

Item 3.5.3 of the Provisional Agenda

**OUTLINES OF THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR
THE REVISION OF THE IOC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

(Assembly reference docs: IOC/INF-1396 and IOC/A-31/3.5.3.Doc)

Presented by Alan Evans, Co-Chair (with Ariel Troisi) of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development

The IOC will undertake relevant actions to assist Member States with developing and sustaining the necessary capacity to undertake activities necessary to achieve the IOC vision at the national level as well as at the international cooperation level.

IOC CD Strategy (2015-2021) mission statement

- The current IOC CD Strategy (adopted through Resolution XXVIII-2) was developed for the period 2015–2021 and accordingly it will “expire” end of December 2021

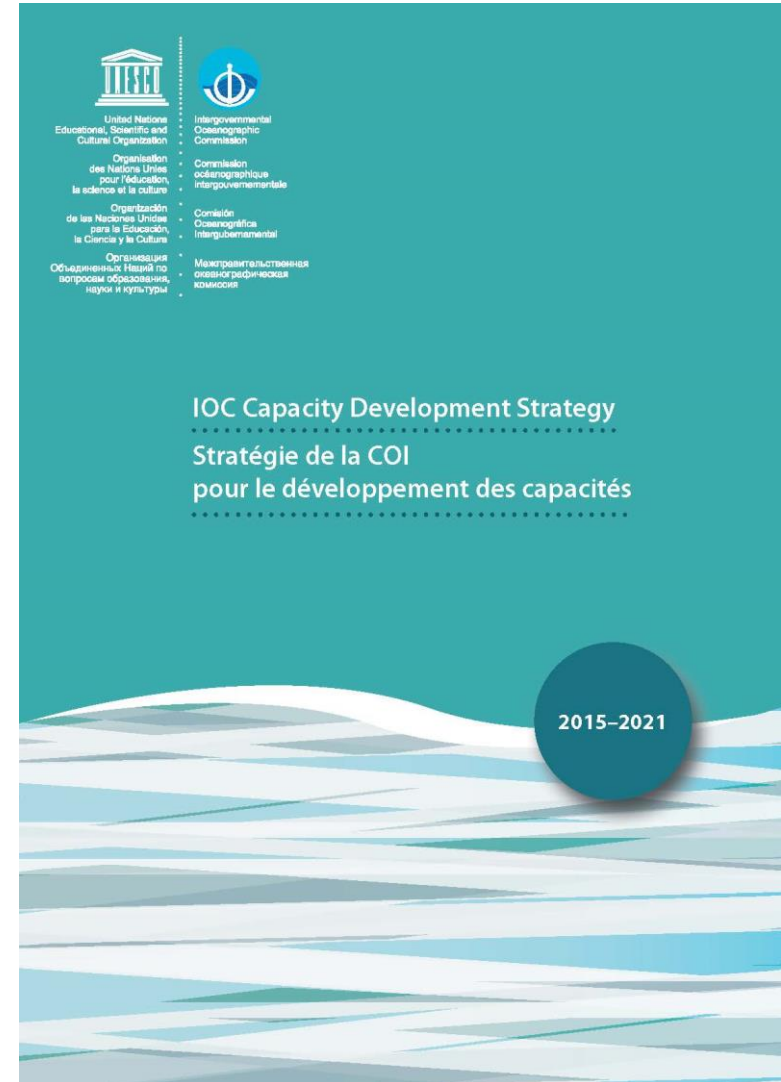
- During its 2nd meeting (October 2020) the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD) discussed the merits of either:

 - extending the period of the current Strategy

 - or

 - review to determine if an update would be more suitable*

- It was decided to establish a **GE-CD Task Team** to identify what changes may be needed and submit a report for the consideration of the IOC at this 31st session of the Assembly



* mindful of recent developments and activities, such as the UN Ocean Decade and IOC CD needs surveys

Task Team composition:

GE-CD Members:

Aidy, Muslim - Malaysia
Bax, Nic - Australia
Brown, Bradford - USA
Zhu, Xuan - China
Totani, Gen - Japan
Andi E Sakya - Indonesia
González-Quirós, Rafael - Spain

IOC CD National Focal Points:

Suzan Kholeif - Egypt
Pinheiro, Luis - Portugal
Sohou, Zacharie - Benin
Koffi Marcellin Yao - Côte d'Ivoire
Frederico Antonio Saraiva Nogueira - Brazil
Carlos Rodolfo Torres Navarrete - Mexico

IOC-UNESCO:

Aliaga, Bernardo
Diwa, Johanna
Pissierssens, Peter

The elements that were examined by the task team included:

- (i) the outcomes of the *Global Ocean Science Report 2020*
- (ii) Capacity Development Chapter of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) Implementation Plan (IP);
- (iii) outcomes of the 2nd IOC Capacity Development Survey (September 2020–January 2021);
- (iv) input of consultations with IOC global and regional programmes related to Capacity Development;
- (v) input of consultations with UN specialized agencies, non-UN IGOs, Global and Regional organizations, programmes and projects, NGOs and private sector partners;

(i) Outcomes of the Global Ocean Science Report 2020, that would merit a change to the Strategy:

- (i) Enhance the current level of funding for ocean science;
- (ii) Establish continuous collection of internationally comparable data on investments in ocean science;
- (iii) **Facilitate co-design** of ocean science by involving ocean science information users and producers;
- (iv) Promote multi-stakeholder partnerships in ocean science and operationalize transfer of marine technology;
- (v) Move towards ocean science capacity development with the equal participation of all countries, genders and ages, embracing local and **indigenous knowledge**;
- (vi) Develop strategies and implementation plans to support the career needs of women and young scientists;
- (vii) Find solutions to remove barriers for open access to ocean data;
- (viii) Foster education and training in professions related to ocean sciences;
- (ix) Assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human and technical capacity in ocean science.

(ii) IOC CD Strategy outputs *vis-a-vis* UN Ocean Decade IP CD outputs, that would merit a change to the Strategy:

Output 1: **Human resources developed**: The Ocean Decade IP includes new elements that are not in the current IOC CD Strategy

Output 2: Access to physical infrastructure established or improved: There needs to be **more focus on technology** in the IOC CD Strategy

Output 3: Global, regional, and sub-regional mechanisms strengthened: important to **scale-up and accelerate** CD efforts.

Output 4: Development of ocean research policies in support of sustainable development objectives promoted: Both documents emphasize this crucial need for targeted natural and social science

Output 5: Awareness and understanding increased, and exchanges facilitated on role and values of ocean: IOC CD Strategy may need to include an **emphasis on facilitating exchanges** on the role and values of the ocean

Output 6. Sustained, long-term resource mobilization reinforced: most similar output among the six outputs, however the IOC CD Strategy could optimize opportunities for cooperation

There is also greater emphasis on supporting developing countries in the UN Ocean Decade IP CD

(iii) Outcomes of the 2nd IOC Capacity Development Survey, that would merit a change to the Strategy:

- **Promotion of CD National Focal Points – only 41 CD Focal Points out of 150 Member States**
- **Recognition of the differing requirements within different regions**
- **Promote improved national consultation and coordination in the defining of the CD needs responses from 25 IOC Focal Points and 10 CD focal points (from 150 MS)**
- **Clearer links between CD and global reporting needs that would enable developing countries gain access to necessary resources and training**

(iv) and (v) Input from consultations, that would merit a change to the Strategy:

- Importance of highlighting **long-term CD sustained strategies**;
- Need to develop mechanisms for **monitoring, evaluation** and learning to **assess the quality and impact** of the capacity development activities;
- Capacity development will be better achieved through **partnerships** between developed countries and SIDS and LDCs;
- Integration of **natural sciences and societal disciplines** into a **holistic assessment** of the marine environment must also be a general principle in CD strategies and initiatives;
- Global challenges such as **climate change, biodiversity and habitat loss**, and their impact on marine resources and ecosystem services need to be **central in CD strategies and initiatives**;
- Remove barriers to full **gender and geographic diversity**, and guarantee **equitable access** to ocean knowledge, ocean-related education, training, and transfer of marine technology

In summary:

- Many components already included in the current IOC CD Strategy
- Some new areas to add
- Maybe a need to reinforce what hasn't yet been achieved e.g. Implementation Plan
- Alignment with more current collaborators/initiatives
- Take into account a broader range of disciplines e.g. social science
- Alignment with the CD requirements of the UN Ocean Decade
- A format that is easily digestible, for use by decision-makers and the public alike and that can be readily shared and used as an exemplar of best practice

As such (and as included in Draft Decision A-31/3.5.3):

- The Task Team recommends *inter alia* that the GE-CD continue its work on revising the IOC CD Strategy for 2023–2030
- The current Strategy should be extended up to 2023 to give sufficient time to develop an updated strategy in preparation for approval by the 32nd Assembly in 2023
- Enabled by way of revised Terms of Reference of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development

Thank you for listening