Recommendation ICG/PTWS-WG-SCS-X.1

**Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the South China Sea Region: Sharing of Seismic and Sea Level Stations, Capacity Building, Trial and Full Operation of BSCSTAC, Working Group Governance and Next Meeting**

The Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the South China Sea Region,

**Recalling** that the Twenty-eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS-XXVIII) decided to continue the Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System in the South China Sea Region (ICG/PTWS-WG-SCS), chaired by Mr Sai-tick Chan from Hong Kong Observatory, China,

**Recalling further** that the full operation of SCSTAC started on 5 November 2019, as decided by the ICG/PTWS-XXVIII, and also **recalling** that the document “[***User’s Guide for the South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (SCSTAC) products for the South China Sea Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System***](http://www.ioc-tsunami.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=24017)” was officially published with an IOC Technical Series No.149 in September 2019,

**Recognizes** the paucity of seismic and sea level stations close to the major tsunami sources within the SCS region available to Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs);

**Encourages** the Member States of the WG-SCS to share more seismic and sea level stations to further enhance the tsunami warning capability in the South China Sea region, especially for the Sulu Sea, Celebes Seas and North Borneo;

**Agrees** to conduct an IOC Training Workshop on Tsunami Forecasting and Risk Assessment for Tsunami Warning Operators, which will include topics on new methods and technologies of seismic data processing and analysis, sea level data processing, tsunami numerical modeling, tsunami forecasting and tsunami risk assessment, in the first week of December 2021 at the kind invitation of SCSTAC/NMEFC, China;

**Noting** that the purpose of Task Team on the Establishment of a South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (TT-SCSTAC) has been largely completed, and the demand to further strengthen capacity development and information exchange in the South China Sea region,

**Recommends** dissolving the Task Team on Establishment of a South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center of the Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation in the South China Sea;

**Further recommends** the establishment of a Task Team on Capacity Development and Information Exchange with Terms of Reference as in the Appendix to Recommendation ICG/PTWS-WG-SCS-X.1;

**Noting** that SCSTAC has agreed with HKO to establish and operate a backup center for SCSTAC at HKO Headquarters, and to develop and operate a backup website of SCSTAC to be hosted by HKO,

**Noting further** that the backup center will be named as “Backup South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (Hong Kong)” [BSCSTAC (Hong Kong)], and satisfactory progress has been made in BSCSTAC to build up backup capability,

**Agrees** to commence trial operation of BSCSTAC (Hong Kong) in the first quarter of 2022, with specific date to be decided by SCSTAC and announced by the IOC Secretariat to WG-SCS Member States through Circular Letter;

**Requests** BSCSTAC (Hong Kong) to conduct a communication test with WG-SCS Member States at least one month before commencement of trial operation, with specific date to be decided by SCSTAC and announced by the IOC Secretariat to WG-SCS Member States through Circular Letter at least 30 days in advance;

**Agrees** to commence full operation of BSCSTAC (Hong Kong) upon satisfactory performance in the trial operation period, with specific date to be decided by SCSTAC and announced by the IOC Secretariat to WG-SCS Member States through Circular Letter;

**Recalling that** Mr Sai-tick Chan was elected the Chair of WG-SCS at the 27th Session of ICG/PTWS, French Polynesia, 2017, and was re-elected the Chair of WG-SCS at the 28th Session of ICG/PTWS, Nicaragua, 2019,

**Supports** China’s nomination of Dr Dakui WANG to serve as Chair of WG-SCS in the next intersessional period of ICG/PTWS, and requests WG-SCS Member States to send Vice-Chair nomination for WG-SCS, if any, to the IOC Secretariat before the 29th session of ICG/PTWS;

**Noting** the prevailing travel restrictions imposed by various countries due to COVID-19,

**Welcomes** SCSTAC's proposal to continue with the International Staff Programme to host 2 or 3 experts from the Member States of the WG-SCS in 2022 subject to the condition of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the travel and local expenses covered by SCSTAC, and requests the IOC to make the announcement to all Member States’ TNCs and NTWCs of WG-SCS regarding the matter;

**Accepts with appreciation** the offer of China to keep the possibility of hosting an in-person meeting of ICG/PTWS-WG-SCS-XI in 2022 in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China, with dates and venue to be discussed and determined in consultation with the Secretariat and the Chairperson.

Appendix

**Terms of Reference**

**Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation in the South China Sea Region Task Team on Capacity Development and Information Exchange**

1. To coordinate training workshops and other technical exchanges on topics related to earthquake and tsunami for enhancing the tsunami warning capabilities of the WG-SCS Member States.
2. To facilitate implementation of the International Staff Programme for short-term secondment of staff from WG-SCS Member States to SCSTAC on an annual basis.
3. To explore ways for furthering the sharing and exchange of relevant data and information in the South China Sea region.
4. To ascertain the latest requirements of WG-SCS Member States for tsunami advisory service provided by SCSTAC.

Membership: Representatives of Member States of the ICG/PTWS WG-SCS (Brunei Darussalam, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) and invited experts; representatives of PTWC and NWPTAC (JMA); with Chair and Vice-Chair to be elected either by the WG-SCS or the ICG/PTWS.

Draft Recommendations to be submitted to ICG/PTWS-XXIX

**ICG/PTWS Governance**

**Decides** to continue the Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System in the South China Sea Region. Elected Chair is Dr Dakui WANG (China) with Vice-Chair to be elected. The Terms of Reference for this group remains unchanged;

**Decides** to dissolve the Task Team on Establishment of a South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center of the Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation in the South China Sea noting that the South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center has been in full operation since November 5th, 2019 and the purpose of the Task Team has been completed successfully;

**Decides** to establish a Task Team of the Regional Working Group on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation in the South China Sea Region on Capacity Building and Information Exchange with Terms of Reference as in the Appendix to Recommendation ICG/PTWS-WG-SCS-X.1. Elected Chair is XXX (XXX) with Vice-Chair to be elected.