



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

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IOC Circular Letter No 2940

(Available in English, French, Russian, Spanish)

IOC/VR/XY/pbo
18 March 2023

- To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with the IOC (Member States)
Executive Heads of Intergovernmental and Non-governmental organizations
cooperating with the IOC
- Cc. : The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

**Subject: Invitation to the Thirty-second Session of the IOC Assembly,
21–30 June 2023 and Fifty-sixth Session of the IOC
Executive Council, 20 June 2023, UNESCO HQ, Paris**

It is my great pleasure to invite you, on behalf of the IOC Chairperson Mr Ariel H. Troisi, to attend the 32nd Session of the IOC Assembly. It will be held at UNESCO Headquarters on 21–30 June 2023. States members of the IOC Executive Council will meet for the 56th session of the Council on 20 June 2023, one day before the Assembly. This session will act as the steering committee for the Assembly. Also, Executive Council members will participate in the consultation process for the appointment of the next IOC Executive Secretary. Please expect a dedicated circular letter on this specific issue.

The provisional agenda for the Assembly provides a global overview of the developments of the Commission' activity over the biennium, mostly through the reports of IOC subsidiary bodies. Some reporting items requested by the Assembly and Executive Council at their previous sessions will be addressed in my report under item 3.2. The provisional agenda and timetable attached hereto have been prepared in consultation with the Officers during their meeting last January. In view of the technical nature of some items on the agenda, it would be much appreciated if consideration is given to the inclusion in government delegations of representatives and experts conversant with the subject matters of the session. Let me also cordially reiterate to Member States the need to give due consideration to gender balance in the composition of their delegations.

The Action Paper is the guiding document for the session. It contains initial draft of formal decisions and draft resolutions proposed by Member States for each agenda item. Let me invite Member States and partner organizations to liaise closely with the secretariat on the drafting of decisions of the session. Please kindly do so as early as possible. The Action Paper will be available on the

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Assembly website <https://oceanexpert.org/event/3837> as an evolving document. As customary, decisions will be reviewed on-screen and adopted immediately after an agenda item is discussed.

Draft Resolutions (DRs) should be presented by one or more Member States in accordance with document [IOC/INF-1315](#) by Friday 16 June, 10 a.m. at the latest, with the exception of the Draft Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission to be submitted during the session by the Financial Committee. A form for the submission of DRs is attached.

As stipulated by Rule of Procedure No. 9, supplementary items requiring a decision may be submitted to the Secretariat by any Member State of the Commission or partner organization not later than two months before the beginning of the session, i.e. 21 April 2023. Requests for supplementary items should be submitted to the Secretariat along with a short working document composed of a brief background (not more than 800 words), the action requested from the Assembly, the indication of financial implications if any, and a draft decision.

In addition to the formal plenary discussion, an Ocean Science Day (OSD) is organised on 22 June to discuss current challenges in ocean science, potentially with a wider audience. The two main items of OSD will be a discussion of opportunities and challenges for adaptation and mitigation to ocean change, followed by a session highlighting the existing contributions of IOC to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and a dialogue on the perspectives, benefits and challenges for future increased contributions by IOC programmes and regional subsidiary bodies to the Decade.

The elections of the Officers of the Commission and the members of the Executive Council will take place during this session of the Assembly in accordance with the technical arrangements appended to the [IOC Rules of Procedure](#). Candidatures must reach the IOC Secretariat at latest two working days before the day of the elections scheduled on Wednesday 28 June 2023.

For security reasons and organizational purposes it is particularly important that IOC Members States and partner organizations first notify the Secretariat of the complete list of their delegation with names of designated Head of delegation, representatives, alternates and advisers for the session by order of precedence, with copy to their Permanent Delegation to UNESCO when relevant. In addition, all participants to the sessions must be registered individually on the dedicated online registration platform, which will be open at <https://ioc-registration.civi-go.net> from 15 April. If you need further information or assistance, please refer to the session website or contact the Secretariat (c/o Patrice Boned, p.boned@unesco.org).

Due to the high level of activity at headquarters during the month of June, delegations wishing to organise an event or offering a "coffee service" during the session are invited to contact the conference service or the catering service as soon as possible and to inform the Secretariat. The list of side events and their locations will be displayed on the Assembly webpage.

In the margins of the Assembly, Member States are also reminded that each "Electoral Group" will be invited to select one expert member of the [GOOS Steering Committee](#) for the two-year term, from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025, in accordance with the IOC Resolution XXVI-8 establishing the GOOS Steering Committee. These five experts will have, in addition to their technical expertise, the role of providing policy advice and guidance to the GOOS Steering Committee in order to align GOOS activities with decisions of the IOC Governing Bodies. Please note that the working language of the GOOS Steering Committee is English. The IOC Vice-Chairs will lead the final selection process amongst Member States of the electoral group they represent, if possible by consensus, and present candidates for appointment during the 32nd Session of the Assembly. Nominations with the candidate's CV should be submitted to the GOOS secretariat (f.collins@unesco.org) not later than 30 April 2023.

I look forward to welcoming you in Paris and remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:

Provisional Agenda for the 32nd Session of the Assembly (IOC-32/2.1.Doc Prov.)

Provisional Timetable for the session (IOC-32/2.1.Doc add Prov.)

Submission form for Draft Resolutions

Provisional Agenda for the 56th Session of the Executive Council (IOC/EC-56/2.1.Doc Prov.)

Additional online resources:

List of current members of the IOC [Executive Council \(2021–2023\)](#)

IOC nomination forms for elections: [chairpersonship](#); [vice-chairpersonship](#); [membership](#)



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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Thirty-second Session of the Assembly
UNESCO, 21–30 June 2023

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. OPENING

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
[Rule of Procedure 8]

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR
[Rule of Procedure 25.4]

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

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

2.5 IOC MEMORIAL LECTURES
[Dec. EC-55/5.3, A-31/3.2]

3. IOC MATTERS AND REPORTS

3.1 STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON
[Rule of Procedure 8.1(a)]

3.2 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED
SINCE THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY
[Rule of Procedure 8.1(b) and (c) 8.1(g), 49.1]

3.3 REPORTS OF THE IOC SUB-COMMISSIONS AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES
[Rule of Procedure 48.3]

**3.3.1 IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States:
6th Session of IOCAFRICA, Nairobi, Kenya, 15–17 March 2023**

**3.3.2 Fourteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the
Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XIV), Jakarta, Indonesia, 4–7 April 2023**

**3.3.3 IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions:
17th Session of IOCARIBE, Aruba, May 2023 (tbc)**

3.3.4 IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean: 8th Session of IOCINDIO, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 28–30 March 2023

3.4 REPORTS OF OTHER IOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES
[Rule of Procedure 48.3]

3.4.1 Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards

3.4.1.1 Regional Early Warning Services

3.4.1.2 Global Coordination of Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards
[Dec. A-31/3.4.1]

3.4.2 International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange: 27th Session of IODE, UNESCO, 22–24 March 2023

3.4.3 Harmful Algal Blooms: 15th Session of IPHAB, Rome, Italy, 27–29 March 2023

3.5 IOC REPORT TO THE 42nd GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO
[Statutes Art. 3.2; Rule of Procedure 49.2]

4. PROGRAMMATIC DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 REPORT OF THE IHO-IOC GEBCO GUIDING COMMITTEE AND OUTCOMES OF THE GEBCO GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2023
[Rule of Procedure 48.3; Dec. EC-55/3.1]

4.2 PRESENTATION OF THE REVISED PILOT IOC STATE OF THE OCEAN REPORT
[Dec. EC-53/3.1 & EC-55/3.3]

4.3 REVISION OF THE IOC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
[Dec. A-31/3.5.3; Dec. IOC-XXIX/10.1]

4.4 REVISION OF THE IOC OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA EXCHANGE POLICY (2003, 2019)
[A-31/3.4.2(III)]

4.5 STATUS OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL INDIAN OCEAN (IOCINDIO)
[Dec. EC-55/3.5.2; A31/3.5.6]

4.6 IOC CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN GOVERNANCE PROCESSES
[Rule of Procedure 8.1(g)]

4.7 DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW IOC-WIDE STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
[Dec. IOC-XXVI/8.2]

4.8 GLOBAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM WORK PLAN
[Rule of Procedure 8.1(j)]

4.8.1 Ocean Observation in Areas under National Jurisdiction
[Dec. IOC/EC-55/3.4]

4.9 FOUR-YEAR REVIEW OF THE JOINT WMO-IOC COLLABORATIVE BOARD
[Res. XXX-2; dec. A-31/3.5.5]

4.10 FOLLOW-UP TO WMO-ISC-IOC-UNEP GLOBAL CLIMATE OBSERVING SYSTEM (GCOS) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2022
[IOC-XXX/item 7.1.2, Dec. IOC-XXIX/6.1.2]

4.11 UPDATE ON IOC CUSTODIANSHIP ROLE IN RELATION TO UN SDG 14 INDICATORS
[Dec. IOC-XXX/3.2]

4.12 REPORT ON THE DECADE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
[Res. EC-55/1]

5. IOC AND THE FUTURE OF THE OCEAN: SUSTAINABLE DELIVERY AND EXPANSION OF IOC ACTIVITIES

[Res. XXX-3; Dec. IOC/EC-55/3.2]

6. GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

[Statutes Art. 6B]

6.1 DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2024–2025 (Draft 42 C/5)

6.2 FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION A-31/2 and EC-55/2 ON REVIEW & UPDATE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ON IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS
[Res. EC-55/2]

6.3 DRAFT ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE IOS EVALUATION OF THE IOC STRATEGIC POSITIONING
[Rule of Procedure 8.1(g)]

6.4 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE
[Statutes Art. 1.2]

6.5 ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
[Statutes Art. 6.B.5 and 7; Annex I to the Rules of Procedure]

6.5.1 Elections of the Chairperson of the Commission

6.5.2 Elections of the Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission

6.5.3 Elections of the Members of the Executive Council


6.6 33rd SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY AND 57TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

[Statutes, Art. C.7; Rule of procedure 19.2]

8. CLOSURE

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

		32 nd Session of the Assembly									
hour	Monday 19 June	Tuesday 20 June	Wednesday 21 June	Thursday 22 June	Friday 23 June	Monday 26 June	Tuesday 27 June	Wednesday 28 June	Thursday 29 June	Friday 30 June	
		56th EC									
				Ocean Science Day	Financial Committee (1)	Financial Committee (3) Resolution Committee (1)		Financial Committee (5)	Financial Committee (optional)		
08.00											
10.00 - 11.30	Meeting of IOC Officers	1. Opening 2. Organization of the session (2.1–2.2) 3. Arrangements for IOC-32 (3.1) <u>3.2</u> Request for Suppl. Items	2. Organization of the Session (2.1 – 2.4) 3. IOC Matters & Reports <u>3.1</u> Chair's Statement	Decade event Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture	<u>3.3.4</u> IOCINDIO <u>3.4</u> Report of Other SUBS <u>3.4.3</u> IPHAB	<u>3.4.2</u> IODE <u>4.4</u> Revision of the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy	<u>4.8</u> GOOS Workplan <u>4.8.1</u> Ocean Obs. in areas under national Jurisdiction	<u>4.6</u> IOC Contributions to UN Governance Process <u>4.7</u> Development of a new IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning & Manag't	5. (cont'd)	7. (cont'd)	
11.30 - 11.45		BREAK	BREAK								
11.45 - 13.00			<u>3.3</u> Sessional WG <u>3.4</u> Timetable 4. Dates & places next sessions 5. Consultation process on a shortlist of candidates for the post of Ex. Secretary (introduction)	<u>3.2</u> Ex. Sec's Report 6. Governance, programming & budgeting <u>6.1 – 6.2</u> P&B (draft 42 C/5) – Follow-up to Res. A-31/2 <u>6.3</u> Draft Action Plan following IOS evaluation (Introduction)	<i>(cont'd)</i>	<u>3.4.1</u> Ocean Hazards <u>3.4.1.1</u> Regional Early Warning Systems <u>3.4.1.2</u> Global coordination	<u>4.2</u> Revised Pilot StOR <u>4.11</u> Update on IOC / SDG 14 Indicators	<u>4.10</u> Follow-up to GCOS Implementation Plan 2022 <u>4.9</u> Four-year Review WMO-IOC JCB	6.5 Elections	<u>3.5</u> IOC Report to 42 GC of UNESCO	8. Closure
13.00 - 15.00	LUNCH BREAK		LUNCH BREAK		Financial Committee (2)	Financial Committee (4)	LUNCH BREAK	Nominations Committee Resolution Committee (2)	Resolution Committee (3)		
15.00 - 16.30	Intersessional Financial Advisory Group	5. Consultation process on a shortlist of candidates for the post of Executive Secretary (private session)	<u>3.2</u> , <u>6.1</u> , <u>6.2</u> , <u>6.3</u> Ex. Sec. response	<u>2.5</u> Anton Bruun Memorial Lecture	<u>4.3</u> IOC CD Strategy	<u>4.5</u> IOCINDIO Status	<u>4.12</u> Report on the Decade Implementation	6.5 Report Nom. Cttee - Elections (results)	6. Governance, Programming & Budgeting <u>6.4</u> Report of the Financial Committee		
16.30 - 16.45		Break		BREAK							
16.45 - 18.00			5. (Brief report) 6. Adoption of the EC Report 7. Closure	<u>3.3</u> Reports of SUBS <u>3.3.1</u> IOAFRICA <u>3.3.2</u> WESTPAC <u>3.3.3</u> IOCARIBE	Panel: Ocean change - adaption and mitigation opportunities and challenges	<u>2.5</u> NK Panikkar Memorial Lecture	<u>4.1</u> GEBCO GC	<u>4.12</u> (Cont'd)	5. IOC and the Future of the Ocean	<u>6.6</u> Next sessions 7. Adoption of Resolutions	
After 18.00			IOC Reception		 Closing date for the nominations for elections (18h00)						



DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMISSION FORM

With reference to the revised guidelines for the preparation and consideration of Draft Resolutions ([IOC/INF-1315](#)), a draft resolution is a proposed text submitted by one or several Member States to a Governing Body with a view to its adoption by the Governing Body concerned during the session to which the draft resolution is presented for consideration under the adopted agenda.

The deadline for submission is: _____

Draft Resolution proposal	
Agenda item:	
Title:	
Submitted by:	

The attached Draft Resolution fulfils at least one of the following criterion (tick for the relevant one(s)):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Reflect major policy, programmatic, external relations, financial and institutional decisions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approve or modify the Commission's programme and budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take action on formal Recommendations made to the Commission by any recognized entities concerned with the oceans

Budgetary implications and source of financing:	
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Name:	
Position:	
Signature:	
Date:	

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat: _____

Screening by the Resolutions Committee:

Screening by the Financial Committee:



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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Fifty-Sixth Session of the Executive Council
UNESCO, Paris, 20 June 2023

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**
 - 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - 2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR
- 3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 32nd SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY**
[Rule of Procedure 12.2]
 - 3.1 DESIGNATION OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES
 - 3.2 CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS
 - 3.3 CONSIDERATION OF SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS
 - 3.4 TIMETABLE
- 4. DATES AND PLACE OF THE 57TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND PROPOSAL FOR DATES AND PLACE OF THE 33TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY**
[Rules of Procedure 4 and 19.2]
- 5. CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHORT LIST OF APPLICANTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF IOC TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO (IN CAMERA¹)**
- 6. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT**
- 7. CLOSURE**

¹ Discussion of Item 5 on the selection process of the new Executive Secretary of the Commission will be held in an *in camera* meeting according to document IOC/INF-1316 Rev.: "Consultation for the appointment of the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO: process for the establishment of a short list of applicants for submission to the Director-General of UNESCO".