



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Fifty-fourth Session of the Executive Council
UNESCO, Paris, 14 June 2021 [Online Session]

1. OPENING

1 The Chair, Mr Ariel Hernan Troisi, opened the 54th online session of the Executive Council at 13.00 h Paris time on Monday 14 June 2021. He welcomed the participants and briefly referred to the documentation prepared for this session. He reminded delegates that the Council was acting as the Steering Committee for the 31st session of the Assembly, in accordance with Rule of Procedure No. 12(2), with no other substantial discussions on its agenda. This session of the Executive Council was immediately followed by the opening of the 31st session of the Assembly also held as an online session from 14 to 25 June 2021. The Executive Secretary shared guidance and modalities about the conferencing platform and procedures to ensure an effective management of the online Executive Council and Assembly.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2 The Executive Secretary quickly introduced this item and reminded that, under exceptional circumstances, the Executive Council and the Assembly sessions were held consecutively.

3 The Executive Council met online from 13.00 to 14:03 with full interpretation and did not plan to reconvene later during the day to adopt the narrative part of its summary report. Decisions under each agenda item were to be adopted during the session. The narrative part of the report was prepared by the Secretariat during the session of the Assembly and was to be adopted by correspondence together with the draft summary report of the 31st session of the Assembly.

EC-54, Dec. 2.1

The Executive Council

I. Agenda

Adopts the agenda as set out in document IOC/EC-54/2.1Doc.Prov;

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

4 The Chair invited the Executive Council to designate the Rapporteur for the present session.

EC-54, Dec. 2.2

II. Rapporteur

Upon a proposal from Portugal, seconded by the Russian Federation,

The Executive Council designates Dr G. A. Ramadass (India) Rapporteur for its present session to assist the Chair and the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the summary report of the session.

3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 31st SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

3.1 DESIGNATION OF STATUTORY COMMITTEES AND SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS

5 With reference to the revised Action Paper for the Assembly, the Chair reminded the Executive Council of the role of each sessional committee (Nominations, Resolutions and Financial) and proposed that some items be furthered examined by the Financial Committee after their discussion in plenary.

6 He also reminded the Council that it could submit proposals on their chairpersonship and composition, but that the ultimate decision remains entirely with the Assembly. He invited Member States to consider participating in the work of committees. The three committees (Nominations, Resolutions and Financial) were scheduled as online meetings in the Provisional Timetable for the Assembly session. The timing of the Nominations and the Resolutions Committees were subject to change to adapt to the progress of work of the Assembly considering that both sessional committees were to work without interpretation.

7 The Financial Committee is open-ended and its meetings would have English/French interpretation. The Chair reminded the Executive Council that the Financial Committee would be facing a now customary heavy workload. In addition to the items (budget implementation, Draft Medium-term Strategy and Draft Programme and Budget) under its purview, it will be considering the follow-up to resolution EC-53.2 on review and update of the Rules of Procedure to adapt them to online meetings and guidelines for reporting on in-kind contributions.

8 Chairman Troisi reminded the Assembly that only the names of the Member States present and participating in the sessional committees and sessional working groups, if any, were to be listed in the final report of the Assembly.

9 Mr Ariel Troisi informed the Council that break-out Zoom meetings would be set up on an ad hoc basis to provide for discussion or drafting groups.

10 The Chair then invited Member States and the Executive Secretary to express views on the need for sessional working groups during the Assembly on any item on its agenda, by briefly explaining the scope of their work expected. None were proposed.

EC-54, Dec. 3.1

The Executive Council,

I. Sessional Committees

Pursuant to Rule of Procedure No. 12(2) the Executive Council, acting as the Steering Committee of the Assembly, recommends to the Assembly the formation of each of the following committees:

- Financial Committee: under the chairship of Dr Karim Hilmi (Morocco, Vice-chair). Ksenia Yvinec provides the Secretariat support to the Financial Committee.

- Resolutions Committee: under the chairship of Prof. Yutaka Michida (Japan). Julian Barbière provides the Secretariat support to the Resolutions Committee.
- Nominations Committee: under the chairship of Mr Amr Morsy (Egypt). Salvatore Aricò provide the Secretariat support to the Nominations Committee.

II. Sessional Working Groups

Having examined the revised provisional agenda for the 31st session of the Assembly,
With no prejudice to decision of the Assembly and its chair on establishing a sessional working group as needed during the discussion of any agenda item,
Recommends to the Assembly the establishment of no working group.

3.2 TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

- 11 The Executive Secretary briefly presented the provisional agenda and timetable for the Assembly. He reminded the Executive Council that no side event or lecture was scheduled during the Assembly session considering the difficulty to organize the session online.
- 12 The IOC Executive Secretary then expanded on the draft resolutions received by 10 June and the volume of the documentation prepared for the Assembly session. He particularly highlighted that all draft decisions and two draft recommendations were contained in the Action Paper for the session. While decisions were to be adopted at the end of the discussion under the relevant agenda item, the narrative part of the Draft Summary Report would be prepared and published by the secretariat in English and adopted in all languages after the session as it has been customary for the past two years.
- 13 Dr Salvatore Aricò, as Technical Secretary of the Nominations Committee was invited to briefly elaborate on the IOC elections scheduled on 21 June at UNESCO Headquarters.

EC-54, Dec. 3.2

Timetable for the 31st session of the Assembly and organizational matters

The Executive Council,

Taking into consideration the comments made by the Officers, the need to accommodate time for the reporting of sessional working groups and committees in plenary and scheduled invitation of speakers,

Accepts the provisional timetable for the 31st session of the Assembly as set out in document IOC/A-31/2.1Doc Add.Rev. with the following modification:

- to switch the meeting of the Financial Committee (III) and the meeting of the Nominations Committee (III) on Friday 18 June;

Considering the financial and time constraints related to the adoption of the report of the Assembly in four languages in-session,

Recommends to adopt the narrative part of its report in four languages by correspondence after the session and the decisions in four languages during the session;

Invites the Assembly to proceed in the same manner for the adoption of its report.

4. DATES AND PLACE OF THE 55th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND PROPOSAL FOR DATES AND PLACE OF THE 32nd SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

14 In introducing this item, the Chair expressed confidence that the next sessions of the Council and the Assembly could be organized at UNESCO Headquarters in 2022 and 2023. The Officers recommended that the Assembly should adopt the same scheme as for the past biennium.

15 The Chair invited delegates to make general comments on the perspective of their participation to face-to-face governing body sessions at UNESCO Headquarters for 3.5 days in June 2022 (EC-55) and 7 days (A-32) in June 2023.

16 The Chair concluded that the IOC had gained considerable experience in organizing online sessions of the Executive Council and the Assembly in 2021 recalling the commitment of the Commission to further adapt its working methods to on-line meetings and to develop specific rules of procedure for both the Council and the Assembly.

EC-54, Dec. 4

Dates and places of next sessions of the Executive Council and Assembly

The Executive Council,

Confident that the next sessions of the IOC governing bodies could be held at UNESCO Headquarters in 2022 and 2023,

Considering the experience gained during the 2020–2021 biennium,

Recommends to the Assembly to identify a period of 3.5 working days in June 2022 for the 55th session of the Executive Council and a period of six working days for the 32nd session of the Assembly in June/July 2023, preceded by a one-day session of the 56th Executive Council, avoiding any potential calendar conflicts with important meetings or cultural days.

5. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT

EC-54, Dec. 5

Report

The Executive Council,

Having adopted its decisions during discussion in its plenary meeting on 14 June 2021, as the Executive Council recommendations to the Assembly at its 31st session,

Accepts to consider the summary report of its 54th session prepared by the Secretariat for its adoption by correspondence after the session within the same period scheduled by the Assembly for the adoption of its summary report.

6. CLOSURE

17 The Chair closed the 54th session of the Executive Council at 14:03 on 14 June 2021.