



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 3001**  
(Available in English and French)

IOC/VR/PP/JD/kdl  
3 July 2024

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC (IOC Member States)  
Chair and Vice-Chairs of IOC and Major Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and  
Regional)

C.c. : Permanent Delegates / Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States  
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

**Subject: Nomination of Experts for the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity  
Development** (follow-up to IOC Decision EC-57/4.6)

At its 29<sup>th</sup> session in 2017, the IOC Assembly established the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (Decision IOC-XXIX/10.1), primarily to assist the global and regional programmes in implementing capacity development (CD) needs assessments, developing related workplans, mobilizing resources, and providing advice on relevant methods and tools to deliver Capacity Development. By IOC Decision A-32/Dec.4.3, the Assembly at its 32<sup>nd</sup> session decided to adopt the [IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030](#).

In the attached decision EC-57/4.6, the IOC Executive Council last June instructed the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD) with the following tasks:

- (i) assist global and regional programmes with the implementation of capacity development needs assessments in a consistent manner;
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) develop an implementation plan for the current IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 for submission to the IOC Assembly at its 33<sup>rd</sup> session in June 2025;
- (iv) 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 Capacity Development efforts;

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- (v) 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.;
- (vi) ensure coordination of the work of the Group of Experts and its Task Teams with the *Global Ocean Science Report* 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;
- (vii) 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;
- (viii) 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;
- (ix) report results to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session.

Through this letter, I invite IOC Member States and the Chairpersons of the IOC programmes and regional subsidiary bodies to nominate suitable experts to serve in the above-mentioned group. I will appreciate receiving nominations no later than 31 July 2024 accompanied by a CV and a brief biography highlighting relevant expertise and experience in Capacity Development. Nominations should be sent by e-mail to Mr Peter Pissierssens ([p.pissierssens@unesco.org](mailto:p.pissierssens@unesco.org)) with copy to Ms Johanna Diwa-Acallar ([jp.diwa@unesco.org](mailto:jp.diwa@unesco.org)).

National experts are expected to receive support from their national authorities and institutes to cover their expenses associated with attending Group meetings, preferably in person.

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

Yours sincerely,

*[signature]*

Vidar Helgesen  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: IOC Decision EC-57/4.6 (28 June 2024)

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.