

Restricted Distribution

IOC/EC-57/SR Prov.

Paris, 28 June 2024

Original: English



unesco

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Fifty-seventh Session of the Executive Council
UNESCO, Paris, 25–28 June 2024

SUMMARY REPORT

This document contains the narrative report of the discussion prepared by the Secretariat during the session. The decisions and resolutions contained in this report were adopted in plenary session.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	page
1. OPENING.....	1
2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	1
2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.....	1
2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR	1
2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS	1
2.4 INTRODUCTION OF TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION	2
2.5 ROGER REVELLE MEMORIAL LECTURE	3
3. REPORTS.....	3
3.1 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE 32 ND SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY (July 2023–May 2024).....	3
3.2 REPORTS OF IOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES	5
3.2.1 Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards.....	5
3.2.1.1 <i>Regional Early Warning Services</i>	5
3.2.1.2 <i>Global Coordination of Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards</i>	6
4. PROGRAMME MATTERS	12
4.1 GLOBAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM (GOOS) GOVERNANCE	12
4.2 PROGRESS REPORT ON OCEAN OBSERVATIONS IN AREAS UNDER NATIONAL JURISDICTION.....	13
4.3 DRAFT STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT	14
4.4 GEBCO GOVERNANCE REVIEW (2023) AND TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF USER REQUIREMENTS	16
4.5 REPORT OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 2ND EDITION OF THE IOC STATE OF THE OCEAN REPORT (StOR)	18
4.6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IOC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2023-2030).....	19
4.7 REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030).....	22
5. GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING	26
5.1 REVISED PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2024–2025 (42 C/5) AND PROVISIONAL PROPOSALS FOR 2026–2027 (DRAFT 43 C/5)	26
5.2 ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE IOS EVALUATION OF THE IOC'S STRATEGIC POSITIONING – UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION.....	29
5.3 FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION A-32/4: GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING MATTERS OF THE COMMISSION – DRAFT GUIDELINES	

	TO SUPPORT MEMBER STATES PREPARATION FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS FOR OFFICERS AND FOR STATES MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	29
5.4	REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE	30
6.	PREPARATION OF THE NEXT SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	33
7.	ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND MODALITIES FOR THE FINALISATION OF THE REPORT	34
8.	CLOSURE.....	34

1. OPENING

1. The IOC Chair, Dr Yutaka Michida, opened the 57th session of the IOC Executive Council at 10.00 a.m. in Room XI at UNESCO Headquarters. Before delivering his opening address and reporting on his activities and those of the other members of the Bureau since the 32nd session of the Assembly, the IOC Chair addressed a few words of welcome on behalf of Member States to Dr Vidar Helgesen, the new Executive Secretary of the IOC in post since March 1st of this year.
2. The Chair gave a brief overview of the last few years, during which the Commission has weathered a serious budgetary crisis and the Covid pandemic, while launching the United Nations Decade of the Ocean and seeing a significant increase in its budget with the return of the United States to the UNESCO family. Recalling his participation in the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona as President of the Commission, Dr Michida expressed his confidence in the Commission's ability to generate concrete actions in response to ocean-related issues on the international agenda. (Refer to annex__ for full text.)
3. Dr Michida 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: Raymond Mohammed (Fiji, 1978–2013) and Ron Wilson (John Ronald) (Canada, 1939–2024).
4. The Executive Council extended a warm welcome to the new Chairperson of the Commission and the new Executive Secretary and wished them every success in their leadership.
5. The representatives of eight Member States took the floor. The following Member States and observer country chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [Brazil](#), [Japan](#), [South Africa](#) and [USA](#); [Mauritius](#) as Observer.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Chair introduced this item.
7. No change to the provisional Agenda and one slight correction on the provisional timetable was proposed regarding the schedule of the second meeting of the Resolutions Committee.

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

8. The representatives of 9 Member States took the floor.
9. On a proposal of Colombia seconded by Grenada, Chile, Argentina, South Africa, Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, and Italy, Mr Frederico Antonio Saraiva Nogueira of Brazil was designated Rapporteur for the session.

2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

10. The Chair invited the Executive Council to form two open-ended sessional committees, the Resolutions Committee and the Financial Committee.
11. The Council recommended that the proposed Consultation Process – IOC and the Future of the Ocean; Sustainable Delivery and Expansion of IOC Activities (document IOC/EC-

57/3.1.Doc(4)) pertaining to the Report of the Executive Secretary (item 3.1) be also considered by the Financial Committee.

12. No proposals were made for sessional working groups.

2.4 INTRODUCTION OF TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

13. The Secretariat introduced this item. It was 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 Secretariat invited delegates to consult the session website regularly to access session documentation. Updated information and the publication of any new documents were announced online. Delegates were reminded that the session was paperless.

14. The Secretariat noted that three draft resolutions had been received before 20 June 2024, one of which was under discussion with the Secretariat as to its admissibility with reference to the 'Guidelines for Draft Resolutions' and the possible inclusion of its subject matter in the Draft Decision under item 4.1.

15. All draft resolutions were to be examined for adoption under agenda item 7 at the end of the session. 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 would be drafted by the Secretariat during the session in English, in agreement with the rapporteur for the session. The complete version of the narrative report, duly translated, would be brought to the attention of the members of the Executive Council 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.

16. Turning to the timetable, the Secretariat recalled that the plenary session would last 3.5 days, exceptionally including a 90-minute side event in the plenary room to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Sumatra tsunami. This event was broadcast live, as was the entire session, and brought together witnesses and survivors in Paris. The "Tsunami Eyewitness and Survivor" project includes activities such as a traveling exhibition, a documentary, side events at global ocean conferences and meetings with eyewitnesses throughout 2024.

17. The following Member State chose to provide records of its plenary intervention on agenda item 2 for the informational annex to the meeting report: [USA](#).

18. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-57/2.

Organization of the Session

The Executive Council,

I. Agenda

Adopts the agenda and the timetable of work as set out in documents IOC/EC-57/2.1.Doc. and Add.

II. Rapporteur

On a proposal of Colombia seconded by Grenada, Chile, Argentina, South Africa, Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, and Italy,

Designates Mr Frederico Antonio Saraiva Nogueira of Brazil Rapporteur for its present session to assist the Chairperson and the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the draft provisional report of the session;

III. Sessional Committees

Establishes the following sessional open-ended committees and referred to them the following agenda items and responsibilities:

Financial Committee: to finalise a resolution under items 3.1, 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3; under the chairship of Mr Juan Camilo Forero Hauzeur (Colombia, Vice-chair) with the following Member States participating: Brazil, Egypt, France, Japan, and United States of America . 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 20 June and on the draft resolution covering financial matters drafted during the session; under the chairship of Mr Joseph Naughton (United States) with the following Member States participating: Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America. Mr Julian Barbière provided the Secretariat support to the Resolutions Committee.

2.5 ROGER REVELLE MEMORIAL LECTURE

19. The Chair 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.
20. Emile A. Okal of Northwestern University (USA) gave the IOC Roger Revelle 2024 Memorial Lecture on the theme of tsunami mitigation, 20 years after the tsunami disaster that struck the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004. Tthe Sumatra disaster of 2004 made the word ‘tsunami’ a household word and was probably the deadliest event in human history. As a result, tsunami risk mitigation has received a great deal of attention worldwide, and this conference reviews progress in several areas.
21. During his presentation, Prof. Okal highlighted both achievements in the last 20 years and remaining scientific, operational, and societal challenges in tsunami risk mitigation, supported by lessons learnt from the significant tsunami events during the last two decades. He especially underlined the need to focus on landslide (including volcanic origin) generated tsunami warning and mitigation, which poses additional challenges in comparison to the tsunamis generated by earthquakes. At the end of his presentations, Prof. Okal answered questions from Chile, France and the Chair of ICG/PTWS Prof. Okal was then awarded with the UNESCO-IOC's Roger Revelle Medal.

3. REPORTS

3.1 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE 32ND SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY (JULY 2023–MAY 2024)

22. The IOC Executive Secretary introduced this item.
23. The Executive Secretary thanked the Member States for the confidence put in him through last year’s nomination process and the warm welcome to the organization including through many kind congratulatory messages. He expressed appreciation for the tremendous achievements of the limited number of IOC staff members, and underlined the importance of the networked nature of the IOC and the reliance on the active participation and collaboration of Member State institutions and individuals.

24. With the increased budget for 2024–2025, approved thanks to IOC Member States's ownership and support, programme implementation is stepped up across all IOC functions and value chain, with particular focus on long-term sustained observations and data and information management, as well as regional subsidiary bodies and activities and Member States' capacity building.
25. The 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona (10–12 April) brought together the global ocean community to present achievements made over the last three years, take stock and set a collective vision towards 2030. The Executive Secretary praised the work of co-chairs and members of the 10 working groups under the Vision 2030 process.
26. These new directions for the Decade will provide a major contribution for the 2025 UN Ocean Conference, hosted by France and Costa Rica, and will highlight where further national and international efforts will be required to achieve SDG 14.
27. However important the many ocean-related international conferences taking place, the Executive Secretary emphasized the need for more rigorous, knowledge-based action at national levels to address and respond to the dramatic changes now taking place in the ocean, with grave but also uncertain consequences for our ocean, planet and humanity.
28. Referring to decision A-32/5 of the IOC Assembly in 2023, the Executive Secretary invited Member States to launch the new consultation process on the 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean'. Against the backdrop of major changes in and increasing global attention to the ocean, the Assembly decision is focused on how IOC could, on the basis of its purpose as defined in its Statutes, optimally facilitate activities of Member States and other stakeholders in science-based sustainable ocean planning, ocean science support to implementation of UN environmental conventions and frameworks, and development of a sustainable ocean economy.
29. The consultation will be carried out in stages, providing guidance to the IOC's next quadrennial programme 2026–2029 and next lay the foundations of our next Medium-Term Strategy for 2030 onwards.
30. The representatives of 25 Member States and 6 Observers took the floor.
31. Member States congratulated the Executive Secretary on his appointment and thanked him for a very complete and informative report.
32. They expressed their appreciation that the increased budget for 2024–2025 allowed to strengthen all of IOC's functions, with emphasis on observation programmes, data management, capacity building as well as activities at regional level, in particular in Africa and in SIDS, in line with the guidance by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session in 2023. Member States highlighted the importance of ensuring that all IOC sub-commissions, as key vehicles for the work on the ground, be endowed with sufficient human and budgetary resources to fulfil their objectives.
33. The Executive Council appreciated IOC's high-level engagements at recent international ocean conferences, in addition to supporting ongoing programmes through the UN Ocean Decade. The Ocean Decade Conference held in Barcelona in April 2024, was a great opportunity to summarize the mid-term achievements of the UN Ocean Decade and discuss future directions.
34. Member States welcomed the initiative to open a consultation process on the 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean', highlighting its interconnectedness with the Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC's Strategic Positioning and the importance of clearly defining the approach and the terms of references to make it a truly Member States-driven. The assessment of IOC's governance and management process with a view to streamlining operations and optimizing the use of resources was considered particularly timely at this juncture, in order to be truly fit for

purpose in response to the fast-evolving ocean agenda and increasing demands of Member States.

35. The following Member States and three Observers chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [Australia](#), [Brazil](#), [Canada](#), [Colombia](#), [Germany](#), [Iceland](#), [India](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [Portugal](#), [Republic of Korea](#), [South Africa](#), [Spain](#), [Thailand](#), [United Kingdom](#), [USA](#); [Mauritius](#), [Russian Federation](#) and [WMO](#) as Observers.
36. The Executive Council adopted [Decision EC-57/3.1](#).

Report of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Council,

Having examined documents IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(1), IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(2), and IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(3),

Thanks the Executive Secretary for a very comprehensive report;

Takes note of the information provided, welcoming significant advances in many programmatic areas.

3.2 REPORTS OF IOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES

3.2.1 Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards

3.2.1.1 *Regional Early Warning Services*

37. 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/CARIBE-EWS, ICG/NEAMTWS and ICG/PTWS.
38. Ms Regina Browne (USA-Virgin Island) Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS) presented the report of the 17th Session of the Group on behalf of Mr Gérard Metayer (Haiti), Chair of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS. She highlighted the results of the CARIBE WAVE 2024 tsunami exercise that mobilized a total of over 400,000 people on 21 March 2024. She reported on other results of ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XVII (6–9 May 2024, Managua, Nicaragua), including: (i) the establishment of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS Steering Committee; (ii) the recommendation on the continuation of CATAAC's full functionality on an interim basis; (iii) planning for CARIBE WAVE 2025; (iv) the establishment of a Task Team dedicated to Tsunami Ready; and (v) consideration of conducting its future sessions from 2026 onwards in-person only every second year, and online every other.
39. Dr Alessandro Amato (Italy), 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) informed the session on the results of the 18th Session of the Group, UNESCO, Paris, 6–8 February 2024. He highlighted that Cannes (France) became the first recognized Tsunami Ready community in the NEAM region and four other communities in Egypt, Greece, Spain and Türkiye have also been recognized. He noted that the Group also welcome the finalization and publication of the [ICG/NEAMTWS 2021–2030 Strategy](#) document, the successful completion of NEAMWave23 tsunami exercise, and the funding of Phase-II of CoastWAVE Project by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO) for a two-year period. A new Task Team on non-seismic tsunami has been established. He informed about the recent development regarding the improvement in tsunami detection and

monitoring, including the deployment of 20 new tide gauges in the Marmara Sea by Türkiye, deep sea sensors including SMART cable by Italy in the Ionian Sea.

40. Mr Yuji Nishimae, Chair of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS) introduced the report of the 30th Session of the Group (11–15 September 2023, Nuku'alofa, Tonga). The session was well attended with over 80 participants from 17 countries. Participants elected three Vice-chairpersons and one Chairperson, and initiated efforts to strengthen the capabilities of the Steering Committee, aligning them with the goals of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030 and established three new task teams, on: Volcano Tsunami Preparedness; Cutting-Edge Forecasting; and Community Readiness. The group also decided to organize a tsunami exercise, PacWave 24, during the months of September to November 2024, aligned with the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day (13 October) and the World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November).

41. The representatives of 12 Member States and 2 observer countries took the floor.

42. Member States recognized the progress made in all ICGs in the implementation of the UNESCO-IOC's Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme, emphasized the need to further improve collaborations with the WMO in matters related to coastal inundation, praised the work of the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Resilience Section and highlighted its role within the UN Secretary-General's Early Warning for All initiative and importance in saving lives. Argentina highlighted the need for a broader consultation in matters related to the IOC's tsunami programme, specifically in relation to the proposed earthquake zone monitoring extension of the PTWS, especially noting the need to achieve a higher degree of coordination for the provision of the special tsunami maritime safety products specifically for ships for all NAVAREA Coordinators. In this regard, Argentina welcomed the ITIC Training Programme on Tsunami Early Warning Systems and the PTWC Enhanced Products, Tsunami Evacuation Planning and Tsunami Ready Programme (ITP-TEWS-Chile) to be organized in Valparaiso, Chile, 19–30 August 2024 as an excellent opportunity to enhance collaboration among Member States.

43. The following Member States and two observer countries chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [Argentina](#), [Chile](#), [France](#), [Republic of Korea](#) and [USA](#); [Mauritius](#) and [Russian Federation](#) as Observers.

3.2.1.2 *Global Coordination of Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards*

44. Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala (India), Chair of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG), introduced this item. He informed the Executive Council about recent developments in Tsunami Warning and Mitigation Systems and reported on the results of the 17th Meeting of the Working Group (TOWS-WG-XVII, 22–23 February 2024, Sendai, Japan). TOWS-WG-XVII's key recommendations included closer collaboration between UNESCO-IOC and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to integrate tsunami activities with initiatives like the Early Warning for All (EW4ALL), aiming for comprehensive disaster preparedness. Additionally, the group agreed to expedite the provision of reports and organization of webinars to disseminate critical information to relevant stakeholders regarding tsunamigenic volcanoes and associated hazards.

45. The Working Group confirmed and endorsed the hosting by the Bureau of Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics (BMKG) of Indonesia of an IOC Global Tsunami Symposium Planning in Indonesia in commemoration of 20 years since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The Working Group noted that work is in progress on a Tsunami Ready Toolkit to help countries implement the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme with the help of social science experts to stimulate community involvement and address the difficult challenges of tsunami preparedness.

46. Dr Tummala reported that partnership with UNDRR for World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) has seen the global expansion of the #GetToHighGround Campaign. The theme for WTAD 2024 'Empowering Children and Youth', highlights the crucial role of educating young people about tsunami risks. Furthermore, the Working Group expressed gratitude for the financial support provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to developing countries in disaster management and noted that IOC will continue to collaborate and exchange expertise with JICA experts when the opportunity arises.
47. The representatives of three Member States, one observer country and one organization took the floor.
48. India reported that it is gearing up to setup a cable-based multiparameter observatory for tsunamis and other deep ocean measurements and also noted that it is working with the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) – UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) on a joint project 'People-Centered Tsunami Early Warning for the Indian Coastlines' (PCTWIN). Peru noted the high impact of phenomena like El Nino and La Nina and encouraged IOC to consider initiating efforts to better understand it. WMO indicated it welcomes discussion on coastal hazards with long wave frequency caused by atmospheric forcing, at the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board (JCB), with desire of an outcome that ensures clarity and improves public safety. The Chair of TOWS-WG noted these positive developments and indicated that these are welcome initiatives towards increased coastal resilience.
49. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [India](#) and [Japan](#).
50. The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-57/3.2.1.

Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards

The Executive Council,

Having examined the executive summary reports of the recent sessions of the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS-XVII/3s), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS-XVII/3s), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS-XXX/3s) and the report of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG-XVII),

Expresses solidarity with those affected by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and tsunami, in Japan, on 1 January 2024;

Accepts the reports by the IOC/ICGs and TOWS-WG;

Notes with satisfaction the progress made during the intersessional period, including:

- (i) exercises conducted in 2022 from October to December (Exercise Pacific Wave), in 2023 in the Caribbean on 23 March (CARIBE WAVE 23), the Indian Ocean on 4, 11, 18, and 25 October (IOWave23) and the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and connected seas on 6–7 November (NEAMWave 23), as well as in 2024 in the Caribbean on 21 March (CARIBE WAVE 24);
- (ii) the continuing work of the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme Scientific Committee (ODTP-SC);
- (iii) the publication of the Research, Development and Implementation Plan for the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (ODTP-RDIP) (IOC/2023/TS/180);
- (iv) the publication of the report on *Monitoring and warning for tsunamis generated by volcanoes* (IOC/2024/TS/183) prepared by the TT-TWO Ad Hoc Team on Tsunamis Generated by Volcanoes (TGV);

- (v) the update on the IUGG meetings organised in 2023–2024, including the participation of IUGG members on the ODTP-SC meeting on 25 January 2024, collaboration in organising the 8th IOC/ICG/PTWS-IUGG Joint Tsunami Commission (JTC) Technical Workshop on 11 September 2023 during ICG/PTWS-XXX on Understanding and Lessons Learned from Tsunami Generated by the Hunga Tonga - Hunga Ha'apai Volcano Eruption on 15 January 2022, expected participation in the UNESCO-IOC Second Global Tsunami Symposium on the Reflection of the Two Decades Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004 Commemoration, 11–14 November 2024, and its contributions towards several reports, including the report IOC/2024/TS/183;
- (vi) the work of ITIC and the ICG/PTWS in the development of a PTWS NTWC Competency Framework and the work of ITIC to develop and pilot the NTWC Minimum Competency training course;
- (vii) the extensive preparation work and the support of Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency (BMKG) of Indonesia in hosting the UNESCO-IOC Second Global Tsunami Symposium, 11–14 November 2024 in Banda Aceh;
- (viii) the work of the TT-TWO in developing specialized TSP bulletins for the maritime community in consultation with the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) Sub-Committee on the Worldwide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS-SC);
- (ix) the role of the Tsunami Information Centres (TICs) in the efforts of the Task Teams on Disaster Management Preparedness and Tsunami Watch Operations;
- (x) the roles of Tsunami Information Centres (TICs) in developing community awareness and preparedness in support of helping effective community responses to tsunami warnings, and the critical support provided to Member States in facilitating tsunami preparedness and resilience, and the advancement of the work programmes of the TOWS-WG and its Inter-ICG Task Teams;
- (xi) the continued progress in the implementation of UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP) in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Pacific region, and in the NEAM region, as well as the work of ITIC to host the TRRP website;
- (xii) Cannes Municipality (Alpes Maritimes), France, as the first UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready recognized community in France, the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the connected seas region, and new communities in Indonesia (Nagari Tapakih) in the Indian Ocean, Barbados (Christ Church West) and Saint James Central, Costa Rica (Cahuita), Dominica (Portsmouth), Guadeloupe (Deshaies), Saint Lucia (Laborie) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Saint George) in the Caribbean, and Costa Rica (Dominical, Dominicalito and Barú; Playa Hermosa; Puerto Jiménez and Tivives), Fiji (Navuevu, Sila) and Federated States of Micronesia (Weno Municipality and Pohnpei State) in the Pacific;
- (xiii) the progress made by ICG/PTWS concerning exploring mechanisms of how to include national tsunami preparedness and readiness programmes and initiatives in the UN Ocean Decade Programme, and that Tsunami Ready Equivalency Approach framed under other similar initiatives seeks to enable reporting on tsunami preparedness in a manner compatible with the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP), using existing national frameworks and requirements;
- (xiv) the continued collaboration between the UNDRR and UNESCO-IOC on the World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) in 2023, and the success achieved in scaling up the #GetToHighGround Campaign mobilizing action globally;
- (xv) the work done in Indonesia on several types of critical infrastructures: (1) Yogyakarta International Airport Tsunami Ready, (2) Bali Tsunami Ready Hotel, and (3) the needs of Industrial Zone Ready for Tsunami learning from Cilegon Industrial Estate. These could form the basis for the development of guidelines for Tsunami Ready Critical Infrastructure, as an effort to achieve goal n° 2 of ODTP on achieving 100% people at risk to be ready and resilient to tsunami by 2030;
- (xvi) progress and status of ISO 22328-3 in Indonesia (Community-based Early Warning Systems for Tsunamis) which is targeting the large-scale private sector to be Tsunami Ready;

Also notes with appreciation the work of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation systems and encourages closer collaboration with JICA;

Further notes with appreciation the important commitments of Barbados, Indonesia, and USA to host the CTIC, IOTIC, and the ITIC to support the ICGs, and Australia to host the ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat Office;

Welcomes the appointment of the new ICG/NEAMTWS and ICG/PTWS Officers for the biennium 2024–2025 and 2023–2025, respectively;

**Part I:
Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami
and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
(ICG/CARIBE-EWS)**

Notes with appreciation:

- (i) the establishment of the ICG/CARIBE-EWS Steering Committee as an efficient instrument of results-based management, especially in providing an oversight in the execution of its decisions and recommendations, also marking a step towards harmonization among the global ICG governance structures;
- (ii) the continued full functionality of the Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC) on an interim basis and the review of CATAC as a Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) in its eighteenth session in 2025 to enable the IOC Assembly to consider the final admission of CATAC as TSP in June 2025;
- (iii) the planning of the CARIBE WAVE 2025;
- (iv) establishment of a Task Team dedicated to Tsunami Ready in recognition of the need to further focus on the identification and employing corresponding strategies in the Caribbean and adjacent regions to reach the second objective of the ODTP that 100% of communities at risk to be prepared and resilient to tsunamis by 2030 through efforts like the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP);
- (v) the possibility to hold its future sessions from 2026 onwards in-person only every second year, and online every other years, noting that UNESCO aims to reduce its carbon footprint to meet its set target of reducing its emissions by 31% by 2030, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement;

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

Notes with appreciation:

- (i) the positive results of the fifth tsunami exercise for the region, NEAMWave23 conducted on 6–7 November 2023;
- (ii) Cannes Municipality (Alpes Maritimes), France as the first UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognized Community in mainland France and North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the connected seas region, and the ceremony organized in Cannes on 19 January 2024;
- (iii) the recently new approved two-years DG-ECHO funded CoastWAVE Project – Phase II (CoastWAVE 2.0) project starting on 1 July 2024 on “Scaling-Up and Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards”;
- (iv) the offer of Egypt to host ICG/NEAMTWS-XIX in October 2024 and Italy’s intention to host the ICG/NEAMTWS-XX session;

**Part III:
Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning
and Mitigation (ICG/PTWS)**

Notes with appreciation:

- (i) the eleventh Exercise Pacific Wave in 2024 (PacWave 24) scheduled in the months of September through to November 2024 to support International Disaster Risk Reduction Day (13 October) and World Tsunami Awareness Day (5 November), as reflected in the Terms of Reference;
- (ii) the offer of China to host the 31st Session of the ICG/PTWS in April 2025 in Beijing and the offer of France to host the 32nd Session of the ICG/PTWS in 2027 in Nouméa, New Caledonia;
- (iii) the hosting by Vanuatu of the Expert Meeting on Tsunami Sources, Hazards, Risk and Uncertainties Associated with Vanuatu, San Cristobal and New Britain Subduction Zones, 14–17 May 2024;
- (iv) the ICG/PTWS decision to start official full functional operations of Central America Tsunami Advisory Centre (CATAC), with the specific starting date to be decided after the coordination with the ICG/CARIBE-EWS;
- (v) the approval of the PTWS National Tsunami Warning Centre competencies, framework, and training requirements, as described in IOC/ICG/PTWS-XXX Working document: *Report from the Task Team on the Minimum Competency Levels for National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) Operational Staff*;

Notes:

- (i) the concerns of ICG/PTWS regarding the seismic activity in the Scotia Arc region as reflected in the Executive Summary of the ICG/PTWS-XXX (IOC/ICG/PTWS-XXX/3s);
- (ii) that tsunami bulletins are issued by the PTWC for the ICG/CARIBE-EWS and ICG/PTWS for earthquakes in the Scotia Arc and its adjacent seismic zones for events fulfilling certain criteria as reflected in the IOC Technical Series, 130, 'Tsunami Watch Operations-Global Service Definition Document';
- (iii) the need for the active engagement of Argentina with the ICG/CARIBE-EWS and ICG/PTWS regarding Argentinian Search and Rescue (SAR) and NAVAREA VI coordination responsibilities;

Requests PTWC to finalize necessary preparations to provide special tsunami maritime safety products specifically for ships for all NAVAREA Coordinators in the Pacific and in the Southwest Atlantic (e.g. NAVAREAs VI, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, and XVI) to transmit to the NTWCs to be forwarded to the NAVAREA Coordinators of their countries, or upon their request directly to the NAVAREA Coordinators in the absence of a NTWC;

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

Decides that IOC should collaborate more closely with the WMO to connect tsunami activities with the Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and UN Secretary General Early Warning for All Initiative (EW4All), such as the WMO Coastal Inundation Forecasting Initiative (CIFI) that is an example of a multi-activity addressing coastal inundation, no matter the source of the coastal inundation;

Acknowledges the WMO request to the WMO-IOC Joint Collaborative Board to review tsunami issues as they relate to meteotsunamis, to clarify the roles and responsibilities for the WMO and UNESCO-IOC, and to determine how best to strengthen collaboration in support of Member States;

Instructs the regional Intergovernmental Coordination Groups (ICGs) to:

- (i) consider performing exercises outside of working hours, in particular during the night, but being careful to take into consideration difficulties and possible issues of involving the public in night-time drills;
- (ii) consider whether Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) may also need to provide services where volcano generated tsunamis may impact several Member States;
- (iii) utilise exercises and communication tests as an opportunity to simultaneously monitor data availability and quality;

- (iv) utilise and promote the use of multi-purpose sea level monitoring stations in support of MHEWS to enhance data coverage and reduce costs;
- (v) share information and procedures on deployments of new technologies to monitor sea level variations used for tsunami warning purposes, such as the ongoing project of the CAM SMART cable off Portugal, TAM TAM SMART cable between New Caledonia and Vanuatu, undersea cable installations being deployed by Indonesia and India, and the InSEA Wet Demo smart cable in the Ionian Sea offshore Sicily;
- (vi) TSPs identified for each ICG to trial dissemination of maritime bulletins to respective NAVAREA operators in their Area of Service (AoS) in the second half of 2024 for full operational implementation where possible in 2025;
- (vii) ICG/PTWS Task Team Tsunami Ready to share the ICG/PTWS guidance on Tsunami Ready Equivalency for further consideration by TT-DMP, as a potential mechanism for reporting toward this goal;
- (viii) ICG/IOTWMS WG1 and WG3 to develop and share guidelines for Tsunami Ready Critical Infrastructure;

Encourage Member States to provide voluntary financial contributions to the IOC special account and in-kind contributions to support the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme and UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme;

Recommends for locations that will not feel the earthquake, the use of the standard text in the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready signage such as “*In case of any official tsunami message, go to high ground or inland*” as an alternative to “*In case of a strong or long (duration) earthquake, or any official message, go to high ground or inland*”;

Requests the IOC Secretariat to:

- (i) advise all Member States via Circular Letter (CL) that TSP fax transmissions of tsunami information products will cease from 6 months of CL date, unless Member States advise within three months that fax transmissions of tsunami information products is essential for National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) functions and there is no other back-up;
- (ii) develop a reporting mechanism to allow ICGs to report progress on related projects within the Ocean Decade and against the ODTP-RDIP KPIs, aligning this with the proposed Global KPI Framework for the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Programme;
- (iii) distribute the report on *Monitoring and warning for tsunamis generated by volcanoes* (IOC/2024/TS/183), including the List of Tsunamigenic Volcanoes, to Volcano Observatories and UNESCO-IOC Member States;
- (iv) organise online webinars for each ICG involving relevant Volcano Observatories and Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers (VAACs) to:
 - (a) brief on the report on *Monitoring and warning for tsunamis generated by volcanoes* (IOC/2024/TS/183) and its recommendations,
 - (b) highlight the hazard and vulnerable Member States,
 - (c) initiate the required partnerships between NTWCs and Volcano Observatories and VAACs,
 - (d) Initiate consideration of whether TSPs may also need to provide services where tsunami generated by volcanoes may impact several Member States;
- (v) organise in 2024 webinars in coordination with IHO for the NAVAREA operators and back-up METAREA operators to introduce the new service and products for the maritime community, and obtain and advise TSPs of the contact information for their respective NAVAREA and METAREA operators to disseminate the new maritime bulletins;
- (vi) with TICs’ lead, develop and share a Tsunami Ready Toolkit to assist Member States in implementing the TRRP. The toolkit may include a standard and clear procedure, format, and method for submitting the Tsunami Ready application and its supporting documentation, including clarification on the definition of community in the frame of the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme;

- (vii) inform Member States on the Tsunami Ready Toolkit's availability via IOC Circular Letter to the Tsunami National Contacts, National Tsunami Ready Boards, and widely through attaching this as an appendix of the *Standard guidelines for the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme* (IOC/2022/MG/74);

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 IOC Resolution XXIV-14 [for TOWS-WG], report IOC/TOWS-WG-VI/3, Annex II [for TTDMP] and report IOC/TOWS-WG-X/3, Annex II (Appendix 1) [for TTTWO];

Notes that TOWS-WG will review and revise the TT-DMP and TT-TWO Terms of Reference for adoption at the next IOC Assembly in 2025;

Also notes that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting matters of the Commission.

4. PROGRAMME MATTERS

4.1 GLOBAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM (GOOS) GOVERNANCE

51. Ms Joanna Post, Head of the Ocean Observations & Services Section introduced this item. She presented the current structure of GOOS and the advancements in ocean observing including in response to the *GOOS Strategy 2030*. There is increasing awareness of the imperative for sustainably expanding the global ocean observing system to be fit for purpose, recognizing the need for a critical national and global observing infrastructure and data ecosystem responsive to the needs of end users that supports ocean risk management, sustainable ocean planning and operational forecasting as well as scientific understanding.
52. Ms Post presented an overview of progress with reform of GOOS governance since Assembly Decision A-32/4.8.1. She referenced the mandate of GOOS and the GOOS Steering Committee (Resolution XXVI-8, 2011). In accordance with its terms of reference, the GOOS Steering Committee comprises 15 nominated members: five experts appointed by Member State 'Electoral Groups' during the IOC Assembly and 10 scientific and technical experts appointed by the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the IOC Officers and the cosponsors, as well as *ex-officio* members and invited experts. By IOC Decision A-32/4.8.1, the Assembly noted the appointment of the five regional experts by the Member State Electoral Groups for each of the five IOC regions for 2024–2025. Due to completion of previous members terms of service, through IOC Circular Letter [2983](#) issued in January 2024, the Executive Secretary appointed 10 new scientific and technical experts in consultation with the IOC Officers and the cosponsors in May 2024 to support implementation of the GOOS mandate.
53. Furthermore, Ms Post referred to document [IOC/EC-57/4.1.Doc\(1\)](#) and proposed actions moving forward. In order to ensure that GOOS governance is fit for purpose, the report should be considered as a stepping stone in an evolving governance process, with IOC, WMO and other GOOS co-sponsors, which meets the needs and priorities of Member States. Consideration must be made of the terms of reference of sponsors and GOOS components, the changing landscape including within the context of the Ocean Decade and the Vision 2030, the need for an Earth Systems/co-design approach, IOC strategic positioning and planning, as well as mandates of relevant multilateral agreements.
54. The representatives of 24 Member States and 3 Observers took the floor.
55. The IOC Council thanked the secretariat for the presentation and commended the work of the GOOS Management Team and Steering Committee in evolving GOOS governance to meet the needs of Member States. A number of Member States offered support in preparing the proposal referred to in the Working Document IOC/EC-57/4.1.Doc(1).

56. Many Member States emphasized the need to build support for and involvement with GOOS Regional Alliances. In regard to GOOS-Africa, it was noted by the secretariat and supported by Member States that terms of reference for GOOS-Africa, including its coordinating committee, should be clarified with IOCAFRICA Member States to set in place a firm foundation to evolve GOOS-Africa as a functional body under IOC Rules of Procedure.
57. Further issues raised by Member States included flagging the critical role for GOOS in promotion of observations; providing a strong coordinating framework; identification of gaps, trends, achievable goals and means to measure success; encouraging nations and regions to build coordination; that suggested changes are in line with regional priorities and requirements; and evolving the work in line with the Ocean Decade.
58. The following 16 Member States and 3 Observers chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [Argentina](#), [Australia](#), [Brazil](#), [Canada](#), [Colombia](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [India](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [Kenya](#), [Republic of Korea](#), [Spain](#), [South Africa](#), [United Kingdom](#) and [USA](#); [Mauritius](#), [Russian Federation](#) and [WMO](#) as Observers.
59. The Executive Council adopted [Decision EC-57/4.1](#).

Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Governance

The Executive Council,

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.1.Doc(1),

Restating that GOOS is a priority for the IOC,

Recalling the *GOOS Strategy 2030* and noting the Vision 2030 white paper on Challenge 7 ‘*Expand the Global Ocean Observing Systems*’,

Mindful of Decision A-32/4.7,

Welcomes the information and proposed actions provided in the document IOC/EC-57/4.1.Doc(1);

Endorses the proposed actions to evolve GOOS governance as outlined in document IOC/EC-57/4.1.Doc(1), including any amendments as may be requested by Member States.

4.2 PROGRESS REPORT ON OCEAN OBSERVATIONS IN AREAS UNDER NATIONAL JURISDICTION

60. Ms Suzan M. El-Gharabawy, Co-Chair of the IOC *ad hoc* Intersessional Working Group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction, was not able to attend and therefore Ms Emily Smith from the Secretariat introduced this agenda item on behalf of the co-chairs. Ms Smith reported the progress of the Working Group mandated through Decision A-32/4.8.2, highlighting that 25 Member States are currently represented.
61. The Working Group is methodically working through the information provided and will seek to draw on additional expert advice as needed. It will present the results from its work and any recommendations for action at the IOC Assembly in June 2025 as mandated.
62. The representatives of 17 Member States and 1 Observer took the floor.
63. Several Member States thanked the Working Group for their work and the leadership of the co-chairs. A few Member States also encouraged other Member States to respond to the survey in IOC Circular Letter [2938](#) and agree to share those results with the Working Group to assist in their work going forward.
64. Two Member States volunteered to join the Working Group.

65. The following Member States and two Observers chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [Argentina](#), [Brazil](#), [Chile](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Kenya](#), [Portugal](#), [United Kingdom](#) and [USA](#); [Russian Federation](#) and [WMO](#) as Observers.
66. The Executive Council adopted [Decision EC-57/4.2](#).

**Progress Report of the IOC Ad hoc Intersessional Working Group
on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction**

The Executive Council,

Recalling Assembly decision A-32/4.8.2,

Welcomes the establishment of the Working Group and election of its co-chairs;

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.2.Doc(1),

Encourages the Working Group to continue its work, including reviewing any additional documents that may provide relevant information to support its work;

Encourages more Member States to contribute to the work of the group by responding to IOC Circular Letter 2938 and to give permission for their responses to be shared with the Working Group.

**4.3 DRAFT STRATEGY ON SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLANNING
AND MANAGEMENT**

67. Mr Julian Barbière, Head of the Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section, introduced this agenda item. He referred to recent advancement in the area of ocean management, the objectives of the IOC Medium-term Strategy (2022–2029) with focus on sustainable ocean economy and ocean planning and the recommendations of the IOS Evaluation calling *inter alia* for determining “the most appropriate organizational setting in view of IOC’s envisaged global role in science-based ocean management”, which have been acting as drivers for the formulation of an IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management. The Strategy also responds to the Statutes of IOC which calls *inter alia* for the application of ocean knowledge generated by the IOC “for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States” (Article 2, Purpose).
68. The Strategy aims are therefore to guide the contribution of the Commission across its programmes on ocean sciences, observation and data, early warning services and assessments, through the delivery of tailored science-based services, the dissemination of ecosystem-based management tools, assessment and related information products, as well as capacity development in support to sustainable ocean management. Mr Barbière recalled that an initial framework describing the scope of the Strategy and its development process was discussed by the Assembly at its 32nd session (refer to document [IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc\(1\)](#)).
69. By IOC Circular Letter [2968](#) of November 2023, the Secretariat collected further inputs on document IOC/A-32/4.7.Doc(1) from Member States and IOC programmes and technical bodies, with a view to presenting a draft version of the Strategy to the IOC Executive Council at its 57th session. To further guide the development of the Strategy, a survey was developed and rolled out to better understand the existing landscape in terms of sustainable ocean planning and management and identify needs of stakeholders in terms of technical and scientific support. The purpose of the survey was to collect views from the IOC community and partners (UN and non-UN) and other international stakeholders working along the whole value chain from research, observation, data, services, relevant information products to inform policy/management actions, and capacity development. This provided the basis for developing an initial draft of the Strategy which was presented to and discussed by IOC Member States at two online consultation sessions organized in May 2024. Further inputs were collected and incorporated in the final draft version of

the Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management presented as document [IOC/EC-57/4.3.Doc\(1\) Rev.](#)

70. The representatives of 21 Member States and 3 observer countries took the floor.
71. The Executive Council acknowledged the relevance of sustainable ocean planning and management, and that IOC's work related to science, ocean observation and data, should support it. Member States also appreciated improvements in the draft Strategy after a consultation process, including its presentation during webinars organized one month before the 57th session of the Executive Council.
72. The proposed establishment of an IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (WG-SOPM) was well received by Member States, several of these, expressed willingness to join it.
73. The Executive Council was divided as to whether the draft Strategy should be adopted at this session of the Council or by IOC Assembly, given the need to ensure the widest possible support from all IOC Member States. Concerns were also expressed and requests for clarification made regarding the perceived overlaps and potential expansion of existing IOC programmes, as well as the implications for the Secretariat's human and financial resources.
74. An open-ended drafting group was established to revise the draft Decision EC-57/4.3. The meeting was chaired by Germany and attended by Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Iceland, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom and USA, and two observers: Norway and Russian Federation.
75. The following Member States and three Observers chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [Australia](#), [Brazil](#), [Canada](#), [Colombia](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Iceland](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [Kenya](#), [Republic of Korea](#), [Spain](#), [Thailand](#), [United Kingdom](#), [USA](#); and [Mauritius](#), [Norway](#), [Russian Federation](#) as Observers.
76. The Executive Council adopted [Decision EC-57/4.3](#).

Draft IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (2024–2030)

The Executive Council,

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.3.Doc(1) Rev.,

Recognizing the importance for the IOC to develop a comprehensive framework to deliver knowledge and capacities for sustainable ocean planning and management needs of IOC Member States, in accordance with its Statutes, and in support of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2022–2029), and adopted Programme and Budget 2024–2025 (42 C/5),

Welcomes the draft IOC wide-Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management;

Decides to establish the IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management with the Terms of Reference in the annex to this decision;

Requests the Working Group to report to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session.

Annex to Decision Dec. EC-57/4.3

Terms of Reference the IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (WG-SOPM)

The IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management is composed of experts nominated by IOC Member States responding to a call by circular letter and representatives of IOC regional subsidiary bodies and governing bodies of IOC programmes (where applicable).

The Working Group will elect two co-chairs from its members.

The IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (WG-SOPM) is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Revise the draft SOPM Strategy in line with the discussion in the 57th session of the IOC Executive Council as reflected in the report and annexes, and present a revised version for consideration by the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session;
2. Identify activities related to ocean planning and management across all IOC programmes, addressing specific programme-related issues as well as emerging issues;
3. Propose a SOPM implementation plan to be considered by the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session;
4. Ensure coordination with the Decade Programme of Sustainable Ocean Planning, and its interim advisory group.

4.4 GEBCO GOVERNANCE REVIEW (2023) AND TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF USER REQUIREMENTS

77. Vice-Chair Juan Forero Hauzeur, as Chair of the Working Group on User Requirements and Contributions to GEBCO Products, introduced this agenda item. He referred to the mandate of the Working Group established through Executive Council Decision EC-XLIX/Dec.4.4 in 2016, which *inter alia* aims to: (i) collect, integrate and assess user requirements to inform the development of present and future GEBCO products; and (ii) address ways for strengthening the contributions of IOC programmes and Member States activities to GEBCO data and products. In accordance with its terms and reference, the Working Group is comprised of representatives of IOC Member States and one expert each from the GEBCO Guiding Committee, and relevant IOC technical and regional subsidiary bodies (GLOSS, GOOS-SC, IODE, TOWS-WG, IOCAFRICA, IOCARIBE, IOCINDIO, IPHAB, WESTPAC and GOOS Regional Alliances). The current Working Group was re-established following its previous assessment in 2021, through IOC Circular Letter [2981](#) issued in December 2023. Its membership is composed of experts nominated by chairs of relevant IOC technical and regional subsidiary bodies and GOOS Regional Alliances, as well as national experts. The Vice Chair highlighted that the inputs were collected through an international survey sent out to IOC Member States through IOC Circular Letter [2989](#). Using the Nippon Foundation-GEBCO-Seabed 2030 project network, the survey was also disseminated to a wider group of ocean stakeholders, including industry and civil society organizations. The Vice-Chair then presented the main findings and recommendations of the Working Group referring to document [IOC/EC-57/4.4.Doc\(2\)](#).

78. Mr Sam Harper, IHO Technical Secretary and Chair of the GEBCO Governance Review Team highlighted that the Governance Review Report ([IOC/EC-57/4.4.Doc\(1\)](#)) provides an in-depth analysis of the entity's governance structures and practices, aimed at enhancing its operational efficiency and alignment with the strategic objectives of its parent organizations, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the IOC. The review was motivated by the recognition of the rapidly changing ocean science and seabed mapping landscape, necessitating a more robust programme management and continuous improvement approach. Key components of the review include an examination of the organizational and governance arrangements within GEBCO, its committees, and its interactions with external bodies. The review also highlights the importance of GEBCO's work considering the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the need for increased international coordination in ocean data collection. Findings and recommendations address the need for clearer governance structures, enhanced stakeholder engagement, risk management practices, and the establishment of a continuous improvement culture. The review emphasizes the importance of aligning GEBCO's work with the newly commissioned *GEBCO Strategy* ([IOC/INF-1538](#)), which was developed in parallel to this governance review.

79. The representatives of eight Member States and two Observers took the floor.

80. Several Member States and observers welcomed the usefulness of the user requirements review given the importance of bathymetric data to the implementation of various IOC programmes such as tsunami, Marine Spatial Planning and ecosystem-based management approaches, amongst a few. Member States supported the recommendations identified by the Working Group and expressed the need to better understand the capacity development needs of Member States related to ocean mapping activities, in future conduct of the user requirement review.
81. Concerning the findings of the GEBCO Governance Review, Member States expressed support for the recommendations identified and invited the GEBCO Guiding Committee to take actions on these and report back on their implementation to relevant IHO and IOC Governing Bodies.
82. In his response, Vice-Chair Juan Forero Hauzeur highlighted the importance for all IOC Member States of updated, detailed, timely bathymetric data for so many applications. He encouraged the Secretariat to create collaboration, particularly in the area of capacity development, building on existing infrastructures such as IOC's OceanTeacher Global Academy Project.
83. The following Member States and two Observers chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [Brazil](#), [Chile](#), [France](#), [Japan](#), [Portugal](#); [Mauritius](#) and [WMO](#) as Observers.
84. The Executive Council adopted [Decision EC-57/4.4](#).

GEBCO Governance Review (2023) and Triennial Review of User Requirements

The Executive Council,

I – Triennial Review of User Requirements

Recalling Decision IOC/A-32/3.5.1 to, *inter alia*, conduct the Review of User Requirements and Potential Contributions to GEBCO on a biennial basis,

Having examined the report of the Working Group on User Requirements and Contributions to GEBCO Products presented in document IOC/EC-57/4.4.Doc(2),

Recognizing the continued need of the IOC scientific community for bathymetric products and the fact that access to high quality bathymetry is important not only for navigation, but also for other purposes, such as tsunami warning and preparedness, conservation of marine ecosystems and biological diversity, marine spatial planning, extended continental shelf and climate and marine modelling,

Noting that significant amounts of bathymetric data are collected by the scientific and commercial sector for purposes other than chart improvement, but are not easily made discoverable or available for secondary purposes,

Takes note of the conclusions of the working group contained in document IOC/EC-57/4.4.Doc(2);

Requests the Executive Secretary to:

- (i) convey the conclusion of this review to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the GEBCO Guiding Committee;
- (ii) identify ways and means to increase the participation of respondents, particularly representing the interest of IOC programmes, as well as regional subsidiary organs, in future assessments carried out by the working group;
- (iii) share the findings of the review with relevant IOC communities;

Decides to conduct the next Review of User Requirements and Potential Contributions to GEBCO, with the next assessment to be presented to the IOC Assembly in 2027;

Encourages Member States to:

- (i) cooperate to advance basin-scale campaign mapping and accelerate the delivery of GEBCO objectives and general knowledge of the ocean in particular by supporting and contributing to the Nippon Foundation–GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project;
- (ii) facilitate GEBCO capacity development, including training opportunities; and
- (iii) actively participate in the next assessment, to be conducted by the working group;

II – GEBCO Governance Review and Strategy

Recalling IOC Decision A-32/Dec.4.1,

Having considered document IOC/EC-57/4.4.Doc(1) containing the Report and Recommendations of the GEBCO Governance Review Project Team (2024) and IOC/INF-1538, which presents the New GEBCO Strategy,

Takes note of the report and its recommendations, as well as of the GEBCO Strategy;

Requests the GEBCO Guiding Committee to consider the recommendations, identify the implications, if any, of their implementation, and report progress to the Governing Bodies of IOC and IHO through the report of the GEBCO Chair, including an Implementation plan.

4.5 REPORT OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON THE 2ND EDITION OF THE IOC STATE OF THE OCEAN REPORT (StOR)

85. Mr Matthias Wunsch, Member of the StOR Advisory Board (Germany) introduced this agenda item by referring to the Advisory Board's report and guidance on the second edition of the *IOC State of the Ocean Report* (StOR) ([IOC/A-32/4.2.Doc\(1\)](#)). The IOC's StOR 2024, published in June 2024, presents the current state of the ocean in terms of its physical, chemical, ecological, socio-economic and governance aspects, and its future prospects, based on current studies and analyses mainly from IOC programmes and projects. The second edition of the StOR focuses on the seven Outcomes of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The publication brings together contributions from 98 authors from 25 countries.
86. Mr Mathias Wunch emphasised the central role of the StOR Advisory Board in the scoping, reviewing and editing of the report since the IOC Assembly session in June 2023. The StOR Advisory Board consists of representatives from 9 Member States. The Secretariat with the support of the Advisory Board updated the concept note based on comments received during the IOC Assembly. The updated concept note was presented to IOC Member States through two online consultation sessions on 31 October 2023 (refer to Circular Letter [2963](#)). The concept note directly indicates the target audience of the StOR, which is primarily policymakers, while the information included can also serve as a source of information on the state of the ocean for the media. It also identifies the IOC programmes and affiliated projects as the primary source of information, while taking into account complementary data from other international organizations where necessary to provide a StOR covering all Ocean Decade Outcomes. It was agreed that the frequency should be regular but subject to the constraints of available financial and human resources.
87. He then invited the Council to endorse a regular publication of StOR, in line with the updated concept note, while noting that the publication will evolve in terms of content as science is advancing.
88. The representatives of 16 Member States and 1 observer country took the floor.
89. Member States expressed their appreciation of the role and work of the StOR Advisory Board and the Member States that participated in its work. The STOR was described as a vital document for the IOC, an important product to inform policy, and a timely and focused publication. Member States also stressed that future editions should go further in seeking balanced geographical representation in authorship and gender balance, strive to best target the StOR to its intended audience and include in the next edition other relevant topics that could be covered by

partners. Several Member States stressed the crucial importance of remaining complementary and well aligned with other larger assessments, in particular the World Ocean Assessment, so that the niche of the StOR remains well defined. The wish to develop, in the medium- or long-term, indicators for the key parameters of the StOR was expressed.

90. The Executive Council thanked the Republic of Korea, Iceland and Back-to-Blue for their financial and in-kind support, which enabled the publication of the StOR 2024.
91. Mr Matthias Wunch, on behalf of the Advisory Board, welcomed the comments and suggestions for further development of the StOR and encouraged interested Member States to join the Advisory Board for the next edition.
92. The Executive Council agreed on the need to further refine the future edition of the StOR, on the importance of striving to diversify the expertise, gender, geographical representation and professional status of authors and reviewers, and to include knowledge provided by indigenous peoples and other local coastal communities.
93. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [Brazil](#), [Canada](#), [Colombia](#), [Iceland](#), [Japan](#), [Republic of Korea](#), [United Kingdom](#), [USA](#); and [Russian Federation](#) as Observer.
94. The Executive Council adopted [Decision IOC/EC-55/4.5](#).

Report on the Second Edition of the IOC State of the Ocean

The Executive Council,

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.5.Doc(1),

Welcomes the publication of the second edition of the IOC State of the Ocean Report 2024 published as IOC Technical Series, 190;

Appreciates the work of the StOR Advisory Board and its guidance, and the need for its continued efforts to enhance the StOR in line with its intended purpose;

Welcomes the updated concept note and the consultations held as detailed in IOC Circular Letter [2963](#);

Endorses the continued publication of the StOR, reliant on further refinement and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funding;

Requests the StOR Advisory Board to strive to ensure the StOR reflects diversity in expertise, gender, geographic representation and career status of the authors and reviewers, and includes the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;

Invites IOC Member States to provide extrabudgetary financial resources to the realization of the IOC StOR.

4.6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IOC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2023–2030)

95. Mr Alan Evans, Chair of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD) introduced this item. He reminded the Assembly of all the decisions that have guided the work of the group, from its establishment in 2017 (decision [IOC-XXIX/10.1](#)) to its mandate in 2021 to review the IOC Capacity Development Strategy and prepare a proposal to promote visibility and reach of the revised strategy (decision [A-31/3.5.3](#)). He recalled that through Decision [IOC-32/4.3](#), the Assembly at its 32nd session adopted the *IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030* published as document [IOC/INF-1433](#) and its Outreach and Communications Plan ([IOC-32/4.3.Doc\(2\)](#)). He informed the Council that the printed versions of the strategy in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Russian) are available at the foyer.

96. Mr Evans referred to the discussions at the 5th meeting of the Group of Experts on Capacity Development in February 2024 (refer to report [IOC/GE-CD-V/3](#)). While the Group has fulfilled the mandate given to it by the Assembly at its 31st session, the new IOC Capacity Development Strategy requires additional actions, such as: the development of an implementation plan; alignment with the new Capacity Development elements of the Decade such as the Capacity Development Facility (CDF) and the [White Paper on the Ocean Decade Challenge 9](#): ‘Skills, knowledge and technologies for all’; the development of Ocean CD-Hub; and further outreach and promotion in support of the new Strategy. The group and the secretariat were of the view that new and existing Capacity Development initiatives and efforts supporting the six outputs of the new Strategy would benefit from the continued role of the Group of Experts in informing and assisting the IOC Secretariat responsible for capacity development in implementing its related strategy.
97. At the 5th meeting of the group, the terms of reference were refined to reflect the requirements of the new IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030, including its implementation plan, consultations with global programmes and regional subsidiary bodies for their capacity development workplans, and the necessary coordination with the capacity development objectives of the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development.
98. Mr Evans then explained that, as work on the implementation plan could not begin until the Assembly had adopted the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 at its 32nd session, it had been agreed to propose to the Executive Council that the group continue with revised terms of reference and to seek their adoption at the present session of the Executive Council.
99. Mr Evans presented the next steps following the adoption of the revised ToR and invited the Member States to nominate new members to the GE-CD via the procedures set forth in an IOC Circular Letter for the renewal of the GE-CD Membership.
100. He concluded his presentation by sharing for general awareness the impacts of the increased funding of IOC capacity development, which addressed staffing and operational funding of the IOC CD coordination, new CD initiatives, stronger support for global and regional coordination and mobilization of resources.
101. The representatives of 10 Member States and 3 Observers took the floor.
102. The Council thanked Mr Alan Evans, GE-CD Chair, for his presentation, and congratulated his leadership and the Group of Experts for their impressive work in the successful delivery of capacity development on ocean sciences.
103. The Council recognized the role of Capacity Development and expressed its full support in the continuation of the Group of Experts. Member States welcomed the proposed revision of the Terms of Reference of the Group to enable the effective implementation of the IOC CD Strategy. Member States highlighted their commitment to the IOC Capacity Development through collaboration with existing IOC initiatives such as the Ocean Training Internships and mobilization of efforts and personnel through secondments.
104. Member States expressed alignment of their respective efforts and support for the implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030. They identified shared priorities for beneficiaries of capacity development efforts in Africa, SIDS, LDCs, youth and early career ocean professionals. In this regard, Member States were encouraged to utilize the Ocean CD-Hub platform and submit to the CD Secretariat the capacity development opportunities offered by their organizations to make their respective efforts visible and recognized.
105. Member States encouraged the IOC CD Secretariat to explore creative ways to increase the number of Member States completing and participating in the needs assessment surveys to further identify capacity development needs and priorities.

106. The following Member States and organizations chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [Colombia](#), [France](#), [India](#), [Japan](#), [Republic of Korea](#), [United Kingdom](#) and [USA](#); [Russian Federation](#), [SCOR](#) and [WMO](#) as Observers.

107. The Executive Council adopted [Decision IOC/EC-57/4.6](#).

Implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030)

The Executive Council,

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.6.Doc(1) and report IOC/GE-CD-V/3,

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 Capacity Development initiatives,

Decides to continue the role of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development and to revise its Terms of Reference as in the annex to this decision;

Annex to [Dec. EC-57/4.6](#)

Terms of Reference IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD)

The IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD) is composed of experts nominated by IOC Member States responding to a call by circular letter detailing the GE-CD membership.

The IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD) is responsible for the following tasks:

1. assist global and regional programmes with the implementation of capacity development needs assessments in a consistent manner;
2. also 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 IOC Assembly at its 33rd session 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 IOC CD Secretariat on the design and implementation of the biennial CD survey in close collaboration with the regions, 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;

9. report results to the Assembly at its 33rd session.

4.7 REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2021–2030)

108. Mr Julian Barbière, Ocean Decade Coordinator a.i. supported by Ms Alison Clausen, Programme Specialist, presented this item. Mr Barbière highlighted that the Decade is now entering its fourth year of implementation and that the portfolio of Decade Actions and the network of decentralised coordination structures is continuing to grow rapidly. He recognised the importance of the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference (Barcelona, April 2024) and the resulting [Barcelona Statement](#) as a blueprint for the future priorities of the Decade. He thanked Spain for hosting the Conference and highlighted, with thanks, the work of the members of the Working Groups of the Vision 2030 process, as well as all other partners that contributed to the success of the Conference. He highlighted several recommendations that emerged from the Conference as being of particular relevance to Member States including the importance of national level action, enhanced policy drivers for science and knowledge generation, support and partnership with SIDS and LDCs, and required changes to the volume and structure of investment in ocean science initiatives and infrastructure. He encouraged all Member States to bear these priorities in mind in the development of their activities to support the Ocean Decade.
109. He reported that to date, six Calls for Decade Actions have been concluded and have resulted in the endorsement of 52 Decade programmes, 320 Decade projects and 99 Decade contributions. The seventh Call for Decade Actions is currently open until 31 August 2024 and is focusing primarily on contributions of essential financial and in-kind resources to strengthen the portfolio of existing Decade Actions. He reported that while the portfolio of Decade Actions exhibits strong thematic diversity, there are still important gaps in SIDS and LDCs and reminded Member States that Call for Decade Actions No. 06/2023 had identified new Decade Actions from SIDS and LDCs that are being supported and mentored in processes of co-design. He indicated that future Calls will increasingly target strategic geographic and thematic gaps in the overall ecosystem of Decade Actions based on the results of the Vision 2030 process.
110. Mr Barbière reported on the growing network of 12 decentralised coordination structures that are essential partners to coordinate and support existing Decade Actions, analyse gaps and future priorities, and catalyse new Decade Actions in response to future Calls for Decade Actions. He thanked partner institutions for their commitments in establishing decentralized coordination structures. He highlighted that the current Call for Decade Actions No. 07/2024 is also soliciting new decentralized coordination structures to fill critical thematic and geographic gaps. He also reminded the Executive Council that the Decade Coordination Offices led by IOC required additional resources to become fully operational.
111. He reported on the work of the Decade Advisory Board, whose membership was renewed in January 2024, and that met four times over the last 12 months. He underscored the importance of the work of the Decade Advisory Board in providing strategic guidance on the implementation of the priorities identified in the Vision 2030 Outcomes Report and *The Barcelona Statement* and thanked its co-chairs and members for their commitment.
112. Mr Barbière confirmed that 39 National Decade Committees have been established and are operational but highlighted the uneven geographic distribution of these Committees with very few Committees in SIDS or LDCs. He highlighted that a key recommendation of the Vision 2030 process related to the strengthening of the role of National Decade Committees as a means of increasing national level activity in the Decade. He encouraged Member States to develop new National Decade Committees and indicated that the Decade Coordination Unit and existing group of National Decade Committees could provide mentoring and support to this process.

113. He outlined the contribution of IOC to the Decade in the form of Decade programmes and projects, the central Decade Coordination Unit, and the supporting role of the secretariats of its Sub-Commissions acting as Decade Coordination Offices. He highlighted the strong potential for IOC-led Decade Actions and coordination structures to contribute to the strengthening and strategic expansion of IOC programmes and Regional Subsidiary Bodies, but noted the significant resource constraints that persist. He strongly encouraged Member States to provide additional in-kind and financial resources to support the central positioning of IOC within the Decade both in its coordination role as well as through its programmatic contributions.
114. Mr Barbière indicated that priorities for the Ocean Decade over the next 12 to 18 months would be guided by the outcomes of the Vision 2030 process and The *Barcelona Statement* and would include: strengthened mechanisms to ensure that policy needs drive science and knowledge generation, including at the national level; continued mechanisms to support the demonstrated commitment and engagement of SIDS and LDCs in the Decade, including via the Ocean Decade Capacity Development Facility; full operationalisation of processes to engage Indigenous and local knowledge holders in the Decade; enhanced efforts in resource mobilisation; and continued strengthening of coordination structures and processes.
115. He highlighted the importance of using the series of international events and conferences that have or will take place in 2024 and 2025 as platforms raise visibility of the outcomes of the Vision 2030 process and catalyse new partnerships and action. These events include: Our Ocean Conference (Greece, April 2024); the Fourth UN International SIDS Conference (Antigua & Barbuda, May 2024); Immersed in Change Congress (Costa Rica, June 2024); the 16th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Colombia, November 2024); and the 29th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (Azerbaijan, November 2024); culminating in the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, France (June, 2025). These events will be held in a landscape of numerous regional and national events that will allow for the translation of the global Vision 2030 Outcomes to different geographic contexts.
116. He reminded the Executive Council that 2025 represents the mid-way point of the Ocean Decade and drew the attention of Member States to document [IOC/EC-57/4.7.Doc\(2\)](#) that outlines the draft Scoping Framework for the mid-term evaluation of the Decade. He noted that the results and recommendations of this evaluation would be presented to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd Session in 2025.
117. Finally, Mr Barbière informed the Executive Council of the information documents related to the implementation of the Decade including updates on the status of Decade Actions and resource needs for IOC and partner-led initiatives, as well as a report on the work of the Decade Advisory Board, and the Vision 2030 Outcomes Report (IOC Ocean Decade Series, 50). He reminded the Executive Council that the Decade was a voluntary mechanism, and that coordination was resourced entirely from extrabudgetary sources. He highlighted the call made to Member States through previous circular letters to provide in-kind and financial support to the Decade and warmly thanked those Member States and partners who have provided essential support to Decade coordination and Decade Actions.
118. The representatives of 24 Member States and 5 Observers took the floor.
119. The Executive Council noted the significant work achieved over the last period and congratulated the Secretariat for its continued successful leadership of the Ocean Decade, including the successful 2024 Ocean Decade Conference. Member States provided information on the significant activity that is being undertaken at the national and regional levels, including via National Decade Conferences, regional taskforces and roadmaps, and national and regional conferences and events.

120. Several interventions highlighted the importance of strategic partnerships, such as the recently developed roadmap between the Ocean Decade and the Research and Development Directorate of the European Commission, engagement in regional processes such as the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA), and the development of innovative resource mobilisation initiatives such as the joint calls developed with the Belmont Forum.
121. Numerous interventions welcomed the upcoming mid-term evaluation and highlighted the importance of engaging Member States and National Decade Committees in the process. Member States emphasised that the evaluation should not focus solely on the role of Member States as resource providers, but rather consider the diverse types of contributions that Member States can make. Several Member States also recognised the importance of addressing options to further streamline governance structures, to ensure adequate resourcing of decentralised coordination structures, and to ensure appropriate mechanisms to measure the true impact of the Decade as part of the mid-term evaluation.
122. Several Member State interventions noted the need to further strengthen the engagement of UN entities in the Decade and requested additional clarification on the status of UN entity engagement, the process for development and recognition of UN-led Decade Actions and the status of the draft analysis of UN entity engagement that was presented to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session.
123. Ms Clausen commenced the Secretariat's response by thanking Member States and observers for their support. She congratulated Member States on the significant work being done at the national level to advance the work of the Decade. She recognized the importance of the diverse forms of national engagement including leading and supporting Decade Actions, establishing National Decade Committees, support to global and decentralized coordination, engagement in working groups, joint resource mobilization initiatives and the hosting of regional and international events.
124. She highlighted the crucial role of Member States and National Decade Committees in the upcoming mid-term evaluation and noted that the specific comments provided by Member States on the evaluation will be considered in the finalization of Terms of Reference of the evaluation.
125. She noted that there is growing engagement of United Nations entities in the Decade with the recent endorsement of new UN-led Decade Actions recently and a strong presence of UN entities at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference. She also noted that UN entities will be engaged in the mid-term evaluation through UN-Oceans. She clarified that the analysis of UN engagement in the Ocean Decade that was presented to the IOC Assembly in 2023 has been subject to further discussions with UN-Oceans members and is being finalized to reflect the role of UN entities in contributing to the priorities of *The Barcelona Statement*. She confirmed that the report would be available in Q3, 2024. She also encouraged Member States of other UN entities to raise awareness about the role of the Decade as a knowledge provider to support the mandate of these organizations. She reported that diverse processes exist for the development of the IOC-led Decade Actions and confirmed that all UN-led Decade Actions are registered through a streamlined online process.
126. She acknowledged the recommendations of Member States to further streamline governance structures within the Decade and confirmed that the mid-term evaluation will explore this issue, including options to address critical gaps in coverage of decentralized coordination structures and to facilitate a reinforced and more strategic role for these structures.
127. She concluded by expressing the importance of collaboration with all Member States and other stakeholders at the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference and associated special events, and in the lead-up to the 2027 Ocean Decade Conference to ensure that the outcomes of *The*

Barcelona Statement are translated into new partnerships, actions and commitments for investment to contribute to the success of the Decade.

128. The following Member States and Observers chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [Argentina](#), [Australia](#), [Brazil](#), [Chile](#), [Colombia](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [India](#), [Japan](#), [Kenya](#), [Republic of Korea](#), [South Africa](#), [Thailand](#), [United Kingdom](#) and [USA](#); [Belmont Forum](#), [European Commission](#), [PICES](#), [SCOR](#), [WESTPAC](#) and [WMO](#) as Observers.

129. The Executive Council adopted **Resolution EC-57/1** submitted by Germany, India, Morocco and Portugal.

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

The Executive Council,

Part I

Recalling IOC Resolutions EC-53/1, A-31/1, A-32/3 and EC-55/1 on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), thereafter the Decade,

Considering document IOC/EC-57/4.7Doc(1) on the Status of the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and Perspectives for 2025,

Takes note with satisfaction of the contribution of the Decade Advisory Board (DAB) to the implementation and strategic development of the Decade, and **welcomes** the renewal of its members for the period 2024–2025, in accordance with the DAB Terms of Reference;

Also welcomes the development of the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 process aimed at enhancing the strategic delivery of the Decade under its 10 Decade Challenges, and **thanks** the Co-Chairs and Members of the Vision 2030 Working Groups;

Also takes note of the positive results achieved during the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference and **extends its gratitude** to the Government of Spain, the Generalitat of Catalonia and the City of Barcelona for hosting this event;

Affirms its support to the implementation of the priorities and recommendations outlined in *The Barcelona Statement*¹,

Invites Member States and partners to:

- (i) incorporate the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 priorities and recommendations into their national and regional science-policy frameworks, and to use them to inform budget and resourcing decisions;
- (ii) 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) and secondments to the Decade Coordination Unit (DCU);
- (iii) offer to host and fund Decade Actions, Decade Coordination Offices (DCO), and Decade Collaborative Centres as described in the Decade Implementation Plan (IOC Ocean Decade Series, 20);
- (iv) establish National Decade Committees with a view to stimulate national activities and international cooperation; and
- (v) host regional or international Decade stakeholders events;

Also invites UN Member States, UN-Oceans members, international scientific and academic organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to support the Decade in collaboration with IOC, and to contribute to its implementation by proposing Decade Actions

¹ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000391112.locale=en>

in accordance with the Decade Implementation Plan; and supporting the implementation of the priorities and recommendations of the Vision 2030 process;

Part II

Having examined document IOC/EC-57/4.7.Doc(2),

Further takes note of the Draft Scoping Framework for the Ocean Decade Mid-Term Evaluation, and **requests** the IOC Executive Secretary to develop the detailed Terms of Reference of the Evaluation, taking into account discussions in the session;

Requests the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service to carry out the Evaluation, which should include consultations with Member States, National Decade Committees, and other relevant stakeholders, and to present the results to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session;

Expresses gratitude to the Governments of Canada, France, Japan, Belgium (Government of Flanders), Norway, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sweden, as well as REV-Ocean, and FUGRO for their valuable financial contributions to the Decade;

Also expresses appreciation to:

- (i) the Government of Thailand for hosting the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference in Bangkok, 22–25 April 2024, and;
- (ii) the Government of India for hosting the Indian Ocean Regional Decade Conference, in Hyderabad, 1–3 February 2024;

Supports the registration of new IOC-led Decade Actions, specifically:

- (i) Harmful Algal Bloom Solutions Programme;
- (ii) Ocean Decade Sustainable Ocean Planning Programme, and;
- (iii) SEAWARD Africa Ocean Decade Programme;

Also supports the active roles of the IOC Regional and Technical Subsidiary Bodies and Programmes in facilitating Decade regional and thematic coordination and engagement activities, in particular:

- (i) WESTPAC Secretariat acting as DCO for the Western Pacific Region;
- (ii) IOCARIBE Secretariat acting as DCO for the Tropical Americas and Caribbean Region;
- (iii) IOCAFRICA Secretariat acting as DCO for Africa;
- (iv) IODE Programme Office acting as DCO for Ocean Data Sharing;
- (v) GOOS Project Office acting as DCO for Ocean Observations, and;
- (vi) UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, acting as a DCO for Connecting People and Ocean;

Takes note of the resource needs identified by the DCU, IOC-led DCOs and IOC-led Decade Actions to fulfil their commitments under the Decade;

Further invites Member States, partners, and donor organizations to support IOC-led Decade Actions and coordination mechanisms, including through allocation of extra-budgetary resources to relevant IOC programmes and regions, to achieve their transformative ambitions, guide their respective communities, and catalyse further actions within and beyond the Decade.

5. GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

5.1 REVISED PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2024–2025 (42 C/5) AND PROVISIONAL PROPOSALS FOR 2026–2027 (DRAFT 43 C/5)

130. The IOC Executive Secretary introduced this item. He started by thanking Member States for their support that made it possible for the UNESCO Executive Board at its 216th session in May 2023, to recommend to the UNESCO General Conference, at its 42nd session, that it approves a 1% increase in the IOC's share of the UNESCO regular budget, which is not to be decreased by

transfers of funds to other parts of the budget, and that ‘a baseline be identified and agreed for the IOC’s share of UNESCO’s regular budget under document 42 C/5 and future C/5 documents and that no reduction to this baseline be made in the future unless agreed by the General Conference’ (216 EX/Decision 44).

131. With this recommendation taken on board by the UNESCO General Conference and the adoption of the revised budget ceiling due to the United States of America re-joining the Organization in July 2023, the IOC regular budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) increased from US\$ 13.5M (as considered by the Assembly at its 32nd session) to US\$ 21.1M.

132. The IOC Executive Secretary highlighted that in developing its 2024–2025 workplans the Secretariat was guided by the following high-level principles adopted by IOC Member States in [IOC Resolution A-32/4.II](#) for the allocation of additional resources under regular budget, with a view to ‘stabilizing the functions of the IOC, including human resources, to address shortfalls and critical risks in order to provide a strong platform for the future’:

- ensure that an increase of no less than 1% of the IOC regular budget is allocated to IOCAFRICA;
- aim at respecting the ratio of staff *versus* non-staff costs supported from regular budget, as previously advised by the IOC Assembly in [Resolution XXVII-2](#);
- ensure that at least one third of additional resources is allocated to ‘stabilize all IOC existing functions, with the indicative pro-rata basis for distribution included in Annex 1 to IOC Resolution A-32/4;
- allocate at least one third of additional resources for targeted investment focused on critically vulnerable areas:
 - IODE
 - GOOS
 - Capacity Development
 - Regional Subsidiary bodies.

133. With the details of budgetary allocations provided in document IOC/EC-57/5.1.Doc(1), the summary of key changes introduced regarding regular budget is as follows:

- 32% of additional non-staff resources allocated across the board to stabilise all IOC functions;
- 68% of additional non-staff resources allocated to targeted investment in IODE, GOOS, Capacity Development and Regional Subsidiary Bodies;
- IOCAFRICA non-staff regular budget increased by 3% of the total IOC regular budget in the [42 C/5 Approved](#) – from US\$ 239K to US\$ 937K;
- Overall 73% of additional resources were allocated to ‘field’ entities and 27% to Headquarters (HQ);
- 1 new post was created at HQ for GOOS;
- 4 new posts were created in the field: 1 for IODE in Ostend; 1 to reinforce IOCAFRICA Secretariat in Nairobi, 1 for the new IOCINDIO Secretariat to be established in consultation with Member States and 1 to reinforce our action in favour of Pacific SIDS;
- Intersectoral output 3.IP2 (strengthening Ocean Literacy in UNESCO designated sites) shows a 69% increase;

- Staff/non-Staff ratio: 57% staff and 43% non-staff (compared to 74% and 26% in the scenario considered by the Assembly, with the IOC Assembly Resolution XXVI-2 calling for no less than 25% of regular budget for non-staff).

134. Mr Helgesen also pointed out that, to complement the narrative provided to the UNESCO 42 C/5 Approved, the document presented to the Executive Council provides a more detailed overview of enhanced programme delivery by function and priority areas.

135. He concluded by briefly presenting the process and the timeline for the preparation of the UNESCO Draft 43 C/5 (Programme and Budget for 2026–2029, first biennium 2026–2027). With insufficient time for adequate consultation with Member States, the Secretariat's proposal in document [IOC/EC-5.7/5.1.Doc\(1\)](#) is that work in the first biennium of the 43 C/5 continue to support IOC Output 1: 'Member States critically supported in strengthening their capacity to conduct marine scientific research, generate knowledge, and develop and implement science-based tools, services and policies in order to reverse the decline in ocean health and accelerate the transition towards sustainable management of ocean-related risks and opportunities'.

136. In accordance with IOC Resolution A-32/4 of the IOC Assembly (2023), the Secretariat shall make every effort, in the draft programme and budget proposal for 2026–2029 (first biennium 2026–2027), to reflect the IOC priorities in terms of long-term sustained observations and data and information management, as well as regional subsidiary bodies and activities and Member States' capacity building, which are fundamental to the achievement of the Commission's High Level Objectives 2022–2029. This work will be further guided by the Member States' consultation process 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean' so as to take stock and review how the Commission can best contribute to larger development change in the areas of its mandate.

137. The representatives of four Member States and two Observers took the floor.

138. The Executive Council considered that the programmatic choices of the Secretariat in developing the Revised Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) followed Member States' strategic guidance provided in IOC Resolution A-32.4. The Council highlighted the importance of continuous consultations on priorities with the relevant programmes and subsidiary bodies to co-design priority activities and optimise delivery in 2024–2025, as well as to lay the foundations for the Draft 43 C/5. In this regard, Member States stressed that some key areas of IOC's work, notably at the regional level, are still under-resourced and under-staffed and their reinforcement would need to be considered in the next budgetary cycle. Member States-driven consultations on the 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean', the Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning, as well as the assessment of the IOC's governance and management processes, will guide the development of proposals for the next programmatic and budgetary cycle and lead to the next IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2030–2037.

139. The following Member States and Observers chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [Colombia](#), [Cook Islands](#), [United Kingdom](#) and [USA](#); [Russian Federation](#) and [WESTPAC](#) as Observers.

140. The Executive Council adopted [IOC Decision EC-57/5.1](#).

Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission

The Executive Council,

Having examined [IOC/EC-57/5.1.Doc\(1\)](#),

Takes note of document [IOC/EC-57/5.1.Doc\(1\)](#) subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion in plenary under agenda item 5.4 and subsequent adoption.

5.2 ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE IOS EVALUATION OF THE IOC'S STRATEGIC POSITIONING – UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION

141. The IOC Executive Secretary reminded the Council of IOC [Resolution A-32/4.IV](#) of the Assembly at its 32nd session that adopted the Action Plan as presented in [IOC/A-32/6.3.Doc\(1\)](#) and requested the IOC Executive Secretary to 'move forward with its implementation considering the IOC's evolving situation, including the resources available, proposing adjustments accordingly and reporting on progress both to IOC and UNESCO Governing Bodies'.
142. Mr Helgesen highlighted that while some actions are already implemented and for some the work is in progress, a number of strategic actions will require further reflection by the Secretariat and consultation with Member States in the context of the new phase of the 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean' consultation. The 33rd session of the IOC Assembly in June 2025 will be an important milestone.
143. The representatives of four Member States and one Observer took the floor.
144. The Executive Council was in agreement with the Executive Secretary's assessment.
145. The following Member State chose to provide records of its plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: [United Kingdom](#).
146. The Executive Council adopted [Decision EC-57/5.2](#).

Action Plan in Response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC's Strategic Positioning – Update on Implementation

The Executive Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 52nd session (EC-LII, Dec.3.3) on Having examined IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(1),

Takes note of documents IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(4) and IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(1) subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion in plenary under agenda item 5.4 and subsequent adoption.

5.3 FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION A-32/4: GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING MATTERS OF THE COMMISSION – DRAFT GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT MEMBER STATES PREPARATION FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS FOR OFFICERS AND FOR STATES MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

147. The IOC Executive Secretary reminded the Council of IOC [Resolution A-32/4](#) of the Assembly at its 32nd Session, as well as of the recently completed process of adoption of the revised IOC Rules of Procedure, now published as document [IOC/INF-1166 Rev](#). The Draft Guidelines for the preparation and participation of Member States in the Biennial Elections for IOC Chair and Vice-Chairs (Officers of the Commission) and Member States of the Executive Council ([IOC/EC-57/5.3.Doc\(1\)](#)) are presented to the Executive Council for review and comments, with a view to finalising them for the 33rd session of the IOC Assembly. In accordance with Member States' request, an information meeting will be organised ahead of the session to facilitate preparations.
148. There were no Member States' interventions on this item.
149. The Executive Council adopted [Decision EC-57/5.3](#).

Follow-Up to Resolution A-32/4: Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission – Draft Guidelines for the election

The Executive Council,

Having examined IOC/EC-57/5.3.Doc(1),

Takes note of the Draft Guidelines for the preparation and participation of Member States in the Biennial Elections for IOC Chair and Vice-Chairs (Officers of the Commission) and Member States of the Executive Council, subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating a draft resolution for discussion in plenary under agenda item 5.4 and subsequent adoption.

5.4 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

150. The Chair of the Financial Committee, Vice-Chair of IOC Juan Forero Hauzeur (Colombia), 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 ones foreseen in the Rule of Procedure 45.1(c).
151. On behalf of the Executive Council, the Chair thanked Vice-Chair Juan Camilo Forero Hauzeur for his leadership and all those who participated in the work of the Financial Committee for their commitment and contributions.
152. The Executive Council adopted **Resolution EC-57/2** submitted by Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission

The Executive Council,

Having examined documents:

- (i) IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(2) – Report on 2022–2023 (41 C/5) budget implementation as at 31 December 2023,
- (ii) IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(3) – Financial situation of the IOC Special Account as at year end 2023 and forecast for 2024–2025,
- (iii) IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(4) – Consultation Process - IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Sustainable Delivery and Expansion of IOC Activities,
- (iv) IOC/EC-57/5.1.Doc(1) – Revised Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) and Preliminary Proposals for 2026–2029 (Draft 43 C/5),
- (v) IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(1) – Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning – Update on implementation,
- (vi) IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(2) – Report of the Chairperson of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (intersessional period January – June 2024), and
- (vii) IOC/EC-57/5.3.Doc(1) – Draft Guidelines for the preparation and participation of Member States in the Biennial Elections for IOC Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (Officers of the Commission) and Member States of the Executive Council,

Part I.

Report on 2022–2023 (41 C/5) budget implementation as at 31 December 2023 and Financial situation of the IOC Special Account as at year end 2023 and forecast for 2024–2025

Confirms that the IOC budget for 2022–2023, as reported in IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(2), has been executed in accordance with the Approved Programme and Budget 2022–2023 (41 C/5), including the adjusted budgetary appropriations for the IOC Special Account as approved by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session through IOC Resolution A-31/2 and further reviewed by the IOC Executive Council at its 55th session through Resolution EC-55/2;

Notes that while the overall extrabudgetary resource mobilisation targets set for the 2022–2023 biennium have been achieved, there were still some gaps in funding for Functions D and F as at year end 2023;

Thanks Member States who have contributed extrabudgetary funds for the 2022–2023 programme implementation;

Acknowledges the information on the financial situation of the IOC Special Account as at year end 2023 and forecast for 2024–2025 provided in IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(3);

Approves the revised budgetary allocations for 2024–2025 for the IOC Special Account as proposed in Table 1 of IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(3);

Encourages Member States to provide voluntary contributions to ensure full achievement of the collectively agreed extrabudgetary resource mobilization targets for 2024–2025 for all IOC Functions, preferably to the IOC Special Account;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to intensify proactive efforts to obtain further voluntary contributions, including from private sector donors and other partners, and to achieve full implementation of the Commission’s programmatic targets for 2024–2025;

Part II.

Revised Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) and Preliminary Proposals for 2026–2029 (Draft 43 C/5)

Recalls the decision of the UNESCO Executive Board at its 216th session to recommend that the UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session agree to an increase in the IOC’s share of the UNESCO regular budget of [1%], not to be decreased by transfers of funds to other parts of the budget and ‘that a baseline be identified and agreed for the IOC’s share of UNESCO’s regular budget under document 42 C/5 and future C/5 documents and that no reduction to this baseline be made in the future unless agreed by the General Conference’;

Thanks Member States for including in the agenda of the 216th session of the UNESCO Executive Board item 44 ‘Urgent requirement for increased and more stable resources to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)’ that led to the above-mentioned decision;

Notes with appreciation the increase in regular budget allocation to the IOC within the overall UNESCO 42 C/5 budget ceiling revised due to the United States of America re-joining the Organisation in July 2023, endorsed by the UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session in line with Member States’ priorities and allowing IOC to maintain its core programmes and to fulfil its role in the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030);

Acknowledges the presentation of the Revised Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) contained in IOC/EC-57/5.1.Doc(1), prepared as an integral part of the UNESCO Draft Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5), submitted by the Director-General of UNESCO to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 217th session and subsequently approved by the UNESCO General Conference at its 42nd session;

Takes note of the additional information provided by the IOC Secretariat upon the request from the IOC Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (IFAG) and reflected in the Report of the Chairperson of IFAG (IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(2));

Considers that the programmatic choices of the IOC Secretariat in developing the Revised Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) follow Member States’ strategic guidance provided in IOC Resolution A-32/4;

Welcomes in particular:

- (i) the stabilisation of all IOC Functions, coupled with targeted additional investment in IODE, GOOS, Capacity Development and Regional Subsidiary Bodies, identified by the IOC Assembly as ‘critically vulnerable areas’;
- (ii) the IOC Executive Secretary’s staffing choices, aimed at reinforcing the above-mentioned critically vulnerable areas as a matter of priority;
- (iii) the significant improvement in the ratio of staff *versus* non-staff resources support from the regular budget, and;
- (iv) the considerable increase of the regular budget allocated to IOCAFRICA activities, in line with UNESCO’s Global Priority Africa, and taking into account the need to avail adequate resources for programme implementation;

Notes that consultations on priorities take place on a continuous basis within the relevant programmes and subsidiary bodies to co-design priority activities and optimise delivery in 2024–2025, and to lay the foundations for the Draft 43 C/5 in line with the priority areas of the 42 C/5 and the spirit of maintaining the achievements related to the high-level principles of the IOC Resolution A-32/4;

Further notes with great concern that some of the above-mentioned IOC critically vulnerable areas are still understaffed and their reinforcement would need to be considered in the next budgetary cycles;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Officers of the Commission, to launch an external assessment of IOC's governance and management processes, with a view to streamlining operations and optimising the use of resources so as to be truly fit for purpose in response to the fast-evolving ocean agenda and increasing demands of Member States and multilateral processes;

Endorses the approach to the Preliminary Proposals for the Programme and Budget for 2026–2029 (Draft 43 C/5), including the formulation of the IOC Output 1, as presented in Part III of IOC/EC-57/5.1.Doc(1);

Highlights the critical importance of a clear and comprehensive consultation process with IOC Member States on governance, programming and budgetary matters of the Commission;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to develop the proposal for the Programme and Budget for 2026–2029 (Draft 43 C/5) for endorsement by the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session, keeping Member States appraised of and involved with all relevant developments during the intersessional period, including through regular and timely online meetings of the IFAG;

Part III.

Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning – Update on Implementation

Recalls that the Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning was endorsed by the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session as presented in IOC/A-32/6.3.Doc(1) and reproduced for the attention of the IOC Executive Council in IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(1), with the update on implementation in the table titled 'Summary of proposed actions and updates on progress';

Also recalls that the IOC Assembly, at its 32nd session, requested the IOC Secretariat to move forward with the implementation of the Action Plan 'considering the IOC's evolving situation, including the resources available, proposing adjustments accordingly and reporting on progress both to IOC and UNESCO Governing Bodies';

Welcomes the update on implementation as contained in the 'Summary of proposed actions and updates on progress' referred to above;

Agrees with the IOC Executive Secretary's assessment that, although some actions have already been implemented and work is in progress on others, a number of strategic actions will require further reflection and discussion with Member States as part of the new phase of the 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean' consultation;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to proceed accordingly and submit the resulting proposal to the IOC Assembly for review at its 33rd session;

Part IV.

Consultation Process – IOC and the Future of the Ocean

Recalls IOC Decision A-32/5, mindful of the IOC's status as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO;

Notes the proposal in document IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(4) that the 'IOC and Future of the Ocean' consultation allow for a three-year process synchronized with the calendar of IOC governing body sessions;

Decides that the consultation will first focus on an overall review of activities relevant to the role of IOC in assisting Member States and other stakeholders, including identifying gaps and needs in IOC programmes, in order to optimally facilitate current and emerging activities in science-based sustainable ocean planning, ocean science support to implementation of relevant UN conventions and frameworks, and development of a sustainable ocean economy;

Also decides that the review will be carried out by the IOC Secretariat in consultation with IOC programmes, IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies, IOC Member States, including through IFAG and relevant IOC intersessional working groups, in particular the IOC Working Group on sustainable ocean planning and management, and other relevant stakeholders as necessary;

Further decides that the review will draw on the Action Plan in response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC strategic positioning, the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2022–2029), and other relevant resources as necessary;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to start the consultation process, including engagement with IFAG on the review modalities, and to provide regular updates to IFAG on progress for input and guidance;

Also requests the IOC Executive Secretary to present the results and recommendations of the review to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session for guidance on how to proceed with the second phase of the consultation;

Part V.

Follow up to Resolution A-32/4 Part III – Governance and Working Methods Draft Guidelines for the preparation and participation of Member States in the Biennial Elections for IOC Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (Officers of the Commission) and Member States of the Executive Council

Recalls that the IOC Assembly at its 32nd session, through IOC Resolution A-32/4, endorsed the updated IOC Rules of Procedure, now published as document IOC/INF-1166 Rev., and invited the IOC Executive Secretary ‘to prepare guidelines to support Member States’ preparation for and participation in the elections, in accordance with the IOC Statutes and Rules of Procedure, and to consider having an information session prior to the vote’;

Takes note of the information contained in IOC/EC-57/5.3.Doc(1) as intended to highlight the specificities of IOC elections for Member States’ ease of reference, while the complete information is available in the IOC Statutes and Rules of Procedure, constituting the Commission’s regulatory framework;

Welcomes the IOC Executive Secretary’s confirmation that an information session will be organised prior to the 33rd session of the IOC Assembly to facilitate Member States’ preparations.

6. PREPARATION OF THE NEXT SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

153. The Executive Secretary reminded the Council of IOC Decision A-32/6.6 of the Assembly at its 32nd Session and some initial discussions at the Officers meeting.
154. The Secretariat informed the Executive Council of several meetings of interest to the oceanographic community in June 2025 with which it would be desirable for the 33rd session of the IOC Assembly not to conflict. The United Nations Ocean Conference hosted by Costa Rica and France (Nice, France, 9–13 June), its related Ocean Science Congress (Nice, France, 4–6 June), and the World Meteorological Organization Executive Council (Geneva, 16–20 June) were mentioned.
155. In June 2026, the calendar is still open for the 59th session of the Executive Council. The Secretariat proposed to reserve meeting rooms at Headquarters for a period of two weeks, while waiting to specify the dates at a later date in the light of developments of the international agenda.
156. No Member State has intervened on this item.
157. The Executive Council adopted IOC Decision EC-57/6.

Preparation of the 33rd Session of the Assembly and next Sessions of the Executive Council

The Executive Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 55th session (Dec. EC-55/5.3) on the duration of its sessions and IOC Decision A-32/6.6 of the Assembly at its 32nd Session,

Decides to hold:

- (i) the 33rd session of the Assembly for a duration of 6.5 days plus one Ocean Science Day, at UNESCO Headquarters, from 25 June to 3 July 2025, preceded by a one half-day session of the Executive Council (58th session) acting as the steering committee of the Assembly;
- (ii) The 59th session of the Executive Council for 3.5 days in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris over the period from 8 to 19 June 2026.

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

158. Mr Joe Naughton, the Chair of the Resolutions Committee reported to the Council on the work of the Committee during the session which met twice to review two resolutions on item 4.7 'Implementation of the UN Ocean Decade' and on item 5.3 on 'Governance, Programming and Budgeting matters'.
159. The IOC Chair then invited the Executive Council to consider the draft resolutions proposed by Member States.
160. The Secretariat reminded the Council that all adopted decisions and resolutions were being compiled and would be made available online as one document at the end of the day in the working languages of the Commission.
161. The Secretariat informed the Council that a draft summary of the Council's discussions was being prepared and would be completed in English and made available online a few days after the closure.
162. The Council thanked the Rapporteur, Mr Frederico Antonio Saraiva Nogueira for his notes which would help the Secretariat to finalize the drafting of the Summary Report.
163. No Member State has intervened on this item.
164. The Executive Council adopted IOC Decision EC-57/7.

Adoption of Resolutions and Modalities for the Finalisation of the Report

The Executive Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 52nd session (EC-LII, Dec.3.3) on organization matters,

Adopts the decisions and two resolutions of the session as in document IOC/EC-57/Decisions;

Takes note of the preparation of the draft summary report of the session by the Secretariat;

Requests the Executive Secretary to circulate the narrative part of the report to Member States in the four working languages of the Commission by September 2024 at the latest.

8. CLOSURE

165. The Council met in plenary session during 3.5 days from 25 to 28 June 2024, considered 22 items on its agenda and approved 12 decisions and 2 resolutions. The plenary meeting was supported by 2 preparatory meetings, 7 side events, 3 regional informational meetings and 6 meetings of sessional committees. The gender ratio of Executive Council Member State representatives and all participants, including speakers, was 1.44:1 (male:female).

166. In his concluding remark Professor Michida praised the commitment of all the delegations to the discussions and their work in committee, the countries that provided the tea/coffee breaks during the sessions, the interpreters and all the staff who contributed to the smooth running of the session.
167. The IOC Chair closed the 57th session of the Executive Council at 12:40 (Paris time) on 28 June 2024.

INFORMATIONAL ANNEX

Record of Member States' interventions at the 32nd session of the IOC Assembly that were provided to the IOC Secretariat by the respective Member States. Interventions are reprinted without review or verification.

1. Opening

Brazil

The Delegation of Brazil would like to give you its warmest welcome and underline that it is an honour to have you guiding us, as the Chairperson of this Commission, through this meeting and the main IOC meetings that we will have in the following years. Also, we warmly welcome Dr. Vidar Helgesen, whose experience, we are sure, will enable him to do an excellent job as Executive Secretary of the IOC. We would like to thank you and Dr Helgesen for the successful work at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona, whose organisation is a showcase of the excellent and smooth transition conducted by your predecessors, Ariel Troisi and Vladimir Ryabinin, whom we are grateful to, as well. Furthermore, the materialisation of the Conference in Barcelona highlights the importance of the highly professional and supportive staff which we can rely on in the IOC's secretariat.

Brazil has always been an active member of this Commission, supportive of its work, which we see as a fundamental one in the family of agencies and subsidiary organs in the UN System that deal with subjects related to the Ocean. With the Ocean Decade, our country is even more involved in the activities of the IOC, through our authorities, our vibrant scientific community and different stakeholders interested in pursuing the sustainable development of seas and oceans. We believe in empowering ocean science in order to deliver the solutions we need. To achieve this goal, it is important to count on multi stakeholder processes in which contributions from all parties are recognized, allowing scientific progress to be available to all. That is why the work of this Commission is so important, and that is why we will continue to support it.

Japan

Japan extends a warm welcome to Dr. Yutaka Michida, as the IOC Chair, and to Dr. Vidar Helgesen as the IOC Executive Secretary. Japan is eager to continue its collaboration together with the IOC Officers, Member States, and the Secretariat under the new leadership to move forward as one team to achieve "the Ocean We Need for the Future We Want".

Mauritius (Observer)

On behalf of the Government of Mauritius, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed Executive Secretary, Dr Vidar Helgesen. We are confident that your leadership will steer the IOC towards greater achievements in marine science and sustainable ocean management. Mauritius remains steadfast in its commitment to the IOC's goals and programmes, and we look forward to strengthening our collaboration to address critical issues such as climate change, ocean health, and the sustainable use of marine resources. Together, we can ensure that our oceans continue to thrive for future generations.

South Africa

The South African delegation welcomes the appointment of the new Executive Secretary of IOC and Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, Vidar Helgesen, as well as that of Prof Yutaka Michida as Chair of the IOC together with his new executive.

South African delegation wishes them well in executing the planned work of the IOC including the coordinating implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. South African delegation is committed to continue to work with the IOC through IOCAFRICA to implement the Ocean decade. We also looking forward to expanding the contribution of Africa in the knowledge space.

United State of America

The United States welcomes you, Dr. Vidar Helgesen, as our new executive secretary. We sincerely look forward to working with you and your team in the IOC Secretariat to further distinguish the IOC, its expertise, and its unique programmes in ocean observations and science for the good of humanity. We also welcome our new IOC Chair and appreciate his kind words and support for the United States. The United States thanks you both for your work in preparing us for today, and we thank the Executive Secretariat for the work accomplished since last year. The United States is pleased to be and looks forward to working with you and everyone here in support of the IOC and its Member States. The United States would also like to thank our Executive Secretary, the Secretariat staff, and our good colleague Juan Camilo Forero Hauzeur from Colombia for chairing our Intersessional Finance Advisory Committee yesterday where we had a very constructive discussion on matters of significant importance to the IOC. In particular, regarding the consultation on the IOC and Future of the Ocean, the United States recognizes the increasing demand placed on the IOC and the ocean. As we heard yesterday in the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group, this item is closely associated and interconnected with the IOS Evaluation Action Plan, and we believe they should be considered in connection with one another during discussions in the Finance Committee.

2. Organization of the Session

United States of America

As I noted earlier in my opening statement, the United States suggests that the proposed consultation process associated with IOC and the Future of the Ocean be discussed in conjunction with the IOS Evaluation Action Plan. The interconnectedness of these items was discussed at yesterday's IFAG. The United States believes it would be more appropriate to discuss this item during the Finance Committee along with the regarding the consultation on the IOC and Future of the Ocean.

3.1 Report of the Executive Secretary on the Work Accomplished since the Thirty-Second Session of the Assembly (July 2023–May 2024)

Australia

The focus of Australia's intervention was on the activity reported as 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Sustainable Delivery & Expansion of IOC Activities'.

While Australia notes the Assembly last year asked the Executive Secretary to prepare and initiate a consultation on these issues, Australia has concerns proceeding with the phased approach as outlined in IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(4). The purpose of the consultation, the method proposed and any clear assessment of what outcomes are being sought require further development.

We acknowledge the increasing demands being placed on the IOC and the importance of continued dialogue on how the IOC can deliver maximum impact and value to its members. However, there are several existing activities which we should consider leveraging for the purpose of looking to the future of the IOC.

1. The first is the Ocean Decade. The Ocean Decade has been heralded as the 'new age' for IOC-UNESCO. The success of its declaration and the activity it has generated has no doubt resulted in a reinvigoration of the IOC and helped to cement its role as a pivotal UN body in leading on narrowing the gap between ocean science and policy. The scale of this change is still to be quantified – but there are processes in train to do this. Next year there will be a mid-term review of the Decade. This process and the results will provide an excellent launch pad for discussions on the future of the IOC.

2. Another reason is tied to the work of IFAG. During the Assembly last year IFAG discussed the detailed report on the 'optimal' resource requirements of the IOC and developed a series of principles for guiding the allocation of IOC regular program funding to address several priority needs. Since then, the IOC has had a significant injection of funding into its regular budget, and the impact of the allocation of that increased funding will only be measurable in 12+ months' time. Efforts should be focused on quantifying the impact and benefit of this uplifted programme delivery and again will be valuable input into considering the future of the IOC.

We would welcome further discussions on this issue. Given the close alignment with agenda item 5.2 on the Action Plan to respond to the IOS Evaluation, and the opportunity for IFAG to discuss these matters during the session, we agree with the earlier intervention by the US and suggest that it would be beneficial for the discussions to be aligned and occur during the IFAG meetings this week.

Brazil

We thank the Executive Secretary for the comprehensive report on the work developed since the Assembly. As we have highlighted here, Brazil is very pleased with the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona. We believe it will be seen as a milestone in the history of this Commission. We would also like to underline our commitment to the Ocean Decade, which has been mobilizing our society, scientists and officials. We all have been working together in order to achieve the goals of the Decade and to address the challenges that we have been facing. In this process, we are convinced that Ocean literacy plays a key role. We would like, then, to highlight here the importance of the Venice Declaration for Ocean Literacy in Action. We embrace the declaration's aspirations to initiate a new wave of actions to enhance ocean literacy in the fields of education, science, politics, economy, and culture. We congratulate and support the work of the IOC in ocean literacy, aligned and in dialogue with our own actions. We are eager to share our expertise and experiences and to learn from others in open, collaborative processes, in this important subject and all the areas of work of this Commission.

Canada

Canada would like to congratulate Mr. Vidar Helgesen as the incoming Executive Secretary and wish him a warm welcome to the first Executive Council in his new role.

Nous vous remercions pour votre rapport et notons avec appréciation le travail important accompli pendant la période intersessions. Nous sommes encouragés par l'augmentation de l'allocation au budget du CIO pour 2024-2025 et nous attendons avec plaisir le rapport du président du comité financier sur cette affaire.

Canada welcomes the proposed consultation process on the future of the IOC and hopes that efficiencies be gained by mobilizing networks developed through the Ocean Decade, while ensuring the integrity of the core functions of the IOC, particularly given the ambitious timelines associated with the process. This important effort is a significant undertaking which will shape the vision, delivery mechanisms, and impact of the IOC and therefore it will be necessary to have a clear and coordinated path forward such that discussions and decisions at the 33rd Session of the Assembly in 2025 can be most effective.

Canada will continue to provide its support to the IOC and its programs, including the UN Decade.

Colombia

El Gobierno de Colombia agradece y felicita al Secretario Ejecutivo y al Presidente de la COI/UNESCO por la labor realizada desde su designación en este cargo y por el informe presentado, a los señores Vladimir Riyabinin y Ariel Troisi por la labor adelantada durante su mandato. Del mismo modo, elogiamos la labor en conjunto con el Reino de España en la organización de la Conferencia del Decenio de 2024 llevada a cabo en Barcelona, cuyos resultados y nuevas orientaciones nos acercaran aún más alcanzar la agenda 2030 en lo que respecta al objetivo de desarrollo sostenible No. 14 "Vida bajo el agua" ante el cual el país tiene el interés de continuar y reforzar su apoyo.

En ese sentido y contemplando la "Visión 2030" que se construyó en esta Conferencia del Decenio, además del aumento del presupuesto con priorización en las observaciones sostenidas a largo plazo y en la gestión de los datos y la información, entre otros, Colombia, a través del INVEMAR reafirma su compromiso como miembro de la red de expertos en acidificación del océano coordinada por la COI/UNESCO en donde activamente ha aportado y continuará aportando los datos relacionados con el indicador del ODS 14 relacionado con la "Acidez media del mar (pH) medida en un conjunto convenido de estaciones de muestreo representativas".

Sumado a ello, Colombia invita a los demás Estados miembro a sumarse a la Alianza Internacional para el Carbono Azul y extiende una felicitación a Australia, Francia y la COI/UNESCO por el esfuerzo que realizaron en el Diálogo 2023 para compartir las experiencias de los miembros en este asunto. Además, Colombia se permite expresar un agradecimiento al Gobierno de Flandes por el apoyo para acoger la Oficina de Proyectos de la COI para el IODE y espera que este apoyo continúe.

Por su parte, Colombia reconoce la importancia del Sistema de Datos e Información Oceanográficos (ODIS) como una actividad central de la COI/UNESCO y en particular del Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas, y, por tanto, agradece la respuesta al llamado para fortalecer el Programa IODE con personal dedicado al soporte y actualización permanente del ODIS como apoyo a los desafíos del Decenio y su visión al año 2030.

Germany

Germany shares the Executive Secretary's assessment of the fulfilment of IOCs statutory tasks. Indeed, the application of scientific knowledge to improve the management, sustainable development, protection of the

marine environment and decision-making processes of Member States, as set out in Article 2.1 of the IOC Statutes, is not yet fully developed. The Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development is undoubtedly a great opportunity to expand IOCs capacity, network and visibility in this regard.

Germany also noted with great satisfaction that the ES regards ocean observation as critical infrastructure. Germany, regarding sustainable long-term ocean observation as priority and IOCs backbone, is fully in line with this observation.

Germany thanks and congratulates all other Member States of the IOC and of UNESCO for the collective effort and the collective success in ensuring that the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of the increase of the UNESCO Regular Budget due to the return of the U.S. to UNESCO has indeed resulted in what we have been calling for for years at the IOC: A huge increase of the regular budget of the IOC, the largest relative budget increase of the entire UNESCO portfolio, only matched by the increase for Gender Equality. Thank you all also for your work in the UNESCO Executive Board in 2023.

Germany welcomes the proposal to proceed with the “IOC and the Future of the Ocean”-process and welcomes the strong inclusion of and consultation with member states in this process, and welcomes further discussions of this proposal in the Financial Committee.

To conclude, Germany sees IOC on the right track and will continue to work closely - sessionally and intersessionally - with the Secretariat to reach our common objectives.

Iceland

Iceland welcomes Dr. Vidar Helgesen to his position as the executive secretary of the IOC and we thank the secretariat for a successful collaboration in the launching of the 2nd State of the Ocean Report on the 3rd of June in Iceland.

We recognize that the work of the IOC is highly relevant today and for future generations. We also recognize that despite recent financial reinforcements the IOC is still a body with limited resources and capacity.

There is increasing awareness of the ocean as a key element in climate and ecosystem services and as the 2nd State of the Ocean Report highlights, the rate of environmental and ecosystem changes is accelerating.

Due to the rapid rates of human induced environmental changes and increasing demand for the ocean services, there is an increased sense of urgency. This urgency makes it increasingly important to ensure knowledge is understood by decision makers. Due to this urgency, there is a real danger that actions will be taken without the necessary understanding.

There is a saying: “Knowledge without action is meaningless & action without knowledge is foolishness”. IOC has an important role in facilitating the translation of knowledge into appropriate action. The IOC has also an important role in ensuring that actions are taken on the basis of knowledge.

In light of the above, Iceland would like to emphasize the importance efficiency.

Because of increasing demand of IOC products AND because there is a need for ensuring that IOC resources are used efficiently and effectively, we think that it is an appropriate time for an assessment to be undertaken with to goal of identifying opportunities for optimising management processes at the Secretariat in order to enhance programmatic output and delivery on the IOC’s mandate.

Further, Iceland places great importance on diversity and gender equality – and we would like to highlight the importance of advocating for inclusivity at all levels of ocean sciences and ocean governance.

India

India likes to welcome the new Executive Secretary Mr. Vidar Helgesen and the new IOC Chair Dr Yutaka Michida. India joins the other Member States in congratulating the Executive Secretary for the detailed report on the substantive progress made in the inter-sessional period across all functions of the IOC, and also for the successful organisation of the Barcelona Conference, and its outcomes in charting a direction for the future of the UN Ocean Decade.

India has been a key partner to the IOC in the full spectrum of activities spanning the end-to-end ocean value chain of Ocean Observations; Ocean Data & Information Services; Ocean Modelling & Forecasting; Tsunami and other Ocean & Coastal Hazards; Capacity Building and will continue these important engagements together with the other Member States. India, through its Decade Collaborative Centre for the IOR is glad to have associated with IOC in successfully organising the Indian Ocean Regional Decade Conference 2024: Bridging billions to Barcelona during February 2024 as a Prelude to the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference

India compliments the IOC for its efforts in progressing the activities of the new IOCINDIO sub-commission. India thanks IOC for its guidance on Marine Spatial Planning during the G20 Ocean 20 dialogue in India last year. The G20 meetings led to the development and adoption of the Chennai High level principles for a sustainable and resilient Blue Economy.

India would like to appreciate IOC for supporting the activities of the capacity building activities to Member States. The International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCO-Ocean) which is recognized as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre organised 10 International and 13 national training courses of 1 to 2-weeks duration. About 1037 from 39 countries were trained during June 2023 - May 2024 in collaboration with IOGOOS, POGO and OTGA. We thank UNESCO and IOC for initiating the process of extending the Category 2 Status of the centre.

India welcomes the consultative process 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Sustainable Delivery and Expansion of IOC Activities' taking into account Member States discussions and guidance on this matter. India agrees that the consultation process proposed will definitely benefit the Member states in their ocean governance and sustainably managing the ocean resources.

Italy

Italy confirms the support to work with the IOC to implement its mandate. Italy supports the IOC's regular mandate by maintaining the National Ocean Observing System as a contribution to GOOS, supporting UNESCO's ICG/NEAMTWS as a service provider, collaborating with IOC's HAB, GEBCO and IODE groups, the MSP v. Italy is promoting several OL initiatives in collaboration with the UNESCO Venice Office and believes that the Venice declaration on Ocean Literacy can constitute a turning point for IOC's success. Italy will continue to support IOC programs and activities in the coming years.

Italy joins other member states in congratulating the Secretary General and his staff on the incredible work of the IOC and the results reported over the last year as evidenced in the Secretary's presentation and in the attached supporting documents. Italy underscores the importance of the increase in IOC's budget has for the implementation of IOC's mandate. Italy is satisfied with the explanations presented by the general secretariat regarding the distribution of the budget among IOC's functions. Italy agrees that this distribution.

The new recognized role of the ocean on climate change and global thanks to the IOC launch of the Ocean decade has been increased thanks to IOC effort and it will increase more in the next years. Italy believes we need to join forces to connect ocean science with the sustainable blue economy community from the local to the global level.

Italy believes that Oceanographic observation is increasingly important in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and natural disasters. To enhance the Global Ocean Observing System is a priority for Italy together to ensure wiser and more sustainable use of sea and ocean resources. Italy confirm it is ready to collaborate with IOC in the engaging in the sustainable Ocean Planning.

Italy would like to inform IOC Secretariat and IOC members in the frame of the G7 Science and Technology ministerial, chair this year by Italy, Italy will make any action to underline the importance ocean science. On this regards an high-level conference, jointly organized by the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research and the European Commission, will take place at the Bologna Technopole on July 11. The event will address the Mediterranean macro-region and Atlantic Ocean's health and coastal resilience towards climate related extreme events. We hope that the conference will allow to reinforce the collaboration among the countries and contribute to the Ocean Decade challenges.

Italy will continue to support IOC programs and activities in the coming years.

Japan

The Decade of Ocean Science is irreplaceable opportunity for IOC and member states to conduct marine science and for realize sustainable society based on best science. Japan has been providing support for the Decade through Japan Fand in Trust, JFIT, from the preparation stage to the implementation stage. It will be continued to support citizen participation and the Vision 2030 process through JFIT. Japan aspires to encourage the promotion of effective endeavors to accomplish the objectives of the Vision 2030 process.

Japan has been provided data to programs such as GOOS, OBIS, and GEBCO, as well as conducting coral reef conservation activities in East Asia, through in-kind contributions. We will continue the efforts.

In the 32nd IOC General Assembly, it has decided to allocate additional resources for targeted investment focused on critically vulnerable areas including Regional Subsidiary bodies. In the proposed budget, Japan welcomes the targeted budget allocation such as IODE, GOOS, etc. In the same time, Japan recognizes that

some critical vulnerable areas, such as WESTPAC, is underrepresented for staff reinforcement. Japan welcomes Executive Secretary's report that IOC continues to look at the area need for staff reinforcement.

Mauritius (Observer)

Mauritius fully supports the IOC UNESCO's decision to launch the new consultation process on the strategic direction for the future of the ocean. We recognize the critical importance of this initiative in fostering collaborative and science-based sustainable ocean planning and Marine Spatial Planning. Mauritius is eager to contribute actively to this process, working alongside member states and other stakeholders to advance activities that align with our shared goals. By supporting UN environmental conventions and frameworks, we aim to promote the development of a sustainable ocean economy that benefits all. Furthermore, we endorse the IOC's new direction under the Ocean Decade, which will provide a major contribution to the 2025 UN Ocean Conference hosted by France and Costa Rica, ensuring impactful outcomes for ocean research and ultimately for ocean sustainability. Mauritius welcomes the decision to provide a special focus to the African and Indian Ocean region, in particular, the IOC Africa and the adjacent coastal states, IOCINDIO and GOOS. Allow me Mr President at this stage, to also welcome the new IOC AFRICA coordinator and to place on record the contribution of the former coordinator Mr Mika Odido for a long dedicated career at IOC. Together, we can ensure that our collective efforts lead to the preservation and sustainable management of our oceans for future generations.

Portugal

As the UN body competent in Marine Sciences, IOC must continue to emphasize the importance of Ocean Science for sustainable development and IOC's unique role the international coordination mechanism that promotes science-policy dialog and delivers the science-based information crucial to support informed decision-making.

IOC faces both opportunities and challenges as a key player in global ocean conservation, sustainable use, and governance. As a central coordinating body for oceanographic data and information, it plays a vital role in climate change monitoring, leads in tsunami early warning and tsunami ready communities, and contributes significantly to Marine Spatial Planning. By providing essential scientific knowledge, IOC offers Member States a platform to address ocean science priorities collectively, and fosters capacity building and global development, including by coordinating the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

UNESCO's recent increase in the IOC budget, with the unanimous support of its members, grants the Commission with more appropriate conditions to ensure the delivery of its core functions aligned with its program and strategic vision. Nevertheless, Portugal continues to support the need to explore and effectively implement article 10 of the Statutes.

Keeping up with enhancing reporting and use of strategic communication, namely through the publication of the STOR, is essential to showcase the value of donors' contributions. Concerning governance, it is also essential to provide clarity on the IOC's Logo Policy, ensuring a coherent brand identity, and the correct recognition of its accomplishments.

The active participation of the IOC, in particular its Executive Secretary and senior team, in major Ocean Events is capital to strengthen the Commission's contributions and advocacy. Ensuring a consistent branding and the full use of IOC's functional autonomy, including its Secretariat specificities, further empowers IOC's role in serving the interest of its Member States and the Ocean community at large. Portugal expresses its full support to the IOC work and vision and will continue to actively contribute to IOC and its governing bodies.

Republic of Korea

Korea thanks and congratulates those who have made the increase in IOC budget possible, and expects that this change will benefit more stakeholders within the global ocean science community.

Korea hopes that during this budget allocation, IOC's role and functions will be expanded in a manner that all IOC sub-commissions, including WESTPAC, are able to experience improvements in staffing within the secretariat, programming, policymaking, as well as capacity development, so that long-term planning in all regions can be fulfilled.

Additionally, Korea notes that the UN Ocean Decade Conference held in Barcelona, Spain, this April, was a great opportunity to summarize the mid-term achievements of the UN Ocean Decade and discuss future directions.

Meanwhile, Korea is actively participating in major IOC initiatives such as the publication of the StOR and activities within GEBCO, GOOS, and Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System. As a member state of the IOC-WESTPAC, we are also leading marine research in the Western Pacific region.

Furthermore, as a member of the UN Ocean Decade Alliance, we have been continuously providing financial support through the Ocean Decade special account. We are actively encouraging Korean scientists to participate in the UN Ocean Decade through various policies.

Lastly, Korea is scheduled to host the 10th Our Ocean Conference (OOC) in Busan, April 2025. Through this event, we aim to discuss long-pending issues related to the ocean, such as climate change and the ocean economy.

In particular, as the upcoming OOC is the 10th conference, it will be able to summarize the discussions of the past decade and present the direction for the next 10 years. We kindly ask for the interest and participation from the IOC Secretariat and member states of the Executive Council.

We will continue to support IOC activities to be part of the efforts for a sustainable ocean. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Russian Federation (Observer)

Россия приветствует результаты, представленные Секретариатом МОК по выполнению Программы и исполнению бюджета Комиссии. Благодарим д-ра Владимира Рябина за проделанную работу, это была успешная эпоха несмотря на сложные условия, и желаем ему дальнейших успехов.

Приветствуем г-на Видара Хельгесена в качестве нового Исполнительного секретаря МОК. Россия вносит значительный вклад в выполнение программ Комиссии. Можно отметить следующие действия:

- а) Развитие наблюдательной научной инфраструктуры в Северном Ледовитом океане. Мы успешно провели экспедицию на единственной в мире уникальной ледостойкой платформе (ЛСП), которая называется «Северный полюс» и готовим новую международную экспедицию на ней.
- б) Россия успешно участвует в программе предупреждения цунами и других опасных процессов.
- в) Мы активно развиваем программы для увеличения потенциала, в частности строим новые научные суда, реализуем программу «Плавучий университет» и другие.
- г) Успешно провели в 2023 г. Конференцию с международным участием «Россия в Десятилетии ООН по наукам об океане» и активно участвуем в других международных конференциях.
- д) Выполняем проекты и одну программу в рамках Десятилетия и участвуем в других.
- е) Активно развиваем сотрудничество, в частности можно отметить новое сотрудничество с Африкой и островными государствами (например, Мадагаскар, Шри-Ланка и другие). В этом направлении подписаны новые документы, созданы проекты и сформированы рабочие группы, в том числе в рамках БРИКС.
- ж) Поддерживаем и активно участвуем в программах ВЕСТПАК, NEARGOOS и других региональных проектах под эгидой МОК, в частности являемся соруководителями их рабочих групп и комитетов.

На этой основе мы планируем и дальше усиливать сотрудничество для достижения целей МОК в целом и Десятилетия в частности.

South Africa

South Africa appreciates the activities accomplished thus far and believes that the IOC is on a good path towards fulfilling high level objectives under the current leadership of the Secretariat and Chairperson. South African delegation appreciates that the IOC is responding towards an initiative of making Africa a priority through allocation of financial and human resources. To this end, South Africa would like to welcome Mr Ibukun Adewumi, the newly appointed Head of Secretariat for IOC-Africa who will assist in coordinating the activities and initiatives of IOC-Africa and member states. South Africa urges the IOC and IOC-Africa member states to make contributions to further reinforce and strengthen the IOC-Africa's Secretariat office to ensure that the priorities identified in the Africa Roadmap plan are fully implemented.

Lastly Chair, South Africa appreciates and stands ready to welcome delegates and participants to the upcoming meeting of the Blue Carbon Initiative (BCI) co-sponsored by IUCN, IOC and Conservation International to be held in Cape Town, in September 2024.

Spain

España da la bienvenida al nuevo Secretario Ejecutivo Vidar Helgesen y al Presidente Yukata Michida a su primer Comité Ejecutivo y les desea el mayor de los éxitos en la dirección de la COI. Agradecemos al Secretario Ejecutivo su excelente exposición y la memoria presentadas, que reflejan la importante e intensa labor desarrollada por el Secretariado durante este año. Nos gustaría comenzar aquí refiriéndonos a la Conferencia de Barcelona. Agradecer la excelente labor de la Unidad de Coordinación de la Década y de todo el Secretariado y expresar nuestra máxima satisfacción por haber tenido la oportunidad de colaborar estrechamente con ellos y haber contribuido al rotundo éxito de la Conferencia. Las discusiones e intercambios de ideas durante la Conferencia y sobre todo la Declaración de Barcelona, marcan claramente la gran importancia global de océano, los retos que tenemos por delante y las líneas generales sobre cómo abordarlos.

El océano que compartimos, está sometido a importantes presiones, como el Cambio Climático, la pérdida de biodiversidad, la sobreexplotación de recursos y la degradación de los servicios que nos ofrece. En este contexto de Cambio Global, que se refleja claramente en la segunda edición del Informe del Estado del Océano de la COI, España considera que ahora más que nunca es el momento de unir fuerzas en esta organización para enfrentarnos a estos retos con decisión y optimismo. El incremento del presupuesto como consecuencia de la resolución presentada por el Reino Unido y aprobada por la Asamblea General de la UNESCO, así como la vuelta de Estados Unidos a esta organización, permitirán, en primer lugar, como ha indicado el Secretario Ejecutivo, afianzar los programas actuales de la COI, principalmente los programas de observación, de gestión de datos, de desarrollo de capacidades así como de las actividades a nivel regional, principalmente en África, siguiendo la decisión adoptada por la Trigésimo Segunda Asamblea de la COI. Además, esto permitirá evaluar las necesidades de cambios y nuevos retos para los próximos y agradecemos la iniciativa de abrir un proceso de consultas sobre el futuro de la COI. En este sentido, estamos de acuerdo en la prioridad de generar información y conocimiento orientado a satisfacer la demanda en el desarrollo de políticas y para la gestión del océano, siguiendo el objetivo general de la Década de poner la ciencia al servicio de la sostenibilidad, como por ejemplo para abordar el acuerdo de Biodiversidad en Aguas fuera de la jurisdicción nacional o la meta de alcanzar un 30% de la superficie bajo protección. Sin embargo, nos gustaría recalcar que la identificación de muchos de los problemas y el desarrollo de soluciones, emergen en muchos casos del propio conocimiento científico y posteriormente derivan en políticas, y el ejemplo más claro de ello es el Cambio Climático. España considera que, para mantener esa dualidad, la COI debe reforzar su objetivo de promover la cooperación internacional y la coordinación del conocimiento científico, tal como ha señalado el Secretario Ejecutivo.

Thailand

Thailand aligns with the esteem members of the Executive Council in expressing our sincere gratitude to Professor Yutaka Michida for his exemplary leadership of the IOC. We extend a warm welcome to Dr. Vidar Helgesen as the new IOC Executive Secretary.

Thailand appreciates the comprehensive presentation by the Executive Secretary on the significant achievements over the past year. We congratulate and thank the Member States for their collective efforts in advancing IOC activities.

Multilateralism plays a vital role in fostering international cooperation, addressing global challenges, and promoting sustainable development. The Regional Subsidiary Bodies are instrumental in helping the IOC achieve its objectives, directly benefiting people and countries on the ground.

We recognize that the IOC's staff is its most valuable asset, and we are pleased that the Regional Subsidiary Bodies have been prioritized for staff reinforcement. However, we have noticed with concern that the Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific is not included in the budget allocation for this purpose.

Given the vast and rapidly developing region, as well as the fragile ocean environment, the WESTPAC office has been actively developing and coordinating numerous programs, projects, and activities in collaboration with member states. Additionally, it has taken on the significant responsibility of serving as the Decade Coordination Office for the Western Pacific region. It is challenging for a single staff member to manage all IOC functions and Ocean Decade initiatives effectively.

In light of these considerations, we respectfully request that our concerns be taken into account in addressing this issue.

Thailand stands ready to continue our support and actively participate in IOC activities, both directly with the IOC and through WESTPAC for the sustainability of our ocean.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

We very much look forward to working together on our collective efforts in the delivery of Member States ambitions for the IOC. And we are encouraged by what we have heard this morning. We would also like to welcome our new Chair Professor Yutaka Michida as he presides over his first governing meeting of the IOC.

The United Kingdom welcomes the written report provided by the Executive Secretary and acknowledges the significant body of work that has taken place since last year's Assembly. Mindful of that workload and cognizant of the efforts it takes for the Secretariat to prepare for an Executive Council the United Kingdom would however like to take this opportunity to once again request that reports and associated documents required by us delegates to make informed decisions are provided in a timely manner [as reflected in Rule 21 para 4 of our Rules of Procedure].

And recognising that it's not inconceivable that changes may be required, when documents are updated, that these are either provided with track changes or a description of the changes, and that they are named and dated differently.

The United Kingdom will comment on individual initiatives through their agenda items, however on a general point, and in relation to the apparent symbiotic relationship between the IOC and the Decade the UK would like to see a de-conflation between the two, both in reporting and in representation, such that achievements of the IOC and of the Decade are recognized in their own right and in equal measure.

[I note the Decade is mentioned 22 times in the Executive Secretaries report, whereas the IOC Medium term strategy is mentioned only once].

Finally, Mr Chairman the UK agrees with the USA suggestion in their introductory remarks to align the consultation on the IOC and the future of the ocean with the IOS Evaluation and agree that this should be considered under agenda item 5.2 [response to the IOS evaluation], by the finance committee. And as such we would expect the Decision text relating to the consultation be removed from Decision 3.1.

United States of America

The richness of these accomplishments is a testament to the Secretariat staff and the Executive Secretary's leadership while still so new in his role. The United States is supportive of the IOC's high-level engagements at recent international ocean conferences, in addition to supporting ongoing programmes through the UN Ocean Decade. Regarding the International Panel for Ocean Sustainability, or IPOS, in light of the need to ensure the most effective application of the IOC's unique expertise and very limited resources, the United States appreciates the Executive Secretary's update on his discussions with IPOS proponents, including conveying their interest in IPOS being included within a UN-based organization, potentially the IOC. The United States concurs with the Executive Secretary that - whether IPOS becomes linked to the IOC, is a decision to be taken by IOC Member States. We also agree that there are a number of prerequisites that must be satisfied before IOC Member States could consider such a proposal, including those mentioned by the Executive Secretary. Regarding the IOC and Future of the Ocean Consultation and the IOS Evaluation Action Plan, we appreciate the Executive Secretary for also highlighting their interconnectedness. Similar to the Australian delegation, the United States has concerns regarding the proposed Future of the Ocean Consultation Process as drafted, which we were able to discuss during the first meeting of the Finance Committee. Regarding an IOC Secretariat management and governance assessment proposed by the Executive Secretary, we believe this idea has merit and we look forward to additional discussions on this item. Regarding the Program and Budget, we thank the Secretariat for ably carrying out 42 C/5 (2024-2025) in spite of challenges associated with the UNESCO budget processes. Regarding the proposal for 43 C/5 (2026-2027), the United States believes that 42 C/5, is a good foundation with which to begin our discussions. Further, with regard to a proposed focus on capacity development, specifically IOC Output 1, the United States generally supports this idea and believes that this work should be guided by the Capacity Development Strategy, taking into account the drafting and implementation of programmatic and regional capacity development workplans and related needs assessments.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

It's my pleasure to speak on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization which has a longstanding cooperation with the IOC, necessary to meet our collective objectives for disaster risk reduction, climate resiliency, and sustainable development.

This cooperation is materialized in the three co-sponsored programmes, through cooperation on marine services and tsunami and other ocean-related hazards; involvement in initiatives like the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W), and through the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board JCB.

Let me touch on a few items which will not be discussed later:

On the World Climate Research Programme: many activities touch on the ocean, including in the CLIVAR Core Project, and Lighthouse Activities in Sea Level Rise in the Safe Landing Climates, and Explaining and Predicting Earth System Change. The new WCRP Academy focuses on climate change education, with a support office in Manila, Philippines.

Regarding the Global Climate Observing System, the WMO Executive Council two weeks ago approved a draft MoU (inf doc 1535) and welcomed the renewal of the partnership with its co-sponsors. GCOS is working closely with the ocean community and through GOOS to make progress in the 2022 GCOS Implementation Plan.

The new G3W aims to support Member States in mitigation actions undertaken to implement the Paris Agreement. The ocean carbon community was involved in the development of the G3W implementation plan, recently adopted by the WMO, and we welcome further cooperation in developing an observing network design.

Finally, the JCB performed a self-review earlier this year (INF-1536), which was critical of its past effectiveness, but also identified the board as needed. We look forward to working with our IOC colleagues and JCB members to reinvigorate its work.

On behalf of the new WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo, I'd like to assure you of our continued desire to work cooperatively towards mutual benefit and in support of common goals of all Members and Member States.

3.2.1 Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards

Argentina

Argentina agradece la presentación del reporte. Sin embargo, Argentina desea comunicar algunos aspectos que cree deben modificarse.

El proyecto de decisión Decisión EC-57/3.2.1 se expresa en su "Parte III: Grupo Intergubernamental de Coordinación del Sistema de Alerta contra los Tsunamis y Atenuación de sus Efectos en el Pacífico (ICG/PTWS)" inciso iv (romanito 4) lo siguiente: "la decisión del ICG/PTWS de ampliar la zona de origen de sismos del PTWS a la zona comprendida entre los 63° y los 52° de latitud sur y entre los 72° y los 18° de longitud oeste a fin de incluir el Arco de las Antillas Australes y sus zonas sísmicas adyacentes;"

Además, en el documento IOC/ICG/PTWS-XXX/3s punto 12 se enumeran casos de sismos en esa región del Atlántico Sur con impacto en el océano Pacífico, pero sin establecer el nivel de significancia y sin contar con suficiente información de respaldo.

Cabe recordar que el océano Atlántico Sur no cuenta actualmente con un Sistema de Alerta de Tsunamis, pero sí está incluido como zona de monitoreo de origen de sismos del Sistema de Alerta de Tsunamis del Caribe y Mares Adyacentes (CARIBE-EWS).

Argentina comparte la preocupación con respecto a los potenciales riesgos que los eventos tsunamigénicos presentan para las poblaciones ribereñas y para las embarcaciones operando en las regiones afectadas, así como la importancia de contar con información oportuna para advertir a los navegantes la posibilidad de ocurrencia de un tsunami con la mayor antelación posible y para difundir dicha información en el área de interés.

Con esta información analizada, Argentina solicita la supresión de dicho párrafo iv.) de la Decisión EC-57/3.2.1 como así también expresa que no acompaña la solicitud a la COI de modificar el mapa de las zonas de origen de sismos del PTWS en la Colección Técnica de la COI N° 130 (documento de definición de los servicios mundiales de operaciones de vigilancia de tsunamis) tal como se propone en el documento IOC/ICG/PTWS-XXX/3s. Argentina reconoce que la cuestión merece mayor reflexión así como también mayores detalles, precisiones, consultas y discusiones sobre sus implicancias, fundamentos, pertinencia y conveniencia, extendiendo la predisposición argentina para estas acciones.

Ello así en virtud de que no se ha aportado información suficiente para justificar tal propuesta ni se ha indicado la fuente de los datos que aporta el informe. Tampoco surge que se hayan realizado consultas o coordinaciones con los servicios de emisión de alerta del Caribe o del océano Indico. Tampoco se ha realizado consulta alguna a los Estados con responsabilidad de seguridad marítima en el área, siendo este el país con la responsabilidad internacional de la NAVAREA VI para la seguridad náutica.

En el área en cuestión, juntamente con la existencia de bases, refugios y campamentos antárticos propios bajo potencial riesgo, la Argentina tiene asumidas responsabilidades internacionales en materia de seguridad marítima, tanto en lo que se refiere a la difusión de Información de Seguridad Marítima en la denominada "NAVAREA VI", como en la prestación del servicio de Búsqueda y Salvamento Marítimo (SAR). En efecto, nuestro país tiene un interés directo en recibir información en esta materia para la adecuada preservación de la vida humana en el mar, la protección del ambiente y de las zonas costeras continentales, insulares y antárticas.

Por último, cabe señalar que en el documento IOC/ICG/PTWS-XXX/3s, punto 21, se pide ultimar detalles para proporcionar productos especiales de seguridad náutica para coordinadores NAVAREAS del Pacífico y Atlántico Sudoccidental. En particular para la NAVAREA VI, bajo responsabilidad de Argentina, es necesario alcanzar un grado mayor de coordinación y de información previamente analizada por las partes para poder asegurar que esos productos especiales sean correctamente interpretados e incorporados en los sistemas de emisión de avisos o alertas. Estos procesos requieren de un alto grado de coordinación entre el emisor del producto y recepción por parte del NAVAREA y niveles de automatización que permitan la provisión de los servicios sin interrupción.

La capacitación a realizarse en el mes de agosto en la ciudad de Valparaíso, Chile será una primera oportunidad para iniciar coordinaciones y someter a evaluación esas propuestas.

Chile

Chile se encuentra fuertemente comprometido con el Programa de Tsunami de la COI. En efecto, a pesar de sus reducidos recursos humanos y financieros, aporta una continua cooperación al Centro Internacional de Informaciones Sobre Tsunamis (ITIC) a través de un experto quien se desempeña como Director Asociado del ITIC.

Uno de los trabajos conjuntos lo constituye el desarrollo de capacidades y en tal sentido quisiéramos destacar que el próximo Programa de Entrenamiento del ITIC sobre Sistemas de Alerta Temprana contra Tsunamis y Productos Mejorados PTWC, Planificación de Evacuación en Caso de Tsunami y Programa de Preparación para Tsunamis (ITP-TEWS-Chile), se llevará a efecto en Valparaíso, Chile del 19 al 30 de Agosto de este año. El evento fue anunciado a través de la Carta Circular de la COI N° 2998.

En relación con la componente operativa del Sistema Nacional de Alerta de Tsunami de Chile, queremos informar que con el concurso de estrechos colaboradores de la academia y otros, hemos continuado perfeccionando nuestro sistema y las experiencias que vamos logrando las hemos dispuesto para compartirlas principalmente con quienes integran el Grupo Internacional de Coordinación del Pacífico. Otra especial contribución lo ha sido el apoyo para lograr el diseño de un mensaje tipo para alertar a los navegantes sobre la ocurrencia de eventos tsunamigénicos, a través de los mensajes NAVAREA. Aprovecho la oportunidad para informar que Chile será el anfitrión de la 16ª Reunión del Sub Comité del Sistema Mundial de Seguridad de la Navegación (WWNWS16) de la OHI que reúne a los Coordinadores de las NAVAREAS, reunión cuya agenda incluye expresamente el tema de la alerta a los navegantes sobre tsunamis.

Ambos eventos, el Programa de Entrenamiento y la reunión citada, se celebrarán en Valparaíso, Chile, y se enmarcan dentro del programa de celebración de los 150 años del SHOA, el que fue establecido el 01 de Mayo de 1874.

Chile desea señalar, tal como lo hizo en la reunión número 30° del ICG/PTWS, llevada a cabo en Nukualofa, Tonga, en septiembre de 2023, que la expansión de la Zona de Origen de Terremotos, ESZ en inglés, es crucial para nuestro país y todos los estados miembros del PTWS. Sin embargo, los límites específicos de esta área no están relacionados con el Océano Atlántico, entendiéndose claramente que solo es una característica geológica relacionada con las placas tectónicas del 'ARCO DE ESCOCIA', el área específica donde los terremotos pueden generar una amenaza de tsunami para los países dentro de la cuenca del Pacífico.

Por lo anterior, recomendamos que la expansión de la Zona de Origen de Terremotos se refiera únicamente al 'ARCO DE ESCOCIA' y no al Océano Atlántico Sur, porque el área de interés de monitoreo también abarca otros océanos y, por lo tanto, es más preciso establecer un límite claro relacionado con el elemento geológico donde ocurren los terremotos, en este caso, el 'ARCO DE ESCOCIA' que se refiere a los límites geológicos de las placas tectónicas dentro de este arco, que están claramente identificados y demarcados, y también son bien conocidos y reconocidos por todos los estados miembros .

France

La France remercie les présidents des groupes intergouvernementaux de coordination des zones Nord-Atlantique-Méditerranée, Pacifique et Caraïbes ainsi que leurs régions adjacentes pour leurs rapports très complets.

L'équipe spéciale sur les tsunamis d'origine volcanique, établie par le Groupe de travail sur les tsunamis et autres risques liés aux systèmes d'alerte et d'atténuation du niveau de la mer (TOWS-WG), mise en place à la suite de l'explosion du volcan Hunga Tonga en 2022, a rendu son rapport technique N°183 « Monitoring and Warning for Tsunamis Generated by Volcanoes », à destination notamment de tous les Etats membres et les observatoires volcanologiques. Ce rapport contribuera à améliorer la prise en compte des tsunamis non générés par des séismes. La France remercie la COI pour cette publication.

Pour la zone Nord-Est Atlantique-Méditerranée, la session XVIII du GIC a reconnu Tsunami Ready la commune de Cannes en France et nous nous en félicitons, concrétisant plusieurs années d'efforts et d'engagement de la collectivité pour satisfaire aux 12 indicateurs ciblés établis par la COI, et validés par le comité national Tsunami Ready, efforts qui ont été salués également en marge du projet Coastwave coordonné par l'Unesco pour soutenir six communautés candidates à la reconnaissance.

Dans le cadre de cette région Nord-Est Atlantique-Méditerranée, le Cenalt (CENTre d'Alerte aux Tsunamis) participe à l'action d'alerte montante pour les autorités nationales, via la transmission des messages d'alerte en cas de séisme potentiellement tsunamigène en Nord-Est Atlantique et Méditerranée.

Pour la région Pacifique, les procédures proposées par le GIC en 2022 pour la surveillance du Hunga Tonga – Hunga Ha'apai sont aujourd'hui opérationnelles au Centre Polynésien de Prévention des Tsunamis à Tahiti (CPPT). Le CPPT avance également sur la demande de la communauté maritime, suite à une demande IHO, de prendre en compte les 7 NAVAREA du Pacifique comme destinataires des messages d'alerte.

En Nord-Est Atlantique et dans le Pacifique, on peut aussi saluer les projets de déploiement de câbles sous-marins à technologie SMART (Science Monitoring and Reliable Telecommunications) permettant d'instrumenter les câbles télécom pour les mesures in situ en géosciences et océanographie. La France suit avec intérêt le déploiement soutenu par le Portugal (CAM), et pilote avec Vanuatu le projet de déploiement TAM TAM (Vanuatu – Nouvelle-Calédonie).

La Caraïbe et les régions adjacentes étant spécifiquement menacées par le risque de tsunami volcanique, la France note avec intérêt la publication du rapport technique N°183. Nous remercions également la COI pour son appui dans le processus de reconnaissance Tsunami Ready qui a abouti à la reconnaissance Tsunami Ready, de la commune de Deshaies en Guadeloupe en juillet 2023.

Japan

Regarding the discussion on multi-hazards and meteotsunamis, Japan requests the IOC to maintain a robust partnership with the WMO, as national disaster terminology and monitoring systems need to be closely aligned with each country's unique conditions.

Mauritius (Observer)

Mauritius supports the strategic action of TOWS-WG to work closely with the WMO and UNDRR to connect tsunami with Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems. Mauritius already adopted such approach by enacting under its legislation a National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Centre since 2016. The Centre is the main coordinating body for monitoring and managing disaster risk reduction and related activities. It coordinates together with the National Meteorological services the Tsunami Warning system which relies much on the Regional Warning Centres namely from India, Indonesia, Australia and the PTWS for early warning. It has actively participated in the last Indian Ocean Wave simulation exercise to improve on its readiness. Mauritius pledges for a continued programme to build up local technical capacity in Disaster risk reduction and would request for the inclusion of volcano generated tsunami scenario at smaller basin scale. Mauritius is fully committed to working closely with all the partners to enhance the readiness and preparedness of its population.

India

India would like to compliment the Chairs of the ICGs of the IOTWMS, CARIBE-EWS, NEAMTWS, PTWS and the TOWS WG for providing reports of the excellent progress made during the intersessional period on the regional tsunami warning and mitigation systems spearheaded by the IOC.

India is an integral part of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS) and continues to provide services to the region as one of the Tsunami Service Provider (TSP), together with Australia and Indonesia. During the inter-sessional period, India sustained its observational networks (Seismic, Tsunameter, Tide Gauges and GNSS networks). India participated in the 26th and 27th COMM Tests, IOWave 23 Tsunami exercises of ICG/IOTWMS and contributed to the UNESCAP project on “Strengthening tsunami early warning in the Northwest Indian Ocean region through regional cooperation”. India hosted meetings of ICG-IOTWMS Steering Group and Working Group 03 at INCOIS, India during February 2024. India is also gearing up for recognition of additional 24 Tsunami Ready Communities by end of 2024.

India is collaborating with various global partners and initiated collaboration with Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) – UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) on a joint project “People-Centered Tsunami Early Warning for the Indian Coastlines (PCTWIN) that aims at improving practical and operational tsunami warning capabilities in the Indian Ocean region. India appreciates the engagement of ICG/IOTWMS in formulation of this project. India also gearing up to setup a cable based multi-parameter cable-observatory for tsunamis and other deep ocean measurements.

India would also like to congratulate the TOWS-WG, the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme – Science Committee and the IOC Tsunami Secretariat, for developing and publishing the Research, Development and Implementation Plan of the Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme (ODTP-RDIP). India appreciates the efforts of Adhoc Team on Tsunamis Generated by Volcanoes (TGV) in bringing the report on “Monitoring and Warning for Tsunamis Generated by Volcanoes”.

India supports the decision on enhancing capacities & initiating trial dissemination of maritime bulletins and tsunamis generated by Volcanoes. India will continue to be part of the IOC’s tsunami programme.

Republic of Korea

Republic of Korea supports the efforts of IOC and regional ICGs to achieve the goals of UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Program and reduce the hazardous tsunami.

Republic of Korea have recently experienced its first tsunami in 30 years on January first, 2024. Maximum 82cm of tsunami height was observed around the eastern coast, and lots of coastal residents were confused. As a result, related Ministries jointly prepared the comprehensive improvement measures to prepare and respond to the tsunami.

We are planning to convert tsunami-height based warning system to total water height-based early warning system until 2028, and expand the observation network towards nearshore around 20km in order to achieve the goal.

Moreover, we’ve made tsunami inundation forecast map last year, and use it systematically in Tsunami Ready Program in Korea. Also, training course among the relevant administrations and local governments are regularized to every year.

We will continue to develop technologies to enhance the accuracy of tsunami predictions in the future and provide information that can actually help coastal residents respond effectively.

Russian Federation (Observer)

Россия высоко оценивает доклады председателей трех координационных групп региональных служб раннего предупреждения (МКГ/КАРИБ-СРП, МКГ/СПЦСВАСМ и МКГ/СПЦТО) и выражаем благодарность этим группам за их очень успешную работу в отчетный период.

Подчеркиваем особую важность сотрудничества в рамках систем предупреждения и смягчения последствий опасных океанических явлений. В этой связи мы организовали новые программы в области мониторинга и изучения сейсмической и вулканической обстановки и предупреждения цунами. В частности, в этом году начата программа в регионе Камчатского полуострова и окружающих его акваторий.

Информируем, что Федеральная служба по гидрометеорологии и мониторингу окружающей среды (РОСГИДРОМЕТ) Российской Федерации регулярно готовит и размещает на своем веб-сайте в общем доступе (https://www.meteorf.gov.ru/upload/pdf_download/compressed.pdf) оценочный доклад об изменениях в океане и последствиях этого, в частности об изменениях уровня океана, морского льда, закисления океана и других факторов.

Также в России развернуты крупные проекты по потокам климатически активных веществ, которые также связаны с опасными явлениями. Приглашаем к сотрудничеству в этих направлениях.

Вместе с тем отмечаем, что осуществление программ МОК требует усиления кадровых и финансовых ресурсов для устранения пробелов информации особенно в удаленных и глубоководных районах Мирового океана.

В этой связи мы поддержали предложение ряда стран на 216 сессии Исполнительного совета ЮНЕСКО об увеличении регулярного бюджета МОК. Принятие положительного решения ЮНЕСКО по данному вопросу на предстоящей в 2025 году Генеральной конференции обеспечит более устойчивое функционирование МОК и ее программ.

United States of America

The United States thanks Ms. Brown, Mr. Amato, Mr. Nishimae, and for their comprehensive reports. The United States notes the cost of implementing Tsunami Ready and is pleased to have been able to provide over 2.6 million U.S. dollars of funding this year through the ITIC and its Caribbean Office for Tsunami Ready implementation in the Pacific and Caribbean. The United States hopes to be able to continue contributing to the UN Ocean Decade Tsunami Programme goal that 100% of communities are prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030 through efforts like Tsunami Ready. Hopefully the Tsunami Ready Coalition is able to raise the profile of Tsunami Ready globally and encourage donors for this Programme. It also recognizes the importance of the establishment of national tsunami ready programs for the coordination, advancement and sustainability of the Programme as well as the availability of bathymetric and coastal topographic data for the modeling of tsunami hazards. These international efforts are in addition to national efforts in support of 200 communities recognized as Tsunami Ready under the U.S. Programme. In addition to support for Tsunami Ready, the United States has also provided \$746,000 for 2024-2025 to implement the Tsunami Warning Center Competencies training and the annual International Tsunami Information Center Training Program held last year in Hawaii and will be hosted this August by Chile. Congratulations to Dr. Ocal Necmioglu for being selected as the new Technical Secretary for both PTWS and CARIBE EWS and note the significant workload given his role supporting these two ICGs. Finally, the United States suggests minor changes to the draft Decision 3.2.1, to include additional exercises conducted during the intersessional period, capture other important ITIC activities, and include newly declared Tsunami Ready communities.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) are mandated to provide early warning services for flooding from various sources including weather-related coastal inundation. Given the 24-hour operational capability of NMHS, many are also responsible for tsunami early warnings or support them.

The UN Secretary General's Early Warnings For All initiative, aiming to have all vulnerable communities covered by early warnings, including for tsunamis – is a WMO priority that emphasises active engagement of Member States, partner UN agencies, and donors. It is an opportunity to improve the tsunami early warning system and counts on contributions from IOC and Member States with national mandates to provide early warnings.

WMO welcomes IOC's decision to connect tsunami with multi hazard early warning activities such as WMO's Coastal Inundation Forecasting Initiative. This aligns with the WMO Congress agreement to combine early warning in coastal zones for all inundation sources, and the endorsement for work with IOC to incorporate tsunami warnings into an inclusive multi hazard early warning system.

Regarding transmission of tsunami early warning, WMO welcomes collaboration for use of the new WMO Information System 2.0 to strengthen dissemination of warning messages.

Concerning coastal hazards with long wave frequency caused by atmospheric forcing, in some communities referred as 'meteotsunamis', WMO emphasises this term is not officially recognized nor used by WMO and that there is concern by our Members – who are mandated to forecast for such long waves driven by weather events - regarding the unclear roles, responsibilities and terminology use, which could confuse the public. WMO welcomes discussion at the Joint Collaborative Board, with desire of an outcome that ensures clarity and improves public safety.

Finally, a summary explaining the role of meteorological services in tsunami warning is now available on the WMO library.

4.1 Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Governance

Argentina

Argentina desea expresar sus felicitaciones al Comité Directivo del Sistema Global de Observación del Océano (GOOS) por su labor destacada a partir de sus propuestas y avances para la participación en el Decenio del Océano y la concreción de proyectos con real impacto en las observaciones oceanográficas y en las poblaciones que se ven afectadas por fenómenos ambientales en las regiones costeras e insulares, en un contexto de Cambio Climático. Particularmente destacar los esfuerzos realizados por el Comité Directivo del GOOS para llevar adelante los cambios necesarios en términos de gobernanza, lo que permite contar con un más eficiente organismo y mejores vinculaciones con los estados miembros.

Las revisiones periódicas de los sistemas de gobernanza de los organismos como GOOS son necesarias para asegurar un funcionamiento moderno y actualizado, acorde con los rápidos cambios que la ciencia y los sistemas de observación imponen.

Es importante que el GOOS pueda contar con una estructura que le permita asimilar los resultados y nuevos sistemas de observación oceanográficos que surjan durante y luego del Decenio de los Océanos, estando próximos a la mitad de ese ciclo.

El acceso a un financiamiento acorde a las funciones que desarrolla el GOOS es un tema igual de prioritario, a fin de asegurar que los planes y acciones recomendadas puedan llevarse a cabo.

Los progresos realizados a partir de las recomendaciones del denominado Reporte Smith son muestra del trabajo realizado por el Comité Directivo de GOOS y los órganos dependientes. Argentina es testigo de esto por su participación en una de las Alianzas Regionales de GOOS y por las coordinaciones de campañas de observación a través del Punto Focal Nacional.

Finalmente, mencionar que Argentina desea extender su apoyo a la adopción de la Decisión 4.1. en pos de un GOOS 2.0.

Australia

Australia appreciates the update by the Secretariat, however note that there has been slow progress on this issue over the last 12 months. Understandably changes in leadership in the Secretariat and in the membership of the GOOS Steering Committee have contributed, but we urge the IOC to leverage where possible the additional resourcing to GOOS and to move quickly on the proposed GOOS governance reform as outlined in the EC papers.

Australia strongly supports the IOC's leadership in GOOS and welcomes the governance reform. In particular, we support the GOOS 2.0 proposal to define very clear, achievable goals and measures of success as this is critical to creating the desired change in GOOS. The GOOS community needs direction and scope to move collectively forward as a global system. We would also advocate for the proposal to consider the feasibility of defining costs for some specific global objectives and activities, for example sea level monitoring, as this may be a useful mechanism to encourage collective efforts.

In closing, Australia recommends GOOS look to the recently completed GEBCO Governance Review to identify opportunities to leverage their methodology or any lessons learned in their approach to help in the successful conduct of the GOOS Governance reform.

Brazil

The Brazilian Ocean Observation and Climate Studies System (GOOS-Brazil) has been expanding and consolidating the permanent observation system of the oceans, the coastal zone and the atmosphere, to support the development of met-ocean planning and actions, contributing to the reduction of risks and vulnerabilities arising from extreme met-ocean events that affect the country; and make the data found available for public access, in order to support studies and improve scientific knowledge.

Currently, GOOS-Brazil is made up of observation networks and research projects.

Two scientific programs add to the overall effort of the GOOS-BR network. Since 2007, the South Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (SAMOC) Basin-wide Array (SAMBA), an international partnership among Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, USA, France, UK, Germany and other European countries, produces continuous daily time series of the AMOC strength in the South Atlantic. SAMBAR is a follow-up contribution to SAMOC aiming at the inter-annual variability of the heat content and meridional transports across the South Atlantic Circulation and the impacts on the Regional Climate and on the MOC stability. Finally, the Best Practices in Observation and Instruments (iMePROs) is a multidisciplinary national program, transversal

to other GOOS-BR projects, that builds upon their best practices in met-ocean observation and instruments. A handbook of best practices is its most prominent prospected deliverable. Its targets in the 2024-2025 time frame are to analyze existing quality control methods, develop documentation on best methods, and test and validate methods to support all GOOS-BR projects.

Finally, understanding the maritime environment that faces the long Brazilian coast is fundamental for the development of coastal communities, environmental protection and safeguarding human life at sea. GOOS-BR is a robust contribution and an unequivocal example of partnership between many research institutions and people imbued with the genuine spirit of science to achieve the ocean we all want for our planet.

Canada

Canada acknowledges that the Smith report does provide valid points and recommendations that require further consideration. However, we agree that any change in direction first requires a thorough analysis of existing gaps, emerging trends, clearly defined objectives and a means to measure success. We support efforts to reconsider the GOOS 2030 Strategy and considerations as developed within the Ocean Decade such as the Ocean Observing Co-Design, Ocean Predict and Observing Together projects.

In order to meet the needs and expectations of Member States, we note that the increased funding from the IOC's share of the UNESCO regular budget will help to address challenges outlined in the report. However, information obtained from a GOOS user and uptake strategy will also help identify the level of investment needed for a sustainable global ocean observing system and inform future funding decisions.

Finally, as a newly minted GOOS Regional Alliance, Canada welcomes the recommendation for increased support arrangements and coordination between GOOS and GOOS Regional Alliances.

Colombia

Colombia agradece la detallada presentación y resalta la importancia de las recomendaciones presentadas por Neville Smith, dado que muestran una hoja de ruta importante que permitirá la renovación en la gobernanza y el funcionamiento que tan valioso Programa necesita en aras del cumplimiento de sus objetivos. No obstante, debido a que algunas recomendaciones conllevan un cambio en la estructura y visión del GOOS actual, que lo enfocaría a observaciones oceánicas y sería otro componente de un sistema oceánico mundial que implica una reformulación entorno a la estrategia 2030 del GOOS, esto puede ser contradictorio al desafío 7 de la visión del Decenio de las Ciencias Oceánicas.

De manera que, Colombia, como Estado miembro de IOCARIBE, alienta a los demás Estados miembro de esta Subcomisión a evaluar conjuntamente las implicaciones de los cambios sugeridos dentro de las recomendaciones realizadas por Neville Smith, para que estas se alineen con las prioridades y necesidades regionales.

Asimismo, Colombia se compromete a evaluar su aporte al GOOS y la implementación de su estrategia para el 2030, revisando desde la articulación de nuestro "ecosistema digital de información oceánica nacional" a los tres componentes subyacentes del GOOS. No solamente como Centro Nacional de Datos Oceanográficos (NODC) y Unidad de Datos Asociada (ADU) de la IODE sino de manera conjunta como país. De modo que alienta los demás Estados miembro a desarrollar esta gestión doméstica que apoyaría el marco internacional de este asunto.

Para el cumplimiento de ello y en virtud de compartir la experiencia de Colombia, el Comité Técnico Nacional de Coordinación de Datos e Información Oceánicos (CTN- Diocean) de la CCO, enmarcado en los parámetros de datos de la IODE, es un espacio importante para el establecimiento de acciones mancomunadas que permiten el mejoramiento de los procesos de gobernanza nacional y su articulación a la visión del Decenio como una estrategia de comunicación conjunta para ofrecer herramientas en aras de resaltar los beneficios de las observaciones oceánicas y fomentar la adopción por parte de los usuarios.

Finalmente, el país celebra las valiosas acciones que los Estados miembro llevamos a cabo para el monitoreo de las variables del océano, en donde, a partir de los cambios en la reestructuración del GOOS, se considera importante priorizar el mejoramiento de las Alianzas Regionales para aplicar la articulación y el presupuesto con el objetivo de implementar las acciones de manera regional.

France

La France soutient les 9 recommandations du rapport de N. Smith et remercie la COI d'avoir pris en compte celles-ci pour développer une proposition pour le GOOS 2.0. Elle souligne l'importance de développer et maintenir en interaction avec les Etats membres et leurs structures de coordination nationale (pour la France, il s'agit du Fr-OOS) un plan de mise en œuvre du système global d'observation de l'Océan adapté

aux besoins. Vis-à-vis du lien avec la modélisation et les services océaniques, la France souligne le rôle essentiel du Centre Collaboratif de la Décennie pour la prévision océanique accueilli par la France et coordonné par Mercator Ocean International.

La France a pris connaissance et se félicite de la composition du nouveau comité directeur de GOOS. La France apprécie que GOOS ait sollicité les Etats membres pour accord s'agissant de la sélection des membres du comité directeur reconstitué et elle souhaiterait être informée sur la procédure de désignation.

Germany

Germany welcomes the very comprehensive report and would like to congratulate Mrs Post on her outstanding achievements in her first year in office. Germany fully supports the approach outlined in the oral report and the written report on GOOS governance.

Germany would like to make two recommendations.

Firstly the evolving IOC-wide strategy on sustainable ocean planning and management, which also includes recommendations for GOOS has not yet been taken into account in the proposed actions in the documents. So Germany would propose to include the findings of this process

Secondly, Germany sees the further support and involvement of the regional support structures, the Goos Regional Alliances, as a crucial instrument to support the entire system.

Germany finally would like to offer its active participation in and support of this process.

India

India appreciates the progress made by the IOC GOOS Secretariat on the GOOS Governance Process, with specific reference to the recommendations of the Nevile Smith Report.

India has been working with several other Member States for implementing key Ocean Observation networks in the Indian Ocean. In the past one year, India has deployed 50 Argo floats including 10 BGC floats, 30 Wave Drifters in Southern Indian Ocean, 50 drifting buoys, OMNI Moorings, XBTs, Gliders, etc. India has been working closely with NOAA, USA for the maintenance of the OMNI/RAMA mooring array. India continued to support the Secretariat for IOGOOS, a GOOS regional alliance in Indian Ocean with 29 member institutions from 19 countries, that supports Indian Ocean Observing System (IndOOS) Plan together with allied programs such as IIOE-2, IORP, SIBER, IRF, regional ocean observing networks such as IMOS, etc. The last Annual meeting of these bodies was hosted by Indonesia in Lombok. India through ITCOOcean, the UNESCO C2C centre at INCOIS, has also undertaken training programmes in partnership with IOC, IOGOOS and POGO with a focus on ocean observations and its applications. India hosted the IIOE-2 brainstorming session on 'Future Road map for IIOE-2' and its linkages to UN Ocean Decade.

India would like to highlight that co-support for several of these activities since 1998 came through the Perth Programme office until 2001, and there is a need to substitute this key support for effective implementation of regional GOOS initiatives.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair India would like to reiterate 2 points for consideration in the GOOS Governance Process - (i) Providing a strong support structure to the GOOS Regional Alliances is extremely important for the success of GOOS (ii) Also, it is important for GOOS to place more focus on building end to end value chains to deliver operational services for various end users. This is where the benefit of ocean observing networks is most directly recognised.

Italy

Italy wants to thank Joanna Post for her comprehensive report on the GOOS Governance process that clarify the role of the different bodies contributing in the implantation of GOOS strategy. Italy recognizes the crucial role of GOOS to monitor the status of the ocean and forecast short- and long-term status of marine environment. The GOOS the governance presented today seems appropriate to reach the goals defined in GOOS strategy 2030. Italy would like to highlight that even if the different body shown in the governance structures has important role coordinating and designing GOOS activity GOOS National systems and GOOS regional alliance are crucial to ensure ocean observations.

We know that sound knowledge and understanding of the ocean is essential to mitigate human impacts on the global environment and to promote the ocean's sustainable use and blue economy. Effective ocean management depends on marine observations, which are generated by existing national or regional ocean observing systems and networks. The GOOS governance structure presented today recognize the key role

of GOOS National Structures and Italy invite GOOS to continue to consult with member to further develop the proposed governance.

Italy believes that considering the global ocean observing system as integration of network of infrastructures is the only way to ensure continuity of sustained ocean observations. Italy thinks research infrastructures (RI) as a key role ensure long term ocean observations. We think that it is useful to bring together national activities to enhances the RIs (from equipment purchase to data delivery and) to ensure long term sustainable ocean observations. Since the the last year Italy decided to make a huge investment (more then 90 million of Euro) to enhance marine RIs capability and acquires new ocean observational facilities. We decided to harmonize and integrate all the Marine Infrastructures into a single system of systems that will constitute the Italian Integrated Ocean Observing System ensuring long term EOVS observations and single access point to all Italian marine facilities and data. We are now realising this system of systems. This will allow in one year to have single point access to all national data and services. Therefore, Italy is ready to collaborate with GOOS in developing the Digital ecosystem. In addition, in the framework of the Italian presidency of the G7, we also propose as emerging topic the marine research infrastructure integration and marine.

Japan

Japan supports the document for the promotion of GOOS Governance. GOOS is one of the most important programs of IOC which aims for the establishment of the sustainable ocean observation networks, which play a key role in the UN Ocean Decade. It will be necessary to provide adequate supports to GOOS continuously. Japan has contributed to the activity of GOOS through various programs such as GO-SHIP, Argo, GLOSS and NEAR-GOOS. Japan will contribute to GOOS also in the future.

Kenya

Kenya further notes there has been advancements in ocean observing including response to the GOOS Strategy 2030. Additionally, there is increased awareness of sustainably expanding the global ocean observing system to be fit for purpose.

We also recognize the need for a critical national and global observing infrastructure and data ecosystem responsive to the needs of end users that supports ocean risk management, sustainable ocean planning and operational forecasting as well as scientific understanding.

Kenya notes there as has been good progress with reform of GOOS governance since the last Assembly.

We finally note that in order to ensure that GOOS achieve its governance purpose, this report is to be considered as a stepping stone in an evolving governance process, with IOC, WMO and other GOOS co-sponsors, which is in line with priorities of Member States.

Mauritius (Observer)

Mauritius wishes to express its strong support for IOC's new actions plan for the Global Ocean Observation as a continued societal service and would like to extend its congratulation to the Head of Ocean Observations & Services, Joanna Post, for the comprehensive report on the advancements in ocean observing services and the promotion of the GOOS strategy. Mauritius is determined to fully participate in this vital process and will like to underscore its commitment to a sustainable and enhanced ocean observing system, particularly for the South Indian Ocean and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with vast ocean span as already pledged by the Executive Secretary. We advocate for an augmented programme to engage SIDS in developing a global observing infrastructure and data system that is responsive to all users' needs and fit for purpose while fostering sustainable ocean planning and operational forecasting. We commend the IOC's strong will to reinforce the continuous monitoring of the state of the ocean and recognize that the GOOS initiative and the GOOS 2030 strategy will be instrumental in effectively reporting on the ocean's health with improved observation capabilities. Mauritius is pleased to announce the nomination of a new focal person for GOOS matters and will be closely following all related developments. We recently set up a centralized E-Platform for Ocean observation and we will be looking forward to actively engaging in the Earth Systems/co-design approach, ensuring our oceans' health and sustainability for future generations.

Republic of Korea

In relation to the development of proposals for GOOS 2.0, one of the recommendations from the Neville Smith report about the GOOS Regional Alliance (GRA) is missing from the five proposed actions. We hope that this could be addressed in the revised version to be submitted at next year's General Assembly. Based on this, we would like careful consideration for ways to activate the GRA.

Russian Federation (Observer)

The Russian Federation proceeds from the fundamental importance of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) to provide assessment of ocean climate change, to provide input to the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), and to protect and preserve the marine environment.

The Russian Federation reiterates the importance of GOOS Regional Alliances in organising cooperation between countries with common interests in certain coastal marine areas adjacent to those countries. The Russian Federation draws attention to the fact that if IOC Member States continue to be politicised in the adoption of IOC decisions and resolutions, there is a clear risk that the goals of the GOOS Strategy 2030 will not be achieved.

The Russian Federation agrees that the structure and funding system of GOOS does not meet the current requirements of Member States for the ocean information they need to address the development of their national economies. The Russian Federation supports the initiative to develop a new GOOS governance system, called GOOS-2.0, taking into account the real needs of Member States at both global and regional levels.

Along with the development of open-ocean GOOS systems aimed at monitoring the state of the ocean as an essential component of the climate system, GOOS coastal observing systems should be equally developed, since this is where the main economic activities of nations are centered, requiring adequate assessments of the current and forecasted future state of coastal waters. Special attention should also be given to the «analytics, modelling and forecasting» component, as we believe that this component of GOOS has not been developed to date as much as the observations, data collection and management component. However, for the service of end-users, it is analytics and forecasting that is of paramount importance, combining and utilising primary observational data in the form of up-to-date reanalysis of the state of the marine environment.

The Russian Federation expresses its gratitude to all IOC specialists for their work on GOOS and agrees with the draft decision proposed by the Secretariat on item 4.1.

South Africa

The South Africa delegation thanks the Secretariat for the presentation and more importantly welcomes the improvements towards the GOOS 2030 Strategy in conjunction with the Neville Report that outlines how GOOS can establish an improved version of itself and develop a roadmap for the future. We believe that the outlined strategies will assist in revitalising and enhancing GOOS-Africa to fast track its development and its realisation towards fulfilling the needs of the African region. When GOOS-Africa was established, we believe it was done so using institutional rules and guidelines of the IOC, and South Africa believes that as part of the revitalising process, there needs to be an interim Committee to review and improve the original TORs of GOOS-Africa and customise these TORs in conjunction with the proposed and envisaged GOOS 2.0. This fast-tracking process should however be done in conjunction and in collaboration with the IOC-Africa Secretariat and the Member States using IOC rules and guidelines. South Africa believes that institutional governance framework will assist to setup a firm foundation for the sustainability of GOOS-Africa. South Africa as one of the IOC-Africa Member states will continue to cooperate and collaborate with other regional alliances to make GOOS-Africa a functional body. We believe that this collaborative effort will assist in optimising GOOS-Africa's contribution to the Ocean Decade strategic objectives.

We appreciate the efforts of IOC towards engaging all member states on various GOA-ON (Ocean Acidification Network) activities particularly bringing into the network the ocean acidification researchers and participants from (East) Africa. We note that there has been more than 20 participants from Africa alone and this bodes well towards demonstrating the Capacity Development of national and regional bodies towards sustainability, we do however believe this effort can be increased to reflect the representation and diversity we aspire to achieve.

Lastly Mr Chair, South Africa notes that the Ocean Observing Co-Design Programme will be hosting its first workshop in September 2024 in South Africa, hosted by and supported by the DCC Ocean Climate Nexus. South Africa appreciates and thanks the sponsors for this gesture and we believe this workshop will go a long way assist in developing ocean modelling capabilities, strengthening collaboration and enhancing knowledge amongst researchers, particularly in South Africa, and other neighbouring African member states.

Spain

España da la bienvenida a la nueva Jefa de la Sección de Observación del Océano de la COI, Joanna Post y agradece su informe conciso y claro sobre las primeras líneas del proceso de gobernanza de GOOS.

Nuestro país dispone de un amplio sistema de observación multidisciplinar en sus aguas jurisdiccionales y contribuye también a la observación en aguas internacionales a través de programas como Argo o GoShip, entre otros, pero es plenamente consciente que las necesidades de observación para la gestión del océano solo se puede acometer bajo el marco de cooperación y coordinación internacional que ofrece GOOS. Por lo tanto, España apoya de forma decidida el desarrollo de GOOS y su constante transformación a medida que avanzamos en el conocimiento, la tecnología y las necesidades de observación. En este sentido España apoya la iniciativa de acometer una reforma de la gobernanza de GOOS como un elemento esencial en ese proceso de continua transformación, acoge con satisfacción algunos elementos que ya se reflejan en el documento, como la necesidad de cambiar el paradigma de los sistemas de observación anclados en las necesidades de la investigación o el desarrollo de una herramienta de comunicación. España es también consciente de que las reformas necesarias en la gobernanza de GOOS no serán efectivas si no se acometen también a nivel nacional, y por lo tanto no solo estaremos atentos a este proceso para contribuir al mismo, sino para trasladarlo al marco de nuestras competencias en lo que sea necesario.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

As a major contributor to ocean observing efforts the UK welcomes the progress made to date in relation to the reform of GOOS governance.

The UK recognizes the critical role that GOOS has in the promotion of ocean observations and in providing a coordinating framework that should enable greater coherency and integration of ocean observations, such that the value of ocean observations are recognized as the critical infrastructure that they are in the delivery of the underpinning data for understanding the role of the ocean in our earth system.

United States of America

The United States welcomes progress by GOOS towards the Strategic Objectives, and we appreciate the IOC responding to the needs of Member States in order to ensure that GOOS governance is fit for purpose. The 2021 Smith Report, based on surveys of Member States and other experts, is an impetus for change in GOOS. The United States encourages GOOS to embrace this opportunity to improve its internal governance and practices, including through support to the Regional Alliances in particular as related to refinement of their Terms of Reference, to better advocate for, develop, and sustain critical ocean observations for the benefit of all. The introduction of a proposal for a GOOS 2.0 at next year's IOC Assembly is an ambitious goal. Strengthened messaging on the value of global ocean observing, and closer ties to stakeholders, member states and observing system sponsors should be important considerations in this proposal. Finally, we recognize the staffing needs of the GOOS Office and we are glad that Dr. Emily Smith from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is able to provide such strong support to the GOOS Office this year, as well as many other of our NOAA and U.S. government colleagues.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

GOOS is important to WMO as an organization and to its Members.

In situ observations of the ocean have long been understood as important for climate science and prediction, and so for mitigation and adaptation action.

Ocean observations are also increasingly important for weather prediction skill, reinforcing the importance of GOOS for early warnings and to support many economic sectors in all countries through improved weather forecasts.

WMO's intergovernmental Infrastructure Commission coordinates global observations, data exchange, and prediction systems, underpinning a cascade down to the local level and the delivery of weather and climate services. INFCOM decided in April to include GOOS as a member of its Management Group, reinforcing opportunities for GOOS to reach WMO governing bodies.

WMO, IOC, and the GOOS Observations Coordination Group also collectively manage an important center for GOOS: OceanOPS, based in Brest, France and hosted by Ifremer. OceanOPS provides monitoring tools, metadata management, transparency to IOC Member States on where observations are being made, and support to operators. We welcome IOC's recent decision to co-invest from its own resources in OceanOPS, adding to WMO's 180 thousand Swiss Franc annual contribution to staff, and thank France and the dozen other Member States that support OceanOPS with voluntary financial contributions.

All this motivates WMO's co-sponsorship of GOOS. GOOS is multi-purpose, and IOC Member States may lift it in other dimensions from WMO Members, addressing for example sustainable ocean planning amongst other requirements. This multi-prong approach should ultimately serve countries in an integrated way and improve the fragile financial arrangements behind many ocean observing networks.

The WMO looks forward to engaging in the proposed discussions about GOOS 2.0 and its evolved governance.

4.2 Progress Report on Ocean Observations in areas under National Jurisdiction

Argentina

Argentina agradece la presentación y trabajo realizados en referencia a este tema que reviste de gran importancia para los estados ribereños y el acceso a las observaciones oceánicas y al desarrollo del conocimiento.

Además, expresar reconocimiento y agradecimiento por todo lo realizado durante el último período al grupo de trabajo, para llevar adelante una tarea de análisis y, en ocasiones, sin contar con información o respuestas de todos aquellos que pudieran proveer aportes significativos.

Argentina desea expresar su posición establecida en que todo el trabajo que se realice en esta materia debe estar enmarcado en las respectivas disposiciones de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar (CONVEMAR). En nuestro país existe un procedimiento estandarizado de autorización para realizar actividades de investigación científica marina (ICM) y que las solicitudes recibidas son siempre sustanciadas por el Estado argentino dentro del plazo previsto por el Art. 248 de la CONVEMAR.

Argentina desea expresar la continuidad de su apoyo al grupo de trabajo especial de la COI para el período entre reuniones sobre las observaciones oceánicas en las zonas sujetas a la jurisdicción nacional.

Brazil

Brazil has always underlined that it regards ocean observations as a crucial subject. Considering our commitment to the sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, we are deeply aware of the importance of gathering data and being able to analyze them, in order to guarantee both the progress of science and the development of our societies while being responsible towards our seas.

The ocean is our ally. It has been fundamental to humankind throughout history, and it will keep playing a central role in the progress of our countries and peoples. It is directly linked to SDG 14, but it is also connected to other goals that we set for ourselves in the process of guaranteeing a better world for all. For instance, it may help us fight poverty, reduce inequality, provide affordable and clean energy, guarantee decent work and economic growth and enhance climate action. Adding to that, we decided on a series of outcomes for the Ocean Decade that underline the importance of oceans and seas.

Therefore, it is essential to guarantee that the knowledge generated by ocean observations is produced in a way that respects the rights of all societies to development. Every society has the right to manage its own resources, which is linked to its legitimate aspirations towards a better future. Every State has its rights recognized in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and it is fundamental to protect them while promoting the advancement of science.

We need, thus, a balanced approach when dealing with this subject. We must ensure that our societies can not only be the source of ocean knowledge, but also benefit from it.

Canada

Canada thanks the Intersessional Working Group for the progress report and the advancements they have made on this issue during the intersessional period including a consideration of the materiality of the issue. We fully support providing further opportunities for Member States to contribute to the work of the group and to give permission for their responses to be shared with the working group to ensure a comprehensive review is undertaken. We look forward to receiving the report for discussion at the 33rd Session of the Assembly.

Chile

Chile promueve la Investigación Científica Marina conforme a las directrices de la CONVEMAR y por ello participa activamente en el Grupo de Trabajo Intersesional sobre las Observaciones del Océano en Áreas bajo Jurisdicción Nacional.

Con el objeto de facilitar el proceso de obtención de los permisos necesarios para realizar investigación científica marina, en aguas sujetas a la jurisdicción de Chile, ya desde el año 1975 que nuestro país dispone de un cuerpo legal denominado Decreto Supremo N° 711, titulado "Reglamento de control de las investigaciones científicas y/o tecnológicas marinas efectuadas en la zona marítima de jurisdicción

nacional.” Toda investigación en aguas jurisdiccionales chilenas es regulada y controlada conforme a sus disposiciones.

France

La France remercie la COI d'avoir mis en place le groupe de travail sur les observations océaniques dans les zones sous juridiction nationale. Ce groupe de travail met en évidence les problèmes rencontrés pour mener à bien des observations dans les eaux sous juridiction nationale et qu'un effort important reste nécessaire pour faciliter l'observation dans les zones économiques exclusives, harmoniser les observations des Etats membres, encourager la flexibilité de partage des données et ainsi combler les lacunes importantes qui doivent être prises en compte, en particulier si nous voulons espérer arriver à mettre en œuvre un jumeau numérique de l'océan.

Germany

Germany is satisfied with the progress made so far. However, there is still work to be done to enable the IOC member states to make an informed and responsible decision on the continuation and future scope of the OONJ Working Group at next year's General Assembly.

Germany recognizes that the implementation of long-term ocean observation activities in Exclusive Economic Zones is of high importance in time of rapidly changing ocean and climate conditions. Thus, every effort to facilitate observation, of course in line with the general principles of UNCLOS, is welcomed and a crucial contributions to Member State's ability to sustainably manage the ocean. In particular, the Ship of Opportunity programme faces major inconveniences and inconsistencies that hinder the collection of valuable data.

Germany is convinced that the group will meet this challenge and will continue to work constructively towards this common goal.

Kenya

Kenya notes the progress of the IOC ad hoc Intersessional Working Group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction.

Its is noted that 25 Member States were represented, and the working Group is systematically working through the information provided and will seek to draw on additional expert advice as needed.

The group affirms that it will present their work and any recommendations for action at the IOC Assembly in June 2025 as mandated.

We wish the group all the best and Kenya will support the mechanism to conclusion.

Portugal

Portugal supports the ongoing work of the working group on ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction, in which we participate, and looks forward to the presentation of the next report from this group highlighting any difficulties encountered in ensuring sustained ocean observation, an endeavour of major global importance. We also support the draft decision on this topic.

We would like to stress the fundamental role of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as the pillar of ocean governance providing the overarching legal framework within which all activities in oceans and seas must be carried out. In particular, we note that UNCLOS, including in its Part XIII, regulates and establishes the legal framework for the conduct and promotion of marine scientific research, such as ocean observation activities for scientific purposes. Portugal also considers that, in line with UNCLOS, international cooperation should be strengthened to further develop international ocean research and data collection. Any solution to the challenges of modern ocean observation must be found within the legal framework of UNCLOS, including its Part XIII, and the instruments it provides for cooperation and information exchange provided therein. Bilateral/multilateral and/or regional agreements may represent an effective way to overcome potential issues to be identified.

Russian Federation (Observer)

The Russian Federation notes with satisfaction the implementation of the decision of the 32nd Session of the IOC Assembly to form a working group on this issue, welcomes the start of its work and supports the election of Mr. Troisi, who has a great experience in IOC, as its co-chairman.

The Russian Federation expresses its gratitude for the excellent organisation of the work of the ad hoc group by the IOC Co-Chairs and staff and confirms its intention to continue to participate in it in order to assess the

results of the surveys, identify and study some specific issues and successful approaches adopted by IOC Member States.

At the same time, the Russian Federation recalls its earlier position on the need for a coastal State to have the mandatory consent of the coastal State to conduct any oceanographic observations in its territorial waters and EEZ using technical means, including for operational purposes. The Russian Federation considers that the mechanism of notification of the probability of foreign Argo floats entering the waters and EEZs of coastal States, adopted by IOC in 2020, is not effective enough and cannot become a prototype for all types of observations in areas under national jurisdiction.

The Russian Federation reiterates the requirement to provide Russia with official notifications of possible entry of autonomous observation assets into its EEZ, and recalls that Russia reserves the right to prevent their entry into maritime spaces under our national jurisdiction.

The Russian Federation also expresses its concern at the refusal or simple disregard of requests for work by Russian scientific vessels in the EEZs of many States, which has become an established practice for many countries, despite the timely submission of requests and consent to the presence on board of observers from the countries in whose EEZs the work is planned. This aspect should be reflected in the work of the ad hoc working group.

The Russian Federation reiterates that the development of marine scientific research in areas under national jurisdiction and the solution of many issues in this part will be facilitated by regional co-operation, for which we propose to activate and strengthen IOC regional subsidiary bodies with increased allocation of resources from the regular budget to IOC Sub-Commissions, which will improve co-ordination at the regional and inter-country levels.

The Russian Federation expresses its gratitude to all members of the ad hoc group for their work and generally agrees with the Secretariat's proposed draft decision on item 4.2.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Recognising that the working group has sought clarity as to whether there are in fact any material impacts as a result of some of the issues raised in the 2020 GOOS report on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction, we welcome the draft Decision encouraging the working group to continue its efforts in line with its ToRs, and that any recommendations for actions must be compliant with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

United States of America

The United States welcomes the progress report from the Working Group, and supports the draft decision. The United States was pleased to respond to the survey circulated to IOC Member States last year. We encourage other Member States who have not responded to the survey to do so, and if possible, allow for the responses to be shared with the Working Group. Similar to other delegations who have gone before us, the United States views the collection of ocean observations as critical to ensuring a sustained Global Ocean Observing System, and essential in providing the information society needs to make informed decisions. The United States underscores the importance in the Working Group tackling this issue and identifying practical ways forward to better facilitate the collection of ocean observations. We look forward to the next Report of the Working Group.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

WMO would like to emphasize how much surface and subsurface ocean observations are being shared and used in weather and climate prediction, and in the delivery of services to users both near and very far from the ocean.

Every single one of the twelve World Meteorological Centres coordinated by WMO and providing global numerical weather prediction products is using surface and subsurface ocean observing data in their operational coupled weather predictions - because they improve their prediction skill. These global predictions enable many WMO regional and national prediction centers to deliver weather and climate services.

That makes these ocean observations a global public good that we all take benefit from, and restrictions on the taking and sharing of these data hurt us all.

More locally, subsurface ocean observations are important for tropical cyclone rapid intensification forecasts, particularly close to the coastline, and for ocean predictions and the delivery of marine meteorological services and warning of hazards.

We know from our work on basic land-based observing systems that it is important to demonstrate a two-way street: that data taken in a country and shared globally brings benefit back to that country. This is one reason why WMO is invested in the UN initiative to develop Early Warnings for All by 2027.

WMO has also adopted in 2021 a Unified Data Policy which provides a framework to identify data needed for operational prediction and use.

WMO fully respects the Marine Scientific Research provisions in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. However, we will all benefit from schemes that lower the barriers for the taking and sharing of ocean data in EEZs. We would be happy to support the dialogue with IOC Member States in identifying the benefits of data sharing.

4.3 Draft Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management

Australia

We note in particular the effort to undertake additional consultation to help develop this proposed Strategy and recognize that this has improved the development of the Strategy. Australia is supportive of sustainable ocean planning and is committed to the development of a sustainable ocean plan.

Australia concurs with earlier interventions and continues to have some concerns about how the Strategy and its implementation will proceed in a way that does not overlap with existing work of the IOC, how it will be resourced and how it interlocks with the concurrent efforts proposed under the 'Future of the IOC consultation'.

We agree with the proposed objectives as stated in the draft Strategy, all four are directly relevant to the needs of IOC Members, however they are already intertwined and being implemented through existing IOC Programs such as Marine Spatial Planning, Integrated Coastal Area Management, GOOS etc.

While the draft Strategy and your presentation acknowledges these interlocks, Australia would be supportive of further clarification on how and what specific activities will be proposed to "fill the gaps" between existing programs and the objectives of the Strategy and how this will be resourced within existing budgetary allocations.

The Strategy also does not clarify how the IOC's efforts may align with similar efforts being pursued through other multilateral bodies, such as the High Level Oceans Panel and the development of Sustainable Ocean Plans in those countries that are members of the Panel. Lack of connection will likely result in supplantation of effort or other types of overlap.

We concur with views expressed by US and UK that there may be good reason to seek the endorsement of the Strategy by the Assembly of the IOC next year. It is a very important initiative and warrants the perspective of the Assembly.

Regarding the proposal to form a Working Group with the terms of reference included in an Annex to the draft Decision, Australia has some initial views however would welcome additional time to consider this proposal. The proposed Working Group has a very ambitious scope, and there should be further consideration on the expertise required for membership on the Working Group, an optimal size, gender and regional balance to be effective in its work.

We would welcome other members views on an agreed way forward on this initiative.

Brazil

First and foremost, we would like to extend our congratulations on the initiative to establish the IOC Working Group on Ocean Planning and Management (WG-SOPM), in alignment with the proposed IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management for 2024–2030. It's important to note that Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management is of extreme importance for sustainable development and ocean health.

We also emphasise that Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management is a topic of paramount importance to Brazil, having been one of the key topics presented by Brazil's presidency at the G20, in the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group. Brazil invited G20 countries to adopt policies and tools such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and to support others wishing to adopt similar strategies, as these policies can balance interests and evaluate trade-offs in the face of growing demands for ocean resources.

We consider the presented strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management to be comprehensive, covering the main topics for sustainable management. However, despite marine protected areas being cited, it would be beneficial to link them to the MSP IOC Program - MSP Global.

Furthermore, it would be highly valuable to consider extending the efforts of Sustainable Ocean and Planning Management (SOPM) to Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction to contribute to the BBNJ Agreement. This could align with the strategic objectives proposed, particularly (i) increased integration and mainstreaming of ocean planning and management, and (iii) strengthened cross-sectoral and transboundary coordination. The BBNJ Agreement is also one of the key topics being promoted by Brazil during its G20 Presidency, along with the commitment to include bold ocean and coastal-related actions in the Countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national climate plans.

We hereby express Brazil's intent to participate actively and effectively as a member of this important IOC Working Group, if created. However, we would like to understand better how the strategy will be funded, as it seems that there may not be sufficient budget allocated to the primary IOC programs supporting it, such as the MSP Global Program.

Canada

Canada thanks Mr. Barbieri for his report and the IOC secretariat for hosting recent webinars on this matter. Canada recognizes the value of the draft strategy and the importance of Sustained Ocean Management and Planning but would like to reinforce the need to ensure that our focus remains in ocean science, using the information gained from IOC activities and programs to inform these broader initiatives. As noted by other Member States, we would encourage as this moves forward that we ensure that consideration is given to existing related programs and projects to avoid duplication, including MSP Global. Finally, as raised by other colleagues, it is not clear from the documentation as to the funding mechanism for this undertaking.

Colombia

Colombia celebra y agradece a los expertos participantes en la elaboración de la “Estrategia para toda la COI sobre la Planificación y la Gestión Sostenible del Océano (2024-2030)” y aprueba su adopción, así como la creación del grupo de trabajo para tan importante asunto.

De la misma manera, Colombia destaca la iniciativa MSPglobal en donde la región aporta al grupo de expertos con su trayectoria de más de 25 años de trabajo en el Manejo Integrado de la zona costera colombiana, como un proceso que hoy se ha fortalecido con la visión de la planificación espacial marina.

Con lo cual, Colombia reconoce la altísima relevancia de esta Estrategia y presenta una amable sugerencia al Grupo de Trabajo de la COI sobre Planificación y Gestión Sostenibles del Océano (WG-SOPM), para que en su futura asesoría se priorice que la implementación de la Estrategia incluya acciones contundentes y concretas para que el “Apoyo financiero” y la generación de lineamientos sobre cómo acceder a aportes de donantes, como un factor urgente, para viabilizar la implementación real desde lo local o regional de esta Estrategia.

De este modo, los Estados podrían adquirir dicho aprendizaje y logren completar prácticas que conduzcan a la planificación y gestión sostenible del océano.

France

La France félicite la COI pour les progrès réalisés dans l'élaboration de la stratégie sur la planification et gestion durables des océans unifiant les cadres politiques existants dans une approche intégrée, coordonnée et collaborative en faveur d'un océan durable et en bonne santé et est impatiente de collaborer à sa mise en œuvre.

Germany

Germany thanks Julian Barbrière for his comprehensive report and fully agrees with the overall objective to fully fulfil the tasks of the IOC as described in Article 2.1 of the IOC Statutes. Germany is convinced that ocean research is the core mission of the IOC, but also recognizes that the development of science-based information and solutions for ocean health is crucial and a necessary addendum to IOC's scientific agenda.

Providing tools for member states' management decisions will promote marine science within the IOC and its member states.

A stronger scientific knowledge base will in turn improve the tools available to member states.

Germany also welcomes the establishment of the working group and supports the proposed strong involvement of Member States. The strategy represents a shift in the IOC's priorities - for the better, as just

mentioned - but it is a shift that requires the full support and leadership of all Member States willing to participate in the group.

This shift is of course also greatly supported by the Ocean Decade, which has already significantly strengthened the network and capacity to develop and deliver scientific solutions. Germany therefore particularly welcomes the establishment of the Ocean Decade Program for Sustainable Ocean Planning.

In closing: The ToR repeatedly speaks about open access and open data, which Germany fully supports. We recommend a specific focus in that regard, drawing upon the normative basis of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

Iceland

Iceland agrees with some other member states that there is a need to distinguish between Marine Spatial Planning and Sustainable Ocean Planning and management – as these are not the same.

There is increasing focus on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management in the global environment. Iceland agrees that it is highly important to ensure that IOC is equipped to take part in the discussion on Sustainable ocean planning and management and it should be ensured that it is communicated clearly to potential users how the activities and products of the IOC can be used in that framework.

The work proposed is comprehensive.

In light of the limited human and financial resources of the IOC, we would like to highlight the need for this kind of work to have a clear focus. A key but also a time-sensitive task due to the increasing rate of awareness of Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management, is to understand the need of potential users and the possible use of IOC activities and products for sustainable ocean planning and management. In other words, the IOC needs to be ready to serve when the call comes which could be over the next year towards the Ocean conference in Nice.

If the executive council does not adopt a decision Dec. EC-57/4.3 today on establishing a working group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management for 2024-2030. We nevertheless encourage the executive secretary, the chair, the secretariat and member states to work towards increasing understanding the alignment of IOC activities and products with Sustainable Ocean planning and management as a part of other work that is already ongoing or taking place towards the General Assembly of the IOC in 2025. “

After several interventions raising concerns about the plan to establish such comprehensive work that may duplicate some of the work already taking place within the IOC, the IOC chair decided to create a drafting group to alter the text in the decisions. The group will meet at 18 on the same day (Wednesday).

Italy

Italy believes this strategy is important to highlight the crucial role of IOC in development sustainable ocean planning. This topic is central for Italy, a country in which the marine resources and marine tourism largely contribute to our economy, Italy is working to enhance the impact of research and innovation to the Blue Economy at national and regional level. Italy this requires collaboration of member states. Development of Blue Economy is priority from Italian govern and agree that IOC should explore this topic and the proposed strategy is good step to support sustainable ocean planning and management.

Italy as coordinator, Sustainable Blue Economy, already started a collaboration with IOC on sustainable ocean planning and management participating to the Interim Advisory Committee IOC on Sustainable Ocean Planning. Italy would like to continue to collaborate with IOC on this activity in the framework EU SBEP activity.

Nevertheless, Italy agrees with Japan, USA and Canada and other member states that Strategy should avoid overlapping with other IOC programs. We agree USA and UK that the strategy of should be require approval of the IOC GA but we sustain that the work already started by the secretariat should be continue in the next year.

Japan

Japan recognized the importance of sustainable ocean planning and coastal management for sustainable use of marine ecosystem services, conservation of the ecosystem and biodiversity, as well as promotion of economic activities.

At the same time, Japan recognizes this is an IOC-wide strategy and there are various overlaps with ongoing IOC activities and the Commission's' Medium Term Strategy. Japan expects Secretary and the Working

Group to clarify its unique terminologies to minimize redundancy of the activities, which may be useful to appropriate allocation of human and financial resources, and also to avoid overdue of the Secretary.

Kenya

Kenya noted that the report follows inputs from Member States, IOC programmes and technical bodies.

We further, note the recent advancement in the area of ocean management, the objectives of the IOC Medium-term Strategy (2022–2029) that will focus on sustainable ocean economy and ocean planning.

The Strategy also responds to the Statutes of IOC which calls for the application of ocean knowledge generated by the IOC “for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its members.

The strategy is a good guidance to the Commission across its programmes on ocean sciences, observation and data, early warning services and assessments, through the delivery of tailored science-based services, the dissemination of ecosystem-based management tools, assessment and related information products, as well as capacity development in support to sustainable ocean management.

We commend the secretariate exemplary lead on the strategy.

Mauritius (Observer)

We are confident that your leadership will steer the IOC towards greater achievements in marine science and sustainable ocean management. Mauritius remains steadfast in its commitment to the IOC's goals and programmes, and we look forward to strengthening our collaboration to address critical issues such as climate change, ocean health, and the sustainable use of marine resources. Together, we can ensure that our oceans continue to thrive for future generations.

Norway (Observer)

Norway welcomes the draft Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management.

We also support establishing the proposed IOC Working Group and its Terms of Reference.

The strategy is ambitious and will influence and draw upon much of IOC's work.

IOC is the best possible UN home for such an approach.

To succeed with the strategy it is important that the science-policy dimension is strong.

Therefore, we believe it is important that involvement in Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management has the highest possible level of anchoring in the member states. We believe that The Ocean Panel members could inspire other IOC member states with their dedicated approach injecting political energy in science-based sustainable Ocean planning.

We appreciate that the strategy is well connected and builds on the important Marine Spatial Planning work that is already in place in many member states. This underlines the very holistic approach of the strategy.

It is important that the role of the IOC in underpinning Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management in Member States is clearly communicated to governments now as they increase their efforts and commitments in the lead-up to the United Nation Ocean Conference in Nice.

Republic of Korea

Korea welcomes IOC's efforts to establish "sustainable ocean planning and management strategies" for science-based ocean management.

The Korean government also recognizes the importance of science-based ocean management. Since 2019, we have been developing relevant plans and pursuing various policies, by consolidating and processing ocean and fisheries-related data to establish an overall operational system that can be used in policymaking.

We have implemented and operated an Δ Integrated Marine and Fisheries Big Data Platform since 2018, aiming to unify scattered information into one platform. In addition, we have developed Δ a digital twin-based decision-making support system to reflect ocean and fisheries information in policy. And we are regularly hosting a Δ Oceans and Fisheries Information Steering Committee, involving both the private sector and governmental policy decision-makers.

Finally, to ensure this strategy becomes a guideline for IOC member states' science-based marine management, I would like to add a comment:

For scientific efforts to be realized into tangible policies, enhancing accessibility of scientific information for policy decision-makers is crucial. We hope that these strategies will include approaches for processing and converting scientific data, as well as enhancing understanding and utilization of scientific data.

Russian Federation (Observer)

We attach great importance to the IOC's development of a Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management. Thank you for the suggestions of the Russian Federation that have been taken into account. At the same time, please note that not all of our comments on the text of the draft strategy have been taken into account. We would like to note that any activity within the framework of sustainable ocean planning and management should not impede the conduct of economic activities and go against the existing norms of international maritime law. We also believe that any decisions taken in the course of joint work to achieve the set goals, including the creation and functioning of working groups and programs, as well as interaction with third-party structures and associations should be subject to mandatory approval by all IOC member States. In addition, we consider it is advisable to include representatives of interested Member States in the Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management, which according to the document should play a major role in the implementation of the Strategy. At the same time, we assume that the Strategy is advisory in nature. Taking this opportunity, we express our gratitude to Mr. Julien Barbier and other colleagues for their work on the document and would like to note that the Russian Federation is ready to actively participate in the work on the Strategy, as well as to join the Working Group to be formed.

Dear Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate it if you could include my statement in the final report. The text of the speech will be sent in accordance with the established procedure.

Spain

España agradece al Sr Julian Barbier su clara presentación y considera extremadamente interesante el borrador de la Estrategia sobre Planificación y Gestión Sostenible de Océano y un elemento muy importante a tener en cuenta para el futuro de la actividad de la COI. De forma muy resumida, y tal como se justifica con más detalle en el documento, aborda el reto general actual de nuestra relación con el océano en el que por un lado el océano nos ofrece oportunidades de crecimiento económico y para mejorar el bienestar social, pero al mismo tiempo la actividad humana amenaza la integridad del funcionamiento del océano y sus ecosistemas, poniendo en riesgo esas oportunidades, además de los beneficios que ya nos reporta. Por lo tanto, es necesario acelerar y facilitar la transferencia de conocimiento hacia las decisiones políticas.

En este sentido, consideramos que es necesario estructurar la actividad de la COI hacia este objetivo, sin olvidar que el conocimiento científico sobre el océano, sin que necesariamente tenga una función específica actualmente, puede ser la herramienta para abordar retos en el futuro que todavía no hemos identificado.

España, respondiendo a la Circular 2968 envió comentarios a la versión anterior de la Estrategia y agradecemos a la Secretaría haber tenido en cuenta buena parte de ellos. En la versión anterior observábamos una transformación excesiva de la estructura y el funcionamiento de la COI para atender el objetivo de la estrategia, y en la versión actual esas consecuencias están en general mucho más acotadas a los aspectos fundamentales e importantes, sin dar la sensación de que se acomete una reestructuración global de la COI, que parecía inferirse en la versión anterior. Por lo tanto estamos mucho más de acuerdo con esta versión y agradecemos los cambios.

La situación financiera que ha padecido la COI desde hace años ha impedido acometer este tipo de transformaciones estratégicas y que ahora es necesario abordarlas con más urgencia. Sin embargo, creemos que esta Estrategia debería ser una parte fundamental del proceso de evaluación sobre el futuro de la COI que se va a abrir. España considera un cierto contrasentido aprobar esta estrategia, fundamental para la actividad de esta organización, y abrir a la vez un proceso para determinar el futuro de la COI que se prevé iniciar con un proceso de consultas sobre aspectos que se solapan en buena parte el objetivo general de la presente estrategia.

Thailand

Thailand is advancing its marine and coastal resource management through ecosystem-based approaches. Recognizing the intricate balance between economic growth and environmental stewardship, we integrate comprehensive marine spatial planning into our national policies, ensuring that all maritime activities align with ecological sustainability goals.

By leveraging advanced technologies and fostering cross-sector collaboration, Thailand aims to enhance the resilience of its coastal and marine environments against the impacts of climate change and human

activities. The nation prioritizes community engagement and capacity-building initiatives, empowering local populations to actively participate in and benefit from sustainable ocean management practices.

We have strengthened our collaboration with international partners and regional organizations to share best practices, resources, and innovations in marine conservation. This includes our engagement in the Decade Action 21, “Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas”, and in the MSPglobal 2.0, where Thailand is one of the target countries.

In principle, Thailand welcomes the Draft IOC's Wide-Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management for 2024–2030 and looks forward to the formation of the IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management, which will feature a diverse and inclusive array of representatives.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The UK recognizes the significant offerings the IOC can provide in supporting Member States sustainably plan and manage their marine estates, and given the swell of interest in sustainable ocean planning and management (SOPM), the IOC is well placed to deliver the data, tools and services as mandated in our Statutes. As members of the High Level Panel the UK recognizes the value in what the IOC can already offer.

At the 32nd Assembly the UK raised concerns relating to IOC mission drift or the need for a SOPM strategy. Mindful of the request at the 32nd Assembly to provide a draft strategy, following MS written feedback and the webinars, and UK appreciates the improvements in the current document. If the intent of this initiative is the provision of IOC outputs to support SOPM, a point of clarity I sought at the webinar in May of this year, then we could explore how best this can be delivered and promoted, as the IOC already undertakes significant initiatives that can support SOPM, as highlighted by Mr Barbier in his presentation, but our reading of this latest strategy still doesn't make this clear.

We also have similar concerns to those expressed by the USA. As currently presented, this unifying framework, with a broad scope, that would take into account significant IOC projects and programmes may require the approval of the Assembly.

Furthermore, as the draft Strategy requires IOC programs to expand the work of the IOC in the delivery of its implementation, this relates directly to the consultation process on the IOC and the Future of the Ocean. And we agree with Spain that the strategy should be considered within this consultation.

The UK also has concerns, as reflected by Brazil, in relation to the funding of a new Strategy, at a time when we are only now getting to grips with the allocation of funds following the increase in IOCs regular program budget. To which end we would like to hear how funding of this new initiative would be sourced.

United States of America

The United States also thanks the Secretariat for hosting two informational webinars last month as a means to consult with Member States. Like with others here, Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management is an important issue for the United States. Earlier this month we released our new “National Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy” focused on supporting resilient, prosperous, and secure ecosystems, people, and communities. Familiar with the challenges of this work, we commend Member States' efforts to carry out sustainable ocean management and planning within EEZs. As our fellow Member States know, this work is not quick or easy. It requires authoritative ocean and coastal science at its foundation and thoughtful development of best practices and policy approaches. The United States agrees that IOC programs have much to contribute to Member States' efforts and ambitions regarding this work. That said, and as we noted earlier this week, the United States finds that there are aspects of the proposed draft Strategy which overlap with ongoing work of the IOC, including the 'IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation.' We look forward to the outcome of this anticipated consultation as it could greatly inform IOC Member States, including in their efforts to achieve sustainable ocean planning and management. Of note, the United States attended both recent webinars, although a significant number of Member States were not present. As we mentioned during one of the webinars, the United States believes that a decision of this magnitude is more appropriately taken by the IOC Assembly when all IOC Member States can take part in the decision. This is particularly true for a document described as a “unifying framework” for IOC programs, and one that already includes a section on implementation. Not only do we have this draft strategy, Mr. Chair, but we are also being asked to adopt a proposal for the establishment of a new Working Group, and that Group's Terms of Reference, which we note are quite substantial. It is because the United States actively engages in sustainable ocean planning and management, that we believe it is important that we are clear about what we aim to achieve and how this work will impact the existing programs of the IOC. During one of the webinars, one Member State delegate asked whether or not this draft Strategy is intended to pull together all existing work of the IOC under the umbrella of Sustainable Ocean Management and Planning. If this is the intention, we

recommend that the draft Strategy be clarified toward this intention before it is adopted. Lastly, we would recommend that Member States consider how the draft Strategy requires, in some cases, IOC programs to do expanded work for the Strategy's implementation. Given that we are still in the process of stabilizing the IOCs existing programs, this also gives us pause. We welcome input from other Member States on whether such a significant document can be adopted at this time, or whether it should be more appropriately taken up by the IOC Assembly when all IOC Member States can be involved in the decision. The United States also welcomes other Member State comments regarding revisions to the draft Strategy and the Working Group and its Terms of Reference as a way forward, so that we might be as responsive to Member States' needs as possible.

4.4 GEBCO Governance Review (2023) and Triennial Review of User Requirements

Brazil

Brazil has long supported the GEBCO program. We share bathymetric data collected by our research vessels, and for many years, we have compiled into bathymetric maps the bathymetry received by all ships transiting Brazilian jurisdictional waters.

More recently, Brazil shared the bathymetry data available in its Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC) to the IHO Data Center for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB) and the bathymetry resulting from the Brazilian submission was approved by the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).

In 2021, Brazil provided bathymetric datasets obtained by our research vessels to the IHO DCDB and provided a bathymetric grid with 1 km resolution covering Brazilian jurisdictional waters for the Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Project - Seabed 2030. Thus, Brazil continues to contribute to this important international effort of ocean cartography and reiterates its willingness to continue contributing to it.

Chile

Nos parece muy necesario llevar a cabo un examen de las necesidades de los usuarios, cada tres años. Es por ello que estamos de acuerdo con la primera parte de la resolución propuesta sobre este tema; la que es pertinente y un mecanismo válido para tener una visión global de la situación. Ciertamente que si lográsemos una más amplia respuesta tal visión sería más certera. Queremos sugerir se considere agregar un punto (iv) a la propuesta de resolución a fin de solicitar al Secretario Ejecutivo que en nombre de la COI agradezca expresamente a la Nippon Foundation por el aporte que hace al desarrollo de capacidades que beneficia al Programa GEBCO.

En cuanto a la Segunda parte, la Revisión de la Gobernanza y Estrategia de GEBCO, nos parece que ambos textos deberían ser participados a la OHI para consideración y comentarios. Nos parece que la Nueva Estrategia ofrece una buena actualización respecto de la estrategia vigente y no tenemos observaciones.

En cuanto a la Revisión de la Gobernanza, estimamos que las más de 40 recomendaciones requieren de un cauteloso estudio por parte del GEBCO Guiding Committee, cuyas conclusiones y recomendaciones deben llegar tanto a la COI como a la OHI para su consideración y eventual aprobación antes de resolver la implementación de las recomendaciones propuestas en el documento IOC/EC-57/4.4.Doc(1).

Es decir, estamos de acuerdo y aceptamos los puntos 9, 10 y 11 de la propuesta y respecto del punto 12 proponemos un texto de reemplazo que será entregado a la Secretaría, junto a algunos ejemplos de aspectos sensibles que estimamos requieren de un cuidadoso análisis.

France

La France approuve les recommandations générales sur la clarification de la gouvernance GEBCO. Ces clarifications faciliteront la mise en place de partenariats et encourageront les institutions scientifiques à contribuer au projet GEBCO/Seabed2030.

Japan

Japan supports the recommendations and future activity plans presented.

Japan congratulates the progress of the Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 project, which preparing high quality bathymetry information, and one of the best products for UN Ocean Decade project.

Japan well aware of the importance of the ocean mapping as the basic information of the ocean for multiple purposes. As mentioned in the action paper, they are not only for navigation, but also for other purposes including tsunami warning, climate modelling, etc.

Japan also would like to point out that the high quality bathymetry information is essential for conservation of marine ecosystem and biological diversity, and also marine spatial planning. Japan will continue to support the GEBCO activity by sending experts. We recommend to describe clearly in the draft decision EC-57 4.4 to the multiple purposes as mentioned.

Mauritius (Observer)

Mauritius supports the decision to establish a Working Group on user requirements and contributions to GEBCO products. The GEBCO products have proven to be immensely beneficial to member states, particularly those with limited technical resources, by providing essential bathymetric data that aids in marine navigation, resource management, environmental protection and for preparing extended continental shelf Submission. Mauritius is committed to actively participating in defining user requirements and contributing to the enhancement of GEBCO products. We recognize the need for further capacity building to maximize the utility of these resources and pledge our continued support to the IOC and the NIPPON Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project. However, Mauritius also recognises the potential difficulty in sharing, in particular, coastal bathymetry data for security reason and will encourage recourse to alternative means such as aggregated data to compensate on this issue. By doing so, we aim to contribute to the development of comprehensive and accessible ocean mapping for the benefit of all.

Portugal

Portugal considers that the objective to map the global ocean floor by 2030 with the adequate resolution is a major collective endeavor, and should be a major outcome of the UN Ocean Decade. Thanks to the developed international joint efforts and with an contribution from the private sector, a very significant increase in the mapped area was possible since the onset of the Ocean Decade, now attaining 26% of the World's Ocean. Ocean bathymetry forms the base for Ocean knowledge and is fundamental to properly understanding major ocean processes, namely as concerns Ocean circulation, global tectonics, hazard assessment, modelling and early warning, ecosystem mapping, and for security of submarine installations.

Through its national SeaMAP 2030 program, which is contributing to the Nippon Foundation GEBCO SeaBED 2030 global initiative, Portugal is fully committed to attain the goal of mapping the area under its jurisdiction by 2030. Thanks to a major effort on sustained ocean mapping surveys in the past years, ca. 57% coverage of that area is now fully covered. This high resolution bathymetry will be the base for the future S200 and S300 standard for ocean mapping.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

WMO is pleased to read the review of GEBCO and has taken note of the results including the recognition that bathymetric data has significant value for various types of hydrodynamic modelling. From the WMO perspective, there is keen interest for continued access and use of bathymetric data, particularly coastal data, which is one of the key fundamental variables to support accurate prediction of the marine weather state and inundation, in coastal zones, with substantial implications for improving forecasts and early warnings for the protection of lives and property.

Consequently, the role of GEBCO, to foster access to and availability of a global database of bathymetric information, to as high a resolution as possible, is critical. WMO appreciates that this review is a positive step towards strengthening the GEBCO's efforts, ultimately for the benefit of our common WMO, IOC and IHO Member States.

4.5 Report of the Advisory Board on the 2nd Edition of the IOC State of the Ocean Report (StOR)

Brazil

We welcome the publication of the second edition of the IOC State of the Ocean Report and extend our gratitude to the StOR Advisory Board. The report's headline messages have garnered attention in Brazilian media, raising both concern and prompting action, as we grapple with the consequences of weather events in the Southern part of our country.

We believe that the Report has the potential to become one of the most important instruments for highlighting the significance of this committee's work and for engaging a broader range of stakeholders.

To realise this potential, it is of utter importance to rely on "authors and reviewers which reflect diversity in expertise, gender, geographic representation, career status and Indigenous Peoples and other coastal communities", following the orientation provided by the General Assembly last year (IOC Decision A-32/4.2).

This consideration must not be placed in second place in pursuit of over ambitious publication dates or frequency, and careful planning is required.

In terms of geographical representation, this edition saw limited progress in comparison with the Pilot edition. Authors from the Global South now represent about 13%, up from 5%. However, this increase is almost exclusively due to the efforts of the IOC Group of Experts on Ocean Literacy in Section “Status and trends in building global ocean literacy”, which has 1/3 of authors from the Global South. This is a good start and a model that should be followed. The other sections had only 6% from the Global South, practically repeating the performance of the Pilot Edition. The distribution of reviewers is a little better, at 30%, up from 18% in the pilot. We thank efforts made for this increase as called by the Advisory board.

More effort is required. The last edition of the GOSR informs us that the added contribution of Global South Member States amounts to about a 1/3 of Ocean Science for the period of 2000-2017, growing faster than the average and reaching at the end of the period almost half of ocean science's output. And this is only a partial view of the output in ocean science, since it covers only articles that are written in English, or that have an English abstract.

We, therefore, propose a revision of Dec. EC-57/4.5 incorporating under item 5. a requirement that its development reflect diversity in expertise, gender, geographic representation, career status and Indigenous Peoples and other coastal communities

Canada

We appreciate efforts to ensure the level of writing is plain language and accessible. While we appreciate the efforts to publish regularly, we need to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the target audience for the report and its purpose, and, as suggested by our Columbian and US colleagues, develop indicators that we can use to understand its impact and effectiveness. This should drive the publication periodicity, format, and should be iterative.

Consideration could be given to producing thematic reports to be most impactful. We suggest considering adding a case study for each section that highlights issues and solutions along with future considerations that audiences can use in policy-making.

Finally, we would like to stress the importance of broad communication of the Report and would welcome further information as to how this will be accomplished, including highlighting this as an IOC product.

Colombia

Colombia agradece y celebra la reciente publicación del Informe sobre el Estado del Océano 2024 de la COI/UNESCO, reconociéndolo como un documento de vital importancia y que contribuye para llevar la ciencia a la política, uno de los principales desafíos de esta organización internacional en la actualidad.

De la misma forma, resalta los resultados publicados en lo que respecta a las actividades y análisis científicos relacionados con el océano para describir su estado actual y futuro; y reiteramos la disposición de Colombia de contribuir con datos e información que nutran futuras ediciones el Reporte de los Océanos (StOR), y el compromiso, de emplear los canales oficiales de las diferentes entidades para su respectiva y amplia divulgación.

En consecuencia, Colombia aprueba la publicación periódica del StOR, reconociendo que la misma seguirá evolucionando en términos de contenido y análisis a medida que avance la ciencia y los datos e información que se hagan disponibles, sería deseable incluir un capítulo de estadísticas o indicadores estandarizados que nos permita hacer seguimiento y medir el avance a través de los años.

Iceland

As already mentioned the IOC State of the Ocean Report was launched in Iceland on the 3rd of June this year.

We would like to use this opportunity to touch upon the importance of ensuring the IOC can collaborate effectively with member states on activities.

When the launch took place in Iceland, the Icelandic government took full part. Iceland aligned the visit of the IOC executive secretary with a visit from Peter Thomson, the United Nations Secretary-Generals Special Envoy for the Ocean. Three ministers took part in the launch event and various meetings were planned, including bilateral meetings with ministers.

This raised considerable awareness of ocean affairs within the government but also in Iceland in general through media activities planned around the launch event.

The report is comprehensive, informative and well written. IOC needs to have a periodic publication of a document that raises awareness of IOC's activities for users but and raises awareness of the ocean affairs.

Iceland would nevertheless like to encourage the IOC to further develop the StOR to ensure that the report is a truly useful tool for policy and decision makers as intended. We agree with the interventions by some other member states on the importance of ensuring IOC resources are used efficiently.

For example, a short and well-presented summary document with key-messages for decision makers, could be published and widely distributed alongside the more detailed StOR.

Japan

Japan would like to thank Advisory Board on the 2nd Edition of the IOC State of the Ocean Report (StOR) , IOC secretariat and over 100 authors for their committed contribution. Japan also thanks governments of the Republic of Korea, Iceland and The Back to Blue Initiative for their financial contribution. Dr. Yutaka Michida has contributed as a member of the Advisory Board and many others contributed to reviewing.

Japan acknowledges that the report is structured focusing on the seven outcomes of the UN Decade of Ocean Science, which makes it appropriate to be accepted by the primary target, policy makers. Japan sees it valuable that 2nd version of StOR intended to avoid duplication with existing reports and had taken in to account complementary data from other international organizations where necessary.

StOR had planned to be annual publication in its original concept. Having in mind that StOR2024 turned out to be a large volume of publication, Japan evaluates the last decision to make StOR as a "periodic publication", taking into account financial and human resources dedicated to the StOR.

Japan would like to take note of the foreword of the Executive Secretary, that "The StOR is intended to be complementary to multi-year assessments informing major international environmental conventions. These should avoid duplication and be complementary to one another.

Republic of Korea

I believe that this report will provide an opportunity for policymakers as well as the general public to easily access ocean science contents.

Korea strongly agrees with the purpose of the State of the Ocean Report (StOR) to enhance the understanding of the ocean among the public and policymakers. Therefore, Korea plans to provide financial support for the publication of this second edition of StOR.

Additionally, to raise interest in the ocean among the general public and related institutions in Korea, we are considering producing and distributing a Korean language version of the second edition, similar to the first edition of StOR.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the entire team of authors, editors, external reviewers, and the IOC Secretariat who worked hard for the publication of StOR.

I would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Ik-ro Yoon and Dr. Ms. Yoon-jie Lee from the Korea Institute of Marine Science & Technology Promotion (KIMST) who participated as editors.

Russian Federation (Observer)

Россия приветствует результаты, представленные Секретариатом МОК по выполнению Программы и исполнению бюджета Комиссии. Благодарим д-ра Владимира Рябина за проделанную работу, это была успешная эпоха несмотря на сложные условия, и желаем ему дальнейших успехов. Приветствуем г-на Видара Хельгесена в качестве нового Исполнительного секретаря МОК. Россия вносит значительный вклад в выполнение программ Комиссии. Можно отметить следующие действия:

- а) Развитие наблюдательной научной инфраструктуры в Северном Ледовитом океане. Мы успешно провели экспедицию на единственной в мире уникальной ледостойкой платформе (ЛСП), которая называется «Северный полюс» и готовим новую международную экспедицию на ней.
- б) Россия успешно участвует в программе предупреждения цунами и других опасных процессов.
- в) Мы активно развиваем программы для увеличения потенциала, в частности строим новые научные суда, реализуем программу «Плавучий университет» и другие.
- г) Успешно провели в 2023 г. Конференцию с международным участием «Россия в Десятилетия ООН по наукам об океане» и активно участвуем в других международных конференциях.
- д) Выполняем проекты и одну программу в рамках Десятилетия и участвуем в других.

е) Активно развиваем сотрудничество, в частности можно отметить новое сотрудничество с Африкой и островными государствами (например, Мадагаскар, Шри-Ланка и другие). В этом направлении подписаны новые документы, созданы проекты и сформированы рабочие группы, в том числе в рамках БРИКС.

ж) Поддерживаем и активно участвуем в программах ВЕСТПАК, NEARGOOS и других региональных проектах под эгидой МОК, в частности являемся соруководителями их рабочих групп и комитетов.

На этой основе мы планируем и дальше усиливать сотрудничество для достижения целей МОК в целом и Десятилетия в частности.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom would like to thank Mr Wunch for his presentation and thanks the efforts of the Advisory Board. We also thank the support provided by the Republic of Korea and Iceland. The UK is encouraged to hear of the Advisory Boards progress in guiding the development of the StOR, in particular in areas where clarity was sought, i.e. its purpose, its target audience, and the source of information.

Having consulted with a key target audience, our decision makers in the UK, there is still much for the Advisory Board to do. Feedback on the StORs usefulness included; it's length and the absence of a summary; and it has no key messages; there's no sense of what's new, with many references to existing initiatives [many of which are already the to go to place for information e.g. IPCC, IPBES and the WOA].

Given this there is more to be done before we adopt a Decision requesting the regular publication of something that is not yet fit for purpose. The UK would therefore like to propose a modification of the Decision text to reflect the ongoing need for the Advisory Board to further refine the document in anticipation of future publications.

United States of America

We also thank the Secretariat and the StOR Advisory Board for delivery of the second StOR, as well as the governments of Korea and Iceland for their support. The United States remains concerned about duplication of efforts and overburdening experts with regular reporting. In future editions of the StOR report, we encourage the IOC to be mindful of this and not duplicate efforts by taxing the same authors for different reports. In addition, we agree with the comments made by Brazil and encourage the IOC to be more mindful of geographical representation and gender diversity in future editions of the report. We also recommend the IOC include messaging for how the StOR can benefit from other UN reports like the World Ocean Assessment. The United States would also welcome metrics of access to this document to better gauge its impact and use. The United States believes the Advisory Board has played a useful role in the development of the StOR. We understand the Advisory Board is open-ended, and we encourage Member States who are interested in joining the Advisory Board, to do so.

4.6 Implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030)

Colombia

Colombia agradece al grupo de expertos, acoge con beneplácito la vinculación de programas globales de la COI con los órganos subsidiarios regionales, en particular con IOCARIBE y apoya mantener el Grupo de Expertos de la COI sobre Desarrollo de capacidades, y apoya el proyecto de su mandato, además, Colombia manifiesta su interés de contribuir con este Grupo mediante expertos nacionales acreditados a través del mecanismo que definan.

Dada la transversalidad del desarrollo de capacidades con los Programas de la COI, Colombia invita a continuar promoviendo este asunto entre todos los sectores para el intercambio de datos, información, conocimiento y experiencias en investigación, en aras de mejorar la toma de decisiones y contribuir al desarrollo sostenible del océano. Adicionalmente, Colombia se permite expresar un agradecimiento al Gobierno de Flandes por el apoyo al desarrollo de capacidades, en especial, a los tres componentes principales del IODE: OTGA, OBIS y ODIS, éste último, a través del desarrollo continuo por más de 7 años desde el Mecanismo de intercambio de información -Clearing House Mechanism- hasta el OceanInfoHub, e invita al Gobierno de Flandes a continuar con este relevante apoyo más allá del año 2026.

Colombia continuará realizando sus aportes en dinero y especie como Centro Regional de Entrenamiento de la OTGA para países hispanoparlantes en el marco de los retos y visión del Decenio al 2030. Asimismo, Colombia invita a los Estados miembro, que alojan otros Centros Regionales de Entrenamiento de la OTGA, a que continúen con el esfuerzo de mantener y mejorar la oferta de entrenamiento regional. Invita a la COI a

revisar las necesidades de financiación para esta estrategia fortaleciendo la inversión que establezca el staff para la Estrategia de Capacidades, en pro de continuar mejorando las capacidades de investigación oceánica en las regiones, fortaleciendo las alianzas internacionales y las redes regionales de colaboración.

Colombia se permite recordar que acogerá en el INVEMAR, en la ciudad de Santa Marta, la reunión 28 de la IODE y la Conferencia Internacional de Datos en el 2025 e invita a los estados miembros para acompañar presencialmente la misma.

France

La France remercie Alan Evans, président du groupe d'experts sur le développement des capacités, pour sa présentation du travail du groupe d'experts sur le développement des capacités. La France soutient la Stratégie 2023-2030 de la COI pour le développement des capacités, et approuve la proposition de maintenir le Groupe d'experts avec un mandat révisé. Le travail réalisé par Alan Evans et le groupe d'experts (GE-CD) a été constructif et doit être poursuivi.

La France favorise l'accès aux données avec le portail d'accès centralisé ODATIS et favorise également le dépôt des données avec SEANoe. Ces actions participent activement au développement des capacités.

India

India appreciates the new capacity development strategy in particular the report of the activity of the Group of Experts on Capacity Development.

Realizing the importance of capacity development India has set up an International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOO) and has been imparting training in operational oceanography since 2013. This centre is acting as Regional Training Centre under OTGA and as a Category 2 Centre under UNESCO. Through this centre India has been undertaking training programmes involving participants from Indian ocean rim countries, SIDS and ECOPs. About 6500 trainees from 96 members countries were trained in various topics of interest in this centre.

India has been actively involved in capacity development activities in partnership with OTGA, IOGOOS, POGO, RIMES, and IORA. Of late India has opened opportunities for training through the International Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) of Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India.

India responded to the call for UNESCO-IOC Ocean Training Internships for 2024 and agreed to host trainees and impart training on the state-of-the-art topics like machine learning for handling data and quality control procedures.

In addition, India has contributed to the public review of the White Paper on the Ocean Decade Challenge 9: Skills, knowledge and technologies for all, by involving participants of IO-Con 2024 conference held in Feb 2024. The outcome of this was presented at the Ocean Decade Conference (Barcelona, Spain, 10-12 April 2024).

India is proud to say that the top 3 CD needs as envisaged by the Group of Experts of Capacity Development like (i) funding and investment, (ii) strengthened international partnerships and regional networks for collaboration, and (iii) research vessels and inshore boats are being effectively taken care under the auspices of C2C.

India would like to express its desire to be part of the new Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD) and contribute to the development of an implementation plan for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy. Finally, we would like to reiterate that India is committed to the Capacity Development activities and continue its efforts to generate trained manpower in the field of operational oceanography.

Japan

Capacity Development has been a core function of IOC since its establishment and has been promoted in both regional and global level. Japan recalls one of the central actions of the Ocean Decade is Capacity Development of member states, which are essential to conduct marine science, accelerate citizen science, disseminate the scientific knowledge, and science-based decision making. Japan has been keen to contribute Capacity Development activities especially in the WESTPAC region.

Japan welcomes the revised TOR of GE-CD to formulate an implementation plan to be submitted to the IOC assembly in its 33rd session.

Japan requests the WG to consider that the whole CD activities of the Commission are to be promoted, fully taking into account the IOC High-Level Objectives and Priorities, including gender equality, global priority Africa, ECOP and SIDS.

Japan will continue to contribute IOC's Capacity Development activities collaborating with member states and donors.

Republic of Korea

Recognizing the critical importance of Capacity Development in marine science and technology, we fully endorse the strategic outcomes presented. We emphasize the pivotal role of knowledge in enhancing management practices, promoting sustainable development, safeguarding the marine environment, and improving decision-making processes.

The Republic of Korea is committed to advancing domestic capacity development initiatives, with a particular focus on Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP). We actively engage in a variety of international capacity development activities, including offering scholarship programs at the master's and doctoral levels, training for Research Vessel crews, and conducting courses on equipment operation and data processing. We are dedicated to aligning these efforts with the IOC Capacity Development Strategy.

In our endeavor to strengthen the global, regional, and sub-regional mechanisms highlighted in Output 3, the Korean government remains dedicated to continuously supporting the three Ocean Science Joint Research Centers established in partnership with China, Indonesia, and Peru. These centers are envisioned as hubs for cooperative Capacity Development.

Lastly, we are thrilled to collaborate with IOC-WESTPAC's Regional Training and Research Centers (RTRC), by establishing the Korea-Indonesia Integrated Ocean Technology Education Center this year. This initiative marks a significant milestone in our collective journey toward advancing marine science and technology.

Russian Federation (Observer)

Russia supports the work on «Implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy». In terms of capacity development, we have focused on three issues: development of young scientific personnel, construction of marine scientific infrastructure, and development of interagency and international scientific programmes.

Systematic professional orientation in marine science and training of young researchers is being conducted through the «Floating university» programme. This year more than 100 students are gaining experience in marine field research on board ships in 5 expeditions in the Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic seas. We invite you to participate in this programme.

Two multifunctional research vessels of unlimited cruising area are under construction, which will be equipped with scientific equipment at the advanced international level. A unique scientific expeditionary ice-resistant platform called «the North Pole», which is designed to operate as a permanent drifting station, has already been commissioned and completed its first expedition.

In order to effectively use the new observational scientific infrastructure, plans are being developed for international expeditions, which will be able to host teams of scientists of different scientific profiles.

We thank our colleagues from different countries for their joint work and look forward to new collaborations.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom would like to thank Mr Evans for his presentation and applauds the efforts of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development. Over recent years IOC CD has delivered some notable successes, including the undertaking of regular needs assessments, the re-draft of the IOC CD Strategy, the establishment of the IOC CD Hub, the motivation behind the IOC InfoHub, as well as engaging with the regions and the Decade Capacity Development Facility to harmonize the delivery of capacity Development. And as a priority area identified by the IOC Assembly to receive more funding following the uplift in Regular Program budget we look forward to even greater successes going forward.

The UK welcomes the proposed new Terms of Reference for the GoE. In particular an implementation plan will provide direction to all IOC programmes and regional offices in the delivery of consistent CD in line with the CD strategy. With the added benefit of being able to more readily collate IOC CD outputs and as such demonstrate the value of IOC capacity Development within the broader context of capacity development being undertaken by other UN Agencies and member states.

The UK notes roman numeral 9 (ix) of the ToRs requests the GoE reports on the progress made in relation to the new ToRs. To which end the UK suggest para 6 of the draft Decision be either modified to reflect this or deleted.

United States of America

The United States commends Mr. Alan Evans for his leadership in the Experts Group and thanks the members of the Group of Experts and the IOC secretariat for their contributions to our work. The United States would like to call attention to the capacity development needs survey as critical to identify and support capacity needs from IOC Member States.

We encourage the Secretariat and Group of Experts to find creative ways to increase Member State completion of this survey. We support the decision text and welcome the continuation of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development and the refined Terms of Reference.

Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)

The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) appreciates IOC's leadership on promoting global and regional programmes and congratulates IOC on the production of the new IOC Capacity Development Strategy.

SCOR advances capacity development, technology transfer, training, and networking by building on its ongoing activities and making use of existing training and education facilities. SCOR involves early-career and developing-country scientists in its projects and working groups. In addition, SCOR supports Visiting Scholarships for conducting training in developing countries; a fellow's programme jointly with POGO, the Partnership for the Observation of the Global Ocean; and grants for the participation of early-career scientists from developing countries in international scientific meetings and trainings. In this way, SCOR promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion in ocean sciences. SCOR will continue to support the capacity development strategy in marine science within the UN Ocean Decade.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

WMO welcomes the discussions and report from the IOC Capacity Development Working Group's 5th Meeting, with intent to strengthen the capacity development efforts for ocean science through both global and regional mechanisms. There are several areas where there could be greater collaboration with the WMO, for example in training and strengthening the capacity of Members to deliver improved ocean science, observations, and weather and climate services. Taking advantage of similar global and regional mechanisms among the WMO community, there is opportunity for reinforcing and amplifying our collective efforts to bring increased benefit to the common goals for strengthening ocean-weather-climate related activities. WMO would like to suggest that this could be discussed at the upcoming WMO-IOC Joint Collaborative Board in September, and we look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the capacity needed for improved marine related decision-making in our common Members and Member States.

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

Argentina

Argentina desea expresar reconocimiento por los logros y avances obtenidos a partir de la ejecución de numerosas acciones durante los primeros 4 años del Decenio de los Océanos.

Argentina se encuentra activa en cuanto a su participación en tareas que cubren diferentes aspectos de los 7 objetivos principales del Decenio de los Océanos. Muchos de los proyectos científicos y de observaciones en el mar que realizan los institutos de investigación y universidades de Argentina, tienen directa relación con los resultados que se anhela obtener al final del Decenio, y es importante recalcar que en este marco se debe considerar que las acciones deben desarrollarse fuera del concepto "business as usual".

Las acciones que debemos proveer deben ser nuevas y específicamente orientadas, dedicadas a cumplir con el lema integrador "La ciencia que necesitamos para el océano que queremos".

Como ejemplo de esto el proyecto Pampa Azul que desarrolla nuestro país cuenta con la participación de organismos estatales, universidades, institutos de investigación y científicos de diferentes disciplinas; en un esfuerzo nacional para el estudio, comprensión, aprovechamiento y mejor adaptación del océano Atlántico Sudoccidental.

La Conferencia de los Océanos en Barcelona, España ha sido un hito en este Decenio, permitiendo a toda la comunidad oceanográfica interactuar y ver el avance en el cumplimiento de los objetivos de los diferentes programas, proyectos y acciones.

Referente a las perspectivas para la segunda mitad del decenio, Argentina desea expresar su continuo apoyo y participación en las diferentes iniciativas.

Australia

Australia celebrates the considerable activities and achievements of the Oceans Decade to date and encourage the Secretariat to continue efforts to broaden the implementation base of the Decade to help to ensure it is owned as a truly UN-wide initiative.

Australia's intervention is on the scoping document for the mid-term review.

Regarding the review's consideration of resource mobilization, we suggest that consideration also be included on how the evaluation will consider member state inputs more broadly, particularly when contributions to the Decade can be varied and not only associated with direct monetary contributions.

In the context of the review's assessment of science and knowledge diversity, we suggest consideration in the review be given to the relationship between the institutions contributing to the Decade and member states policy agencies – how connected are they and how much direction or support is being provided by member states where research is occurring or are institutions working independently or disconnected to member states? Additionally, a way to gauge how many truly new Decade activities have spun up versus existing programmes and activities being accredited to the Decade and happening in parallel anyway, would also be valuable to include in the review.

On quantifying the Decade's impact in engagement and outreach, Australia notes that this is perhaps the greatest contribution of the Decade. Increasing the profile of ocean issues and relevance of ocean data, as well as capacity to connect international activities, are some of the most significant contributions to date which should be leveraged to try to help increase investment and maintain or grow critical ocean programs. This would ideally be done through a lens of inclusion, equity, and capacity building to create global-scale benefit.

In closing, we would urge the Decade Coordination Unit and the Decade Advisory Board in developing the terms of reference for the review to consider carefully how the review will quantify impact. Impact means real world change achieved through Decade actions. Does the Decade have the processes in place to recognize and record those achievements, noting the challenges evident already in the very poor reporting response rates.

Brazil

We thank the Decade Coordination Unit, and the whole IOC Secretariat, as well as Spain for their organization of the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference and for welcoming us in Barcelona. The Conference fully engaged the scientific community and a variety of stakeholders from Brazil.

Oceans have been increasingly present in the public debate, likewise the demands we have to address and our responsibilities have grown as well. Engagement in this subject has been shown in recent discussions we had in Brazil on the public ownership of coastal lands. This engagement draws on the Ocean Decade, ocean literacy actions and strategic communications.

Brazil has collaborated with the organisation of satellite events such as the one on climate-smart marine spatial planning, and the NDC centered ones.

Also, we have supported the organisation of the South by South Seaside Sessions within the 5th edition of the Ocean Literacy Dialogues (OLD). These Sessions counted on meaningful collaboration from Angola, Cape Verde, China and South Africa. True to its aspirations, this effort was led by an Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP).

The key messages from that event emphasise the importance of inclusivity and empowerment, particularly focusing on the involvement and representation of the Global South in ocean-related matters. Given the responses we had, the General Coordination of Sciences for the Ocean and Antarctica of our Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation consolidated South by South Seaside as an initiative dedicated to exploring, sharing and giving visibility to Global South knowledge and experiences.

Our National Decade Committee, the first active NDC, is broadening stakeholder participation. We have welcomed in the NDC the six Mobilization Support Groups which emerged spontaneously during the 2020 subnational workshops. They comprise individuals and organisations across Brazil's five regions, plus a youth group, facilitating communication and engagement at the local level.

With renewed energy, the NDC is currently focused on giving better support to the endorsement process of Ocean Decade Actions, fostering new actions and giving better global visibility to ongoing ones, in alignment with addressing issues raised by the secretariat in their presentation. We thank the support provided by the DCU to the NDCs.

Finally, we welcome and support the work of the IOCARIBE Secretariat in its role as Decade Coordination Office (DCO) for the Tropical Americas and Caribbean Region.

Chile

Chile como nación con una de las Zonas Económicas Exclusivas más extensas del mundo, da suma importancia al Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de las Ciencias Oceánicas para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

Es así como en respuesta al Sexto Llamado a la Acción del Decenio, el Comité Oceanográfico Nacional (CONA) promovió la participación de sus Instituciones Miembros, logrando en esta oportunidad, la postulación de 9 proyectos nacionales, contribuyendo a Programas globales reconocidos por el Decenio.

Uno de estos proyectos, corresponde al Programa de Cruceros de Investigación Marina en Áreas Remotas (CIMAR), lo que incluye el estudio de los fiordos y canales de la zona sur austral de Chile y las islas oceánicas del país. En la zona oceánica, los monitoreos efectuados por los investigadores nacionales se han extendido a zonas que guardan directa relación con el Acuerdo sobre la Conservación y Uso Sostenible de la Biodiversidad Marina más allá de las Jurisdicciones Nacionales (con su sigla del inglés: BBNJ).

Cabe recordar que, la firma de este tratado y su posterior ratificación por parte de nuestro país representa un firme compromiso con la conservación de la biodiversidad marina y la protección de nuestros océanos a nivel global, destacando la importancia estratégica del BBNJ para un país profundamente oceánico como Chile.

Consecuente con su vocación oceánica, Chile propuso a Valparaíso como sede de la Secretaría del BBNJ, promoviendo la ciudad como un nuevo centro global de gobernanza oceánica, basado en su tradición portuaria y su excelencia en ciencias oceánicas.

Nuestra voluntad es continuar con las investigaciones científicas marinas tanto en las zonas costeras como en el océano, lo que nos permitirá generar conocimientos fundamentales para la toma de decisiones informadas sobre el uso de nuestros recursos marinos y la protección de la biodiversidad marina a nivel global.

Colombia

Colombia celebra el cuarto año de implementación y ejecución del Decenio, reconociendo que esta iniciativa juega un papel fundamental en el fortalecimiento de las Ciencias Oceánicas a nivel nacional, regional y global. Por este motivo, felicita la propuesta del proyecto de realizar la evaluación de mitad del periodo del Decenio, en aras de analizar el desarrollo en la implementación del mismo. De igual forma, apoya la iniciativa en curso para desarrollar el seguimiento de los avances en cumplimiento del Decenio y manifiesta su respaldo a la Estrategia de Datos e Información propuesta.

Sobre el particular, a través del Comité Nacional, Colombia ha consolidado el Plan Nacional de Contribución (PNC) como la hoja de ruta que ha guiado las acciones de acuerdo con los 7 resultados y los 10 desafíos del Decenio. Los lineamientos en nuestro PNC están estrechamente relacionados con los compromisos derivados de la Declaración de Barcelona y, durante estos 4 años, el país ha adelantado acciones, principalmente, en áreas como la generación de datos, la recuperación de ecosistemas, la identificación y manejo de fuentes contaminantes, el desarrollo de tecnologías para la gestión temprana del riesgo y la promoción de la cultura oceánica.

Colombia valora las iniciativas transversales y prioritarias establecidas en la Declaración de Barcelona, respalda la evaluación de la implementación de esta iniciativa y reafirma su compromiso en la formulación de acciones ajustadas a las prioridades acordadas en la Declaración, especialmente con aquellas asociadas con el fortalecimiento de las políticas a nivel nacional, la promoción de la diversidad, la inclusión y la equidad, incrementar los esfuerzos en materia de alfabetización oceánica y el reconocimiento de los conocimientos indígenas y locales.

Para finalizar, Colombia reitera su compromiso de seguir trabajando y aportando de manera significativa a través de su Comité Técnico y Plan Nacional de Contribución, y de compartir su experiencia y lecciones aprendidas durante estos años de gestión del Decenio.

France

La France remercie le Secrétaire exécutif de la COI ainsi que l'ensemble des membres de l'unité de coordination de la Décennie pour le travail accompli pour la mise en œuvre de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour les sciences océaniques au service du développement durable ainsi que pour l'organisation de la Conférence de la Décennie pour les sciences océaniques à Barcelone.

La France réitère l'importance de prendre en compte l'océan pour faire face aux enjeux globaux et soutient pleinement la mise en œuvre de la Décennie. La COI est partenaire du Congrès scientifique « One Ocean Science Congress » événement spécial proposé par la France à l'occasion de la Conférence Océan des NU de juin 2025 à Nice. Ce congrès sera une occasion importante pour porter la Vision 2030 de la Décennie auprès de la communauté internationale.

De plus, la France finance les activités de coordination de la Décennie et soutient le centre collaboratif de la Décennie sur la prévision océanique (DCC-Ocean Prediction), qui est porté par Mercator Ocean International.

La France se félicite du nombre d'actions labellisées, reflétant la forte mobilisation de la communauté française en sciences et techniques marines autour du portage de programmes et/ou d'actions de la Décennie.

Pour faire connaître l'existence de la Décennie et impliquer la communauté française en sciences et techniques marines dans cette Décennie, nous avons mis en place, un comité national de la Décennie et organisons annuellement un colloque national à Brest avec le centre Océanopolis afin de donner de la visibilité aux acteurs français déjà engagés dans la Décennie et aider d'autres à s'engager.

Germany

Germany thanks Julian Barbière for his comprehensive report and congratulates him and his team on the enormous efforts made over the past year. In particular, the Vision 2030 process and the Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona were most important for the realisation of our common goals. Germany would like to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues involved in the preparation of the Barcelona conference, in particular the Decade Coordination Unit and the distinguished colleagues from Spain.

Germany continues its active support of the Ocean Decade by several activities, including its membership in the Ocean Decade Alliance, the MeerWissen- Initiative, and contribution towards the enhanced inclusion of Indigenous and local knowledge and the development of the online course "co-design for the Ocean Decade" in collaboration with the Ocean Teacher Global Academy

At the end of last year, Germany elected a new national committee after the first three years had been successfully completed by the first committee. Germany expects the excellent co-operation to continue and further develop over the next three years. However, Germany would also like to raise a point of concern: Germany understands that the DCU has been mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to coordinate the Decade and that this requires a strong centralised component. However, the National Committees play a crucial role, particularly in coordinating and streamlining national activities. This role should be recognised through privileged access to the endorsement process. So far, a coordinated proposal from the National Committees has to be awaited like any other application. Germany recognizes with satisfaction that this question was already addressed at the meeting of the National Decade Committee conducted at the 27th of June 2024.

Germany would like to offer its active participation in the proposed process towards the mid-term evaluation. Germany would like to see a strong participation and inclusion of Member states and in particular National Decade Committees in the evaluation process and also the inclusion of Decade programmes that host and coordinate decade projects.

Germany would like to conclude by saying that the Decade has been a great success so far and that we are on the right track to achieve our common goals.

India

India joins all Member States in complementing the Chair, Officers, Executive Secretary and Secretariat for their excellent work with respect to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). We reiterate India's strong support for the "Ocean Decade" and continued contributions in partnership with all stakeholders for advancement of scientific knowledge and achieving the societal outcomes.

Mr. Chair, India established IOC endorsed Decade action 'Decade Collaborative Centre for Indian Ocean Region (DCC-IOR)' and collaborating with various regional partners. India organized successfully the Indian Ocean Regional Decade Conference 2024: Bridging billions to Barcelona during February 2024 as a Prelude to the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference. Special sessions on "NDC Special Session: Harmonising NDCs of the IOR and beyond" and "IOCINDIO-led session: Synergizing Regional frameworks of the IOR" to provide a platform to various frameworks in the Indian Ocean to engage and pave the way for synergized activities. India is active contributor with OceanPredict DCC and hosted the first Indian-seas regional team meeting of OceanPredict DCC. India also an active contributor in the Toulouse review meeting held to co-design the architecture for operational ocean prediction system and to the formulation of operational readiness level (ORL).

Mr. Chair, India was an active contributor to the UN Decade Vision 2030 process. Indian delegation participated in the Barcelona conference and many side events led by IOCINDIO, IOC NDCs meet, DCC-OceanPredict, DCC-Coastal Resilience, European Marine Board, etc. as well as organized a dedicated session for IOR through the DCC-IOR. India organised the Blue Talks: Indian perspectives on Ocean governance in collaboration with the embassy of Costa Rica and the Embassy of France in India.

Mr. Chair as part of increasing the awareness on Ocean Sciences by Indian NDC, many ocean literacy programs with various stakeholders were held that has a participation of 11000 fishermen community from 240 fishing villages, 7000 school / college students from 77 institutions and 1000 general public from non-coastal states. India conducted a national level Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar campaign wherein IOGOOS and DCC-IOR together with host institute INCIOIS and local fishermen community and NGOs has taken part in 37 beaches and 6470 participants have collected 10 tonnes of garbage from oceans. India NDC is working on a national implementation plan for UN Ocean Decade.

In conclusion Mr. Chair, India is committed to work towards achieving SDG 14 goals and continue to make concerted efforts to develop national plans and strategies to address marine pollution, marine spatial planning and plastic pollution as well as enhance the capacity in the region. India supports and will continue to engage with activities of the UN Ocean Decade.

Japan

Japan would like to extend sincere gratitude to the Government of Spain for hosting the Decade Conference in Barcelona, and the Government of Thailand for hosting the Decade Western Pacific Regional Conference in Bangkok. Japan congratulates them and all the participants on their successful completion.

The Decade is a great opportunity for IOC and member states to intensively address SDGs, especially SDG 14, through the promotion of marine science collaborating with all the stakeholders.

In light of this, Japan has been continuously supporting dissemination activities through Japan Funds in Trust (JFIT) from the preparation stage to the implementation stage of the Decade, and will continue to support citizen participation and also the Vision 2030 process through JFIT. Japan anticipates that effective efforts will be promoted to achieve the goals set by the Vision 2030 process.

The Decade National Committee of Japan, which was launched in February 2021, regularly shares information and exchanges opinions on domestic and international trends surrounding the Decade. The Japanese National Committee compiled examples of Japan's efforts for the UN Decade of Ocean Science in 2021, and published the second edition this year.

Japan expects the leadership of IOC Headquarters, WESTPAC, Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System and all the relevant programmes to ensure that activities contributing the Decade become more active at the global, regional, and national levels. Japan will continue to support them, through sending experts and through financial contribution.

Kenya

Kenya welcomes the work undertaken by the IOC Secretariat in coordinating of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2022-2030).

We note we are now in the fourth year of implementation which one year shy of 2025 that represents the mid-way point of the Ocean Decade.

We note the portfolio of Decade actions is growing with Decade Projects being endorsed. Kenya is happy to have contributed to the Decade endorsed projects.

Additionally, Kenya would wish to express our profound appreciation to the Secretariat for the numerous initiatives to raise awareness and mobilize stakeholder despite the human and financial challenges.

Kenya can report that it has used every available events and conferences to raise visibility of the outcomes of the Vision 2030 process.

Kenya would wish to express its special gratitude to the work done by Julian Barbieri the Ocean Decade focal point supported by Ms Alison Clausen program specialist. They have pushed the call for Ocean Action in a very special way. Kudos to you both.

Kenya further expresses appreciation to all Member States and partners that hosted Ocean Decade events and activities. Additionally, it is noted that there has been a rapid growth in network of regional and decentralized structures that support the Decade-Coordination Unit. If these are well resourced, they could enhance the impact of IOC during the Decade.

Kenya would also want to thank the Decade Advisory Board that has played a very vital role in making recommendations on the Decade Programme endorsement and providing advice on strategic issues. Kenya is proud to have provided Dr Nina Wambiji a marine expert on the Board to assist the team.

Finally, Kenya will continue playing its role in provision of in-kind and financial support to the Decade especially from the IOCAFRIC office in Nairobi where the government has seconded staff to make the office more operational.

Republic of Korea

Korea reaffirms its commitment to the UN Ocean Decade. From the preparation phase in 2018, Korea has consistently provided financial contributions to ensure success of this initiative. Since 2021, Korea has been a devoted member of the UN Ocean Decade Alliance, demonstrating unwavering support to targeting resource mobilization, networking, and influence.

To systematically facilitate the domestic implementation of the Ocean Decade, we established our National Decade Committee early on. This body, comprising of 13 members, provides invaluable expertise and guidance for Korea's Decade activities.

As of 2024, Korea is spearheading four Decade projects and one Decade activity. Recognizing the importance of nurturing the next generation of ocean scientists, we are currently developing a project that fosters collaborative research between ECOP and senior scientists. This initiative aims to empower young ocean scientists and facilitate their active participation in the UN Ocean Decade.

Looking ahead, Korea remains dedicated to amplifying the contributions to the UN Ocean Decade, by addressing the identified challenges and upholding the pledges made in the Barcelona Statement. In doing so, we will ensure the enhancement of diversity, equity, and inclusivity, fostering a more sustainable and resilient future for our oceans.

South Africa

South Africa would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the IOC Secretariat as well as the delegation of Spain for hosting a successful Ocean Decade Conference earlier this year in Barcelona, where significant activities were displayed to demonstrate the progress on the implementation of the Ocean Decade.

South Africa recognises that the leadership of Decade Actions in Africa broadly is slow, but with the development of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap,

South Africa is committed to engage with regional and international partners to implement the nine priority areas. South Africa is already setting up identified research infrastructure aligned with the implementation of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap which is a tool to implement the Decade. South Africa also welcomes the process of the development of the Strategies and the prioritisation of Africa that will enhance the implementation of the Ocean Decade.

This will also assist the programmes of the ECOPS platform that we established initially through WIOMSA have expanded it in South Africa. South Africa is also in the process of revising its own oceans research plans that will contribute and enhance the implementation of the Ocean Decade Africa Roadmap in collaborative partnership with other member states. South Africa sees this as a way to address the concern raised on the leadership of Africa in Decade actions.

Thailand

Thailand congratulates IOC on significant achievements in the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science, particularly most recently, an outstanding success of Ocean Decade Conference that was held in Barcelona, last April, with several outcomes including the Barcelona Statement delivered.

As a part to contribute to advancing implementation, in the Western Pacific region, Thailand hosted and co-organized with WESTPAC, the 2nd UN Ocean Decade regional Conference and the 11th International Marine Science Conference, in Bangkok late April. Scientific sessions, Decade Action workshops and incubators, townhall session and side events were organized during the conference. At the end, ECOP Statement and Bangkok Declaration were delivered and witnessed by participants from member states.

Active participations of more than a thousand attendees and conveners from member states are a key success to the conference. And Thailand would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all contributors for the achievement of this impactful event.

Thailand will continue our active collaboration with member states and WESTPAC in materializing the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science to achieve the 2030 Agenda of the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development in the future.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom recognizes the significant effort that the IOC Secretariat put into the coordination of the Decade and applauds the commitment of all those involved.

I will be brief and only have two comments of relevance to the Resolution text.

Whilst the UK welcomes the significant contribution the IOC makes in realizing the ambitions of the Decade, at the 55th Executive Council UK raised concerns relating to the lack of engagement of other UN agencies in the Decade. And it's encouraging to hear that some are now engaging in the Advisory Board. However, in relation to Decade Actions, the IOS Evaluation of the IOC Strategic Positioning, Recommendation 3, sought stronger engagement of other UN agencies in the Decade and a report was commissioned to explore why this is not the case, but we are mindful that we are still yet to see that report. I note in document EC-57/4.7.Doc(1) that the IOC is now leading on 20 Actions, of 23 UN Agency Actions listed on the Decade web site.

If the Decade is to fully achieve its potential and indeed become a UN Decade, and deliver truly transformative actions, it will be dependent on the support of a broad range of UN agencies with marine and maritime interests and to give them the recognition and promotion of their contributions. To which end the UK would like to ask why the report is yet to be shared by Q2 of 2024 as estimated in IOC/EC-57/5.2.Doc(1). [Which I may add is delayed from Q2 2023, when we were told the report was being finalized.]

Mindful of concerns relating to the funding sustainability of IOC Decade Actions, as presented in Mr Barbier's presentation, we note the request in the Resolution to support the registration of three more IOC led Actions. Which we note are already listed on the Decade web site.

Given this Executive Council is being asked to only support the registration of IOC led Decade Actions, the UK would like to ask what is the process by which IOC led Decade Actions are developed. We are unsighted to the substantive detail that other non-UN Agency Decade Actions must submit to get endorsed. Having sight of similar information would help inform us what we are accepting as an IOC led Action.

I note in the Decade Implementation Plan that it is the UN entity that develops Decade Actions. In this sense and in the context of the three Actions we are being asked to support, I'd like to ask what are or what is the UN entity, such that we know who or what we are supporting.

United States of America

The United States would like to commend the IOC and the Decade Coordination Unit for another productive year, including their efforts put towards organizing the 2nd UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona. We also extend our thanks and congratulations to the government of Spain for hosting a successful conference. We were pleased by the number of Early Career Ocean Professionals present at the UN Ocean Decade Conference, and want to continue to encourage the support of Decade Actions that meaningfully involve both Youth and Early Career Professionals. We applaud the improvements made to the Ocean Decade Network website, but encourage the following modifications to ensure ease of public access:

1. A mechanism in which to sort programmes and projects hosted by individual DCCs and DCOs.
2. Contact information for each decentralized coordination structure, including especially Decade Coordination Offices, Decade Implementation Partners and Decade Collaborative Centers.

We agree with the five priority areas of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Ocean Decade and we hope that the information gathered from this process will lead to tangible and actionable recommendations for the final half of the decade, especially for recommendations surrounding resource mobilization. Regarding the Decision

text, the United States agrees with many comments from Member States including the UK and Spain, particularly on the need to engage more UN entities in the Decade, and to develop the Terms of Reference of the midterm evaluation in close consultation with Member States, National Decade Committees, and other relevant stakeholders. Before closing, we would like to reiterate our appreciation for the DCU's extraordinary efforts, especially with the planning and logistics related to the UN Ocean Decade Conference. We thank you for your responsiveness throughout the year to our requests for information.

Belmont Forum

The Belmont Forum is an international partnership that mobilizes funding for environmental change research, and, accelerates its delivery to remove critical barriers to sustainability. It has 32 members' research funding organisations from all around the world, and has engaged with about 150 additional funding partners through the past 15 years.

The Belmont Forum is guided by the Belmont Challenge, a vision document that encourages "International transdisciplinary research providing knowledge for understanding, mitigating and adapting to global environmental change".

Over the past 15 years, the Belmont Forum funded 19 oceans research projects focusing across 4 multilateral funding calls, which represents an investment of 18,590 million euros. These projects engaged 87 academic partners 282 non-academic partners from 61 countries.

Turning to the future, the Belmont Forum released a month ago, a multilateral funding call for the African region, endorsed by the Decade and developed by African communities to address pressing global environmental change challenges for the African continent. The Africa taskforce of the Oceans Science Decade was part of this process and helped to weave the outcomes of the Africa Oceans road map throughout the three call themes. The funded projects – to be funded in 2025 – will contribute to the Ocean science decade.

In addition, we are currently scoping research and stakeholders needs for a second call on the Ocean as a direct contribution to the Ocean science decade. We invite all IOC Member Countries and observers to participate in the scoping activities and webinars planned between August and October, jointly organised with the Ocean science decade regional task forces and Secretariat. The main objective of these scoping activities is to help defining research priorities as well as to mobilize research funding agencies to collaboratively join effort to deliver science for sustainable oceans.

European Commission –DG Research and Innovation

The European Commission would like to congratulate IOC-UNESCO for the successful implementation and broad mobilisation around the Ocean Decade, which was evident in Barcelona in April and across the many conferences and initiatives around the globe.

As a global leader in marine science, research and innovation, the European Union is directly contributing to delivering the science we need for the ocean we want, providing funding of more than EUR 900m in 2021-24 alone to international ocean research and innovation.

The EU is committed to deliver on the desired outcomes of the Decade, and we are delighted to have announced a joint roadmap for cooperation on the Ocean Decade between IOC/UNESCO and DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission in Barcelona in April.

With this roadmap and our partnership, IOC/UNESCO and DG Research and Innovation will further structure and strengthen our cooperation on the Decade.

The roadmap is recognising the EU's systemic contribution to the Ocean Decade and will strengthen the links and further align four major EU initiatives and programmes with the Ocean Decade:

First, we will further encourage ongoing and future projects funded under Horizon Europe – the EU's framework programme for research and innovation – to directly connect and contribute to Decade Actions, which will help to address some of the critical knowledge gaps which still persist.

Second, we will mobilise and connect the respective partners ecosystems of the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters, and the Ocean Decade. This will support the regional implementation of the Decade through the four Mission sea-basin 'lighthouses', thus helping to implement the Barcelona statement into action.

We will also make marine knowledge more accessible and more actionable by leveraging our respective ocean data infrastructure and services such as the Mission's European Digital Twin Ocean. Earlier this

month, we launched the prototype DTO, which we will be submitting as a Decade Action to further strengthen its contribution to the Decade's DITTO programme.

Third, we will build on the first co-branded call for projects launched in February this year between the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership and the Ocean Decade. This will further align the Ocean Decade and this partnership, in which the Commission and EU Member States and HE Associated Countries are pooling EUR 450 million in investments in ocean R&I from 60 partners in 25 countries.

Lastly, we will explore together with our partners from North America, South America and Africa in the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance how to further coordinate and support the regional Decade's implementation in the Atlantic. The annual AAORIA Forum will this year take place in Canada on 9-10 October with follow up actions to be announced by the growing community of AAORIA partners. I would hereby like to remind of the possibility of becoming a supporter of the AAORIA Declaration, which was adopted in 2022.

By having adopted this roadmap, we will seek to continuously align the Ocean Decade and EU initiatives, promoting the Decade in Europe and Europe's activities in the world.

By linking our respective programmes, projects and initiatives and by mobilising our respective partners, we are accelerating the generation and uptake of the knowledge, science and solutions needed to reach our shared goal of a healthy and restored ocean.

The European Commission now looks forward to working with the IOC and other partners to implement our cooperation, which will be able address some of the identified remaining Decade challenges and facilitate exchange, learning and spur collective action in the lead-up to UNOC-3 and beyond.

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) reiterates its commitment to the Ocean Decade, recently creating a dedicated UNDOS Advisory Panel to oversee a growing number of endorsed Decade actions by PICES and through collaboration with other organizations. These include the organization of several international conferences, the Basin Events to Coastal Impacts (BECI) project and the UNDOS program SmartNet, jointly managed by ICES and PICES. SmartNet, is part of a Community of Practice with other Ocean Decade Programs around the climate-biodiversity-fisheries nexus and now has several endorsed projects under its umbrella. They have had a busy and productive year with too many activities to list here, however we will mention recent highlights:

A global public survey was launched at the Barcelona Conference side-event on "The Ocean We Want" and two manuscripts have just been submitted on SmartNet outreach and capacity sharing, and on the climate-biodiversity-fisheries nexus in the Ocean Decade. The latter arose from a workshop held at the ICES/PICES/IOC/FAO conference held last year, the 5th Effects of Climate Change on the World's Ocean conference.

Coordination support for UNDOS continues to be an area requiring emphasis both within and outside of the PICES North Pacific region. China, a PICES member country, has indicated they may be able to provide some part-time coordination support to SmartNet, once recruitment activities for the Ocean Decade International Cooperation Centre are complete in the near future--we are grateful for this consideration. PICES continues to work with other regional partners, but we note here our concern at the likely hiatus in the North East Pacific Regional Collaborative Centre's ability to support Decade Actions in the region, while a new home for the Centre is located.

SmartNet co-Chairs were pleased to note that among the other recommendations of the Barcelona Statement, the "Launch of the Ocean Matcher Tool to enhance opportunities for philanthropic funding to Decade" was made which will be particularly useful for realizing capacity development requirements of Small Island Developing States. We would also like to note that IOC has a very useful "Ocean Capacity Development Hub" however, it is not linked to the UNDOS Capacity Development Facility page. If the UNDOS website could add a tools or resource section with such links, it would greatly assist the UNDOS community.

PICES looks forward to supporting the next phase of the Ocean Decade.

Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)

SCOR's activities contribute to the basic scientific knowledge needed to inform the societal goals to be achieved under the UN Decade framework, most recently specified in the Barcelona Statement. SCOR supports several working groups which are contributing to the Ocean Decade endorsed programmes: OASIS

for observing air-sea Interactions; MetaZooGene to study marine biodiversity; and GLUBS to catalogue biological ocean sounds. SCOR continues to support the activities co-sponsored by IOC and SCOR: the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) GlobalHAB, and, with GOOS, the International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project (IOCCP).

SCOR continues to support additional Large-scale Research Projects making contributions to the Ocean Decade, such as GEOTRACES, studying trace elements and their isotopes in the world ocean; SOLAS, the Surface Ocean--Lower Atmosphere Study; IMBeR, the Integrated Marine Biosphere Research; and the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS). Through SCOR's activities, scientists from many nations, both developing and developed, can contribute to the UN Decade's goals.

SCOR is looking forward to continuing its collaboration with IOC on the UN Ocean -Decade and other endeavours.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

WMO continues its commitment to participating in the Ocean Decade. This has been through various mechanisms including being one of the UN Members of the Decade Advisory Board, the recent participation at the UN Decade Conference in Barcelona, as well as direct engagement in several Decade Programmes and activities.

The WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy emphasises the joint and mutual interests in co-designing Decade activities, and we are pleased to indicate areas where that has already been progress including through GOOS, WCRP and our joint centre OceanOps. This has included activities to strengthen the impact of ocean observing to support improved forecasts, predictions, and early warnings for various stakeholders at sea and along the coast, from weather to climate scales. Focus has included improving the observations to support tropical cyclone forecasting. As well, attention to improve the uptake of voluntary observations at sea – at the root of WMO's original mandate - especially through the recreational sailing community, fishing vessels, and large shipping companies.

Various other WMO activities have been endorsed officially by the Decade, including a range of communication materials that raises the awareness and literacy of WMO Members and the public, on the value of ocean science to improve weather and climate services.

The upcoming WMO-International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Symposium on the Extreme Maritime Weather in September is an official Ocean Decade event aiming to close the gap between metocean and shipping stakeholders, fostering a better predicted and safer ocean for everyone. It will also be a prime opportunity to recall the importance of the WMO's Voluntary Observing Ships scheme in delivering appropriate services for safety at sea and along the coast.

IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

WESTPAC has been taking a lead in the region to mobilize, and engage countries, institutions and various stakeholders from the region into the Decade. Serving as the Decade Coordination Office for the region, in collaboration with a wide range of partners, we organized the 2nd UN Ocean decade regional conference for the WESTPAC region in conjunction with the 11th IOC/WESTPAC Marine Science Conference in April this year in Bangkok, hosted by the government of Thailand, attended by more than 1200 participants/ocean stakeholders from 40 countries and diverse stakeholder groups. 25 scientific sessions, 13 Decade Action workshops and 12 Decade Action Incubators were held during the conference. At the end of the conference, the Bangkok declaration and ECOP and MCOP statement were adopted. WESTPAC appreciate the strong support by the government of Thailand. WESTPAC also appreciate the government of Philippine's offer to host the next 12th WESTPAC Marine Science conference and 3rd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference, tentatively scheduled for early 2027. In addition, WESTPAC is leading the implementation of four international programme/projects of UN Decade Actions focusing on Kuroshio research, Asian river's plastic emission, marine spatial planning, and capacity development of a regional network of training and research centers. WESTPAC will continue contribute to further development of UN Ocean Decade Actions in the WESTPAC regions.

5.1 Revised Programme and Budget for 2024–2025 (42 C/5) and Provisional Proposals for 2026–2027 (Draft 43 C/5)

Colombia

Colombia agradece el trabajo realizado por la Secretaría de la COI/UNESCO y por los Estados miembro del IFAG por su esfuerzo en beneficio de la adecuada gestión de los recursos asignados a la COI. En esa

línea, alienta a los Estados miembro y particularmente a la Secretaría de IOCARIBE a implementar, de acuerdo con la nueva asignación de recursos financieros, la fuente de orientación de la región que esta priorizada para I) el GOOS, la Floraciones de Algas Nocivas/Sargazo, datos e información, desarrollo de capacidades y alfabetización oceánica, II) mejorar la transferencia de la ciencia a la política a través de tres nuevos grupos de trabajo regionales (Datos e Información Oceanográficos, Desarrollo de Capacidades y Alfabetización Oceánica, y el Grupo de Trabajo regional del Decenio).

De esta manera, Colombia invita a la Secretaría de IOCARIBE a generar los espacios de reunión con los Estados miembro, en aras de mejorar, implementar y avanzar en las gestiones que se prioricen de los programas que son fuente de orientación de IOCARIBE, y su coordinación a nivel global con la COI/UNESCO.

Cook Islands

As the custodians of nearly 20 percent of our Earth's surface, the Pacific region is deeply committed to combatting the ongoing threats of climate change, loss of biodiversity and habitats, waste, and pollution. The leaders of the Pacific have endorsed the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent – our regional roadmap that builds on our collective vision, amplifying our voices in solidarity to support the delivery of action-oriented solutions.

However, the challenges we face as a global community in addressing the decline of the state of the ocean system is a shared responsibility that must be tackled collectively. We greatly appreciate the IOC's leading role in increasing knowledge on ocean science.

The expanse and centrality of our Pacific Ocean to global planetary stability are well appreciated. However, it remains one of the least funded regions on Earth in terms of investment in ocean science, research, and the documentation of traditional knowledge. As Grenada has just stated, the preparation of the 43 C5 is crucial. The reality is that even if we had received additional funds, it would not be enough. Advocating with the IOC for extensive and effective marine scientific research is paramount in our quest to better understand the ecology of the ocean.

For this purpose, we would appreciate more collaboration with other UN agencies. The Executive Secretary mentioned FAO, UNDP, and UNEP. Recently, we had the World Health Assembly where a resolution called for mitigating the impacts of the adverse health consequences of disasters resulting from natural hazards through multi-hazard early warning systems. However, there was no mention, even in the information note, of the essential work the IOC does with the Tsunami Early Warning System. On Thursday we will all see the dramatic consequences that the lack of warning has on population. We need more cross-cutting activities between United Nations agencies to enhance our collective efforts and financial support

We are also concerned about some findings in the IOS evaluation of the strategic positioning of the IOC regarding the Pacific. The issue of the right localization of the WETPAC headquarters and staffing, the call for increased action from UNESCO IOC to reach Pacific SIDS, and the urgent need for a more active leadership role in the Pacific with Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) are critical points that need addressing.

Pacific countries, such as ours, need to be involved in the co-design of scientific research, co-production of knowledge, and co-delivery of solutions to support decision-making, policy, and management to guide future research in our region. The agreement signed in 2022 with SPC could and should be an avenue for more effective collaboration with the Pacific.

Finally, the Pacific region is very active. The Pacific Leaders agreed to a Regional Collective Action to establish a "Pacific Centre of Excellence on Deep Ocean Science," and my Prime Minister was able to explain and engage with most of the member states present at the Ocean Decade in Barcelona when he delivered his remarks. We look forward to continuing and increasing our collaboration with the IOC to benefit the Blue Pacific Continent and beyond.

Russian Federation (Observer)

The Russian Federation notes the need for priority funding (43/C5) for programmes of importance to the Russian Federation - Global Ocean Observing System, International Data and Information Exchange, World Climate Research Programme, International Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific.

The Russian Federation notes that the regional work of IOC is significantly improving due to the presence and development of the work of the Sub-Commissions at the regional level in Africa (IOCAFRICA), the Caribbean (IOCARIBE), the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) and the Western Pacific (WESTPAC). The development of regional offices should be strengthened for effective work and coordination. The Russian

Federation welcomes the increased allocation to IOCAFRICA in line with UNESCO's Global Priority Africa, developed with the participation of Russia.

The Russian Federation proposes to set a task to further develop the budget increase for IOC regional offices. We propose, in particular, to allocate additional funds for the functioning of the Secretariat of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific. The Russian Federation emphasises that regional co-operation is essential for the effective solution of IOC tasks.

We confirm the intention of the Russian Federation to participate in the elaboration of these issues.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom would like to thank the Chair of the IFAG and the Secretariat for arranging a IFAG meeting, but with broader Member State participation, that took place on the 11th June.

It was clear at the meeting, Mr Chairman, of the value in undertaking intersessional meetings of the finance advisory group and the UK would be happy to continue participation in more regular intersessional meetings of the IFAG, such that we can support the Secretariat in the allocation and use of the IOC budget.

United States of America

We thank the Executive Secretary for his comprehensive report on the work accomplished since last year. The richness of these accomplishments is a testament to the Secretariat staff and the Executive Secretary's leadership while still so new in his role. The United States is supportive of the IOC's high-level engagements at recent international ocean conferences, in addition to supporting ongoing programmes through the UN Ocean Decade. Regarding the International Panel for Ocean Sustainability, or IPOS, in light of the need to ensure the most effective application of the IOC's unique expertise and very limited resources, the United States appreciates the Executive Secretary's update on his discussions with IPOS proponents, including conveying their interest in IPOS being included within a UN-based organization, potentially the IOC. The United States concurs with the Executive Secretary that - whether IPOS becomes linked to the IOC, is a decision to be taken by IOC Member States. We also agree that there are a number of prerequisites that must be satisfied before IOC Member States could consider such a proposal, including those mentioned by the Executive Secretary. Regarding the IOC and Future of the Ocean Consultation and the IOS Evaluation Action Plan, we appreciate the Executive Secretary for also highlighting their interconnectedness. Similar to the Australian delegation, the United States has concerns regarding the proposed Future of the Ocean Consultation Process as drafted, which we were able to discuss during the first meeting of the Finance Committee. Regarding an IOC Secretariat management and governance assessment proposed by the Executive Secretary, we believe this idea has merit and we look forward to additional discussions on this item. Regarding the Program and Budget, we thank the Secretariat for ably carrying out 42 C/5 (2024-2025) in spite of challenges associated with the UNESCO budget processes. Regarding the proposal for 43 C/5 (2026-2027), the United States believes that 42 C/5, is a good foundation with which to begin our discussions. Further, with regard to a proposed focus on capacity development, specifically IOC Output 1, the United States generally supports this idea and believes that this work should be guided by the Capacity Development Strategy, taking into account the drafting and implementation of programmatic and regional capacity development workplans and related needs assessments.

IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

In the series of the reports, regarding the budgetary investment, WESTPAC welcome and appreciate the increase of the budget in the next year in IOC. At the same time, WESTPAC is deeply concerned that in relation to this budget increase, discussions are proceeding in the direction of no allocation of new UNESCO staff to the Bangkok Office of WESTPAC. WESTPAC would like to have a clear explanation why there is no plan on reinforcement of new staff at this time. Currently, WESTPAC's Bangkok office, which is also the UN Decade's Regional Coordination Office, is working on dual roles, and not just doing the capacity development but also doing many other duties. WESTPAC office has also been understaffed as discussed at the IFAG meeting and Financial Committee.

WESTPAC would be grateful if the representatives of the Member States will take this issue into account in the further discussions at the sessional Financial Committee and beyond.

5.2 Action Plan in Response to the IOS Evaluation of the IOC'S Strategic Positioning – Update on Implementation

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom would like to re-iterate our interventions at previous sessions of the IOC Assembly and Executive Council and caution against any expansion of IOC activities, in absence of sound reasoning and financial considerations. We are incredibly thankful to the UNESCO General Conference for increasing the IOC Regular Program budget, however, we must caution against any the use of these funds in a manner that would not be consistent with their intended purpose as presented to UNESCO and as articulated in IOC Resolution A-32/4.

To which end we welcome the Executive Secretary's decision to undertake a thorough review on the IOC and the Future of the Ocean and to take a pause in the implementation of any expansion of IOC activities. We also recognize the Executive Secretary's flexibility in crafting the modalities of a review in a manner that's consistent with MS views, that will be addressed during the Finance sessions this week. This goes some way to retain the trust alluded to by the Executive Secretariat in his report.

The UK also welcomes the Executive Secretary's suggestion to launch an external assessment of IOC's governance and management processes with the intent to harmonize the working practices of the Secretariat to hopefully bring about increased efficiencies in the delivery of their mandate.