



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

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IOC Circular Letter No 2828
(Available in French, Spanish, Russian)

IOC/VR/KY/pbo
20 January 2021

- To : Official National Coordinating Body for Liaison with the IOC in States Members of the IOC Executive Council
Executive Heads of Organizations part of UN-Oceans
Executive Heads of Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations cooperating with the IOC
- cc. : Other IOC Member States
The Chair and Vice-Chairs 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 rescheduled 53rd session of the IOC Executive Council to be conducted online from 1 to 9 February 2021

This circular letter complements the consultations conducted by the IOC Chairperson Mr Ariel H. Troisi with Member States through circular letters [2799](#), [2813](#) and [2818](#). It provides technical guidance for the 53rd Session of IOC Executive Council (EC-53), the first on-line session of an IOC Governing Body. The session of EC-53 will be preceded by the Officers meeting on 1 February and the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (IFAG) on 2 February. The plenary session will open at 1 p.m. CET on 3 February 2021. Conducting the session successfully is a major technical and organizational challenge, but I still very much look forward to it as a source of so much needed Member States' guidance to steer the work of the Secretariat on key issues of IOC portfolio.

Member States of the IOC Executive Council (EC) and observers **are invited to urgently notify the secretariat** (p.boned@unesco.org and v.ryabinin@unesco.org) **of the composition of their delegation**. Please clearly state **the designated Head of Delegation, and possibly one Alternate** and indicate official email addresses of the Head of Delegation and Alternate to be used for their online connection.

The platform for your remote participation in all meetings of EC-53 will be Zoom. There will be three types of meetings: (i) the plenary session; (ii) the IFAG & Financial Committee; and (iii) the Resolutions Committee.

Chairperson

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Plenary session: Will be organized in 'webinar' mode in Zoom where designated **Heads of Delegations and Alternates of EC Member States** will be registered by the Secretariat as **panellists. All other attendees of the EC-53 plenary session, are invited to register as early as possible** at the following link:

https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_j8uagSwIR6iUPAR9Ikll4w

Again, designated Heads of Delegations and Alternates of EC Member States should not use this link to register to the plenary session as they will be registered by the Secretariat and will receive a personal Zoom link to that session. This is imperative for security reasons as well as organizational and procedural purposes.

Note: All registered participants will be enabled to take the floor at the plenary session, while immediate access will be given to Heads of Delegations and Alternates of EC Member States.

IFAG/Financial Committee and Resolutions Committee meetings: will be organized in 'meeting' mode in zoom where **all delegates**, including Heads of Delegation and Alternates of EC Member States, wishing to attend the meetings of the IFAG/Financial Committee and Resolutions Committee should register for each of these types of meetings using the registration links below in addition to registering for the plenary session. The links are as follows:

IFAG & Financial Committee:

https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtdeGrT0rHNCe8W2Nw_f2l2ajKm-YDeL-

Resolutions Committee:

<https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUvf-yopzgjHNMHaZUkgOIPtKzYzIEHZBkd>

I invite you to refer to the attached session guides for further information on registration and meeting proceedings.

These guides and the documentation for the session are available on the dedicated webpage (<https://oceanexpert.org/event/2805>) as well as the customary dynamic calendar which you can refer to for side events and connection times linked to the use of the Zoom platform.

During the plenary session, interpretation will be provided, as customary, in the four official languages of the Commission (English, French, Spanish and Russian). It will be provided in English and French during the meetings of the IFAG and the Financial Committee. During the discussions, PowerPoint presentations, documents, draft decisions and resolutions will be projected on the screen in English. Language versions will be available on the session webpage.

The Secretariat staff responsible for different meetings and agenda items are listed in the attachment. Their role will be to facilitate direct communication in advance of, or during the session, if needed. Documentation prepared originally for the postponed session scheduled for June 2020 is still available for reference at <http://www.ioc-unesco.org/ec53>.

Please note that the latest (updated) version of the Action Paper ([IOC/EC-53/AP Rev.2](#)) now includes an Addendum and Corrigendum. The document introduces the Draft Resolution on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and a small change to the previously published Draft Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission (this corrected version has already been circulated to IFAG) and the proposed Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee.

I would also like to invite you to attend the **high-level online event 'A Brave New Ocean'** to celebrate the start of the Ocean Decade. It will take place on 3 February at 16.15 CET, after the end of the plenary session. Video interventions and live panel discussions will involve global leaders from governments, the world of philanthropy, UN agencies and some prominent marine scientists. The link to the event will be shared with all Member States and partners at the end of January.

The IOC Secretariat looks forward to welcoming you to the online 53rd Session of IOC Executive Council. I thank you for your understanding of the exceptional nature of this session, and I hope that the constructive spirit of our prior consultations and work during this past year, under the difficult circumstances, will continue to prevail and help us to successfully conduct EC-53.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

List of responsible staff

Revised provisional Agenda and Timetable for the session

List of IOC Member States members of the Executive Council, 2019–2021

EC-53 meeting guides (<https://oceanexpert.org/document/27642>)

Responsible staff

IOC Officers Meeting		Ksenia Yvinec (k.yvinec@unesco.org)
IFAG and Sessional Financial Committee	Chair: IOC Vice-chair Prof. Karim Hilmi (Chair, karimhilmi15@gmail.com)	Ksenia Yvinec, (Secretary, k.yvinec@unesco.org)
Resolutions Committee	Chair: IOC Vice-chair Monika Breuch-Moritz (monika.breuch@gmx.de) (proposed by the Officers to chair the Committee subject to the approval of the Council)	Julian Barbière (Secretary, j.barbiere@unesco.org)
UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable development	Julian Barbière (j.barbiere@unesco.org) and Alison Clausen (a.clausen@unesco.org)	
Ocean Science	Salvatore Aricò (s.arico@unesco.org)	
Ocean Observations	Albert Fischer (a.fischer@unesco.org)	
Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange	Peter Pissierssens (p.pissierssens@unesco.org)	
Tsunami Unit	Bernardo Aliaga (b.aliaga@unesco.org)	
Marine Policy and Regional Coordination	Julian Barbière (j.barbiere@unesco.org)	
Organizational matters & documentation	Patrice Boned (p.boned@unesco.org)	
Communication	Vinicius Lindoso (v.lindoso@unesco.org)	

Front Office	Elena Iasyreva (Executive Assistant to the Executive Secretary, e.iasyreva@unesco.org)
Technical assistance	+33 1 45 68 03 33 in case you have difficulty in connecting to the meetings. Other technical issues can be raised in the Chat or the Question & Answers features of Zoom (see the meeting guides)



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

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

FOURTH REVISED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. OPENING

Oral Statement of the Chair

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

IOC/EC-53/2.1.Doc Rev.4	Fourth Revised Provisional Agenda
IOC/EC-53/2.1.Doc Add. Rev.3	Third Revised Provisional Timetable
IOC/EC-53/AP Rev.2 & Add.	Second Revised Provisional Action Paper

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

2.4 INTRODUCTION OF TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

IOC/EC-53/DocList	Provisional List of Documents
IOC/EC-53/2.4.Inf.	Working arrangements for the session

3. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY AND ON BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION
[Rule of Procedure 49.1]

IOC/EC-53/3.1.Doc(1)	Report of the IOC Executive Secretary on the work accomplished since the Thirtieth session of the Assembly
IOC/EC-53/3.1.Doc(1)Part2	Brief update by the IOC Executive Secretary on the work accomplished since the Thirtieth session of the Assembly
IOC/EC-53/3.1.Doc(2)	Report on Budget Execution 2018–2019 and outline of 2020–2021 budget
IOC/INF-1393	Concept Proposal for a “State of the Ocean Report”
IOC/INF-1387	Non-Paper on existing and potential future services of the IOC-UNESCO in support of a future ILBI for the conservation and

	sustainable use of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) (September 2020)
IOC/INF-1394	The Case for a new governance for IOCINDIO: A proposal for changing the status of IOCINDIO in a Sub-Commission of IOC for the Indian Ocean
IOC/EC-53/3.1.Inf(1)	Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the IOC of UNESCO and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
IOC/EC-53/3.1.Inf(2)	Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the IOC of UNESCO and the Pacific Community (SPC)

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 [39 C/Resolution 25; Res. XXIX-1, XXX-1]

IOC/EC-53/4.1.Doc(1) Rev.	Updated progress on the implementation of the Decade Roadmap of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development including results of the review of the zero draft Implementation Plan
IOC/EC-53/4.1.Doc(1) Add.	Report on the outcome of the consultation process during the development of the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable development before its presentation to the UN General Assembly at its 75 th session
IOC/EC-53/4.1.Doc(1) Add.2	Synthesis Report of Regional Decade Consultation workshops (2019–2020)
<i>UNGA Document to supersede IOC/EC-53/4.1.Doc(2)</i>	Implementation Plan for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
IOC/EC-53/4.1.Doc(3)	Revised Terms of Reference of the Decade Executive Planning Group to act as interim Decade Advisory Board in 2021
IOC/EC-53/3.1.Inf(2)	Draft Operational Guidelines for the establishment of Decade Collaborative Centres and Implementing Partners
IOC/INF-1383	IOC's programmatic contribution to the Decade, 2021–2030

5. GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

5.1 DRAFT IOC MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY FOR 2022–2029 (41 C/4) AND DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2022–2025 (41 C/5) [Resolution XXX-3]

IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(1)	Draft IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029
IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(2)	Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025
IOC/INF-1383	IOC's programmatic contribution to the Decade, 2021–2030

5.2 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE [Resolution XXX-3]

IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(1)	Draft IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029
IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(2)	Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025
IOC/EC-53/3.1.Doc(2)	Report on Budget Execution 2018–2019 and outline of 2020–2021 budget
IOC/INF-1383	IOC's programmatic contribution to the Decade, 2021–2030

6. NEXT SESSIONS OF IOC GOVERNING BODIES

[Statutes Art. 7.C.8; Rule of Procedure 8.3 & 21.2(c); Rule of Procedure 19.2]

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

8. CLOSURE



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

(of UNESCO)

Fifty-third Session of the Executive Council

Paris, 3–9 February 2021 [Online session]

IOC/EC-53/2.1 Doc Add.Rev.3

Paris, 27 November 2020

English only

THIRD REVISED PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Time	Monday 1 st Feb.	Tuesday 2 nd Feb.	Wednesday 3 rd Feb.	Thursday 4 th Feb.	Friday 5 th Feb.	Monday 8 th Feb.	Tuesday 9 th Feb.
12.00 – 13.00				<i>Financial Committee (I)</i>		<i>Financial Committee (optional)</i>	
13.00 – 13.30	OFFICERS MEETING	INTERSESSIONAL FINANCIAL ADVISORY GROUP	1. Opening 2. Organization of the Session (2.1 – 2.4) 3. Report of the Executive Secretary on the work accomplished since IOC-30 Assembly (short introduction)	3. & 5. (Cont'd) <i>Replies of the Executive Secretary to the debate</i>	<u>4.1 (Decade Cont'd)</u>	<i>Resolutions Committee</i>	6. Next Sessions of IOC Governing Bodies
13.30 – 14.30			5. Governance, Programming and Budgeting (introduction) <u>5.1</u> Draft MTS / Programme & Budget 3. & 5..(Debate) <i>Replies of the Executive Secretary to the debate</i>	4. Programmatic Developments <u>4.1</u> UN Decade Roadmap & Implementation Plan			
14.30 – 16.00							<u>5.2</u> Report by the Chair of the Financial Committee
16.00 – 17.00							

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

The **IOC Executive Council** shall consist of up to 40 Member States, including those Member States of which the elected chairperson and the five Vice-chairpersons are nationals.

List of current States members of the IOC Executive Council (39)
elected at the 30th Session of the IOC Assembly (Paris, 26 June–4 July 2019)

(List as of 3 July 2019)

Electoral Group I (10 seats)

1. Canada
2. France
3. **Germany** **Vice-Chairperson:** Ms Monika Breuch-Moritz *(2nd term)*
4. Greece
5. Italy
6. Portugal
7. Spain
8. Sweden
9. Turkey
10. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Electoral Group II (3 seats)

1. Bulgaria
2. **Russian Federation** **Vice-Chairperson:** Dr Alexander Frolov *(1st term)*
3. *vacant seat*

Electoral Group III (9 seats)

1. **Argentina** **Chairperson:** Mr Ariel Hernan Troisi *(1st term)*
2. **Brazil** **Vice-Chairperson:** Mr Frederico Antonio Saraiva Nogueira *(1st term)*
3. Chile
4. Colombia
5. Grenada
6. Mexico
7. Peru
8. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
9. Uruguay

Electoral Group IV (9 seats)

1. Australia
2. China
3. **India** **Vice-Chairperson:** Dr Satheesh Chandra Shenoi *(1st term)*
4. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
5. Japan
6. Pakistan
7. Philippines
8. Republic of Korea
9. Thailand

Electoral Group V (9 seats)

1. Côte d'Ivoire
2. Egypt
3. Kenya
4. Kuwait
5. Madagascar
6. Morocco
7. Oman
8. Senegal
9. South Africa

Vice-Chairperson: Dr Karim Hilmi (*1st term*)