

IOC Circular Letter No 3028 Rev.
(Available in English only)

IOC/VH/JB/NJ/pbo
11 April 2025

To : IOC Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with the IOC

C.c. : National Commissions for UNESCO, and
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO of IOC Member States
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC
Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of IOCINDIO, IOCAFRICA, WESTPAC, IOCARIBE
Directors, UNESCO Offices in IOCINDIO region
Heads of the Regional Cooperation Framework within and beyond the UN system (ADB, BOBP, C2Cs and RTCs, DCCs, FAO, Indian Ocean Commission, IORA, PERSGA, RIMES, ROPME, SAHF, SCOR, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCAP, World Bank)

Subject: First Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-1), 21–23 May 2025, and IOCINDIO Workshop on Strengthening Ocean Sustainability, 19–20 May 2025, at Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

The IOC Assembly at its 32nd session (2023) through [Resolution A-32/1](#) decided to establish IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) as an intergovernmental body to foster regional cooperation in ocean sciences, building on three decades of work of the IOCINDIO Regional Committee.

As a response to IOC Circular Letter No [2956](#) (dated 24 August 2023) inviting Member States to formally join the IOCINDIO Sub-Commission, a total of 11 (eleven) Letters of Adhesion have been received by the IOC Executive Secretary from competent national focal points of IOC Member States, namely Bangladesh, France, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America – hence establishing IOCINDIO as a sub-commission.

Other IOC Members States still wishing to join the IOCINDIO Sub-Commission and attend the first session of the sub-commission are encouraged to do so by sending a letter to the IOC Secretariat at the earliest opportunity. Membership to IOC regional bodies aims to strengthen cooperation amongst Member States and entails no financial obligations, other than voluntary participation in cooperation programmes and projects developed within the framework of IOCINDIO. The national focal points for IOCINDIO Member States will be the same as those for the IOC.

Chairperson

Yutaka MICHIDA, Prof.
Special Presidential Envoy
for UN Ocean Decade
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(MHMC)
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Qaitbay, Al-Anfoshi
Alexandria
EGYPT

Executive Secretary

Mr Vidar HELGESEN
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

By means of this letter, I am particularly pleased to invite you to nominate a representative to the first session of the IOC sub-commission (IOCINDIO-1) by communicating the names, positions and contact details of your representatives directly by email no later than 25 April 2025 to Dr Nimit Kumar, IOCINDIO Technical Secretary at nd.joshi@unesco.org.

As a statutory meeting, the session will bring together national competent governmental agencies for ocean, marine scientific communities and other relevant ocean stakeholders in the region, to foster ocean science-policy interface, advance ocean science development and cooperation, enhance technical and institutional capacities, promote transfer of ocean technology, and jointly develop ocean science solutions to sustainable development in the region.

IOCINDIO as an IOC Regional Committee will be dissolved at IOCINDIO-1. In order to ensure smooth transition and running of the meeting, it is proposed that the current Chair of the IOCINDIO Committee will Chair the IOCINDIO-1 Session with the understanding that a Board of Officers of the Sub-Commission comprising a Chair and two Vice-Chairs will be elected by IOCINDIO Member States at the end of the session, for the next 2-year intersessional period. Elected Officers may be re-elected for one additional term of office. Information about the election procedure and prescribed nomination forms are attached hereafter as Annex 4. Note that nominations should be sent to Dr Nimit Kumar, IOCINDIO Technical Secretary at nd.joshi@unesco.org, no later than 21 May 2025 at 19:00 (UAE time, UTC+0400).

The main discussions on the provisional agenda in the annex are: reviewing IOCINDIO activities and priorities in alignment with IOC strategic programmatic development, advancing the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development, strengthening cooperation with IOC sub-commissions as well as other regional UN and non-UN frameworks. The documentation for the session and the information note for participants, including venue details, prepared by the organizing committee of the host will be posted online at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4703>.

With a view to enhance regional cooperation, we also invite participation from observer entities from UN and recognized non-UN regional frameworks. This will facilitate seeking synergies as well as facilitating extrabudgetary funding towards addressing regional priorities.

The IOCINDIO session will be preceded by a Regional Workshop on 19–20 May 2025, which aimed at strengthening understanding of regional thematic areas, and establishing collaborations, notably in the UN Ocean Decade context. Delegates also wishing to take part in the preceding workshop are invited to identify themselves at the same time and register online at the webpage for the workshop (<https://oceanexpert.org/event/4702>) by 25 April 2025. Limited funding is available on request to support the participation of national experts in the Workshop. The presence of representatives from Member States and non-State experts will ensure successful proceedings of the workshop. The recommendations emerging from the workshop will feed the discussion of the IOCINDIO plenary meeting. The IOCINDIO-1 report will then be presented to the next IOC assembly in June.

All participants who require visa may consult with the IOCINDIO technical secretary (nd.joshi@unesco.org) by 21 Apr 2025, for the visa process specific to these events.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary

Enclosures: 1/ Provisional schedule for IO-SOS 2025
2/ Provisional Agenda and Timetable for IOCINDIO-1
3/ National Report Template
4/ Election Procedures & Forms

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

IOCINDIO Workshop-1 on Strengthening Ocean Sustainability (IO-SOS 2025)
Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, 19–20 May 2025

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Event page and registration: <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4702>

All participants may plan to arrive by May 18 EOD

All times are local (UTC+0400)

Day-1: May 19, 2025, Monday	
0930-1000	Inaugural, self-introductions
1000-1030	<i>High tea and networking, Group photo</i>
1030-1100	Keynote: Regional aspirations and needs
1100-1145	Panel Discussion followed by Q&A
1145-1215	Keynote: Coastal vulnerability and early warnings - approaches incl. modeling
1215-1300	Panel Discussion followed by Q&A
1300-1500	<i>Lunch break</i>
1500-1530	Keynote : Marine pollution
1530-1615	Panel Discussion
1615-1630	<i>Refreshments</i>
1630-1700	Day-1 report making, wrap up

Day-2: May 20, 2025, Tuesday	
0900-0930	Keynote: Sustainable Ocean Planning
0930-1015	Panel Discussion followed by Q&A
1015-1030	<i>Refreshments break</i>
1030-1100	Keynote: Ocean observations and data - Needs and Opportunities (incl. AI)
1100-1145	Panel Discussion followed by Q&A
1145-1215	Keynote: Multilateral frameworks and synergies
1215-1300	Panel Discussion followed by Q&A
1300-1500	<i>Lunch break</i>
1500-1530	Keynote: Capacity development and Ocean Literacy
1530-1615	Panel Discussion followed by Q&A
1615-1630	<i>Refreshments</i>
1630-1715	Day-2 report making, Valedictory

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

**First Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean
(IOCINDIO-1), Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, 21–23 May 2025**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Event webpage: <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4703>

- 1. Opening, Inaugural, self-introductions**
 - 1.1 Welcoming Remarks
- 2. Organization of the Session**
 - 2.1 Designation of the Chair and Rapporteur for the Session
 - 2.2 Adoption of the Agenda
 - 2.3 Introduction to Timetable, Documentation
- 3. IOC Strategic Matters and Reports**
 - 3.1 Statement of the Chairperson (IOCINDIO regional committee Report)
 - 3.2 IOC Executive Secretary's Report
 - 3.3.1 IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management
 - 3.3.2 IOC and Future of Ocean
 - 3.3.3 IOC Recent Development regarding UN processes (e.g. UN Ocean Conference 2025)
- 4. Reports from IOC sub-commissions (IOCAFRICA, IOCARIBE, IOC/WESTPAC)**
- 5. Reports from Category II Centers and Regional Training Centers**
 - 5.1 INIOAS-RCOWA, Iran
 - 5.2 INCOIS-ITCOcean, India
 - 5.3 OTGA report for the region
 - BMKG, Indonesia
 - INOS, Malaysia
 - KMFRI, Kenya
 - UEM, Mozambique
- 6. Status of Ocean Decade actions in the region and way forward**
 - 6.1 Report from the Decade Coordination Unit
 - 6.2 Engagement of Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECSN)
 - 6.3 Reports from relevant regional and thematic Decade Collaborative Centers (DCCs)
 - 6.3.1 DCC-IOR
 - 6.3.2 DCC-OceanPredict
 - 6.3.3 DCC-Coastal Resilience
 - 6.4 Cities with Oceans (Coastal Cities) initiative
 - 6.5 Status of National Decade Committees from the region
- 7. IOC Programmatic frameworks**
 - 7.1 GOOS and IOGOOS
 - 7.2 IODE (NODCs, OBIS)
 - 7.3 CD (CD strategy, OTGA)
 - 7.4 ICG/IOTWMS
 - 7.5 Regional Ocean Literacy activities

8. Collaboration with UN regional frameworks

- 8.1 FAO
- 8.2 UNDP
- 8.3 UNDRR
- 8.4 UNEP
- 8.5 UNESCAP

9. Collaboration with non-UN regional frameworks

- 9.1 ADB
- 9.2 BOBP
- 9.3 Indian Ocean Commission
- 9.4 IORA
- 9.5 PERSGA
- 9.6 RIMES
- 9.7 ROPME
- 9.8 SAHF
- 9.9 SCOR
- 9.10 World Bank

10. Preparation of Workplan and Budget (2026-2027)

11. Officers' Elections

12. Date and Place of the Next Session

13. AOB

14. Adoption of Decisions

15. Closure

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

First Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-1) Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, 21–23 May 2025

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

All participants (not attending workshop) may plan to arrive by May 20 EOD

All times are local (UTC+0400)

	Wednesday 21 May	Thursday 22 May	Friday 23 May
0900-1030	0900-1000 Registration 1000-1030 Inaugural, self-introductions 1. Opening, Inaugural, self-introductions 1.1 Welcoming Remarks 2. Organization of the Session 2.1 Designation of the Chair and Rapporteur for the Session 2.2 Adoption of the Agenda 2.3 Introduction to Timetable, Documentation	6. Status of Ocean Decade actions in the region and way forward 6.1 Report from the Decade Coordination Unit 6.2 Engagement of Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECSN) 6.3 Reports from relevant regional and thematic Decade Collaborative Centers (DCCs) 6.3.1 DCC-IOR 6.3.2 DCC-OceanPredict 6.3.3 DCC-Coastal Resilience 6.4 Cities with Oceans (Coastal Cities) initiative 6.5 Status of National Decade Committees from the region	11. Officers' Elections 12. Date and Place of the Next Session
1030-1100	<i>High tea and networking, Group photo</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
1100-1230	3. IOC Strategic Matters and Reports 3.1 Statement of the Chairperson (IOCINDIO regional committee Report) 3.2 IOC Executive Secretary's Report 3.3.1 IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management	7. IOC Programmatic frameworks 7.1 GOOS and IOGOOS 7.2 IODE (NODCs, OBIS) 7.3 CD (CD strategy, OTGA) 7.4 ICG/IOTWMS 7.5 Regional Ocean Literacy activities 8. Collaboration with UN regional frameworks 8.1 FAO 8.2 UNDP 8.3 UNDRR 8.4 UNEP 8.5 UNESCAP	13. AOB 14. Adoption of Decisions 15. Closure
1230-1400	<i>Lunch break</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>	
1400-1530	3.3.2IOC and Future of Ocean 3.3.3IOC Recent Development regarding UN processes (eg. UN Ocean Conference 2025)	9. Collaboration with non-UN regional frameworks 9.1 ADB 9.2 BOBP 9.3 IORA 9.4 Indian Ocean Commission 9.5 PERSGA 9.6 RIMES 9.7 ROPME 9.8 SAHF 9.9 SCOR 9.10 World Bank	
1530-1600	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
1600-1700	4. Reports from IOC sub-commissions (IOCAFRICA, IOCARIBE, IOC/WESTPAC) 5. Reports from Category II Centers and Regional Training Centers 5.1 INIOAS-RCOWA, Iran 5.2 INCOIS-ITCOcean, India 5.3 OTGA report for the region BMKG, Indonesia INOS, Malaysia KMFRI, Kenya UEM, Mozambique (Deadline for Officers Nominations)	10. Preparation of Workplan and Budget (2026-2027)	
1900	NETWORKING ACTIVITY	NETWORKING/CULTURAL ACTIVITY	

3/ Template for national reporting

First session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-1)
Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, 21–23 May 2025

Template for national Report (deadline for submission: 21 April 2025)

Please, provide a brief description of the country programmes related to the IOCINDIO Work programme based on the IOC global functions.
NB: Feel free to provide additional programmes even if different of the below listed.

Country:

Presenter(s) full names and position:

Full contacts address of the presenter(s):

Names of members of the national delegation/representative attending IOCINDIO-1

<u>IOC Function A : Ocean Science and Research</u>				
<u>IOCINDIO Programme:</u> Effects of human induced changes: Ocean acidification, eutrophication, hypoxia, harmful algal blooms (HABs) in coastal waters of the North-western Indian Ocean				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
<u>IOC Function B: Observing Systems & Data</u>				
<u>IOCINDIO Programme:</u> Ocean observations, coastal zone management, circulations and fisheries.				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
<u>IOC Function C: Ocean Hazards</u>				

<u>IOCINDIO Programmes</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coastal vulnerability assessment for sea level rise and storm surges. - Monitoring with Responsible Response of Oil Spill in inner ROPME Sea. 				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
<u>IOC Function D: Assessments & information for Policy</u>				
<u>IOCINDIO Programmes: 2050 Integrated Ocean Policy Advice for Proactive Planning and Management for IOCINDIO Member States.</u>				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
<u>IOC Function E: Governance</u>				
<u>IOCINDIO Programme: Blue Economy Business opportunities in the context of climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.</u>				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
<u>IOC Function F: Capacity Development</u>				
<u>IOCINDIO Programme: IOCINDIO Networking Research Infrastructures, Facilities and Human Resources.</u>				
Projects Titles & Leaders	Activities	Geographical scope Regional/National benefitting countries	Budget/funding sources National/Regional/international	Results/impacts
ANY OTHER PROGRAMMES/PROJECTS RELEVANT TO IOC, IOCINDIO AND THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021-2030)				

Elections of the Officers of the IOCINDIO sub-commission

The **IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean at its first session (IOCINDIO-1)** shall elect one Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons, for the term until the second session of IOCINDIO.

The Chairperson shall preside over the sessions of the Sub-Commission and carry out the duties which are entrusted to him/her. The Vice-Chairpersons assist the Chairperson in his/her functions and substitute him/her where necessary. The Vice-chairpersons will be entrusted with specific responsibilities.

The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of an IOC Subsidiary Body shall not remain in his/her mandate for more than two successive terms, according to the [IOC Rules of Procedure](#).

Nominations

Nominations of individuals to either the post of Chairperson or the posts of Vice-Chairpersons shall be submitted by Member States through the officially designated Head of Delegation to the IOCINDIO-1 or through the [IOC Focal Point in the Member State or the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO](#).

Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary using **Form A** (Chairperson) or **Form B** (Vice-chairperson). They must reach the Executive Secretary or his representative by the specified deadline for nomination (as indicated in this invitation letter).

Each nomination shall contain a declaration from the candidate that he/she is prepared to stand for the post for which he/she has been nominated and is willing to take on the obligations that would devolve upon him/her, should he/she be elected. Each nomination shall also contain a CV with the profile of the candidate (**Form C**).

Each candidate must be seconded by two Member States of IOCINDIO other than the nominating Member State.

Elections

The IOC general practice is working and deciding by consensus ([Rule](#) 19.2).

Should voting be necessary, decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting (Technical arrangements [2.20\(iv\)](#)), by secret ballot.

Biennial Elections for Chairperson

Form A – Chairperson

Name of Member State:

Name of Nominee:

I declare that I am prepared to stand for election to the post of Chairperson of **IOCINDIO** and, if elected, to take an active part in the work of it.

Signature of the Nominee:

	<i>Seconder 1</i>	<i>Seconder 2</i>
Member State of the IOCINDIO
Name in capitals
Position
Signature

Date sent to the IOC Secretariat

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat

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Biennial Elections for Vice-Chairperson

Form B – Vice-Chairperson

Name of Member State:

Name of Nominee:

I declare that I am prepared to stand for election to the post of Vice-Chairperson of the **IOCINDIO** and, if elected, to take an active part in the work of it.

Signature of the Nominee:

Second 1

Second 2

Member State of the **IOCINDIO**

Name in capitals

Position

Signature

Date sent to the IOC Secretariat

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat

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Biennial Elections for Chair and Vice-Chairpersons

Form C– CV of Nominee

[NAME]

Date of birth:

Languages:

Address:

Phone number:

Fax number:

Email:

CURRENT POSITION

[Please insert text]

EDUCATION

[Please insert text]

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

[Please insert text]