**Terms of Reference**

**Group of Experts on Capacity Development**

Recognizing the importance of Capacity Development as one of the six functions of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2029), enabling all Member States to participate in,

and benefit from, ocean research and services that are vital to sustainable development and human welfare on the planet,

Recalling the adoption of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030 through IOC Decision A-32/4.3,

Mindful of the role of the GE-CD in informing and, where relevant, assisting the Secretariat in implementing IOC CD initiatives,

Decides to revise the Terms of Reference of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development as follows:

1. assist global and regional programmes with the implementation of capacity development needs assessments in a consistent manner;
2. assist global and regional programmes with the development of programmatic and regionally relevant capacity development work plans based on the IOC CD strategy and related needs assessments, building on ongoing activities and making use of existing training and education facilities;
3. develop an implementation plan for the current IOC CD Strategy 2023-2030 for submission to the 33rd Assembly of the UNESCO IOC in June 2025;
4. provide advice to global and regional programmes on the implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030 and on relevant methods and tools to improve the quality and impact of CD efforts;
5. advise the design and conduct the biennial CD survey in close collaboration with the regional secretariats, possibly including CD implementation impact monitoring/metrics, also taking into account other methods such as regional reviews, science conferences etc.;
6. ensure coordination of the work of the Group of Experts and its Task Teams with GOSR and CD aspects of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, including the Capacity Development Facility and Working Group 9 of the Vision 2030;
7. guide the further development and promotion of the Ocean CD-Hub by highlighting linkages of CD activities and collaboration opportunities between users and providers and among other global, regional and national organizations;
8. provide advice to Member States on the promotion of visibility and reach of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030 to assist with the planning and implementation of their capacity development efforts.