



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Fifty-third Session of the Executive Council
UNESCO, Paris, 3–9 February 2021

LIVE
virtual meeting

SECOND REVISED PROVISIONAL ACTION PAPER
(ADDENDUM AND CORRIGENDUM)

1. Note that the Second Revised Provisional Action Paper ([IOC/EC-53/AP Rev.2](#)) published on 27 November 2020 has been completed and corrected as follows:

2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2. With regards Dec. EC-53/2(III), the IOC Chairperson will propose IOC Vice-chair Monika Breuch-Moritz to chair the Resolutions Committee.

4 PROGRAMMATIC DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECADE ROADMAP
AND DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE
OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Draft Resolution EC-53/[4.1]

Submitted by Germany and Norway

**Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable
Development (2021–2030)**

The Executive Council,

1. **Recalling** Assembly [Resolution XXIX-1](#) proposing the establishment of an International (UN) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and Assembly Resolution XXX-1 on Progress Report on the Preparation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development,
2. **Noting** the proclamation by the UNGA at its 72nd session of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), through Resolution [A/RES/72/73](#) (therein the Decade), and the invitation to the IOC to prepare an implementation plan for the Decade in consultation with Member States, specialized

agencies, funds, programmes, and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders,

3. **Further recalling** the invitation made to the IOC by the UN General Assembly through Resolution [A/RES/74/19](#) to:
 - (i) continue to provide information on the development of the implementation plan and present it to the General Assembly at its 75th session,
 - (ii) regularly consult with, and report to, Member States on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and its implementation,
4. **Noting with satisfaction** that the Draft Implementation Plan (version 2.0) prepared by the Secretariat with the support of the Executive Planning Group was extensively reviewed by IOC Member States, ocean stakeholders and members of UN-Oceans, prior to its submission for consideration by the 75th session of the UN General Assembly,
5. **Further noting** that the UN General Assembly through Resolution [A/RES/75/239](#) welcomed the steps taken by IOC in the preparation of the Implementation Plan and took note with satisfaction of that Plan (para 304),
6. **Welcomes** the progress achieved during the intersessional period, and in particular, the outcomes of the global consultation meetings, regional workshops, as well as engagement activities with UN and non-UN ocean stakeholders, as well as the launch of the 1st Call for Action under the Decade;
7. **Expresses** confidence in the IOC Secretariat's ability to continue coordinating the Decade during its implementation phase (2021–2030) in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes, and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders;
8. **Takes note** of the Implementation Plan as the basis for launching the Decade and establishing the governance arrangements and engagement mechanisms described therein;
9. **Thanks** the members of the Decade Executive Planning Group (EPG) for their work in support of the preparation of the Implementation Plan in accordance with the terms of reference of the group ([IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 4](#), Appendix 1);
10. **Requests** the Executive Planning Group to serve as Interim Decade Advisory Board on the basis of the Revised Terms of Reference presented in Document IOC/EC-53/4.1Doc(3) [or as presented in Annex...., if amendments], until the establishment of the Decade Advisory Board;
11. **Further requests** the IOC Executive Secretary:
 - (i) to disseminate widely to UN and non-UN stakeholders the finalized Decade Implementation Plan and its summary;
 - (ii) to present to the 31st IOC Assembly for its consideration the draft Terms of Reference of the Decade Advisory Board;
 - (iii) to pursue the establishment of Decade arrangements as described in the Implementation Plan, in particular the Decade Coordination Unit within the IOC Secretariat,

- (iv) to report back on the progress of operationalising the Implementation Plan and the endorsement of Decade Actions to 31st IOC Assembly and thereafter to subsequent IOC Governing Bodies meetings;
12. **Invites** institutional partners to act as Decade Collaborative Centres or Decade Implementing Partners on the basis of the draft guidance provided in Document IOC/EC-53/3.1.Inf(2) and **requests** the Secretariat to report to IOC Governing Bodies on the establishment of such arrangements;
13. **Invites** UN-Oceans partners, UN Member States, international scientific and academic organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to support the Decade, contribute to its implementation by proposing Decade Actions in accordance with the Implementation Plan;
14. **Invites** Member States and partners to:
- (i) provide voluntary financial contributions to support the work of the IOC Secretariat in coordinating the Decade including in-kind support such as staff loans to the Secretariat;
 - (ii) offer to host and fund Decade actions and Decade Collaborative Centres as described in the Implementation Plan,
 - (iii) establish national multi-stakeholder Decade coordination mechanisms with a view to stimulating national activities and international cooperation;
15. **Thanks** the Governments of Canada, the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Kingdom of Belgium (Government of Flanders), Norway, Sweden, Portugal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, as well as REV-Ocean for their financial contribution to the Decade;
16. **Further thanks** the Governments of Brazil, Canada, Denmark, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Norway and Mexico as well as the Secretariats of the UN Environment Programme (Nairobi Convention, Mediterranean Action Plan, Caribbean Environment Programme), the European Commission, the Ocean Frontier Institute (Canada), the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), the National Institute of Ocean Technology (India), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), the Danish Centre for Marine Research, the Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM), the Research Council of Norway, Arctic Frontiers, the Pacific Community (SPC), the UN Global Compact, the Western Indian Ocean Science Association (WIOMSA), Velux Foundations, and the Carlsberg Foundation for their contribution to the organization of regional and global workshops during the preparatory phase of the Decade, as well as Egypt, for offering to host the African kick-off conference of the Decade in 2021 and Germany for offering to host the global kick-off events in 2021 and 2022.

5. GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

5.2 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

3. Paragraph 45 of document [IOC/EC-53/AP Rev.2](#) and Draft Resolution EC-53/[5.2] should read as follows with corrections highlighted in red:

45. The Executive Secretary further explained that the Secretariat's proposed approach to the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 is substantiated in two parts of the Document IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(2) **and Corr.** The first part contains the IOC Strategic Results

Report (SRR) 2020 designed to provide both UNESCO and IOC Member States with an analysis of the programme outcomes over the period from 2016 to 2019. The report highlights to UNESCO Member States the importance of IOC achievements and provides to IOC Member States a basis to review and reassess the programmatic objectives, including possible reorientation, reinforcement or downscaling/termination (*'lessons learned and emerging trends'*). The **corrected** second part of the discussed document contains the proposal for one IOC **Output Expected Result** in the UNESCO Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 (41 C/5), in accordance with Assembly [Resolution XXVIII-3](#), as well as the proposed guiding principles to be followed by the Secretariat in elaborating further proposals in the course of the UNESCO Programme and Budget (41 C/5) preparation process.

Draft Resolution EC-53/[5.2]

Currently under review by the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group

GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING MATTERS OF THE COMMISSION

The Executive Council,

1. **Having examined** documents:

- (i) [IOC/EC-53/3.1.Doc\(2\)](#) – 'Report on budget execution 2018–2019 and outline of 2020–2021 budget',
- (ii) [IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc\(1\)](#) – 'Draft IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029',
- (iii) [IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc\(2\)](#) **and Corr.** – 'Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025',

I. Report on budget execution 2018–2019 and outline of the 2020–2021 budget

2. **Confirms** that the IOC budget for 2018-2019, as reported on in Part I of IOC/EC-53/3.1.Doc(2), has been executed in accordance with the approved Programme and Budget for 2018–2019 (39 C/5, US\$518 M Expenditure Plan) and the budgetary allocations approved by the IOC Assembly at its 29th session (IOC-XXIX/2 Annex 5 Rev.2) through Resolution XXIX-2;
3. **Notes** that the extrabudgetary resource mobilisation targets set for the 2018–2019 biennium have been achieved to the level of 73% overall, but with considerable variances between the Commission's Functions;
4. **Thanks** Member States who have contributed extrabudgetary funds for the 2018–2019 programme implementation and committed to contributing in 2020–2021;
5. **Expresses its satisfaction** that the Approved Integrated Budgetary Framework for 2020–2021 presented in Part II of IOC/EC-53/3.1.Doc(2) is consistent with the budgetary allocations approved by the IOC Assembly at its 30th session (IOC-XXX/2 Annex 9) through Resolution XXX-3, following the adoption by the 40th session of the General Conference of UNESCO of the budget scenario for 2020–2021 (40 C/5), based on the appropriated regular programme budget of US\$534.6 M (US\$11,075,500 for the IOC);
6. **Acknowledges** the information on the financial situation of the Commission provided in Part II of IOC/EC-53/3.1.Doc(2), including the 2020–2021 expenditure forecast for the IOC Special Account, as well as the information on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on 2020 programme implementation, as provided by the IOC Executive Secretary in the update to his report;
7. **Encourages** all Member States to provide voluntary contributions to ensure full

achievement of the collectively agreed extrabudgetary resource mobilization targets for 2020–2021, preferably to the IOC Special Account;

8. **Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to continue efforts to obtain further voluntary contributions, including from private sector donors and other partners and to achieve full implementation of the Commission’s programmatic targets for 2020–2021;

II. Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029

9. **Welcomes** the revisions and improvements introduced by the Secretariat in the Commission’s Draft Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2022–2029 in response to the recommendations of the IOC Assembly at its 30th session through Resolution XXX-3, as contained in document IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(1);
10. **Expresses its appreciation** that the document could benefit from inputs of the IOC Officers at their annual meeting, 13–14 January 2020, and from intersessional consultations through IFAG;
11. **Recalls** that the final version of the MTS for 2022–2029 will be further reviewed and adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session in 2021;

[optional

Recommends that the following comments be considered in developing a revised version of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029 for review by the IFAG in the intersessional period leading to the 31st session of the IOC Assembly:

- (i) xxx;
- (ii) yyy;]

12. **Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to prepare a further revised version of the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029 taking into account Member States’ views and concerns expressed at this session, for review by IFAG in the intersessional period and the Officers at their annual meeting in 2021, prior to submitting it for consideration and adoption by the Assembly at its 31st session in 2021;

III. Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025

13. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Secretariat for the useful and pertinent analysis of programme outcomes presented in the IOC Strategic Results Report, as contained in Part I of document [IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc\(2\)](#) and **Corr.**, allowing Member States to review and reassess the Commission’s programmatic objectives, including possible reorientation, reinforcement or termination of programmes;
14. **Endorses** the approach to the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 proposed in document [IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc\(2\)](#) and **Corr.** as consistent with the priorities set in Resolution XXVIII-3 of the IOC Assembly and the high level objectives defined in the Draft IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029;
15. **Adopts** the following wording of the IOC **Output** ~~Expected Result~~ for 2022–2025: ‘Member States **supported in** generating knowledge, **establishing** and **implementing** science-informed policies and **strengthening** develop capacity for sustainable management of ocean-related opportunities and risks and for keeping the ocean ecosystems healthy’;
16. **Highlights** the importance of ensuring that the Commission has the adequate strategy and the necessary resources, both in terms of regular programme budget and voluntary contributions, to fulfil its role in the implementation of the Decade;

17. **Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to:

- (i) prepare a fully developed Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 (Draft 41 C/5), including a comprehensive implementation strategy through a conceptual framework of functions, performance indicators and benchmarks, to be submitted to the IOC Assembly at its 31st session, based on discussions and decisions of this session of the Executive Council and in close consultation with the Officers of the Commission;
- (ii) provide the IOC Assembly at its 31st session with an estimate of the necessary budget to effectively operate the IOC at an optimum level, to help identify how and what additional resources might be secured;
- (iii) keep the IOC Officers and Member States updated on the 41 C/5 adoption process by UNESCO;
- (iv) support the work of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (IFAG) by providing timely information on the UNESCO programming and budgetary planning process;

18. **Invites** the Director-General of UNESCO to:

- (i) continue every effort to enhance the resources available to the IOC in the 41 C/5, to enable the Commission to fulfil its increasing mandate and to address current and emerging priorities, including those related to the implementation of the SDGs and the Decade;
- (ii) ensure that the budgetary appropriation for the IOC approved in the 41 C/5 shall not be decreased by transfers of funds to other parts of UNESCO's budget;

19. **Urges** IOC Member States to:

- (i) continue to advocate to the Director-General of UNESCO and the Governing Bodies of UNESCO on the importance of the IOC as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO, focusing in particular on the value that the IOC provides to the Organization and to sustainable development;
- (ii) support the reinforcement of the IOC in the consultation process for the UNESCO Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029 and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 (Draft 41 C/5);
- (iii) increase their voluntary contributions to support the Commission in the face of its increasing responsibilities, preferably to the IOC Special Account;

IV. Governance and Working Methods

20. **Recalls** that the IOC Assembly at its 30th session through Resolution XXX-3 invited the IFAG 'to continue reflecting on the best practices to further enhance the efficiency of the IOC Governing Bodies' meetings';

21. **Acknowledges** that the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the need to review and possibly update the Commission's Rules and Procedure in order to align them with the prevailing United Nations' best practices in order to facilitate informed and timely decision-making by Member States;

22. **Invites** the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group to initiate the reflection on this matter, in close consultation with the Officers of the Commission and the UNESCO Legal Advisor, with a view of presenting a set of preliminary proposals for consideration by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session in 2021.