

IOC Circular Letter No 3022

(Available in English, French and Spanish)

IOC/VH/BA/ba

9 January 2025

To : GLOSS National Focal Points¹
GLOSS Steering Group members
GLOSS Data Centres
International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

C.c. : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO,
and National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Prof. Gary Mitchum, Chairperson GLOSS Group of Experts

Subject: Invitation to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Group of Experts on the Global Sea-Level Observing System (GE-GLOSS-XVIII), 11–14 March 2025, Panama City, Panama

It is my pleasure to invite you (or a representative) to participate in the Eighteenth Meeting of the Group of Experts on the Global Sea-Level Observing System (GLOSS) to be held at [Radisson Panama Canal](#) in Panama from 11 to 14 March 2025. The attached provisional agenda has been prepared by the Chair, Dr Gary Mitchum, in consultation with the Secretariat. At this meeting, GE-GLOSS will focus on reviewing the status of the GLOSS network and programmatic activities since the last meeting of the group in 2022 ([GE-GLOSS-XVII](#)) and discuss future developments; including the updating of the [GLOSS Implementation Plan, 2012](#). More information, including background documents and local arrangements, are available at the meeting website: <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4663>. The meeting will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in Spanish.

Since its establishment in 1988, GE-GLOSS has been providing oversight and coordination for global and regional sea-level network in support of scientific research. This also includes the study of vertical land motion near tide gauges via benchmark monitoring and continuous GNSS measurements. More information about the GLOSS programme is available in *The Global Sea-Level Observing System (GLOSS): implementation plan, 2012*. Participants in GLOSS-GE meetings are generally scientist experts, engineers, agency representatives, and tide gauge operators. They advise, evaluate and update the GLOSS Implementation Plan, provide advice on capacity development schemes, ensure proper liaison with international research programmes and relevant organizations and report to IOC governing bodies.

¹ For reference and update, refer to the list of current GLOSS National Focal Points at:
<https://oceanexpert.org/document/35445>

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Executive Secretary

Mr Vidar HELGESEN
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
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At this meeting, a new Chair of GLOSS is to be elected for the period 2025–2026. I would like to request that nominations, including self-nominations, be sent to the GLOSS Technical Secretary Mr Bernardo Aliaga (email: b.aliaga@unesco.org) by 12 February 2025, enclosing a full CV of the candidate. Nominees must have the official support of their officially nominated national focal points in IOC Member States. For reference, please follow this [link to list of IOC Focal Points](#).

Limited funding support is available on demand for National GLOSS Focal Points operating GLOSS stations in Africa, SIDS and LAC Member States. Financial support may consist of round-trip air travel (by the shortest and most economical route), and/or full board at the Radisson Panama Canal for the duration of the meeting.

All participants, with or without funding, must complete the attached registration form and return it to: Angelos Haidar (e-mail: a.haidar@unesco.org) with copy to b.aliaga@unesco.org, by 3 February 2025 at the latest. Beneficiaries of financial support will be notified by 6 February 2025. Further information on the detailed agenda, local logistics, hotel accommodation and visa requirements will be sent to participants by the organizer and will also be posted on the website at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4663> as it becomes available.

I am counting on your presence and active participation in the group work, and remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2): 1/ Provisional Agenda
2/ Registration Form

1/ GE-GLOSS-XVIII Provisional Agenda

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

**18th Session of the Group of Experts of the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)
11–14 March 2025, Panama**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**
 - 1.1 OPENING
 - 1.2 PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS
 - 1.3 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- 2. REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON ACTIONS FROM GE-XVII**
 - 2.1. GLOSS BEST PRACTICES DOCUMENT
 - 2.2. REVIEW OF GLOSS MANUALS
 - 2.3. IAPSO CMSLT BEST PRACTICES
 - 2.4. DATA ARCHEOLOGY
- 3. REPORT OF GLOSS DATA CENTRES**
- 4. STATUS OF GLOSS CORE NETWORK**
- 5. NATIONAL SEA LEVEL ACTIVITIES – PRESENTATION OF A SELECT SET OF NATIONAL REPORTS**
- 6. GLOSS DATA ACCESS AND STATUS REPORTING**
- 7. UN OCEAN DECADE**
- 8. GLOSS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**
- 9. LINKAGES BETWEEN GLOSS AND OTHER PROGRAMMES AND BODIES**
 - 10.1. TWCWG
 - 10.2. OCG
 - 10.3. TSUNAMI
- 10. INTERSESSIONAL ACTIONS FOR GLOSS-GE 2025–2026**
- 11.- GLOSS CHAIR ELECTION**
- 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 13. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**
- 14. CLOSURE**

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

**18th Session of the Group of Experts of the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)
11–14 March 2025, Panama**

REGISTRATION FORM

Email: a.haidar@unesco.org
Cc: b.aliaga@unesco.org

Please type or write in block letters:

NAME (first name, last name)	
TITLE	<input type="checkbox"/> DR <input type="checkbox"/> PROF. <input type="checkbox"/> MR <input type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
GENDER	<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE
ORGANIZATION	
POSITION	
NATIONALITY	
HOME ADDRESS (in full)	
TELEPHONE NUMBER	
EMAIL ADDRESS	