

DRAFT RESOLUTION A-32/DR.[4.5]

Submitted by: Bangladesh, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Kuwait, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IOC SUB-COMMISSION FOR THE CENTRAL INDIAN OCEAN (IOCINDIO)

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

1. **Recalling** IOC Resolution XX-14 'IOC Programme Group for the central Indian Ocean' and Decisions A-31/3.5.6 and IOC/EC-55/3.5.2 on the 'Status of the Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean',
2. **Taking into consideration** that:
 - (i) the central Indian Ocean plays an important role in, inter alia, regional, and global climate, including the monsoons, El Niño-Southern Oscillation, precipitation and snow in Eurasia, weather, and extreme events,
 - (ii) after more than three decades of activities, IOCINDIO has gathered invaluable experiences, learned lessons, and developed best practices, which contributed to the deliberations of the Open-ended Intersessional Working Group (OEIWG) on the transformation of IOCINDIO into an IOC Sub-Commission,
3. **Noting with appreciation** that there is a strong interest in many IOCINDIO Member States to work together towards the establishment of the Sub-Commission, strengthen implementation of the IOC programmes in the region, achieve the objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), and develop the capacity of IOCINDIO Member States in ocean sciences and sustainable ocean management,
4. **Noting further** that it is the practice of the IOC to invite all Member State to participate in the work of the Commission and its regional subsidiary bodies,
5. **Acknowledges** the leadership and **appreciates** the commitment of both the IOC Chairperson and IOCINDIO Chairperson, who acted as Co-Chairs of OEIWG;
6. **Expresses its appreciation** to:

- (i) the Member States which participated in and contributed to the deliberations of OEIWG;
- (ii) the IOC Vice-Chairperson for Electoral Group IV and Chairpersons of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA) and the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) for their contributions to the work of the OEIWG, as well as to the IOC Executive Secretary and the Technical Secretary of IOCINDIO for the support provided;

7. **Decides:**

- (i) to establish the IOC Sub-Commission for the central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) with the Terms of Reference annexed to this Resolution;
- (ii) that IOCINDIO as an IOC Sub-Commission will enter into force after nine (9) formal Letters of Adhesion have been received by the IOC Executive Secretary from competent national focal points of IOC Member States;
- (iii) that the IOCINDIO as an IOC Regional Committee will be dissolved at the beginning of the first meeting of the IOC Sub-Commission;

8. **Requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to:

- (i) issue, within four (4) months following the adoption of the present Resolution, a Circular Letter inviting Member States to submit a Letter of Adhesion to the IOCINDIO Sub-Commission;
- (ii) upon entry into force of the present Resolution on establishment of IOCINDIO as an IOC Sub-Commission, call the first Session of the Sub-Commission at which its Officers will be elected.

Annex to Draft Resolution IOC-32/[4.5]

**Terms of Reference
for the IOC Sub-Commission for the central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)**

1. Title

IOC Sub-Commission for the central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

2. Mission

The IOC Sub-Commission for the central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) is a primary regional intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, with its area of interest within central Indian Ocean¹, and its purpose is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services, and capacity development, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the

¹ The "central Indian Ocean", as IOCINDIO area of interest, is adjacent, to the West, to that of IOCAFRICA, and to the East, to that of WESTPAC.

protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States.

3. Objectives

The Sub-Commission shall:

- (i) Promote international cooperation and coordinate activities agreed by the governing bodies of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO;
- (ii) Make recommendations to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO on issues and areas of its competency;
- (iii) Prepare a plan for implementation of the agreed activities;
- (iv) Offer a platform for identifying regional issues and solutions based on international cooperation;
- (v) Cooperate with relevant organizations, agencies, and institutions;
- (vi) Cooperate with other subsidiary bodies and programmes of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO on matters of common interest, in particular with adjacent Sub-Commissions, IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC.

4. Structure

The Sub-Commission will include:

- Member States
- Officers
- Thematic or subregional Working Groups or Task Teams, as required; and
- Secretariat.

5. Member States

The Sub-Commission will include the IOC Member States that have appropriately informed the IOC Executive Secretary about their adhesion. IOCINDIO membership will not be limited to Member States geographically attached to the Indian Ocean. IOC national focal points for IOCINDIO Member States will be the same as for IOC.

6. Officers

The Board of Officers of the Sub-Commission will comprise the Chair and two Vice-Chairs elected by its Member States. The Board shall serve in accordance with the Guidelines for Structure and Responsibilities of the Subsidiary Bodies of the IOC.

7. Working Groups and Task Teams

The Sub-Commission will establish its subsidiary working bodies as required and in accordance with the Guidelines for Structure and Responsibilities of the Subsidiary Bodies of the IOC. Joint subsidiary working bodies, especially with IOCAFRICA and WESTPAC, may be established.

8. Secretariat

The IOCINDIO Secretariat will operate as a part of the IOC Secretariat under the authority of the IOC Executive Secretary.

9. Meetings

IOCINDIO Member States will meet for the intergovernmental session of the Sub-Commission regularly, at least once in two years, preferably in the first part of the year of an IOC Assembly and well in advance of that Assembly to ensure quality statutory reporting.

10. Budget

The IOC Sub-commission for the central Indian Ocean shall be funded from the IOC Regular Budget and extrabudgetary contributions. IOCINDIO should actively explore opportunities for raising additional resources for implementation of its programmes.

11. Mechanisms for coordination with adjacent Sub-Commissions

The principle will be to maximise the value of joint work of adjacent IOC Sub-Commissions on issues of common interest, exclude duplication, and ensure no interference in governance of IOC subsidiary bodies, including adjacent bodies. Cooperation on issues of common interest and using capacity development opportunities of adjacent regional subsidiary bodies is encouraged. Coordinated contribution of regional subsidiary bodies to IOC global programmatic activities is strongly encouraged. Regular consultations between Sub-Commissions' Chairs, Boards of Officers, and Secretariats will be established to achieve co-design, co-development, and co-delivery. Normative and standard setting functions will be uniform and global, at the IOC level. Regional implementation shall follow global standards and contribute to the development of common best practices, taking into account, where required, regional differences and circumstances.