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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

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

PROVISIONAL ACTION PAPER

Covers **all items** of the Provisional Agenda

This Document provides the basis of the draft summary report of the session. It is written in past tense to streamline the reporting process.

1. OPENING

Documentation: *IOC/EC-56/AP Prov., Provisional Annotated Agenda*

1. The Chair, Mr Ariel Hernan Troisi, opened the 56th session of the Executive Council at 10.00 hrs in Room X on Tuesday 20 June 2023. He welcomed the participants and briefly referred to the documentation prepared for this session. He reminded delegates that the Council was acting as the Steering Committee for the 32nd session of the Assembly, in accordance with Rule of Procedure No. 12(2), with no substantial discussions on its agenda except notably the voting for the list of preferential candidates for the open position of IOC Executive Secretary in an *in camera* session.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Documentation: *IOC/EC-56/2.1Doc.Prov., Provisional Agenda*
IOC/EC-56/AP Prov., Provisional Annotated Agenda

2. The Executive Secretary introduced this item.
3. The Executive Secretary reminded the Council that it would start discharging its duties as the Assembly's Steering Committee in the morning and that it would be then devoting the first part of the afternoon session, from 15.00 hrs (Agenda Item 5), to the consultation process to draw up a shortlist of candidates for the post of Executive Secretary in the same room, in an *in camera* session. Only one official representative of a Member State of the IOC Executive Council would be present and vote during the *in camera* session. The Executive Secretary informed the Council that, to date, he had received nominations of such representatives from ___ out of the 40 Member States that make up the Council.

4. The candidacy of the IOC Chair for the post of Executive Secretary made him unable to chair the discussion under the Agenda Item 5. In accordance with Rule of Procedure 14, Mr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala, Vice-Chairperson for Electoral Group IV accepted the task of chairing the consultation process and the discussion on item 5. After the vote, the Executive Council would resume its work in plenary session at 16:45 hrs and adopt its report. Decisions were adopted at the end of the discussion of each agenda item.

EC-56, Dec. 2.1

Agenda

The Executive Council,

1. The Executive Council adopts the agenda as set out in document IOC/EC-56/2.1Doc.Prov. [with the following modification(s):]

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

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

EC-56, Dec. 2.2

Rapporteur

2. Upon a proposal from [*Country*], seconded by [*Country*],
3. The Executive Council designates [*name*] (*country*) Rapporteur for its present session to assist the Chair and the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the summary report of the session.

3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 32nd SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

[Rule of Procedure 12.2]

3.1 DESIGNATION OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

6. With reference to the revised provisional agenda for the Assembly, the Chair reminded the Executive Council of the role of each committees (Nominations, Resolutions and Financial) and proposed that items 6.1 (Draft Programme and Budget), 6.2 (revision of IOC Rules of Procedure), and 6.3 (IOC Strategic Positioning) be furthered examined by the Financial Committee after their discussion in plenary and the decisions be reflected in the draft resolution prepared under item 6.4 (Report of the Financial Committee). The Financial Committee is open-ended and its meetings had English/French interpretation.
7. He also reminded the Council that it could submit proposals on the committee chairpersonship and composition, but that the ultimate decision remains entirely with the Assembly. He invited Member States to consider participating in the work of committees. He reiterated the importance of all electoral groups being represented on the committees, particularly in the Nominations Committee.
8. The Chair indicated that, during the Assembly, he would not read out the names of the Member States wishing to participate in the various committees by show of hands during the Assembly with the exception of the Nominations Committee. Only the names of the Member States present and participating in the committees and sessional working groups were to be listed in the final report of the Assembly.

EC-56, Dec. 3.1**Sessional Committees**

The Executive Council,

1. Pursuant to Rule of Procedure No. 12(2) the Executive Council, acting as the Steering Committee of the Assembly, recommends to the Assembly the formation of each of the following committees:
 - Financial Committee: under the chairship of Dr Karim Hilmi (Morocco, Vice-chair). Ms Ksenia Yvinec provides the Secretariat support to the Financial Committee.
 - Resolutions Committee: under the chairship of Prof. Yutaka Michida (Japan). Mr Julian Barbière provides the Secretariat support to the Resolutions Committee.
 - Nominations Committee: under the chairship of [name] (country). Mr Bernardo Aliaga and Mr Henrik Enevoldsen provide the Secretariat support to the Nominations Committee.

3.2 CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

9. The Chair informed the Executive Council that, under Rules of Procedure 8, 9 and 11.2, concerning the preparation of the agenda for the Assembly, no request for a supplementary item was received at the Secretariat by 21 April 2023 (two months before the date of the opening of the 32nd session.)

3.3 CONSIDERATION OF SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS

10. The Chair then invited Member States and the Executive Secretary to express views on the need for sessional working groups during the Assembly on any item on its agenda, by briefly explaining the scope of their work expected. *[if none there would be no decision]*.

EC-56, Dec. 3.3**Sessional Working Groups**

The Executive Council,

1. Having examined the revised provisional agenda for the 32nd session of the Assembly,
2. With no prejudice to decision of the Assembly and its chair on establishing a sessional working group as needed during the discussion of any agenda item,
3. Recommends to the Assembly the establishment of the following working group at the beginning of its session under agenda item __:

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3.4 TIMETABLE

11. The Executive Secretary briefly presented the revised provisional agenda and timetable for the Assembly and the main side events recorded on the Assembly webpage. The large number of side events combined with the fact that several other events were being held at UNESCO during the session made it particularly difficult to manage the rooms available to the Commission. Dr Ryabinin then referred to the Ocean Science Day to take place on 22 June in the same room II as the plenary

session of the Assembly, but with a different setting. The OSD would be exceptionally live-streamed. The Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude to the sponsors of a number of events which would provide useful information for the session, as well as to the sponsors of the coffee breaks and receptions who would be acknowledged during the session and on the online calendar.

12. The IOC Executive Secretary then expanded on the draft resolutions received by 16 June and the volume of the documentation prepared for the Assembly session. He highlighted that [all] draft decisions and resolutions, with the exception of the draft resolution on Governance, programming and budgeting matters of the Commission to be prepared during the session, were available in the Action Paper together with a substantial presentation of each item. Decisions were adopted at the end of the discussion of an item with the draft resolutions to be adopted under item 7. A document with the adopted decisions was made available at the end of the session in all languages in line with the established UNESCO governing bodies practices. As customary, the narrative part of the report will be prepared by the Secretariat and published in English only during the session and made available in the languages soon after the session.
13. The Chair invited comments on the timetable and organizational matters of the session.

EC-56, Dec. 3.4

Timetable for the 32nd session of the Assembly and organizational matters

The Executive Council,

1. Taking into consideration the comments made by the Officers and the need to ensure sufficient time for the reporting of sessional working groups and committees in plenary and scheduled invitation of speakers,
2. Accepts the provisional timetable for the 32nd session of the Assembly as set out in document IOC/A-32/2.1Doc Add. Prov.Rev. and corresponding Agenda [with the following modification(s):]

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]

14. The Chair reminded the Council that the Assembly and the Executive Council did not give clear indication of duration and dates for their next session. He informed the council of the discussion of the Officers on this matter and on the benefit of organizing an IOC Ocean Science Day event during the 32nd session of the Assembly.
15. The Chair invited delegates to share information on the main events/conferences to be taken into account when choosing the dates for the next sessions of the Council in 2024 and the Assembly in 2025, preferably both likely to be held in June.
16. The Executive Secretary informed the Council of the increasing cost and difficulty to organize the sessions of the governing bodies at Headquarters.

EC-56, Dec. 4

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

The Executive Council,

1. Confident that the next sessions of the IOC governing bodies will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in 2024 and 2025,
2. Recommends to the Assembly to identify any potential calendar conflicts with important meetings or cultural days in June 2024 for the 57th session of the Executive Council and a period of six working days preceded by a one-day session of the Executive Council over a period to be decided in June/July 2025 for the 33rd session of the Assembly.

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

Documentation: 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

17. This item was introduced by Vice-Chair Srinivasa Tummala who referred to IOC Circular letter 2941 dated 18 March 2023, which conveyed information on the consultation process and the list of 11 applicants selected by HRM and the representative of the Director-General with the participation of some IOC Officers. Additional information on the applicants was transmitted to the Member States of the Council. Document IOC/INF-1316 rev. served as reference for an overview of the process and the arrangements for the consultative vote in an *in camera* session of the IOC Executive Council.
18. In accordance with article 8.2 of the IOC Statutes, the Executive Council is responsible for establishing a short list of six applicants for submission to the Director-General of UNESCO, through secret ballot at an *in camera* session.
19. After the public introduction, the Council shifted to an *in camera* (private) session. Only one representative of each Member State of the Executive Council was allowed in the meeting room. Prior notice of the name of each representative was given to the Executive Secretary of IOC. No observers were allowed to follow the proceedings. After the vote, the session was suspended until after coffee break to allow for the ballot counting.
20. Then the Vice-Chair reconvened the Council in *in camera* session to provide a short list of the six highest scored applicants in alphabetical order to be submitted to the Director-General and concluded this item.

[There is no decision under this item.]

6. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT

21. The IOC Chair introduced this item.

EC-56, Dec. 6

Report

The Executive Council,

4. Having considered the draft summary report of the session (IOC/EC-56/SR prov.) which contains the decisions adopted during the discussion in plenary session,
5. Takes notes of the summary report of its 56th session as the Executive Council recommendations to the Assembly at its 32nd session.

7. CLOSURE

22. The Chair closed the 56th session of the Executive Council at ____ on 20 June 2023.