



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 2841
(English only)

IOC/VR/JA/pb/ei
16 April 2021

- To : IOC Member States (Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC)
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
- cc. : The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission,
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)
Partner Organizations in the region

**Subject: Arrangements for the Eighth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC
Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-VIII),
17–19 May 2021 (online)**

On behalf of IOCINDIO Chair Dr Atmanand, I am pleased to invite you to the Eighth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-VIII). Due to the current sanitary conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the session will be held online with a reduced agenda with three-hour daily meetings (09:30-12:30 Paris Time) from 17 to 19 May 2021. These arrangements aim to ensure the needed intergovernmental governance for IOCINDIO while also taking into consideration participants' health and time zone difference for active participation. The IOCINDIO Officers and the IOC Secretariat are grateful to the Islamic Republic of Iran for organizing and hosting the online session. The working language for the session will be English.

Member States and partner organizations are invited to send confirmation of attendance and contact details of delegation (names, official addresses and designations; i.e., Head of Delegation, Alternate, Representative or Adviser) at their earliest convenience, but not later than 30th April 2021 to the IOCINDIO Technical Secretary, Mr Justin Ahanhanzo (j.ahanhanzo@unesco.org) with a copy to IOCINDIO Chair (atmanandma@hotmail.com), IOC Executive Secretary (v.ryabinin@unesco.org) and Ms Elena Iasyreva of IOC (e.iasyreva@unesco.org). Designated national delegates and representatives of partner organizations will be advised on specific arrangements for their online participation to the session. Rehearsal and connection tests are likely to be scheduled on 10 and 11 May 2021 from 10:00 to 14:00 (Paris Time). Further information and documentation for the session will be forwarded in due course and posted on the meeting webpage: <https://oceanexpert.org/event/3027>.

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On 6 May 2021, a one-day IOCINDIO-organised Indian Ocean Blue Economy Summit will be held online. The results of the summit will be reported to the IOCINDIO-VIII Session. You are cordially invited to this webinar. Please confirm your participation by 30th April 2021 to Mr Ahanhanzo (j.ahanhanzo@unesco.org) and the IOCINDIO Chair (atmanandma@hotmail.com) with a copy to Ms Elena Iasyreva of IOC (e.iasyreva@unesco.org). The Concept note is attached. Modalities for online connection will be announced soonest.

Due to current conditions and time constraints, IOCINDIO-VIII will focus on the implementation of Decision IOC-XXX/3.3.4, by which the IOC Assembly at its 30th session requested IOCINDIO Chair to prepare, with the help of the IOC Secretariat, a proposal for changing the status of IOCINDIO from a Regional Committee into an IOC Sub-commission that would contain the mission, the objectives, terms of references, budgetary implications, secretarial arrangements and other necessary provisions for the consideration of the IOC Executive Council at its 53rd session in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the session of the Executive Council was postponed to February 2021 with a reduced agenda, which did not allow for a proper consideration of this question. The report of the consultation meeting on this issue that was organized on 16 February 2021 will be presented to this session of IOCINDIO. A revised draft proposal document prepared by IOCINDIO Chair will be submitted to the Committee calling for expressions of interest and support for the proposed transformation of the Committee into a wider IOC Sub-commission. IOC Member States beyond the current IOCINDIO membership, especially those bordering the Indian Ocean or with interest in that region, are invited to participate in the session. So are representatives of the IOC Sub-commissions of IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC.

The Committee will also discuss progress achieved during the intersessional period (May 2019–May 2021) including the formulation of the work programme in the context of the UN Decade for Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), the draft IOC Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 and the IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029. The Provisional Agenda (document IOCINDIO-VIII/1 Prov.) for the session is annexed hereafter.

The election of IOCINDIO Officers (one Chairperson and two vice Chairpersons) will take place during this session. Relevant information on elections is also attached hereafter together with the relevant nomination forms that should be used when sending candidatures to the IOC Secretariat by 13 May 2021 at 18:00 (Paris time).

The newly elected IOCINDIO Chairperson will present the report of IOCINDIO-VIII to the IOC Assembly at its Thirty-first Session, 14–25 June 2021 (online).

I would like to take the opportunity of this circular letter to request IOCINDIO Member States to check the contact detail of their coordinating body for liaison with IOC and National Focal Points on the [record of the Commission](#) and inform the Technical Secretary of IOCINDIO, Mr Justin Ahanhanzo (j.ahanhanzo@unesco.org) with copy to the Chairman of IOCINDIO (atmanandma@hotmail.com) and Mr Patrice Boned of IOC (p.boned@unesco.org) of any updates.

I look forward to welcoming IOC national focal persons/institutions, national, regional and international organizations working in the fields of marine science and management of ocean and coastal resources and environment with the aim of enhancing regional and international cooperation towards a greater understanding and management of the Indian Ocean.

We thank you in advance for your attention and interest in IOCINDIO.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures: Provisional Agenda (IOCINDIO-VIII/1 Prov.)
IOCINDIO Elections Procedure and Nomination Forms
Concept paper of the IOCINDIO Indian Ocean Blue Economy Summit, 6 May 2021

Eighth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-VIII), Online Session, 17–19 May 2021

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND OPENING**
- 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING**
 - 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - 2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR FOR THE SESSION
 - 2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION
- 3. INTERSESSIONAL REPORTS**
 - 3.1 STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON
 - 3.2 REPORT ON IOCINDIO ACTIVITIES May 2019–May 2021
 - 3.3 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN UNESCO AND IOC AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO IOCINDIO
 - 3.4.1 IOC Draft Medium Term Strategy for 2022–2029**
 - 3.4.2 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)**
- 4. IOCINDIO STATUS: DECISION IOC-XXX/3.3.4 - REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGING THE STATUS OF IOCINDIO INTO AN IOC SUBCOMMISSION**
- 5. DEVELOPMENT OF WORK PLAN FOR 2021–2023 & ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UN DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
- 6. ELECTIONS**
- 7. OTHER BUSSINESS**
- 8. DATES AND PLACES OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE REGIONAL SUBSIDIARY BODY**
- 9. ADOPTION OF THE WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2021–2023**
- 10. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 11. CLOSURE**

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS
OF THE IOC REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE CENTRAL INDIAN OCEAN

Elections Procedures

As customary, at its Eighth Intergovernmental Session, the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-VIII), online, 17–19 May 2021, shall elect, namely, one Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons, for the term May 2021–May 2023.

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.

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 national coordinating body specified for liaison with the Commission (Rule 26.2), namely through the IOC Focal Point in the Member State or the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO. Nominations shall be submitted in writing using **Form A** (Chairperson) or **Form B** (Vice-chairperson) and shall also contain a CV with the profile of the candidate (**Form C**). Nominations forms **must reach the IOC Secretariat by 13 May 2021 at 18:00 Paris time**.

Each nomination shall contain a declaration from the candidate that he/she is prepared to stand for the post for which has been nominated and is willing to take on the obligations that would devolve upon him/her, should he/she be elected. Each candidate **must be seconded by two Member States of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)** different than that of the nominating Member State.

Elections

The IOC general practice is working and deciding by consensus (Rule 38.2). Should voting be necessary, the Regional Committee will consider alternative solutions as envisaged in Rules of Procedure Appendix 1 Technical arrangements 2.2.

Current composition of IOCINDIO Bureau (2019–2021)¹

(Elected Officers at the IOCINDIO-VII, Hyderabad, India, 31 May–1 June 2019)

Dr Atma – Atmanand Malayath Aravindakshan (India)	Chairperson (2 nd term)
Dr Faiza Al Yamani (Kuwait)	Vice-chairperson (2 nd term)
Dr Mohammad Muslem Uddin (Bangladesh)	Vice-chairperson (1 st term)

¹ Elected for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Biennial Elections for Chairperson

Form A – Chairperson

Name of Member State of IOCINDIO

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 its work.

Signature of the Nominee:

Seconder 1

Seconder 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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IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

Biennial Elections for Vice-Chairperson

Form B – Vice-Chairpersons

Name of Member State of IOCINDIO

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 its work.

Signature of the Nominee:

Seconder 1

Seconder 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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IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

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]

Indian Ocean Blue Economy Summit

Concept paper for Webinar on Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean Towards United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

6th May 2021 (UTC 8:30 AM) / (10:30 Paris time)

Organisers: *The IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO), IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society, Marine Technology Society (MTS), Ocean Society of India (OSI), Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, India.*

The Earth is a blue planet, with 71% of its 510 million km² surface covered by marine waters whose average depth is 4 times the average elevation of the land. Life originated in the oceans and they continue to support all life today by generating O₂, absorbing CO₂, recycling nutrients and regulating global climate and temperature. Oceans provide a substantial portion of the global population with food and livelihoods, means of transport for 80% of global trade, 32% of the global supply of hydrocarbons with exploration expanding rapidly. Advancing technologies are opening new frontiers of marine resources development from bio-prospecting to the mining of seabed mineral resources. Oceans also offer vast potential for renewable energy production from wind, wave, tidal, thermal and biomass sources. Managing the ocean economy in an eco-friendly manner is a today's imperative.

Indian Ocean region has almost the half of world population residing in its coast. Indian Ocean is warming more than the other oceans. Loss of beaches and thereby tourism potential is important in the Indian Ocean region. The IOC Regional Committee for Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO), the regional body of IOC has as member States : Australia, Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait,

Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom. All the countries are Indian Ocean Rim countries. Efforts are on to expand the IOCINDIO to an IOC Sub commission with members from all other Indian Ocean Rim. After the revival of IOCINDIO in 2016, a Scoping workshop was held in Kuwait from 24th to 25th May 2017. One of the major programmes identified at the Workshop was on “**Blue Economy Business opportunities in the context of climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction**”. The proposed Indian Ocean Blue Economy Summit on the 6th May 2021 is a follow up.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Summit is to promote sustainable ocean/marine-based economies, through the development of Blue Economy activities that create wealth for coastal population and contribute to the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Indian Ocean region.

The specific objectives are to enable Member States to build a knowledge economy, learning process for sustainable management of ecosystems, preservation of biodiversity, life under water and livelihoods support in the context of UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

Concept

The oceans economy (also referred to as the blue economy) is a relatively new concept that has its origins in the green economy concept endorsed at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 aimed at significantly reducing environmental and ecological risks. At its core, blue economy refers to the decoupling of the socio-economic development from environmental degradation; efficient and optimization utilization of natural marine resources. The concept of a blue economy also embodies economic and trade activities that integrate the conservation and sustainable use and management of biodiversity, including maritime ecosystems, and genetic resources. In addition, it includes activities that are not natural resource intensive, support sustainable patterns of consumption and generate lower or no greenhouse gas emissions. It also seeks to contribute to mitigation and adaptation efforts to address climate change risks manifested in the

rise of the sea level and the acidification of seawater. Additionally, blue economy approach supports sustainable livelihoods and food security for coastal populations.

Need for an effective regulation

Establishing an effective governance for the blue economy is essential for creating and regulating a sustainable balance between the utilization of marine resources and the protection of marine ecosystems. Globally, about 350 million jobs are linked to the oceans through fishing, aquaculture, coastal and marine tourism and research activities. Moreover, about 1 billion people depend on fish as their primary food. Overexploitation and poor management of marine resources result in loss of opportunities, heightened food insecurity and diminished economic opportunities for some of the world's poorest people.

Regulatory framework for sustained development

The framework agreement governing the management of the oceans is provided by the 1982 UNCLOS, which establishes a comprehensive framework for the use and development of the oceans. The convention defines the extent of various jurisdictional zones delineated according to distance from coastlines on the basis of set baselines, and sets out the rights and obligations of countries regarding those zones. Countries have sovereignty over their internal waters, territorial seas and archipelagic waters and sovereign rights over the resources in their exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and the seafloor of their continental shelf. These zones represent about 30 percent of all ocean areas. Major features of UNCLOS include the conservation and management of living marine resources, rights seabed non-living resources, obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment, navigational rights, legal status of resources on the seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, the conduct and promotion of marine scientific research and a procedure for settlement of disputes between States.

For coastal countries, oceans and seas constitute a much larger geographic area than their inland territory, especially when the EEZ is taken into account. India, which has a land space of ~ 3.29 million km², has a coastal EEZ of 2.3 million km², and is likely to increase with the additional claim made based on the continental shelf extension till 350 nm. Therefore, sustainable harvesting of marine resources presents a significant

opportunity for environmentally sound, socially inclusive economic growth and development.

Blue economy and trade

Many marine resources are not only targeted for catering to the local demand but exported as raw materials, intermediates or final products, and the demand for goods and services originating in the oceans is likely to increase as populations continue to grow. Trade in marine products can create opportunities for economic growth, export diversification and new investments. Moreover, as technology evolves and marine resources become more accessible, new economic and trade sectors are also likely to emerge, potentially generating new job opportunities. Major trade sectors include sustainable fishing and aquaculture, marine transport services and port management, marine renewable energy, marine bio-prospecting and biotechnology, regulated seabed mineral resource extraction and coastal tourism. Trade in these marine sectors can be boosted by introducing sound regulatory and institutional frameworks to develop ancillary services needed to undertake these activities, including financial, insurance, communications, testing and certification and R&D activities. Regulatory frameworks is an enabling factor in the promotion of sustainable activities, moving production in ecologically friendly goods from niche market segments to mainstream international trade, thus responding to evolving consumer demand.

Targets and Indicators

The Blue Economy for developing world coastal states with an interest in waters beyond national jurisdiction, conceptualises oceans as “Development Spaces” where spatial planning integrates conservation, sustainable use, oil and mineral wealth extraction, bio-prospecting, sustainable energy production and marine transport. The targets and indicators to mainstream the blue economy into future sustainable developmental goals mainly include,

- The development of access and benefit sharing rules for marine bio prospecting.
- Investment in R&D, infrastructure capacity and use of marine and other renewable energy sources.
- Availability of facilities and level of investment in sustainable coastal and maritime tourism and relevant infrastructure.
- Reduction of marine pollution, including from land-based activities.
- Sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems.

- Mitigation of the impacts of ocean acidification.
- Regulation of fish harvesting with the aim of controlling overexploitation.
- Restoration of fish stocks to ecologically safe levels.
- Ensuring the full implementation of existing regional and international regimes on oceans and seas.

The developments of blue economy includes ocean mining, fisheries, transportation, hydrocarbon exploitation, tourism, salt production, ship building, bio-pharmacies, renewable energy, construction and sea water utilization such as desalination.