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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Fifty-fifth Session of the Executive Council
UNESCO, Paris, 14–17 June 2022

Covers all items of the Third Revised Provisional Agenda

PROVISIONAL ACTION PAPER

This Revised Action Paper provides the information necessary for effective participation in the discussion of the agenda items. This information includes: (i) identification of relevant documentation; (ii) identification, under each substantive agenda item, of the issue before the Executive Council and the expected decision or draft resolution, when available to date; (iii) background information.

This Action Paper also provides the basis for the draft summary report of the session and is therefore written in the past tense. A summary of the discussion under each agenda item will be prepared by the Secretariat and the Rapporteur and will complete the draft summary report. Draft decisions and resolutions are proposed in the document in order to assist decision-making by focusing the discussion.

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1. OPENING

1. The Chair, Mr Ariel Hernan Troisi, opened the 55th session of the IOC Executive Council at _____. The Chair delivered an opening speech and reported on his and the other Officers' activities since the 31st Session of the Assembly.
2. UNESCO Director-General, Audrey Azoulay, in turn, welcomed the IOC Executive Council.
To be completed
3. The Chair thanked the Director-General for her continued support to IOC and inspiring leadership. *To be completed*
4. Mr Troisi expressed the wish to pay tribute to distinguished individuals who had participated in the work of the Commission and passed away recently. The participants stood for a minute of silence to honour: Allen Varley (UK, 1932–2022) and Valery Eremeev (Ukraine, 1942–2020).
5. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA [Rule of Procedure 8]

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/EC-55/2.1.Doc	Provisional Agenda
	IOC/EC-55/2.1.Doc Add.	Provisional Timetable
	IOC/EC-55/AP	Provisional Action Paper
<u>References:</u>	IOC-31/3	Summary Report of the Thirty-first session of the IOC Assembly, Paris, 14–25 June 2021
	IOC/EC-53/SR	Summary Report of the Fifty-third session of the IOC Executive Council, online, 3–9 February 2021

6. The Chair introduced this item.

Dec. EC-55/2(I)

The Executive Council,

I. Agenda

1. Adopts the agenda and the timetable of work as set out in documents IOC/EC-55/2.1.Doc [with the following additional modifications:]

7. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR
[Rule of Procedure 25.4]

Dec. EC-55/2(II)

II. Rapporteur

2. On a proposal of [country], seconded by [countries],
3. Designates _____ of [country from electoral group V] Rapporteur for its present session to assist the Chairperson and the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the draft provisional report of the session;

2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS
[Rule of Procedure 12]

8. The Chair invited the Executive Council to form two sessional committees, the Resolutions Committee and the Financial Committee, and invited proposals for sessional working groups.

Dec. EC-55/2(III)

III. Sessional Committees and Working Groups

4. Establishes the following sessional open-ended committees and ___ working groups and referred to them the following agenda items and responsibilities:

Financial Committee: to finalise a resolution under items 4.1 and 4.2; under the chairship of Dr Karim Hilmi (Morocco, Vice-chair) with the following Member States participating: _____. Ms Ksenia Yvinec provided the Secretariat support to the Financial Committee.

Resolutions Committee: to report on all draft resolutions duly presented for consideration at the session by 9 June and on the draft resolution covering financial matters drafted during the session; under the chairship of _____ (country) with the following Member States participating: _____. Julian Barbière provided the Secretariat support to the Resolutions Committee.

2.4 INTRODUCTION OF TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION
[Rule of Procedure 11]

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/EC-55/DocList	Provisional List of Documents
<u>Information:</u>	IOC/EC-55/2.4.Inf.	Working arrangements for the session

9. The Executive Secretary introduced this item. He reminded that draft decisions were to be adopted at the end of the discussion of each agenda item. The Action Paper was intentionally drafted as a pre-report in order to streamline the reporting process during the session. The Executive Secretary noted that [1] draft resolution was received before 9 June 2022 at 10:00 a.m. All draft resolutions were examined for adoption under agenda item 6. The complete set of adopted decisions and resolutions in all four languages would be made available at the end of the session, in line with the established UNESCO practices. The narrative part of the report will be drafted by the Secretariat during the session in English. The translation and the adoption of the report in four languages will be done by correspondence after the session. Member States that wished to have

specific, particularly important, plenary interventions recorded, were invited to provide written records thereof using a dedicated template through an e-mail address (iocgovbody@unesco.org) set up for this purpose.

No decision is proposed under this item.

10. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

2.5 ROGER REVELLE MEMORIAL LECTURE

11. The Chairman introduced this item and reminded that the Roger Revelle Lecture series was established by the IOC in 1991 to recognize outstanding contributions to climate related ocean sciences by inspired researchers, who communicate their knowledge and global vision of the challenges facing our planet in order to shape a better future for humankind. The lecture is dedicated to Roger Revelle (1909–1991) who was among the early scientists to study anthropogenic global warming. He was also one of the founding fathers of the IOC.
12. The *IOC Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture 2022* on occasion of the 55th Session of the IOC Executive Council, was given by Prof. Dr Hans-Otto Pörtner, Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Germany.
13. Prof. Dr Hans-Otto Pörtner was invited to give the *IOC Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture 2022* in recognition of his leadership in climate science and climate negotiations for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC), and for his key role in making climate change recognized as ocean change.
14. The IOC has for long been, and continues to be, deeply involved in climate research as well as the interface between climate science and policy. With a Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture by a leading scientist as Prof. Dr Hans-Otto Pörtner, the IOC wish to emphasize this further and to draw the attention of the broadest possible audience to the challenges posed to the ocean and humanity.
15. The 2022 lecture focussed on the topic “Climate change is Ocean change”.

3. IOC MATTERS AND REPORTS

3.1 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY (JULY 2021–MAY 2022) [Rule of Procedure 49.1]

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(1) & Addendum	Report of the IOC Executive Secretary on the work accomplished since the Thirty-first session of the Assembly (July 2021–May 2022)
	IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(2)	Report on 2020–2021 (40 C/5) Budget Implementation as at 31 December 2021 and outline of the 2022–2023 Integrated Budgetary Framework
	IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(3)	Financial situation of the IOC Special Account as at year end 2021 and forecast for 2022–2023

	IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(4)	GEBCO Developments: New Sub-Committee on Education and Training (SCET) and launch of GEBCO Governance review
<i>Information:</i>	IOC/IWG-DATAPOLICY-I/3	Report of the first meeting of the IOC inter-sessional working group on the Revision of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy (online, 5–6 April 2022)
	IOC/GE-CD-III/3	Report of the third meeting of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (online, 1–2 December 2021)
	IOC/INF-1420	WMO–IOC Joint Collaborative Board Session Report (March 2022) and workplan for 2022-2023

16. The Executive Secretary introduced this item using a PowerPoint presentation.
17. He recalled that the strategic analysis presented in the Report of the IOC Executive Secretary to the 31st IOC Assembly in June 2021 ([IOC/A-31/3.2.Doc\(1\)](#)) remains valid, and that his presentation focuses on the main developments and accomplishments since June 2021 and some items requiring the attention of the Executive Council.
18. The analytical programme implementation report on the full quadrennium 2018–2021, including the assessment of performance against adopted programmatic targets, is available for Member States in document [IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc\(1\)](#) and its [addendum](#) gives a very detailed information on delivery by IOC function.
19. The Executive Secretary highlighted that despite the complex international situation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the geopolitical tensions due to, *inter alia*, the military conflict in Ukraine, the year 2022 is supposed to be the “year of the ocean”. Its start was marked by the ‘One Ocean Summit’, the first One Planet Summit entirely dedicated to the Ocean, which was organized in Brest (France) on 9, 10 & 11 February 2022 in the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and with the support of the United Nations. UNESCO Director-General spoke at the high-level segment of the Summit in presence of many Heads of State and government. The IOC mobilized UNESCO’s contribution to the Summit, organized and/or participated in key Summit events.
20. The Seventh ‘Our Ocean Conference’ in Palau (13–14 April 2022) provided additional momentum for ocean stakeholders, particularly in generating ocean commitments for and from SIDS and the Pacific. The “ocean route” of 2022 will continue through: the 10–12 May 2022 African Conference on Priority Setting & Partnership Development for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in Cairo, Egypt, setting the [Ocean Decade](#) roadmap for the continent; the 22nd meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea focusing on ocean observing (6–10 June 2022); and the Ocean and Climate Dialogue of the UNFCCC (also in June 2022). After the 55th session of the IOC Executive Council, the IOC will focus on the critically important ‘United Nations Ocean Conference’ in Lisbon (27 June–1 July 2022), co-hosted by Portugal and Kenya. Conclusions and commitments from all the above events should shape the ocean dimensions of the 2022 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP-15 (Part 2), Kunming, China) in the third quarter of 2022, determining the global post-2020 biodiversity agenda. Later this year, the UN Climate Change Conference 2022 (UNFCCC CoP-27) in Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt, 7–18 November 2022) should be key for strengthening the ocean and climate nexus, catalyzing ocean-based climate action and setting a solid course for the climate change agenda in Africa.

21. The Executive Secretary expressed his hope that IOC Member States will be satisfied with the pilot edition of the *State of Ocean Report* (StOR), which was first proposed in his oral report to the Executive Council at its 53rd session (February 2021). The pilot version capitalizes on data from IOC-sponsored programmes and affiliated networks. We hope that future editions will include contributions from other UN agencies and key actors outside of the UN System (agenda item 3.3).
22. The Executive Secretary highlighted the good progress of the Ocean Decade, with the Decade Coordination Unit ably supporting the unprecedented scale of activities. The Decade Alliance is acquiring momentum, with the involvement of leaders of the world at the highest level of authority, as exemplified by the recent adhesion of H.E. Mr Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of Norway, and H.E. Mr Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles. Twenty-seven (27) National Decade Committees are in place, and more are in the making. The Decade Stakeholder Forum, expert roster, four informal working groups on cross cutting issues (Ocean Data, Innovation and Technology, Communication and Monitoring/evaluation) are providing advice on the co-design of actions and the Decade engagement strategy.
23. Mobilization of resources remained a key challenge for the Decade during the transition from the planning phase to the action phase. The Executive Secretary expressed confidence that the IOS Evaluation of the IOC's strategic positioning and the related Action Plan (IOC/EC-55/3.2.Doc(1)) presented for consideration by the Executive Council will help guide future efforts of the Commission in this regard.
24. More than half of the current Decade actions highlight the Decade challenge of integrated ocean observing system. Ensuring that these initiatives contribute to coordinated observing systems is vital for supporting the transformation envisioned under the Ocean Decade. Therefore, IOC through GOOS proposed a Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Observations to facilitate this work.
25. The Executive Council at this session will consider a recent report, the result of a multi-agency workshop, which proposes a number of potential solutions for facilitating ocean observations within areas under national jurisdiction, such as the EEZs, to be implemented through UN agencies (agenda item 3.4).
26. At the 'One Ocean Summit' in Brest a major commitment was made on establishing, on the basis of Mercator International, an intergovernmental organization in Europe, which will be spearheading ocean data processing and forecasting. This organization may become a new key contributor to IOC goals, creating a new level of delivery of processed ocean data, in real time and delayed mode, also acting as a Decade Collaborative Centre.
27. The Executive Secretary reported that the development of Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) and its key component, Ocean InfoHub, is progressing well. Ocean data and the issue of their openness and access, are becoming a "hot topic", and many new players and partners are joining the ocean data quest. A highlight for IOC was the successful International Ocean Data Conference organized in Sopot (Poland) in February 2022. With major Ocean Decade programmes and other developments, conditions are becoming more and more conducive for creating a "digital ecosystem of the ocean" or "the digital twin of the ocean", enabling transparent and informed ocean management.
28. He also informed the Executive Council that the 8-step revision process of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy was proposed through [IOC Circular Letter 2864](#) (12 November 2021). A desk study was implemented and all IOC programmes (global and regional) were invited to designate representatives to the IOC inter-sessional working group on the Revision of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy (IWG-DATAPOLICY). The first meeting of the IWG-DATAPOLICY was held on 5–6 April 2022. He also provided the update on the renewal of the

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNESCO/IOC and the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ, Belgium) for the hosting of the IODE Project Office in Ostend (Belgium).

29. Following the successful completion in October 2021 of the EC-funded MSPGlobal Project, which resulted, *inter alia*, in the publication on a new MSPGlobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning, the European Commission to support a new phase of MSPGlobal expanding marine spatial plans in the world in support of a new MSP Roadmap covering the period 2023–2028. Another DG MARE-sponsored project focusing on ocean literacy, started in 2022. Long-term fruitful collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, UNDP and UNEP continued under the IW:Learn umbrella with a new 4-year project and two new regional projects focusing on Large Marine Ecosystems in the Sargasso Sea and in the Black Sea.
30. The Executive Secretary further reported that the 38th Meeting of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC) took place in Monaco at the IHO on 20–22 April 2022. The GGC approved the terms of reference of a new Sub-Committee on Education and Training (SCET) to develop and coordinate the education and training strategy of the GEBCO Programme. This new Sub-committee aims to raise awareness amongst academic institutions of gaps in education and training that may impact on the progress and development of ocean mapping and in particular, the objectives of the GEBCO Programme. Recognising the need to periodically review the governance of organizational frameworks and acknowledging recent important new developments with the two parent organizations (e.g. IOC-IHO new strategic frameworks, the Ocean Decade, the Nippon Foundation/GEBCO Seabed Project), the GGC also agreed to launch a governance review of GEBCO. The Terms of Reference developed by a review group with IOC and IHO Secretariat representatives and three GEBCO members from the GGC are presented, together with the Terms of Reference of SCET, in document IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(4). The outcome of the Governance review will be reported to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session and the IHO Assembly in 2023.

Dec. EC-55/3.1

Report of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Council,

1. Having examined documents IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(1) & Add., IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(2), IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(3) and IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(4), and reports on various programme,
2. Thanks the Executive Secretary for a very comprehensive report;
3. Takes note of the information provided, welcoming significant advances in many programmatic areas;
4. Further takes note of the establishment of the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Education and Training (SCET), and of the Terms of Reference of the GEBCO Governance review;
5. Requests the Executive Secretary to present the outcomes of the GEBCO Governance review to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session; and
6. Refers documents IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(2) and IOC/EC-55/3.1.Doc(3) to the sessional Financial Committee for further examination.

31. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

3.2 INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICE (IOS) EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGIC POSITIONING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC-UNESCO)
[Resolution A-31/2(IV)]

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/EC-55/3.2.Doc(1)	Draft Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC strategic positioning
<u>Reference:</u>	212 EX/9	Internal Oversight Service (IOS) evaluation of the strategic positioning of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO)
	IOS/EVS/PI/197	Evaluation of the strategic positioning of IOC-UNESCO

32. The Executive Secretary introduced this item.
33. He recalled that in September 2021, UNESCO’s Internal Oversight Service published “The Evaluation of the Strategic Positioning of IOC-UNESCO IOS/EVS/PI/197” (the Evaluation).
34. The Evaluation included a set of six recommendations and suggested actions. IOC’s Management Response accepted all recommendations. The key findings of the evaluation, its recommendations and the management response were presented to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 212th session (212 EX/9).
35. Drawing on the main conclusions of the Evaluation, internal consultations and discussions with the IOC Officers at their meeting on 14–17 January 2022, the Secretariat prepared document IOC/EC-55/3.2.Doc(1) for consideration by the Executive Council. It synthesises key challenges and opportunities facing IOC-UNESCO, as highlighted in the Evaluation, and introduces a draft Action Plan that seeks to turn the Evaluation’s recommendations into actions.
36. He concluded by inviting Member States to discuss the report, its recommendations and the proposed Draft Action Plan. This feedback would be invaluable to the IOC Secretariat in its further efforts to finalise the full-fledged Action Plan for the 32nd session of the IOC Assembly in 2023 and, in some instances where there is full consensus, engage in implementation and provide the Assembly with an update on progress.

Dec. EC-55/3.2

Internal Oversight Service Evaluation of the Strategic Positioning of IOC

The Executive Council,

1. Taking note of the Draft Interim Action Plan in response to the IOS evaluation (212 EX/9, IOS evaluation report (IOS/EVS/PI/197) as presented in document IOC/EC-55/3.2.Doc(1),
2. Invites the Secretariat to reflect the discussions under this agenda item [or, if needed – and address the following specific points)] in preparing the final version of the Action Plan for consideration and adoption by the IOC Assembly.

37. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

3.3 PRESENTATION OF THE PILOT IOC STATE OF THE OCEAN REPORT
 [IOC/EC-53/SR, item 3.1; IOC-31/SR, item 3.2]

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/EC-55/3.3.Doc(1)	Pilot Edition of the 'State of the Ocean Report' (2022) compiled and coordinated by IOC-UNESCO
<u>Reference:</u>	IOC/INF-1393 Rev.	Revised Concept proposal for an 'IOC-coordinated State of the Ocean Report' (IOC StOR)

38. The Executive Secretary introduced the Pilot edition of the *IOC State of the Ocean Report* (StOR). The report represents a first stab and aims at stimulating feedback from IOC Member States on the definitive structure of the StOR as a summary of key changes in the state of the world ocean, based on essential variables, key findings of ocean research on emerging ocean issues, and a systematic assessment of developments regarding integrated ocean management. The Pilot edition of the IOC StOR was developed also considering the need for it to contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. It reflects the needs and views expressed by Member States following the Circular Letter, [2843](#) on an IOC StOR and benefits from the expert scoping and peer-reviews of experts in all of areas of the IOC Functions and geographic and gender balance.

Dec. EC-55/3.3

IOC State of the Ocean Report

The Executive Council,

1. Taking into account the needs and views of IOC Member States with regard to the value-added, contribution, contents and structure of an IOC State of the Ocean Report as compiled by the IOC Secretariat in response to the dedicated IOC Circular Letter issued on 28 May 2021 (IOC/INF-1393 Rev.),
2. Also taking into account the recommendations of the informal expert consultation on the possible scoping of an IOC State of the Ocean Report (IOC/INF-1393 Rev.),
3. Having considered the suggested contents and format of the Pilot edition of the *IOC State of the Ocean Report* in IOC/EC-55/33.Doc(1),
4. Endorses the regular publication of the *IOC State of the Ocean Report* on the basis of the model provided by the Pilot edition of the Report;
5. Requests the Executive Secretary of IOC to coordinate the production of the Report on an annual basis;
6. Invites IOC Member States to provide extrabudgetary financial resources to the realization of the Report as per the typology of expenses presented in the Pilot edition of the *IOC State of the Ocean Report*;
7. Invites all scientific partners of the IOC to contribute to, and rely on the Report, to present their findings on the status and trends of our common ocean from the perspectives of ocean health and needed management interventions;
8. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to promote the findings on the *IOC State of the Ocean Report* through appropriate communication channels.

39. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

3.4 OCEAN OBSERVATIONS IN AREAS UNDER NATIONAL JURISDICTION [Rules of Procedure 21.2C]

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/EC-55/3.4.Doc(1)	Issues and solutions for enhancing sustained ocean observations in areas under National Jurisdiction, and the role of IOC, WMO and DOALOS
<u>Report:</u>	GOOS Reports, 246	Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction (OONJ) Workshop, UNESCO, 12–13 February 2020

40. The acting Head of the IOC Ocean Observations Section, Emma Heslop, introduced this item. She recalled the successful history of IOC in developing a cooperative framework for the real-time sharing of ocean data collected in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), in particular the IOC was successful in creating a Member State agreed framework and mechanism, in compliance with United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), for the provision of data from floats in the global Argo Programme that drift into EEZs.
41. The 2018 IOC decision EC-LI/4.8 supporting an extension of the Argo notification scheme to include six biogeochemical variables—oxygen, pH, nitrate, chlorophyll, backscatter and irradiance—has been a recent and important step forward in the recognition of the need for a wider range of sustained observations. It was also an endorsement of the value the Argo Programme brings to global ocean observing and of the trust developed in the IOC mediated solutions. However, many other ocean observing implementers, and the Argo Programme itself in terms of float deployment, still face important challenges when seeking consent to undertake ocean observations in waters under national jurisdiction.
42. In 2019, the WMO held a Technical Workshop on “Enhancing ocean observations and research, and the free exchange of data, to foster services for the safety of life and property”. The workshop resulted in two resolutions passed at the WMO Eighteenth Congress. Resolution 45 (Cg-18) clarifies the legal regime under which the Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS) network and surface observing platforms operate in taking marine meteorological observations, as operating outside of UNCLOS Part XIII and therefore allowing unhindered operation in EEZs. Resolution 46 (Cg-18) notes the twenty-year history of work by the IOC to develop a cooperative framework regarding the sharing of ocean data in EEZs, and decides to work closely with the IOC in order to explore mechanisms that make the highest-impact subsurface ocean data freely available.
43. In February 2020, GOOS organised an Experts Workshop on “Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction” (OOJN, [GOOS Reports, 246](#)), following a number of requests from the implementers of global ocean observing networks to consider the many challenges of ocean observations in EEZs. The workshop discussed a number of ‘real life’ issues that the sustained global ocean observing networks face in undertaking observations in areas under national jurisdiction, in particular the coastal States EEZs, it also discussed the value of observations to coastal States, and potential concerns of coastal States regarding sustained ocean observations in areas under their national jurisdiction, and proposed a number of potential and practical solutions within UNCLOS, to be implemented through collaborative action across UNESCO, WMO and the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs through its Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS).
44. Requests for marine scientific research (MSR) clearance can be subject to geopolitical issues that go far beyond the realm of ocean science, and therefore requires higher level action by intergovernmental bodies such as the IOC, WMO, DOALOS, and the United Nations General Assembly which has declared its competence to review developments in ocean and law of the sea matters. The recommendations from the OOJN Workshop include:

- (i) IOC to consider initiating a process equivalent to the Argo notification scheme applicable to other platforms/variables;
- (ii) IOC, with DOALOS and WMO support, to set up an informal meeting to discuss and share different practices in the implementation of MSR clearance procedures by States;
- (iii) IOC/GOOS, WMO and DOALOS consider a joint workplan or initiative to raise awareness of the issues and the value gained from ocean observations, nationally and globally, especially in the context of the aims of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;
- (iv) WMO to consider how resolutions could be supportive in highlighting the need for sustained ocean observations from EEZs;
- (v) DOALOS to assess if there is appetite to pursue gaining a mandate from Member States to develop an update to the DOALOS [Revised Guide to the Implementation of the Relevant Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on MSR](#); and
- (vi) IOC to consider initiating a pilot, using the IOC Article 247 process ([IOC/INF-1222](#)).

45. The decision proposed under this item calls on the IOC, WMO and DOALOS to work together on implementing the potential and practical solutions within UNCLOS frameworks and on raising awareness of the value of ocean observations to coastal States in providing information needed to adapt in the face of climate change and to build resilient and sustainable economies.

46. IOC Member States are invited to develop the two prerequisites for further work in this area modelled on the process that yielded the Argo notification scheme in the 2000s through: (i) setting up an intersession Member State consultation to propose updated Terms of Reference for a reconstituted IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS), considering a mixed scientific and legal competency, to engage with the IOC Member States and the observing community and prepare proposals for adoption by the IOC Assembly; and (ii) requesting GOOS to work with the sustained networks to bring a limited number of clear and specific descriptions of difficulties/issues with possible solutions, for discussion by a reconstituted IOC/ABE-LOS. This body might also treat questions larger than GOOS brought by other IOC or Ocean Decade programmes.

47. Unlocking the full potential of ocean science within the existing framework of UNCLOS will be a major step forward in making change under the UNESCO [Recommendation on Open Science](#) (2021) and make the ocean more accessible and sustainably managed, ultimately contributing to the vision of the Ocean Decade: “the science we need for the ocean we want”.

Dec. EC-55/3.4

Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction

The Executive Council,

1. Considering Resolution XIX-19, which sets the original terms for the work of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS) and related EC-XLV/Dec.4.3, and the recommendations of the Experts Workshop on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction held by GOOS in February 2020, as outlined in the document IOC/EC-55/3.4.Doc(1), with details in GOOS Reports, 246,
2. Also considering the unique convening power of the IOC between Member State representatives and the scientific community,

3. Calls on DOALOS and WMO to work together with IOC in solution spaces to support GOOS networks and national understanding and benefit from ocean observations;
4. Invites GOOS to propose awareness-raising and capacity building activities to help States realize the value of observations, including positive impact on States' adaptation to climate change and sustainable economic development, to be implemented by the IOC, with its other co-sponsors, and with DOALOS;
5. Decides to launch an open-ended intersessional Member State consultation to propose updated Terms of Reference for IOC/ABE-LOS to include consideration of a dual scientific and legal co-chairship, and timelines for the consideration of cases referred to it by the GOOS Steering Committee; and submit its proposal to reconstitute IOC/ABE-LOS with new terms of reference to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session in 2023;
6. Requests the GOOS Steering Committee, together with observing networks and interested parties, to identify and prepare a limited number of specific 'cases' to be received by IOC/ABE-LOS, that identify issues and possible solutions, and prioritize topics for discussion.

48. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

3.5 REPORTS OF IOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES [Rule of Procedure 48.3]

3.5.1 Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards

3.5.1.1 Regional Early Warning Services

<u>Reports</u>	ICG/IOTWMS-extr	Report of the inter-sessional meeting of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS), 23–24 November 2021 (online)
	ICG/NEAMTWS-XVII/3	Report of the 17th Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS), 24–26 November 2021 (online)
	ICG/PTWS-XXIX/3	Report of the 29th Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS), 1–2 & 7–8 December 2021 (online)
<u>Reference:</u>	IOC Technical Series, 171	Strategy of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS) 2021–2030
	ICG/PTWS-XXIX/4.4 (IOC Technical Series, 172)	Strategy of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS) 2022–2030

49. The IOC Chair introduced this item by informing the Council that three coordinating groups of Regional Early Warning Services had met during the intersessional period and would report to this session of the Executive Council. He welcomed the Chairs of the ICG/IOTWMS, ICG/NEAMTWS and ICG/PTWS.
50. Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati, Chair Intergovernmental Coordination Group for Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System, highlighted the Inter-sessional session was held online on 23–24 November 2021 as a result of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were over 100 participants from 19 Member States, including for the first time a large number of disaster managers. The session was held to provide progress reports on the workplans of the ICG and to prepare for a deferred 13th session of the ICG/IOTWMS in Bali, Indonesia, in May 2022.
51. Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati reported the ICG had initiated workplans to begin addressing the issues raised in the 2020 report on Capacity Development of Tsunami Preparedness in the IOTWMS. On 10 November 2021, a webinar was held on “A Strategic Pathway for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System within the Context of UN Decade for Ocean Science” to identify opportunities to further develop the IOTWMS so that it delivers more timely and accurate tsunami warnings to 100% Tsunami Ready at-risk coastal communities. Challenges to be addressed include continuing issues with regards timely and open exchange of seismic and sea-level data required for warnings, greater engagement of disaster management community in the work of the ICG/IOTWMS, maintaining community awareness and education, greater capacity development supporting SIDS and LDCs. It was decided to hold the next IOWAVE Exercise in 2023. Efforts continue to address the challenges of warning for atypical tsunami events.
52. Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati announced the extension of the agreement between the Government of Indonesia (through BMKG) and IOC-UNESCO in support of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC) to enable it to continue its critical work on education and training. The Government of Australia extended its support to the Secretariat Office of the ICG/IOTWMS. The UNESCAP-funded project “Strengthening Tsunami Warning in the North West Indian Ocean through Regional Collaboration” successfully completed Phase-1 and received funding to begin Phase-2. Lessons learnt from that project are to be extended across the Indian Ocean, including maintaining effective national tsunami warning chains through revised training programmes on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs), Disaster Management Offices, and the broadcast media.
53. Prof. Karnawati also reported on the results of the 13th session of the ICG/IOTWMS held in Bali, Indonesia in May 2022 [*to be completed*].
54. Prof. Maria Ana Baptista, Chair of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS), presented the report of the ICG/NEAMTWS. She informed that the 17th session of the ICG/NEAMTWS was held online on 24–26 November 2021.
55. Prof. Baptista highlighted the successful results of the fourth tsunami exercise for the region, NEAMWave21 conducted between 8 and 10 March 2021 and the major increase in media interest.
56. She reported on the continued national efforts in several countries to increase awareness on tsunami hazards and preparedness in line with and as contributions to the 5 November World Tsunami Awareness Day 2021, as well as the tsunami exercises conducted in France and Malta. A new Task Team on Tsunami Ready was established. Prof. Baptista reported progress made by communities of Bouches-du-Rhône and Cannes (France); Kos (Greece); Israel; Minturno, Pachino, Palmi (Italy); Marsaxlokk (Malta); Azores, Cascais, Lagos, Lisboa, Madeira, Portimão, Setúbal (Portugal); Chipiona (Spain), Bodrum and Istanbul (Turkey) towards becoming Tsunami Ready and prepared.

57. She also reported on the support of the European Commission (EC) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in capacity development, including infrastructure and research and new sea-level instrumentation and provision of measurements, especially for the Last Mile Project Phase 2 implemented in Malta, and the support provided to the organization of the first end-to-end tsunami exercise on 5 November 2021.
58. Prof. Baptista announced the approval of a new European Union DG-ECHO project on “Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean Region to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards”. The project is being implemented in seven countries.
59. She also reported on the study prepared by the Secretariat on Coastal Multi-Hazard Risk Perception, Resilience and Survey Questionnaires to contribute to the implementation of the new project concerning understanding and communication strategies of tsunami and other sea-level related risks.
60. She announced the target to establish at least ten Tsunami Ready recognized communities in Mediterranean countries in the next two years, contributing to making 100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030 through the implementation of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Programme and other initiatives.
61. She reported the publication of a new ICG/NEAMTWS 2021–2030 Strategy in line with the UN Ocean Science Decade for Sustainable Development and encouraged Member States and partners to contribute to its implementation.
62. Finally, Prof. Baptista informed the Executive Council that the fifth regional tsunami exercise (NEAMWave23) will be conducted within the first week of November 2023.
63. Mr Yuji Nishimae, Chair of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System introduced this item. The 29th Session of the ICG/PTWS (1–2 and 7–8 December 2021, online) was well attended with 116 participants from 27 countries. During this meeting, seven recommendations were adopted and new ICG/PTWS leadership was elected, including Mr Nishimae (Japan) as Chair, and Dr Wilfried Strauch (Nicaragua) and Mr David Coetzee (New Zealand) as Vice-Chairs. The next ICG/PTWS Session is planned for November 2022 in Japan.
64. Mr Nishimae noted that PTWS decided to conduct PacWave22 between September and November 2022, including regional exercises and one live communication tests on 13 October 2022. He reported that the ICG/PTWS Strategy 2022–2030 had been finalized, focussing on four strategic objectives: (i) understanding and managing tsunami hazard risk; (ii) tsunami detection, warning and dissemination; (iii) enhancing tsunami preparedness for effective community response; and (iv) international coordination and cooperation and partnerships. With regards to the UN Ocean Decade, the PTWS established a Task Team on PTWS involvement in the Ocean Decade. Other important recommendations include the decision to expand the PTWS Earthquake Source Zone to contain the southernmost Atlantic including the South Sandwich Islands, and agreement to start Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC) full functionality on the interim service in January 2022.
65. Regarding the governing structure of ICG/PTWS, several new Task Teams (TT) were established: TT on PTWS involvement in the UN Ocean Decade; TT PacWave Exercises, under WG2 the TT TSPs; and under the Regional WG South China Sea, the TT Capacity Development and Services. The following task teams were dissolved: TT PacWave20 Exercises, upon publication of the report, and TT Establishment of a South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center under the Regional Working Group for the South China Sea region.

66. Mr Nishimae next reported on the PTWS response to the recent Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami (15 January 2022), which caused tsunami waves observed at near and distant tide gauges, with tsunami waves over 1 m detected in California (US), Chile, and Japan. In response to the event, the PTWS held three debrief meetings with the goal to begin development of interim volcanic tsunami SOPs and set up a temporary Task Team to this effect, as well as review tsunami warning centres' experiences of the event. The Secretariat disseminated post-assessment survey questions to Member States, the results of which will be is due to be published in the second half of 2022.

3.5.1.2 Global Coordination of Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards

<u>Reports</u>	IOC/TOWS-WG-XV/3	Fifteenth Meeting of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG-XV), 24–25 February 2022 (online)
<u>Reference:</u>	IOC Manuals & Guides, 74	Standard Guidelines for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme

67. Dr Alexander Frolov, Chair of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems, introduced this item. He noted the high operational readiness of TWSs in providing accurate, actionable forecasts of tsunami waves through regular staff training, development of observing systems and improving data processing methods. Through a collaborative effort between government agencies, scientists and the public, more than 30 coastal communities have achieved the IOC Tsunami Ready designation. The “Standard Guidelines for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme” is now available as IOC Manuals & Guides, 74.
68. Dr Alexander Frolov reminded that through Decision A-31/3.4.1, the IOC Assembly at its 31th session approved the establishment of the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme, with TOWS-WG serving as the Global Steering Committee for this Programme, a Scientific Committee to prepare the Draft 10-Year Research, Development and Implementation Plan, and the establishment of a Tsunami Ready Coalition.
69. In this capacity, the TOWS-WG selected 11 experts for the Scientific Committee led by Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala (India). In selecting expert members, due consideration was given to their scientific expertise as well as geographic, generational and gender balance. The Draft 10-Year Research, Development and Implementation Plan for the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme will be developed by the end of 2022.
70. The TOWS-WG at its 15th meeting reviewed the status of implementation of Decision A-31/3.4.1. and confirmed that the UN Ocean Decade provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to leverage novel sensing platforms, techniques and/or infrastructures in order to more quickly and accurately detect and warn for tsunamis and increase community preparedness and resilience.
71. The TOWS-WG-XV recommended that the IOC Executive Council at its 55th session consider approving the establishment of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme as described in the working document “Tsunami Ready Programme – Proposal for endorsement by IOC” dated 21 February 2022.
72. The TOWS-WG-XV recommended also that the IOC Executive Council adopts the Tsunami Coalition's terms of reference and some clarifications in the terms of reference of the TOWS-WG and Scientific Committee as outlined in draft decision Dec. EC-55/3.5.1.

Dec. EC-55/3.5.1**Warning and Mitigation Systems of Ocean Hazards**

The Executive Council,

1. Having examined the executive summary reports of the recent sessions of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS). and the report of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (IOC/TOWS-WG-XV),
2. Accepts the reports by the IOC/ICGs and TOWS-WG;
3. Expressed its solidarity with the people who are affected by the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption and tsunami on 15 January 2022;
4. Notes with satisfaction the progress made during the intersessional period, including:
 - (i) the wave exercises conducted in the Caribbean (CARIBWAVE21) and NEAM (NEAMWave21) regions during the ongoing pandemic;
 - (ii) the finalization and publication of the IOC Manual Guide 74 "Standard Guidelines for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme" and IOC Manual Guide 86 "Multi-Annual Community Tsunami Exercise Programme: Guidelines for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions";
 - (iii) the continued progress in the implementation of Tsunami Ready in the NE Atlantic and Mediterranean and connected seas, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Caribbean regions, which indicates that Tsunami Ready has now established itself as a globally popular and recognized tsunami preparedness tool;
 - (iv) the development and production of a global Tsunami Ready Interactive Map Viewer and the hosting of the Tsunami Ready web site by the International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC);
 - (v) the development and production of a new Tsunami Ready Board Game and supporting animation video series prepared by IOTIC, bearing in mind that additional resources will be required for the production and translation of Tsunami Ready Board Game into several languages;
 - (vi) the efforts of the IOTIC, BMKG (Indonesia) and ITIC in preparing Tsunami Ready and Tsunami Evacuation Maps, Plans and Procedures (TEMPP) training through the Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) platform as well as offering hybrid training workshops and training videos;
 - (vii) the near finalisation of a global Key Performance Indicators (KPI) framework with goals, targets and corresponding measures in alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development – A Safe Ocean; IOC Tsunami Programme; Tsunami Ready; current ICG Strategies; and the ICG/PTWS KPI Framework completed in 2018/2019;
 - (viii) the work of the PTWS to develop a National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) Competency Framework (2017), and the ITIC's leadership to pilot training courses based on the Framework;
 - (ix) the activities undertaken by the respective regions for WTAD 2021, and the success

achieved by UNDRR;

- (x) the 2022, WTAD theme will highlight Sendai Framework Global Target G: Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi,-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030;
 - (xi) the efforts of the CARIBE-EWS and the Secretariat to coordinate and contribute to global initiatives related to Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems;
5. Welcomes the appointment of the new ICG/PTWS Officers for the biennium 2021–2023.

**Part I:
Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS)**

- 6. Notes with appreciation the development of workplans to address issues raised in the 2020 report on the Capacity Development of Tsunami Preparedness in the IOTWMS;
- 7. Also notes with appreciation the planning to utilise the Tsunami Programme of the UN Decade for Ocean Science to deliver more timely and accurate tsunami warnings to 100% Tsunami Ready at-risk coastal communities;
- 8. Further notes with appreciation the efforts to expand capacity development for SIDS and LDCs;
- 9. Notes the efforts continuing to address the challenges of warning for atypical tsunami events;
- 10. Notes with concern the continuing challenges with regards to timely and open exchange of seismic and sea-level data for tsunami warning;
- 11. Congratulates IOTWMS Member States for the successful completion of Phase-1 of the UNESCAP funded project “Strengthening Tsunami Warning in the North West Indian Ocean through Regional Collaboration”;
- 12. Encourages Member States to promote the engagement of more disaster managers in the work of the ICG/IOTWMS, especially with regards to the widespread implementation of the Tsunami Ready Programme;
- 13. Welcomes the extension of the Government of Indonesia (BMKG) and IOC-UNESCO agreement in support of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC);
- 14. Also welcomes the extension of the Government of Australia support for the Secretariat Office of the ICG/IOTWMS;
- 15. Further welcomes the decision to organize and conduct the next Indian Ocean Wave Exercise in 2023 (IOWave23);

**Part II:
North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean
and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS)**

- 16. Notes with appreciation the organization of NEAMWave21 conducted between 8 and 10 March 2021 and the major increase in media interest;
- 17. Notes the continued national efforts to increase awareness on tsunami hazards and preparedness in line with and as contributions to the World Tsunami Awareness Day, 5 November 2021;
- 18. Further notes the establishment of a new Task Team on Tsunami Ready and the progress made by communities in several countries towards becoming Tsunami Ready and

prepared;

19. Appreciates the continued support of the European Commission (EC) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in the development of NEAMTWS;
20. Further appreciates the approval of a new European Union DG-ECHO project on “Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean Region to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards”;
21. Notes on the study prepared by the Secretariat on Coastal Multi-Hazard Risk Perception, Resilience and Survey Questionnaires to contribute to the implementation of the new project;
22. Welcomes the target to establish at least ten Tsunami Ready recognized communities in the Mediterranean countries in the next two years, contributing to making 100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030;
23. Congratulates the ICG/NEAMTWS for the finalization and publication of a new ICG/NEAMTWS 2021-2030 Strategy in line with the UN Ocean Science Decade for Sustainable Development;
24. Welcomes the decision to organize and conduct the next North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas Wave Exercise in 2023 (NEAMWave23);

Part III:

Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS)

25. Notes the establishment of a Task Team of the Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) under ICG/PTWS Working Group 2 and a Task Team on UN Ocean Decade with particular reference to the Ocean Decade Tsunami programme;
26. Congratulates the ICG/PTWS for the finalization and publication of the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS) Strategy 2022–2030;
27. Further notes the start of the Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC)'s full functionality as interim service for PTWS as of 17 January 2022;
28. Welcomes the decision to organize and conduct a tenth Exercise Pacific Wave in 2022 (PacWave 22) in the months of September through November 2022 to support International Disaster Risk Reduction Day (13 October) and World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November), as a series of regional exercises organized through the PTWS regional working groups;
29. Further welcomes the hosting of a scientific meeting of experts on the New Hebrides Trench and a scientific meeting of experts to discuss tsunami sources, hazard and risk associated with the Chile-Perú subduction zone;
30. Recommends that Member States make data from their GNSS networks publicly available in real-time, and that all stations within 200 km of the coast are included since such inland stations also provide valuable constraints on tsunami excitation;
31. Endorses that the PTWS Earthquake Source Zone be expanded to include the southernmost Atlantic seismic region to routinely provide Member States of the PTWS with information about the frequent large earthquakes from this region and any subsequent tsunami threat;

Part IV:

Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG)

32. Recalling IOC Assembly Resolution XIV-14 proposing the establishment of a Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG),
33. Further recalling IOC Assembly Decision IOC-31/3.4.1 establishing the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (the Programme) with TOWS-WG serving as the Global Steering Committee for the Programme,
34. Reiterates that the UN Ocean Decade provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to leverage novel sensing platforms, techniques and/or infrastructures in order to more quickly and accurately detect and warn for tsunamis and increase community preparedness and resilience including through the Tsunami Ready programme;
35. Approves the establishment of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme as described in the working document “Tsunami Ready Programme – Proposal for endorsement by IOC” dated 21 February 2022;
36. Approves also:
 - (i) the amendments to the Terms of Reference of the TOWS-WG, including new functions assigned to it by the Decision IOC-31/3.4.1. in the context of the UN Ocean Decade as in Annex 1 to this decision;
 - (ii) the Terms of Reference for the Tsunami Ready Coalition, as included under Annex 2 to this decision;
 - (iii) the amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee, as included under Annex 3 to this decision;
37. Recommends that GOOS consider ocean bottom pressure as an Essential Ocean Variable (EOV), given its importance for the detection and characterisation of tsunamis and computation of general ocean circulation.
38. Instructs the regional Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs):
 - (i) to encourage sea-level network operators to undertake regular and routine calibration of their sea-level monitoring instrumentation, following recommendations of IOC Manuals & Guides, 3 and 14 (Volumes I-V),
 - (ii) to routinely monitors the status of seismic and sea level related observing networks to identify and better help rectify gaps in coverage and free and open data exchange,
 - (iii) that Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) and National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) identify all coastal areas or near-shore faults that could generate large earthquakes and submarine landslides and be prepared to issue warnings as appropriate,
 - (iv) the addition of the task to facilitate the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme to the Terms of Reference of each ICG Tsunami Information Centre;
39. Requests the PTWS to:
 - (i) share their local source SOPs efforts with other ICGs, with a view toward developing consistent approaches,
 - (ii) share its document on NTWC Competency Framework (2017), with other regions, and invite comments and feedback with a view toward developing a global framework;

40. Supports continuation of the strong collaboration between the IOC and UNDRR for World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November), noting that the WTAD 2022 will highlight Target F of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
41. Extends the tenure of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems and its Task Teams on: (i) Disaster Management & Preparedness (TTDMP), and (ii) Tsunami Watch Operations (TTTWO), with terms of reference as given in Annex 1 for TOWS-WG, IOC/TOWS-WG-VI/3, Annex II for TTDMP and IOC/TOWS-WG-X/3, Annex II (Appendix 1) for TTTWO;
42. Agrees that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall IOC Programme and Budget draft resolution A-31/[4.4].

Annex 1

Revised Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG)

Mandate

The TOWS-WG will:

- (a) Advise on co-ordinated development and implementation activities on warning and mitigation systems for tsunamis and other hazards related to sea level of common priority to all ICG/TWSs, with special emphasis on:
 - (i) harmonization and standardization of relevant observation, data management and communication, forecast and warning, disaster management and preparedness practices,
 - (ii) development of synergies in capacity-building and outreach activities,
 - (iii) reinforcement of intergovernmental, international and national capabilities on hazard knowledge, vulnerability, and impact assessment,
 - (iv) effective coordination with all related subsidiary bodies, expert groups and partner organizations with relevant mandates.
- (b) Perform Global Steering Committee functions for the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (the programme) including:
 - (i) define the programme deliverables and Key Performance Indicators (KPI) based on the expectations of the operational tsunami community, research scientific opportunities and the availability of resources,
 - (ii) define the Tsunami Implementation Plan (TIP) to guide the execution of the programme during the course of the UN Ocean Decade,
 - (iii) identify opportunities for collaboration between the programme, IOC and other UN Ocean Decade programmes, IHO, IMO, UNDRR, WMO and related initiatives undertaken by for example the FDSN, IUGG JTC, GEBCO, SMART Cables Joint Task Force and other relevant partners;
- (c) Report to the IOC Executive Council and Assembly on these related activities and propose new recommendations and actions, as required;
- (d) Advise the IOC Executive Council and Assembly regarding:
 - (i) instructions to the relevant subsidiary bodies responsible for coordinating the implementation of TOWS-WG actions,
 - (ii) any liaison or consultation required with relevant international and intergovernmental stakeholders in implementing TOWS-WG actions not under

the unique mandate of IOC;

The TOWS-WG shall review and provide guidance on establishing the framework mechanism for a comprehensive, sustained and integrated end-to-end global system covering tsunami and other hazards related to sea level, exploiting existing IOC mechanisms, capacities and capabilities, and facilitating priority projects and programmes, in alignment with the IOC Strategic Plan and IOC Executive Council decisions, and in coordination with relevant stakeholders.

Membership and modus operandi

The membership of the TOWS-WG will be constituted by:

- a) The Chairpersons of the four ICG-TWSs, the Scientific Committee of the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami programme, the special Tsunami Ready Coalition, and representatives of the GOOS Steering Committee and IODE,
- b) Three Members of the IOC Executive Council, nominated by the IOC Chairperson, taking into account geographical distribution,
- c) High-level non-voting representatives invited from the key TOWS-WG stakeholders in scientific, earth observation and disaster risk reduction fields outside IOC, including CTBTO, FDSN/GSN, IHO, IMO IUGG Joint Tsunami Commission, UNDRR, WMO, and other relevant intergovernmental and international agencies,
- d) Appointed members of the Executive Council may be re-appointed for a second two-year term;

The TOWS-WG shall be chaired by one of the Vice-Chairpersons of IOC.

The TOWS-WG shall meet once a year, prior to the IOC Executive Council or the Assembly.

The IOC Executive Secretary shall provide the secretariat for the TOWS-WG.

Annex 2 Terms of Reference of the Tsunami Ready Coalition

Goal: Contribute to increasing the number of Tsunami Ready recognized communities as part of the UN Ocean Decade.

Objectives:

The goal should be achieved through the following objectives:

1. Raise the profile of Tsunami Ready in collaboration with critical stakeholders across the UN system, interested regional organizations, national disaster management agencies and the public,
2. Increase funding resources for the implementation of Tsunami Ready,
3. Advise the TOWS-WG, TTDMP, and TTTWO on the implementation of Tsunami Ready, including on measures related to:
 - (i) flexibility with regards to accomplishing the indicators to allow for circumstances where formal bureaucratic frameworks/requirements may pose barriers,
 - (ii) consideration of unique regional and/or local circumstances,
 - (iii) recognition of similar standards already in place in some countries,

The Coalition will not have a programmatic role with regards to the Tsunami Ready initiative; the technical aspects (i.e. IOC Manual & Guides, 74: Standard Guidelines for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme) will remain the mandate and responsibility of the TT-DMP and the respective ICGs.

Membership could include, as appropriate, representatives from international, regional and

national organizations and UN Decade Ocean Alliances such as:

International:

- IFRC
- International Association of Emergency Managers (IEAM)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- Relevant ICG Working Groups and Task Teams
- Save the Children
- Tsunami Information Centres
- UNDP
- UNDRR

UN Ocean Decade Alliance

- WMO
- International Maritime Organisation

Regional:

- Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO)
- ASEAN
- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
- CARIDIMA Youth Platform for DRM in the Caribbean.
- Coordination Center for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC)
- Directorate-General for the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Ais Operations of the EC (DG-ECHO-EC)
- Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) (Headquarters in Rabat, Morocco).
- Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC-EC)
- Pacific Community (SPC)
- U-INSPIRE Alliance (Asia and the Pacific Alliance of Youth and Young Professionals in Science, Engineering, Technology, and Innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience)
- UNESCAP

National:

- AID National Agencies/Organizations
- Emergency Management Agencies/EDMAs
- French Inter- Ministerial for the Antilles Estate Major Zone (EMIZA)
- IOC & Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs) & Tsunami Ready Focal Points (TRFPs)
- National Commissions for UNESCO
- National Youth organisations

Organizational structure

Given the potential size of the Coalition, the Chair of the Coalition will propose a governing structure to the TOWS-WG at its sixteenth meeting.

The Chair of the Coalition will be appointed by the Chair of IOC in consultation with the Chair of the TOWS-WG.

Reporting

The Coalition will report activities and progress to the TOWS-WG.

Annex-3

Revised Terms of reference of the Scientific Committee for the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme [original in Annex to IOC Dec. A-31/3.4.1]

[new text underlined]

The Scientific Committee will:

- (i) Develop a Draft 10-Year Research, Development and Implementation Plan for the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme based on the concept paper *“Protecting Communities from the World’s Most Dangerous Waves: A Framework for Action under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”*;
- (ii) Identify and address gaps in global tsunami hazard assessment as follows:
 - a) comprehensive assessment to include all potential tsunamis, anywhere in the world, regardless of their source,
 - b) strategies to validate historical tsunami sources, through the application of paleotsunami techniques and historical seismology;
- (iii) Identify gaps in tsunami detection, measurement, forecasting, with a special emphasis on tsunamis generated close to populated coastlines;
- (iv) Propose to enhance sensing and analysis strategies to enable the rapid characterization of tsunami sources through the combined use of land-based seismic and geodetic sensors, GNSS terminals, coastal sea level gauges, deep-ocean tsunameters, SMART repeaters on deep-ocean fiber-optic cables and satellite-based observations;
- (v) Propose a roadmap for collaboration with the ITU/WMO/IOC SMART Joint Task Force cable initiative to fully explore the feasibility of widespread deployment of scientific instrumentation on deep-ocean fiber-optic cables to improve capability to rapidly detect and characterize tsunami sources as well as propagating tsunami wave fields;
- (vi) Consider and propose strategies, programmes and content to enhance societal resilience for tsunami and other ocean hazards;
 - a) build the framework needed to ensure the training and development of the next generation of technical-scientific expertise,
 - b) identify strategies that allow to characterize structural and social vulnerability in tsunami hazard zones
 - c) propose strategies for promoting implementation of community preparedness initiatives such as IOC Tsunami Ready to ensure 100 % at risk communities are prepared & resilient to tsunamis by 2030
- (vii) Overview the consolidation of inputs received to IOC [Circular Letter 2825](#) on Inventory of actions being considered under the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) in the field of Tsunamis and Other Sea-Level Related Hazards warning and mitigation;
- (viii) Submit a Draft 10-Year Research, Development and Implementation Plan for endorsement by the TOWS-WG at its 16th meeting.

73. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

3.5.2 Progress Report of the Intersessional Open-ended Working Group on the Status of the Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

[Dec. IOC-XXX/3.3.4, A-31/3.5.6]

<i>Working document:</i>	IOC/EC-55/3.5.2.Doc(1)	Progress Report of the Intersessional Open-ended Working Group on the Status of the Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)
<i>Reference:</i>	IOCINDIO-VIII/3s	Executive Summary Report of the 8th Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean, 17–19 May 2021 (online)
	IOC Circular Letter, 2872	Invitation to Member States to nominate members of the open-ended intersessional Working Group on the Status of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

74. Rear Admiral (Retd) Khurshed Alam, a Co-Chair of the Intersessional Open-ended Working Group on the Status of the Regional Committee of the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) and IOCINDIO Chair, speaking on behalf of the Working Group CO-Chairs, presented the progress report on the subject. He recalled that the IOC Assembly at its 31st session discussed and welcomed the IOCINDIO-VIII Recommendation for changing the status of the regional committee into an IOC Sub-Commission and the responsive views of Member States to the proposal. The Assembly then decided to undertake the necessary remaining steps towards the establishment of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean through the creation of a dedicated intersessional open-ended Working Group taking into account the above proposal as a framework to improve coordination between IOC Member States and ensure implementation of IOC programmes in the Indian Ocean.
75. The Working Group was constituted in January 2022 following the mailing of IOC Circular Letter [2872](#). The group is co-chaired by the chairpersons of IOC and IOCINDIO and its Terms of Reference include three major items:
- identify necessary steps for the establishment of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean,
 - present a written progress report for discussion by the Executive Council at its 55th session,
 - prepare a proposal for the establishment of an IOC Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean including its title, terms of reference; geographic area of responsibility; programme of work with the proposed projects and funding support; mechanisms for coordination with adjacent sub-commissions, and other necessary specifications; and submit it to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session as a working document as well as a draft resolution on the above subject.
76. The Working Group held three online consultation meetings before the Executive Council. It is anticipated that the Working Group may meet during the session of this Executive Council. The results of its discussions were summarized in document IOC/EC-55/3.5.2.Doc(1) for the consideration of this session of the Executive Council. The work of the Working Group developed according to plan of its activities in order to present the specifications of the emerging sub-commission and related draft resolution to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd Session in 2023.

Dec. EC-55/3.5.2

Progress Report of the Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on the Status of the Regional Committee of the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

The Executive Council,

1. Welcoming document IOC/EC-55/3.5.2.Doc(1) that conveys the progress report of the Intersessional Open-ended Working Group on the Status of the Regional Committee of the Central Indian Ocean established by Decision A-31/3.5.6 of the IOC Assembly at its 31st session,
2. Thanks the Co-Chairs for leading the Working Group;
3. Notes the ongoing consultations and their focus on such necessary specifications of the potential future IOC subsidiary body for the Indian Ocean as its title, terms of reference, geographic area of responsibility, programme of work with the proposed projects and funding support and the mechanisms for coordination with adjacent sub-commissions;
4. Welcomes and appreciates the participation of IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC in the Working Group deliberations;
5. Invites the Working Group to submit its final report and recommendation for consideration by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session.

77. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

4. IOC RELEVANT ISSUES RELATED TO UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)
[39 C/Resolution 25; Res. XXIX-1, XXX-1, A-31/1]

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/EC-55/4.1.Doc(1)	Status of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)
	IOC/EC-55/4.1.Doc(1) Add.	Outcomes of 2nd Decade Call for actions and scope of 3rd Call
<u>Information:</u>	IOC/INF-1413	Status of the establishment of Decade coordinating mechanisms (DCOs, DCCs, DIPs, NDCs)
	IOC/INF-1414	Establishment of the Decade Advisory Board and rules of procedure
	IOC/INF-1418	IOC contributions to the Ocean Decade and resource needs, including coordination mechanisms
	IOC/INF-1419	Resource Needs for Decade Actions
	IOC/2022/ODS/35	Report of the Decade Advisory Board Meeting No. 01/2022
	IOC/2022/ODS/37	Ocean Decade Progress Report 2021–2022

78. The Executive Secretary introduced this item.
79. A Co-Chair of the Decade Advisory Board provided a brief introduction of the work of the Board since its inception, focused on the review of Programme submission for the 2nd Call for Decade Actions, as well as addressing strategic issues related to the implementation of the Decade.
80. Mr Barbière, Head of the Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section and IOC focal point for the Decade, presented an overview of the progress in operationalizing the Implementation Plan. Mr Barbière reported on the outcome of the Call for Decade Actions No. 02/2021, the establishment of the Decade Advisory Board in December 2021 on the basis of the ToRs adopted by IOC Assembly 31, the engagement and resource mobilisation strategy for IOC to support its Decade coordination role well as its IOC programmatic contributions. He also reported on the establishment of Decade coordinating mechanisms (DCOs, DCCs, DIPs, NDCs).

Draft Resolution EC-55/[4.1]

Submitted by India, Morocco

Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)

The Executive Council,

1. **Recalling** IOC Resolution EC-53/1 on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030),

Part 1 – Decade Coordination

2. **Considering** document IOC/EC-55/4.1.Doc(1) on the status of the implementation of the UN Ocean Decade and its addendum presenting the outcomes of the 2nd Decade Call for Actions and scope of the 3rd Call,
3. **Takes notes** of the establishment of Decade coordinating mechanisms (DCOs, DCCs, DIP, NDCs) as presented in document IOC/INF-1413;
4. **Also takes note** of the establishment of the Decade Advisory Board and its rules of procedure as presented in document IOC/INF-1414;
5. **Thanks** the members of the Interim Decade Advisory Board for their contribution up to December 2021;
6. **Invites** Member States and partners to:
 - (i) provide voluntary financial contributions to support the work of the IOC Secretariat in coordinating the Decade including in-kind support (such as staff loans) and secondments to the Decade Coordination Unit (DCU);
 - (ii) offer to host and fund Decade Actions, Decade Coordination Offices, and Decade Collaborative Centres as described in the Decade Implementation Plan;
 - (iii) establish National Decade Committees (NDC) with a view to stimulating national activities and international cooperation; and
 - (iv) host regional or international Decade stakeholders events, including in the context of the International Ocean Decade Conference Series.

7. **Further invites** UN-Oceans partners, UN Member States, international scientific and academic organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to support the Decade, and contribute to its implementation by proposing Decade Actions in accordance with the Decade Implementation Plan;
8. **Thanks** the Governments of Canada, China, France, India, Japan, the Kingdom of Belgium (Government of Flanders), Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland as well as REV-Ocean, Panerai, and FUGRO for their financial contributions to the Decade;
9. **Further thanks** the Government of Germany for their hosting of the High Level Launch of the Ocean Decade – First International Ocean Decade Conference and the UN Ocean Decade Laboratories, the Government of Egypt for hosting the African Conference on Priority Setting & Partnership Development for the Decade; the Government of Thailand for hosting UN Ocean Decade Kick-off Conference for the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas; and the Mohammed VI Foundation (Morocco) for hosting the Ocean Decade Foundations Dialogue;

Part 2 – IOC Contribution to the Decade

10. **Supports** the registration or planned registration of IOC-led Decade Actions, specifically:
 - Xxx,
 - Yyy;
11. **Also supports** the active role of the IOC Regional and Technical Subsidiary Bodies and Programmes in facilitating Decade regional and thematic coordination and engagement activities, and in particular of:
 - IOC WESTPAC Secretariat acting as Decade Coordination Office for the Western Pacific Region;
 - IODE Programme Office acting as Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Data;
 - GOOS Project Office acting as Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Observation;
12. **Takes note** of the resource needs identified by IOC Programmes to fulfil Decade coordination functions; and
13. **Invites** Member States, partners, and donor organizations to support these Decade Actions and Coordination mechanisms, including through allocation of extra-budgetary resources to relevant IOC programmes, to achieve their transformative ambitions, guide their respective communities, and act as catalysers of further actions within and beyond the Decade.

81. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

4.2 OTHER UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVES [Rules of Procedure 21.2C]

<u>Working document:</u>	IOC/EC-55/4.2.Doc(1)	IOC contribution to UN processes (BBNJ, UNFCCC, and UN Ocean Conference)
<u>Reference:</u>	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)

82. Mr Barbière, Head of the Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section, introduced this agenda item by highlighting a number of UN processes relevant to ocean affairs in which IOC contributed during the intersessional period.
83. The Secretariat ensured strong representation at the UNFCCC COP 26 Climate Change Conference (Glasgow, UK, 1–13 Nov), where it organized several side events focusing on the Ocean Decade, ocean acidification, ocean observations, blue carbon and marine spatial planning. A key ocean-related outcome of the UNFCCC can be expected from the recently established regular “ocean-climate” dialogue held by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). The IOC Secretariat plans further engagement in both the Ocean-Climate Dialogue as well as the Research Dialogue under UNFCCC SBSTA.
84. Mr Barbière reported that IOC actively contributes to the negotiation process on an International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). During the intersessional work, IOC participated in two webinars on the Clearing-House Mechanism (14 October and 2 November 2021), and presented the work of IOC in relation to Capacity Development and Data and Information Management, as well as IOC the Clearing-House Mechanism currently in development as part of the [Ocean InfoHub Project](#). He reported that the fourth Intergovernmental Conference (IGC-4) took place in New York on 7–18 March 2022 but did not conclude its work. As a result, a 5th IGC will be conducted in New York on 15–26 August 2022. There is currently no consensus yet on the management and modalities of the Clearing-House, however there is some convergence that the Clearing-house be managed by the BBNJ Secretariat, potentially with support from other bodies (including IOC).
85. Finally, Mr Barbière highlighted the preparations for the 2022 UN Ocean Conference planned to take place in Lisbon, Portugal from 27 June to 1 July. The central theme of the Conference is “Scaling up Ocean Action based on science and innovation for the Implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions”. The Conference will also provide input to the review of SDG 14 by the High Level Policy Forum that will meet in July 2022. He reported that IOC directly supported the conference by leading the preparation of concept papers for the interactive policy dialogues that will structure the core programme of the conference. IOC had also advanced in planning of a series of high-level events to be held during the conference proceedings related to the Decade, as well as IOC programmatic areas. The Conference will adopt a final Declaration which in its draft form includes a reference to the role of the IOC and the Ocean Decade. He further reported that both the IOC Executive Secretary and the UNESCO Director-General have been invited to address the UN High Level Policy Forum taking place at UN Headquarters from 5 to 15 July, which will focus *inter alia* on the review of SDG 14.

Dec. EC-55/4.2

IOC in Other UN Initiatives

The Executive Council,

1. Considering documents IOC/EC-55/4.2.Doc(1) and 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),
2. Welcomes the outcome of the UNFCCC COP-26 Glasgow Climate Pact and its provisions related to the ocean, in particular the establishment of an annual Ocean-Climate Dialogue,

in the context the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to strengthen the ocean-based action, and further invites IOC to contribute actively to its work ;

3. Takes note of the decision to organise the 5th meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ (15–26 August 2022) and further invites IOC Member States to support the role of the Commission and its possible contributions on the basis of information contained in the Non-Paper (IOC/INF-1387);
4. Invites IOC Member States to actively take part in the UN Ocean Conference, 27 June–1 July 2022 in Lisbon, and highlight their contribution to IOC and the Ocean Decade reinforcing the importance of ocean science towards the achievement of SDG 14 and the 2030 Agenda;
5. Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to continue engaging with these processes by providing scientific and technical support as relevant.

86. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

5. GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

5.1 FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION A-31/2: GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING MATTERS OF THE COMMISSION

<u>Working documents:</u>	IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1)	Proposed Revision of the IOC Rules of Procedure – First Draft
	IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(2)	Report of the Chair of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (intersessional period December 2021–June 2022)
<u>Reference:</u>	Resolution A-31/2	Governance, programming and budgeting matters of the Commission: resolution adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session

87. The Executive Secretary introduced this item.

88. He recalled that by Resolution A-31/2, adopted during its 31st session in 2021, the Assembly requested “the IOC Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the UNESCO Legal Advisor and IFAG, a preliminary proposal for the revised separate sets of Rules of Procedure for the IOC Assembly and Rules of Procedure for the IOC Executive Council, making the necessary clarifications and aligning language versions, for review and adoption by these two bodies.”

89. Accordingly, the Secretariat, in consultation with UNESCO Legal Office, identified a competent legal consultant to provide the initial analysis of the feasibility and potential complications of drafting separate sets of Rules of Procedure for the IOC Assembly and for the IOC Executive Council. This analysis was presented to the IOC Officers during their annual meeting, 17–21 January 2022 and shared with the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (IFAG) by the IFAG Chair in his email communication of 14 April 2022.

90. The main conclusion is that while the preparation of such separate sets of Rules of Procedure does not seem to be barred by obstacles rendering it unfeasible, it however constitutes

a more challenging exercise than would appear *prima facie*. First, the separation process must be assessed against statutory constraints. Secondly, it entails a careful consideration of the existing provisions of the Rules of Procedure, which do not evenly apply to the Assembly and Executive Council. Thirdly, the analysis concurs that the current Commission's Rules of Procedure evidently suffer from a defective alignment of the language versions, as pointed out in the Report of the IFAG Chair to the 31st session of the Assembly ([IOC/A-31/4.3.Doc](#)). There are obvious discrepancies between the English and French versions of the current Rules, which may lead to significant difficulties in interpreting and implementing the relevant provisions.

91. Separating the current Rules of Procedure into two sets of rules respectively applicable to the Assembly and the Executive Council is therefore only feasible on the basis of a clear identification of the object and purpose of existing provisions.
92. For the reasons given above, the document (IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1)) presented for consideration by the Executive Council is based on the proposal to:
- refrain from engaging in a procedure of amendment of the IOC Statutes;
 - in conformity with Article 6.B.3 of the Statutes, maintain a single set of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, to be formally determined by the Assembly;
 - revise the current Rules of Procedure on the basis of a distinction among general rules, rules applicable to the Assembly and the Executive Council, and rules applicable only to one of these bodies;
 - amend Rules 55 and 56 in order to acknowledge and specify the competence of the Executive Council to amend or suspend rules relating to its organization and functioning.
93. The Executive Secretary attracted Member States' attention to the fact that the Annex to document IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1) also contains a non-exhaustive set of comments by legal experts indicating where Member States may wish to consider the benefit of further clarifications, requiring a more in-depth review of the Rules. He also highlighted that a more detailed analysis of the matters at stake is available for Member States attention on document IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(2) 'Report of the Chair of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (intersessional period December 2021–June 2022).
94. He concluded by inviting Member States to actively participate in the work of the sessional Financial Committee that will examine the proposed draft Rules of Procedure and formulate the draft resolution for adoption in plenary under agenda item 5.2. This will guide the work of the Secretariat in preparing the pre-final version for adoption by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session.

Dec. EC-55/5.1

Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission

The Executive Council,

1. Having examined documents IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1) and IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(2),
2. Takes note of the documents IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1) and IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(2) subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion and adoption in plenary.

95. The representatives of ___ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

5.2 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE
[Resolutions XXX-3; A-31/2]

Documentation: See items 3.1 and 5.1

96. The Chair of the Financial Committee, Vice-Chair of IOC Karim Hilmi (Morocco), reported to the Executive Council on the results of the Committee's examination of the items entrusted to it by the plenary in addition to the statutory ones foreseen in the Rule of Procedure 8.1(c).
97. The Executive Council adopted Resolution EC-55/[5.2] below submitted by ____.

Draft Resolution EC-55/[5.2] to be submitted during the session

GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING MATTERS OF THE COMMISSION

The Executive Council,

1. Having examined documents:
- 2.

98. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

5.3 PREPARATION OF THE NEXT SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY
AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
[Statutes Art. 7.C.8; Rule of Procedure 8.3 & 21.2(C); Rule of Procedure 19.2]

99. The Executive Secretary reminded the Council of IOC Decision A-31/4.6 of the Assembly at its 31st Session.

Dec. EC-55/5.3

Preparation of the 32nd Session of the Assembly and next Sessions of the Executive Council

The Executive Council,

1. Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 54th session (EC-54, Dec. 4) and IOC Decision A-31/4.6 of the Assembly at its 31st session,
2. Noting that the extraordinary session of the Executive Council dedicated to the adoption of a separate set of Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council is no longer required [*subject to the adoption of the approach to the reorganization of the Rules of Procedure as proposed in IOC/EC-55/5.1.Doc(1)*],
3. Decides to hold:
 - (i) The 32nd session of the Assembly for a duration of 6.5 days plus one Ocean Science Day, at UNESCO Headquarters, over the period from _____ June 2023, preceded by a one-day session of the Executive Council (56th session) acting as the steering committee of the Assembly;
 - (ii) The 57th session of the Executive Council for 3.5 days in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris over the period of _____ 2024,

100. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

6. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND MODALITIES FOR THE FINALISATION OF THE REPORT

101. The Chairperson thanked the Rapporteur Mr/Ms _____ from [country] for his/her excellent work in support of the work of the session.
102. The Chair of the Resolutions Committee reported to the Council on the work of the Committee during the session (Annex __ to the present report).
103. The IOC Chair then invited the Executive Council to adopt, in plenary, the draft decisions that were still pending after discussion in plenary and __ resolutions. Parts of the draft summary report of the discussions at the present session were presented to the Council in English only for information.

Dec. EC-55/6

Adoption of Resolutions and modalities for the finalisation of the report

The Executive Council,

1. Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 52nd session (EC-LII, Dec.3.3) on organization matters,
2. Adopts the decisions and __ resolutions of the session;
3. Takes note of the draft summary report of the session and the compilation of the decisions adopted during the session (IOC/EC-55/Decisions Prov.);
4. Requests the Executive Secretary to circulate the narrative part of the report to Member States in the four working languages of the Commission by ____ 2022 at the latest for its adoption by correspondence by ____.

104. The representatives of __ Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: _____.

7. CLOSURE

105. The Council met in plenary session during __ days from __ to __ June 2022, considered __ items on its agenda and approved __ decisions and _ resolutions. The session encompassed __ meetings of the Financial Committee, __ meetings of the Resolutions Committee, and __ meetings of the sessional Working Group on _____. It was preceded by _____. The Secretariat prepared __ documents. The Chair reported that some __ participants registered for the session with some __ delegates connected daily.
106. The Chair of the Commission closed the 55th session of the Executive Council at _____ Paris time.