

**IOC Circular Letter No 3030**

(Available in English, French, Russian and Spanish)

IOC/VH/XY/pbo  
24 February 2025

- To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with the IOC (Member States)  
Executive Heads of Intergovernmental and Non-governmental organizations  
cooperating with the IOC
- C.c. : The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission  
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States  
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States  
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

**Subject: Invitation to the Thirty-third Session of the IOC Assembly,  
25 June–3 July 2025 and Fifty-eighth Session of the IOC Executive  
Council, 24 June 2025, UNESCO HQ, Paris**

It is my great pleasure to invite you, on behalf of the IOC Chairperson Professor Yutaka Michida, to attend the 33rd Session of the IOC Assembly. It will be held at UNESCO Headquarters on 25 June–3 July 2025. States members of the IOC Executive Council will meet for the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Council on 24 June 2025, one day before the Assembly. In line with the IOC Statutes, this session will act as the steering committee for the Assembly.

The provisional agenda for the Assembly provides a global overview of the developments of the Commission's activity over the biennium, including through the reports of IOC subsidiary bodies. The provisional agenda and timetable attached hereto have been prepared in consultation with the Officers during their meeting in Paris, 13–15 January. In view of the technical nature of some items on the agenda, it would be much appreciated if consideration is given to the inclusion in government delegations of representatives and experts conversant with the subject matters of the session.

The Action Paper is the guiding document for the session, including the contextual information for each agenda item and a draft decision. The first version of the Action Paper will be available on the Assembly website by the statutory deadline of 25 April 2025. As customary, decisions will be reviewed on-screen and adopted immediately after an agenda item is discussed.

**Chairperson**

Yutaka MICHIDA, Prof.  
Special Presidential Envoy  
for UN Ocean Decade  
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**Vice-Chairpersons**

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Prof. Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA  
President of Marine Hazards Mitigation Center  
(MHMC)  
National Institute of  
Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF)  
Qaitbay, Al-Anfوشي  
Alexandria  
EGYPT

**Executive Secretary**

Mr Vidar HELGESEN  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic  
Commission — UNESCO  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
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Should one or more Member States wish to present a Draft Resolution (DR), they should do so in accordance with document [IOC/INF-1315](#) by Friday 20 June 2025, 10 a.m. at the latest, with the exception of the Draft Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission to be submitted during the session by the Financial Committee. A form for the submission of DRs is attached.

As stipulated by [Rules of Procedure](#) No. 46 & 48.2, supplementary items requiring a decision may be submitted to the Secretariat by any Member State of the Commission or partner organization not later than 25 April 2025. Requests for supplementary items should be submitted to the Secretariat along with a short working document composed of a brief background (not more than 800 words), the action requested from the Assembly, the indication of financial implications if any, and a draft decision.

In addition to the formal plenary discussion, an Ocean Science Day (OSD) is organised on 30 June to discuss current challenges in ocean science, potentially with a wider audience.

The elections of the Officers of the Commission and the members of the Executive Council will take place during this session of the Assembly in accordance with the technical arrangements appended to the [IOC Rules of Procedure](#). Candidatures must reach the IOC Secretariat at latest two working days before the day of the elections scheduled on Wednesday 2 July 2025. A webpage dedicated to the IOC elections will be available on the Assembly's webpage (<https://oceanexpert.org/event/4605>), enabling Member States to follow the status of candidatures received by the Secretariat

For organizational purposes, it is particularly important that IOC Members States and partner organizations first notify the Secretariat of the complete list of their delegation with names of the Head of delegation and representatives, with copy to their Permanent Delegation to UNESCO when relevant. In addition, Delegates and participants, including members of permanent delegations to UNESCO, are invited to register online for the session at <https://indico.un.org/event/1016426/>. Indico is an open-source meeting organization tool used by United Nations organizations. Please follow the instructions on the registration page to first create an Indico account, before registering. If you need further information or assistance, please contact the Secretariat (c/o Ms Yun Sun, [yu.sun@unesco.org](mailto:yu.sun@unesco.org) or Mr Patrice Boned, [p.boned@unesco.org](mailto:p.boned@unesco.org) for general questions about the session).

Due to the high level of activity at headquarters during the month of June, delegations wishing to organise an event or offering a “coffee service” during the session are invited to contact the conference service or the catering service as soon as possible and inform the Secretariat for overall coordination purposes. The list of side events and their locations will be displayed on the Assembly webpage.

Member States are also reminded that each ‘Electoral Group’ will be invited to select one expert member of the GOOS Steering Committee for the two-year term, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027, in accordance with the IOC Resolution XXVI-8 establishing the GOOS Steering Committee and noting that GOOS Steering Committee members can serve up to two consecutive two-year terms. These five experts will have the role of providing policy advice and guidance to the GOOS Steering Committee in order to align GOOS activities with decisions of the IOC Governing Bodies. Please note that the working language of the GOOS Steering Committee is English. The IOC Vice-Chairs will lead the final selection process amongst Member States of the electoral group they represent, if possible by consensus, and present candidates for appointment during the 33rd Session of the Assembly. Nominations with the candidate's CV should be submitted to the GOOS secretariat (Ms Weronika Kmiec at [w.kmiec@unesco.org](mailto:w.kmiec@unesco.org)) not later than 30 April 2025.

I look forward to welcoming you in Paris,

Yours sincerely,

*[signature]*

Vidar Helgesen  
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

- 1/ Provisional Agenda for the 33rd Session of the Assembly (IOC/A-33/2.1.Doc Prov.)
- 2/ Provisional Timetable for the session (IOC/A-33/2.1.Doc add Prov.)
- 3/ Submission form for Draft Resolutions
- 4/ Provisional Agenda for the 58th Session of the Executive Council (IOC/EC-58/2.1.Doc Prov.)

Additional online resources:

List of current members of the IOC [Executive Council \(2023–2025\)](#)  
IOC nomination forms for elections: [chairpersonship](#); [vice-chairpersonship](#); [membership](#)  
[Groupings of IOC Member States](#) for the purpose of the election to the Executive Council (electoral groups)

## 1/ Provisional Agenda for the 33rd Session of the Assembly

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Restricted Distribution

**IOC/A-33/2.1.Doc Prov.**

Paris, 15 February 2025

Original: English



**unesco**

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)**

#### **Thirty-third Session of the Assembly**

UNESCO, 25 June–3 July 2025

#### **PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

#### **1. OPENING**

#### **2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

##### **2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

[Rule of Procedure 45]

##### **2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR**

[Rule of Procedure 8.4]

##### **2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

[Rule of Procedure 49]

##### **2.4 INTRODUCTION TO TIMETABLE, DOCUMENTATION AND IOC MEMORIAL LECTURES**

[Rule of Procedure 48; Dec. EC-55/5.3; Dec. A-31/3.2]

#### **3. IOC MATTERS AND REPORTS**

##### **3.1 STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

[Rule of Procedure 45.1(a)]

##### **3.2 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

[Rule of Procedure 45.1(b)(c)(g), 31]

##### **3.3 REPORTS OF THE IOC SUB-COMMISSIONS**

[Rule of Procedure 30.3]

###### **3.3.1 IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States: 8th Session of IOCAFRICA, Mombasa, Kenya, 7–9 May 2025**

###### **3.3.2 IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific: 15th Session of WESTPAC, Tokyo, Japan, 11–13 March 2025**

###### **3.3.3 IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions: 18th Session of IOCARIBE, (tbc)**

**3.3.4 IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean: 1st Session of IOCINDIO, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 9–11 April 2025**

**3.4 REPORTS OF OTHER IOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES**  
[Rule of Procedure 30.3]

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

*3.4.1.1 Regional Early Warning Services*

*3.4.1.2 Global Coordination of Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards*

**3.4.2 International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange:  
28th Session of IODE, Santa Marta, Colombia, 12–14 March 2025**

**3.4.3 IOC Data Architecture**  
[Rec. IODE-28; Rec. GOOS-SC-14]

**3.4.4 IOC-FAO Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms:  
17th Session of IPHAB, FAO, UNESCO, Paris, 18–20 March 2025**

**3.5 IOC REPORT TO THE 43rd GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO**  
[Statutes Art. 3.2; Rule of Procedure 50]

**4. PROGRAMMATIC DEVELOPMENTS**

**4.1 DRAFT IOC-WIDE STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLANNING  
AND MANAGEMENT**  
[Dec. IOC-XXVI/8.2; Dec. A-32/4.7; Dec. EC-57/4.3]

**4.2 DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE IOC  
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023–2030**  
[Dec. A-31/3.5.3; Dec. IOC-XXIX/10.1. Dec. EC-57/4.6]

**4.3 GENERAL BATHYMETRIC CHART OF THE OCEANS (GEBCO) – REPORT AND  
FOLLOW UP ON THE GOVERNANCE REVIEW**  
[A-32/dec. 4.1, EC-57/dec. 4.4]

**4.4 IOC OCEAN LITERACY ACTION PLAN AND STRATEGY**  
[Dec. IOC-XXX/11.2; Dec. A-31/3.5.4]

**4.5 GLOBAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM**

**4.5.1 GOOS Governance**  
[Rule of Procedure 45.1(j); dec. EC-57/4.1]

**4.5.2 GOOS Steering Committee Workplan**  
[Res. XXVI-8]

**4.5.3 Report of the Intersessional Working Group on Ocean Observations in  
Areas under National Jurisdiction**  
[Dec. IOC/EC-55/3.4; Dec. A-32/4.8.2]

**4.6 JOINT WMO-IOC COLLABORATIVE BOARD (JCB) STRATEGIC ADVICE ON JOINT  
WORK TO ACHIEVE COMMON OBJECTIVES**  
[Res. XXX-2; Dec. A-31/3.5.5; Dec. A-32/4.9]

**4.7 IOC CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNITED NATIONS GOVERNANCE PROCESSES**  
[Rule of Procedure 45.1(g)]

**4.8 REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS OCEAN DECADE 2021–2030  
IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS OF THE MID-TERM EVALUATION**  
[Dec. EC-XLIX/5; Res. XXIX/1; Res. EC-LI.1; Res. EC-57/1]

**5. GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING**

[Statutes Art. 6B]

5.1 DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2026–2029  
(Draft 43 C/5, first biennium 2026–2027)

5.2 ASSESSMENT OF IOC'S GOVERNANCE  
AND MANAGEMENT PROCESSES [Res. EC-57/2]

5.3 IOC AND THE FUTURE OF THE OCEAN CONSULTATION PROCESS  
[Dec. EC-55/3.2.Doc(1); Res. XXX-3; Dec. EC-55/3.2; Res. EC-57/2]

5.4 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE  
[Statutes Art. 1.2]

5.5 ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION  
AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
[Statutes Art. 6.B.5 and 7; Annex I to the Rules of Procedure]

**5.5.1 Elections of the Chairperson of the Commission**

**5.5.2 Elections of the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission**

**5.5.3 Elections of the Members of the Executive Council**

5.6 34th SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY  
AND 59TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
[Rule of Procedure 53]

**6. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND MODALITIES  
FOR THE FINALISATION OF THE REPORT**

[Rule of procedure 30]

**7. CLOSURE**

## 2/ Provisional Timetable for the session



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)  
Thirty-third Session of the Assembly  
UNESCO, Paris, 25 June–3 July 2025

IOC/A-33/2.1 Doc Add. Prov.  
Paris, 20 February 2025  
English only

### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

33rd Session of the Assembly (room II)										
hour	Monday 23 June	Tuesday 24 June	Wednesday 25 June	Thursday 26 June	Friday 27 June		Monday 30 June	Tuesday 1 July	Wednesday 2 July	Thursday 3 July June
08.00				Financial Committee (1)			Ocean Science Day	Financial Committee (4)	Financial Committee (optional)	
10.00 - 11.30	Meeting of IOC Officers	1. Opening 2. Organization of the session (2.1–2.2) 3. Arrangements for IOC-3-32 (3.1) 3.2 Request for Suppl. Items	1. Opening 2. Organization of the Session (2.1 – 2.4) 3. IOC Matters & Reports 3.1 Chair's Statement	Executive Secretary response	3.4.2 IODE-28 3.4.3 IOC Data Architecture		Programme in progress	4.8 Report on UN Ocean Decade and Results of the mid-term Evaluation	4.7 IOC Contributions to UN Governance Processes	5.4 Report of Financial Committee Chair 5.6 Next sessions
11.30 - 11.45		BREAK	BREAK				BREAK	BREAK		
11.45 - 13.00		3.3 Sessional WG 3.4 Timetable 4. Dates & places next sessions	3.2 Ex. Sec's Report 5. Governance, programming & budgeting 5.1 P&B (draft 43 C/5) 5.2 Assessment of governance & management 5.3 IOC & the Future (Introduction)	3.3 Reports of SUBS 3.3.1 IOCAFRICA 3.3.2 WESTPAC =	3.4.4 IPHAB-17 3.5 Report to 43 GC of UNESCO		2.4 NK Panikkar Memorial Lecture	4.5 Global Ocean Observing System 4.5.1 GOOS Governance	5.5 Elections	6. Adoption of Resolutions 7. Closure
13.00 - 15.00	LUNCH BREAK		LUNCH BREAK		Financial Committee (2)		Financial Committee (3) Resolution Committee (1)	Financial Committee (5)	Nominations Committee (3) Resolution Committee (2)	
15.00 - 16.30	Intersessional Financial Advisory Group	5. Adoption of the EC Report 6. Closure	3.2, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 (Member State interventions-Q&A)	3.3.3 IOCARIBE 3.3.4 IOCINDIO	4.1 Ocean Planning & Management Strategy		Second Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture	4.5.2 GOOS-SC Workplan 4.5.3 WG on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction Report	6.5 Report Nom. Cttee - Elections (results) 4.2 Draft Implementation Plan for CD Strategy	
16.30 - 16.45		Break	BREAK				BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	
16.45 - 18.00		Regional Subsidiary Body meeting	(Cont'd)	3.4.1 Warning & Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards 3.4.1.1 Regional EWS 3.4.1.2 Global Coordination	4.1 Cont'd 4.3 GEBCO Report & Governance review		2.4 Anton Bruun Memorial Lecture	4.6 IOC-WMO JCB Strategic Advice on Joint Work to achieve common objectives	4.4 Ocean Literacy Action Plan	
After 18.00			IOC Reception	Screening of "Ocean"	Nominations Committee (1)			Nominations Committee (2)		

Closing date for the nominations for elections (18h00)

## DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMISSION FORM

With reference to the revised guidelines for the preparation and consideration of Draft Resolutions ([IOC/INF-1315](#)), a draft resolution is a proposed text submitted by one or several Member States to a Governing Body with a view to its adoption by the Governing Body concerned during the session to which the draft resolution is presented for consideration under the adopted agenda.

The deadline for submission is: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Draft Resolution proposal</b>	
Agenda item:	
Title:	
Submitted by:	

The attached Draft Resolution fulfils at least one of the following criterion (tick for the relevant one(s)):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Reflect major policy, programmatic, external relations, financial and institutional decisions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approve or modify the Commission's programme and budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take action on formal Recommendations made to the Commission by any recognized entities concerned with the oceans

Budgetary implications and source of financing:	
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Name:	
Position:	
Signature:	
Date:	

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat: \_\_\_\_\_

**Screening by the Resolutions Committee:**

**Screening by the Financial Committee:**



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**IOC/EC-58/2.1.Doc**

Paris, 21 February 2024

Original: English



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

**Fifty-eighth Session of the Executive Council**  
UNESCO, Paris, 24 June 2025

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**
  - 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
  - 2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR
- 3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 33rd SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

[Rule of Procedure 53.2]

  - 3.1 DESIGNATION OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES
  - 3.2 CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS  
[Rule of Procedure 46]
  - 3.3 CONSIDERATION OF SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS
  - 3.4 TIMETABLE
- 4 DATES AND PLACE OF THE 59TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND PROPOSAL FOR DATES AND PLACE OF THE 34th SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

[Rules of Procedure 53]
- 6. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT**

[Rule of procedure 30]
- 7. CLOSURE**