

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(Of UNESCO)

**THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION GROUP  
FOR THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEM**

7–11 April 2025, Beijing, China

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In accordance with Rule 48.3 of the Rules of Procedure for the primary Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System is required to report to a governing body on its sessions. The documentation and information for the session are available [online](#).

The IOC Assembly at its 33rd session will be invited to consider this Executive Summary and the recommendations it contains.

1. The Thirty-first Session of the UNESCO-IOC Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS) took place during 7–11 April in 2025 in Beijing, China. The session was held in hybrid format (in-person and online) and was attended by 62 delegates from 24 Member States in the Pacific Ocean region (Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Tonga, United States of America and Vanuatu). Thirty-two (32) observers from 14 countries (Argentina, Ecuador, France, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America) also attended the session.

2. **The ICG decided** to continue: Working Group 1 Understanding Tsunami Risk; WG2 Tsunami Detection, Warning and Dissemination; WG2 Task Team on Tsunami Service Providers; WG2 Task Team on Tsunami Forecasting from Ocean Observations; WG2 Task Team on Tsunami Generated by Volcano; WG3 Disaster Risk Management and Preparedness; WG3 Task Team on Tsunami Ready; and Sub-Regional Working Groups (Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System in the South China Sea Region (WG-SCS); WG-SCS Task Team on Capacity Development and Services; Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System on the Central American Pacific Coast (WG-CA); Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System in the Southeast Pacific Region (WG-SEP); Pacific Island Countries and Territories Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (WG-PICT); WG-PICT Task Team on Seismic Data Sharing in the SW Pacific; WG-PICT Task Team on Capacity Development; WG-PICT Task Team on Information Sharing Platforms; Steering Committee Task Team on

PacWave Exercises. It **decided** to dissolve the WG2 Task Team on the Integrated PTWS Sensor Networks for Tsunami Detection and Characterisation. (See [ICG/PTWS Organisational Structure](#)).

3. **The ICG decided** to continue the PTWS Steering Committee with revised Terms of Reference to establish a permanent structure comprising three Vice-Chairs.

4. **The ICG acknowledged** the conduct of PacWave24 and first-time testing of the dissemination of maritime safety products to NAVAREA Coordinators in the Pacific and in the Southwest Atlantic (e.g. NAVAREAs VI, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, and XVI).

5. **The ICG decided** to carry out a 12th Pacific Wave Exercise in 2026 (PacWave 26) through September to November 2024 to support the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day (13 October) and the World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November).

6. **The ICG accepted with appreciation** the kind offer of Ecuador to host the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the ICG/PTWS in Ecuador in 2027, for which specific dates will be determined at a later stage.

7. **Recalling** the concerns regarding the seismic activity in the Scotia Arc region as reflected in the Executive Summary of its previous session (report IOC/ICG/PTWS-XXX/3s), the ICG **invited** WG1 and the Secretariat to consider organizing a scientific workshop with the aim of assessing tsunamigenic potential of the Scotia Arc in its impact to PTWS Area of Service.

8. **Noting** 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 as reflected in the 'Adopted Decisions and Resolutions' of the 57th Session of the Executive Council in 2024, the ICG **noted with satisfaction** the active participation of Argentina in the PacWave24 as the Coordinator of the NAVAREA VI for the purposes of testing tsunami maritime safety product dissemination, and **encouraged** Argentina to actively participate in the future PacWave exercises with respect to its Search and Rescue (SAR) and NAVAREA VI coordination responsibilities,

9. **The ICG endorsed** the conduct of the first-ever UNESCO-IOC Pacific Tsunami Preparedness Capacity Assessment, which constitutes the first systemwide measurement of the existing capacities to guide future efforts to improve the PTWS, with the kind support of ESCAP, and **requested** that the PTWS Steering Committee play a leading role during the intersessional period for implementation, reporting and follow-up.

10. **The ICG recalled** its recommendation made at its last session to authorize the commencement of full functional operations of the Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC), effective after the IOC governing body session in June 2024, with the exact date to be decided after coordination with the ICG/CARIBE-EWS (Recommendation ICG/PTWS-XXX-6), and **took note** of the recommendation of ICG/CARIBE-EWS at its 17<sup>th</sup> session regarding the review of CATAC as a Tsunami Service Provider at its 18<sup>th</sup> Session in May 2025 to enable the IOC Assembly to consider the final admission of CATAC as a TSP in June 2025 (Recommendation ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XVII.8).

11. **Noting** the obstacle posed by the lack of high-resolution bathymetric and topographic data for inundation modelling in the context of tsunami preparedness and the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme, **the ICG requested** WG1 to consider compiling existing guidelines or developing new guidelines on inundation modelling techniques when high-resolution bathymetric and topographic data are not available, as part of a multi-level approach to probabilistic tsunami hazard assessment (PTHHA), and **further requested** WG1 to continue supporting Tsunami Hazard Assessment studies in the Pacific as part of comprehensive risk assessment, consistent with the first objective of the UN ODTP, to achieve 100% coverage of tsunami-prone coastlines.

12. **Noting** the [recommendation](#) of the IOC Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG) to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session in 2025, requesting the IOC Secretariat to develop a standard and improved methodology for the collection of TNC/TWFP/NTWC contact information, in close collaboration with the Task Team on Tsunami Watch Operations (TT-TWO) and the Task Team on Disaster Management and Preparedness (TT-DMP), and to present its work at the next joint TT-DMP and TT-TWO meeting, **the ICG requested** WG2 Task Team Tsunami Service Providers (TT-TSP) to investigate TSP, TNC, NTWC and TWFP requirements to serve as inputs to this effort.

13. **Noting** the Secretariat Report on the ICG/NEAMTWS best practices since 2012 regarding the conduct of TSP Communication Tests on a fixed schedule, **the ICG requested** WG2 TT-TSP to study the implementation of this modality by the ICG/PTWS Tsunami Service Providers in order to eliminate the need to issue IOC circular letters for the regular activity of an operational nature.

14. **Noting** the Recommendation of TOWS-WG-XVIII to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session in 2025 to establish arrangements among TSPs within each ICG to ensure that service provision is ensured at all times for the full Area of Service of the ICG, **the ICG requested** WG2 TT-TSP to produce an analysis report on the need and requirements of such arrangements within the PTWS by taking into consideration the requirements and capabilities for both near- and far-field events, existing back-up modalities, expansion of Areas of Service of the existing TSPs, where applicable, and the possibility and feasibility of forming new TSPs by other Member States, independently or jointly.

15. **Noting** the considerable potential of SMART Cables to improve tsunami monitoring and forecasting, as well as the progress of SMART Cable initiatives in the south-western Pacific, including the deployment of TAM-TAM cable, the ICG through its WG2, **recommended** that Member States integrate SMART functionality into new submarine telecommunication cable projects, to prioritize deployment in high-risk tsunami zones and to provide open access data for monitoring and forecasting purposes, and **encouraged** its open access for Disaster Risk Reduction research purposes, **and further recommended** that they join the JTF SMART Cables to develop protocols for real-time data access to and integration of data from SMART Cables into the PTWS and National Tsunami Warning Centres.

16. **Taking note** of the discussion on proposed amendment to the PTWC text product, including the naming of coasts for which tsunami amplitude forecasts are less than 0.3 m and the addition of a statement in the key statements clarifying that they are only advice for PTWS coasts, **the ICG requested** that PTWC eliminate that section naming coasts with less than 0.3 m amplitude forecast and add clarification on the application of key text product statements that they are only advice for PTWS coasts.

17. **Recalling** that IOC Assembly Decision A-32/3.4.1 instructed all regional Tsunami Service providers, in collaboration with NAVAREA operators of IHO, to test the tsunami maritime safety products in 2023/24, with a view to operationally implementing them in 2024–2025, **and considering** that the PTWC as a TSP that covers all coasts of the Pacific Tsunami Warning System has agreed to provide this service for the PTWS and has designed such products, conducted a communication test with Pacific NAVAREA Coordinators, and produced a draft guide to those products, **the ICG requested** PTWC to implement the products in 2025 following the next meeting of the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service in September 2025.

18. **Recalling** the approval of the Tsunami Ready Coalition Implementation Plan by the TOWS-WG at its 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, towards realizing and sustaining tsunami readiness through targeted promotion, advocacy, resource mobilization, networking, influence, and advice, **the ICG requested** WG3 and its Task Team on Tsunami Ready to actively support the implementation activities of the Tsunami Ready Coalition.

19. **The ICG recommended** provisional approval of the ‘Tsunami Ready Equivalency Guidance’, as described in the [Draft Document](#) (Agenda 4.2) of the ICG/PTWS-XXXI session, for trial use in order to finalize the Guidance for approval at the ICG/PTWS-XXXII session. It **also recommended** that the ICG/PTWS WG3 Task Team on Tsunami Ready conduct a pilot test of the PTWS ‘Tsunami Ready Equivalency Guidance’.

20. **Recalling** the importance of the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme as a key mechanism toward achieving the UN Ocean Decade Goal of ‘100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030’, **the ICG requested** WG3 Task Team on Tsunami Ready to continue to investigate further actions to recognize, support and celebrate the benefits of formal UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition,

21. **The ICG** elected Dr Dakui Wang (China) as the Chair, Ms Lara Bland (New Zealand), Dr Mylene Villegas (Philippines), and Mr Levu Antfalo (Vanuatu) as the Vice-Chairs of the ICG/PTWS.