspects of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, including the Capacity Development Facility and Working Group 9 of the Vision 2030;
7. guide the further development and promotion of the Ocean CD-Hub by highlighting linkages of CD activities and collaboration opportunities between users and providers and among other global, regional and national organizations;
8. provide advice to Member States on the promotion of visibility and reach of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030 to assist with the planning and implementation of their capacity development efforts;
9. report results to the Assembly at its 33rd session.

IOC Decision EC-57/5.1

Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission

The Executive Council,

Having examined IOC/EC-57/5.1.Doc(1),

Takes note of document IOC/EC-57/5.1.Doc(1) subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion in plenary under agenda item 5.4 and subsequent adoption.

IOC Decision EC-57/5.2

**Action Plan in Response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC's Strategic Positioning
– Update on Implementation**

The Executive Council,

Having examined IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(1),

Takes note of documents IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(4) and IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(1) subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion in plenary under agenda item 5.4 and subsequent adoption.

IOC Decision EC-57/5.3

**Follow-Up to Resolution A-32/4: Governance, Programming
and Budgeting Matters of the Commission – Draft Guidelines for the election**

The Executive Council,

Having examined IOC/EC-57/5.3.Doc(1),

Takes note of the Draft Guidelines for the preparation and participation of Member States in the Biennial Elections for IOC Chair and Vice-Chairs (Officers of the Commission) and Member States of the Executive Council, subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion in plenary under agenda item 5.4 and subsequent adoption.

IOC Decision EC-57/6

**Preparation of the 33rd Session of the Assembly
and next Sessions of the Executive Council**

The Executive Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 55th session (Dec. EC-55/5.3) on the duration of its sessions and IOC Decision A-32/6.6 of the Assembly at its 32nd Session,

Decides to hold:

- (i) the 33rd session of the Assembly for a duration of 6.5 days plus one Ocean Science Day, at UNESCO Headquarters, from 25 June to 3 July 2025, preceded by a one half-day session of the Executive Council (58th session) acting as the steering committee of the Assembly;
- (ii) The 59th session of the Executive Council for 3.5 days in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris over the period from 8 to 19 June 2026.

IOC Decision EC-57/7

Adoption of Resolutions and Modalities for the Finalisation of the Report

The Executive Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 52nd session (EC-LII, Dec.3.3) on organization matters,

Adopts the decisions and two resolutions of the session as in document IOC/EC-57/Decisions;

Takes note of the preparation of the draft summary report of the session by the Secretariat;

Requests the Executive Secretary to circulate the narrative part of the report to Member States in the four working languages of the Commission by September 2024 at the latest.

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

IOC Resolution EC-57/1

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

The Executive Council,

Part I

Recalling IOC Resolutions EC-53/1, A-31/1, A-32/3 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/EC-57/4.7Doc(1) on the Status of the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and Perspectives for 2025,

Takes note with satisfaction of the contribution of the Decade Advisory Board (DAB) to the implementation and strategic development of the Decade, and **welcomes** the renewal of its members for the period 2024–2025, in accordance with the DAB Terms of Reference;

Also welcomes the development of the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 process aimed at enhancing the strategic delivery of the Decade under its 10 Decade Challenges, and **thanks** the Co-Chairs and Members of the Vision 2030 Working Groups;

Also takes note of the positive results achieved during the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference and **extends its gratitude** to the Government of Spain, the Generalitat of Catalonia and the City of Barcelona for hosting this event;

Affirms its support to the implementation of the priorities and recommendations outlined in *The Barcelona Statement*¹,

Invites Member States and partners to:

- (i) incorporate the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 priorities and recommendations into their national and regional science-policy frameworks, and to use them to inform budget and resourcing decisions;
- (ii) 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) and secondments to the Decade Coordination Unit (DCU);
- (iii) offer to host and fund Decade Actions, Decade Coordination Offices (DCO), and Decade Collaborative Centres as described in the Decade Implementation Plan (IOC Ocean Decade Series, 20);
- (iv) establish National Decade Committees with a view to stimulate national activities and international cooperation; and

¹ <https://oceanexpert.org/document/34098>

- (v) host regional or international Decade stakeholders events;

Also invites UN Member States, UN-Oceans members, international scientific and academic organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to support the Decade in collaboration with IOC, and to contribute to its implementation by proposing Decade Actions in accordance with the Decade Implementation Plan; and supporting the implementation of the priorities and recommendations of the Vision 2030 process;

Part II

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.7.Doc(2),

Further takes note of the Draft Scoping Framework for the Ocean Decade Mid-Term Evaluation, and **requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to develop the detailed Terms of Reference of the Evaluation, taking into account discussions in the session;

Requests the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service to carry out the Evaluation, which should include consultations with Member States, National Decade Committees, and other relevant stakeholders, and to present the results to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session;

Expresses gratitude to the Governments of Canada, France, Japan, Belgium (Government of Flanders), Norway, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sweden, as well as REV-Ocean, and FUGRO for their valuable financial contributions to the Decade;

Also expresses appreciation to:

- (i) the Government of Thailand for hosting the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference in Bangkok, 22–25 April 2024, and;
- (ii) the Government of India for hosting the Indian Ocean Regional Decade Conference, in Hyderabad, 1–3 February 2024;

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

- (i) Harmful Algal Bloom Solutions Programme;
- (ii) Ocean Decade Sustainable Ocean Planning Programme, and;
- (iii) SEAWARD Africa Ocean Decade Programme;

Also supports the active roles of the IOC Regional and Technical Subsidiary Bodies and Programmes in facilitating Decade regional and thematic coordination and engagement activities, in particular:

- (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, and;

- (vi) UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, acting as a DCO for Connecting People and Ocean;

Takes note of the resource needs identified by the DCU, IOC-led DCOs and IOC-led Decade Actions to fulfil their commitments under the Decade;

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 catalyse further actions within and beyond the Decade.

IOC Resolution EC-57/2

Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission

The Executive Council,

Having examined documents:

- (i) IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(2) – Report on 2022–2023 (41 C/5) budget implementation as at 31 December 2023,
- (ii) IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(3) – Financial situation of the IOC Special Account as at year end 2023 and forecast for 2024-2025,
- (iii) IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(4) – Consultation Process - IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Sustainable Delivery and Expansion of IOC Activities,
- (iv) IOC/EC-57/5.1.Doc(1) – Revised Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) and Preliminary Proposals for 2026–2029 (Draft 43 C/5),
- (v) IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(1) – Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning – Update on implementation,
- (vi) IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(2) – Report of the Chairperson of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (intersessional period January – June 2024), and
- (vii) IOC/EC-57/5.3.Doc(1) – Draft Guidelines for the preparation and participation of Member States in the Biennial Elections for IOC Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (Officers of the Commission) and Member States of the Executive Council,

Part I.

Report on 2022–2023 (41 C/5) budget implementation as at 31 December 2023 and Financial situation of the IOC Special Account as at year end 2023 and forecast for 2024–2025

Confirms that the IOC budget for 2022–2023, as reported in IOC/EC-57/3.1.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

31st session through IOC Resolution A-31/2 and further reviewed by the IOC Executive Council at its 55th session through Resolution EC-55/2;

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

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 2023 and forecast for 2024–2025 provided in IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(3);

Approves the revised budgetary allocations for 2024–2025 for the IOC Special Account as proposed in Table 1 of IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(3);

Encourages Member States to provide voluntary contributions to ensure full achievement of the collectively agreed extrabudgetary resource mobilization targets for 2024–2025 for all IOC Functions, preferably to the IOC Special Account;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to intensify proactive 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 2024–2025;

Part II.

Revised Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) and Preliminary Proposals for 2026–2029 (Draft 43 C/5)

Recalls the decision of the UNESCO Executive Board at its 216th session to recommend that the UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd 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';

Thanks Member States for including in the agenda of the 216th session of the UNESCO Executive Board item 44 'Urgent requirement for increased and more stable resources to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)' that led to the above-mentioned decision;

Notes with appreciation the increase in regular budget allocation to the IOC within the overall UNESCO 42 C/5 budget ceiling revised due to the United States of America re-joining the Organisation in July 2023, endorsed by the UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session in line with Member States' priorities and allowing IOC to maintain its core programmes and to fulfil its role in the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030);

Acknowledges the presentation of the Revised Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) contained in IOC/EC-57/5.1.Doc(1), 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 217th session and subsequently approved by the UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session;

Takes note of the additional information provided by the IOC Secretariat upon the request from the IOC Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (IFAG) and reflected in the Report of the Chairperson of IFAG (IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(2));

Considers that the programmatic choices of the IOC Secretariat in developing the Revised Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) follow Member States' strategic guidance provided in IOC Resolution A-32/4;

Welcomes in particular:

- (i) the stabilisation of all IOC Functions, coupled with targeted additional investment in IODE, GOOS, Capacity Development and Regional Subsidiary Bodies, identified by the IOC Assembly as 'critically vulnerable areas';
- (ii) the IOC Executive Secretary's staffing choices, aimed at reinforcing the above-mentioned critically vulnerable areas as a matter of priority;
- (iii) the significant improvement in the ratio of staff versus non-staff resources support from the regular budget, and;
- (iv) the considerable increase of the regular budget allocated to IOCAFRICA activities, in line with UNESCO's Global Priority Africa, and taking into account the need to avail adequate resources for programme implementation;

Notes that consultations on priorities take place on a continuous basis within the relevant programmes and subsidiary bodies to co-design priority activities and optimise delivery in 2024–2025, and to lay the foundations for the Draft 43 C/5 in line with the priority areas of the 42 C/5 and the spirit of maintaining the achievements related to the high-level principles of the IOC Resolution A-32/4;

Further notes with great concern that some of the above-mentioned IOC critically vulnerable areas are still understaffed and their reinforcement would need to be considered in the next budgetary cycles;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Officers of the Commission, to launch an external assessment of IOC's governance and management processes, with a view to streamlining operations and optimising the use of resources so as to be truly fit for purpose in response to the fast-evolving ocean agenda and increasing demands of Member States and multilateral processes;

Endorses the approach to the Preliminary Proposals for the Programme and Budget for 2026–2029 (Draft 43 C/5), including the formulation of the IOC Output 1, as presented in Part III of IOC/EC-57/5.1.Doc(1);

Highlights the critical importance of a clear and comprehensive consultation process with IOC Member States on governance, programming and budgetary matters of the Commission;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to develop the proposal for the Programme and Budget for 2026–2029 (Draft 43 C/5) for endorsement by the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session, keeping Member States appraised of and involved with all relevant developments during the intersessional period, including through regular and timely online meetings of the IFAG;

Part III.

Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning – Update on Implementation

Recalls that the Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning was endorsed by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session as presented in IOC/A-32/6.3.Doc(1) and reproduced for the attention of the IOC Executive Council in IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(1), with the update on implementation in the table titled 'Summary of proposed actions and updates on progress';

Also recalls that the IOC Assembly, at its 32nd session, requested the IOC Secretariat to move forward with the implementation of the Action Plan 'considering the IOC's evolving situation, including the resources available, proposing adjustments accordingly and reporting on progress both to IOC and UNESCO Governing Bodies';

Welcomes the update on implementation as contained in the 'Summary of proposed actions and updates on progress' referred to above;

Agrees with the IOC Executive Secretary's assessment that, although some actions have already been implemented and work is in progress on others, a number of strategic actions will require further reflection and discussion with Member States as part of the new phase of the 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean' consultation;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to proceed accordingly and submit the resulting proposal to the IOC Assembly for review at its 33rd session;

Part IV.

Consultation Process – IOC and the Future of the Ocean

Recalls IOC Decision A-32/5, mindful of the IOC's status as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO;

Notes the proposal in document IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(4) that the 'IOC and Future of the Ocean' consultation allow for a three-year process synchronized with the calendar of IOC governing body sessions;

Decides that the consultation will first focus on an overall review of activities relevant to the role of IOC in assisting Member States and other stakeholders, including identifying gaps and needs in IOC programmes, in order to optimally facilitate current and emerging activities in science-based sustainable ocean planning, ocean science support to implementation of relevant UN conventions and frameworks, and development of a sustainable ocean economy;

Also decides that the review will be carried out by the IOC Secretariat in consultation with IOC programmes, IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies, IOC Member States, including through IFAG and relevant IOC intersessional working groups, in particular the IOC working group on sustainable ocean planning and management, and other relevant stakeholders as necessary;

Further decides that the review will draw on the Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC strategic positioning, the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2022–2029), and other relevant resources as necessary;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to start the consultation process, including engagement with IFAG on the review modalities, and to provide regular updates to IFAG on progress for input and guidance;

Also requests the IOC Executive Secretary to present the results and recommendations of the review to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session for guidance on how to proceed with the second phase of the consultation;

Part V.

Follow up to Resolution A-32/4 Part III – Governance and Working Methods

Draft Guidelines for the preparation and participation of Member States in the Biennial Elections for IOC Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (Officers of the Commission) and Member States of the Executive Council

Recalls that the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session, through IOC Resolution A-32/4, endorsed the updated IOC Rules of Procedure, now published as document IOC/INF-1166 Rev., and invited 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’;

Takes note of the information contained in IOC/EC-57/5.3.Doc(1) as intended to highlight the specificities of IOC elections for Member States’ ease of reference, while the complete information is available in the IOC Statutes and Rules of Procedure, constituting the Commission’s regulatory framework;

Welcomes the IOC Executive Secretary’s confirmation that an information session will be organised prior to the 33rd session of the IOC Assembly to facilitate Member States’ preparations.