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Description automatically generated with low confidence IOC Officers Meeting, 13–15 January 2025**

**UNESCO-IOC Headquarters, Paris**

**Room VII**  
 Meeting webpage: <https://www.oceanexpert.org/event/4578>

**AGENDA**

IOC Officers: IOC Chair, Yutaka MICHIDA

Vice Chairs: Marie-Alexandrine SICRE (Group I); Nikolay VALCHEV (Group II); Juan Camilo FORERO HAUZEUR (Group III); Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA (Group V) and Ariel TROISI (former IOC Chair online)

IOC Staff: Vidar HELGESEN, Executive Secretary; Julian BARBIÈRE, Head IOC/MPR & Ocean Decade Coordinator (DCU), Bernardo ALIAGA, Head IOC/TSR; Henrik ENEVOLDSEN, Head IOC/OSS a.i. and Karen EVANS, Head IOC/OSS (online); Joanna POST, Head IOC/OOS; Peter PISSIERSSENS, Head IOC/OST; Wenxi ZHU, Bangkok – IOC/WESTPAC; Ibukun J. ADEWUMI, Nairobi – IOCAFRICA; Lorna V. INNISS, Cartagena de Indias –Nimit Kumar, IOCINDIO; Xenia YVINEC, Head IOC/EO/AO; Alison CLAUSEN, IOC/MPR/DCU, Patrice BONED, IOC/EO/AO; Elena IASYREVA, IOC/EXS.

Invitee(s): Mizue IIJIMA (assistant to IOC Chair); Charlotte SALPIN (UN DOALOS)

| **Monday and Tuesday  13–14 January 2025** | **Lead** | | **Comments** |
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| Welcoming coffee | | | |
| **Opening by the Chair & introductions** | Chair | | Redistribution of responsibilities since the withdrawal of the Vice-Chair for electoral group IV  <https://www.oceanexpert.org/document/35473> |
| **Adoption of the agenda for the Officers meeting, logistical details** | Chair,  Vidar | | The agenda for this meeting (this document) was adopted without change. The meeting went on over two days and ended on Tuesday 14 COB. |
| **Introduction** by the Executive Secretary **(Overview, Strategic Programmatic developments)** | Vidar | | The Executive Secretary addressed the changes required at three level:   * Strengthen the IOC’s ability to deliver * Reinforce IOC governance and management * Facing the future of the ocean   <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35474> |
| **Regional developments from IOC Sub-Commissions** | Wenxi  Lorna  Ibukun  Nimit | | *Brief Tour de table* |
| **Preparation of the 33rd IOC Assembly (A-33)**  Expectations from the A-33 session | Vidar, Xenia, Patrice | | 1st Draft Agenda + timetable presented.  Addition of 1 item on the agenda: 3.4.3 IOC Data Architecture |
| Dates, overall presentation focusing on organizational matters; brief presentation of the structure of the draft Assembly agenda | Plenary room for the one-day EC-58 session: room XI  Plenary room for the A-33 Assembly: room II: limited number of seats/delegation + webcast |
| * Rapporteur, Chairs of Committees, Working groups | A list of past rapporteurs was presented.  Actions: Vice-Chair N. Valchev will seek a Rapporteur from Group II.  The Secretariat will ask USA to propose a Chair for the Resolutions Committee. In 2024, Mr Joseph Naughton (USA) held this position. Julian will no longer be the secretary of the RC. The Secretariat will be looking for a replacement.  Vice-Chair M.-A. Sicre accepted to chair the Nominations Committee.  No sessional working group was proposed. |
| * IOC A. Bruun Lecture, 2025 | Henrik | | 60 mn with interpretation during the Ocean Science Day  Two candidate lecturers were proposed:   * Professor Dato’ Dr. Aileen Tan Sau Hwai. Director Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies. Executive member of CoastPredict (an Ocean Decade endorsed programme) * Dr. Paula Sierra Correa. Head of Ocean Management Research and Information, INVEMAR, Colombia   Action: Ocean Science Section will first contact Ms Aileen Tan Sau Hwai |
| * IOC NK Panikkar, 2025 | Peter | | 60 mn with interpretation during the Ocean Science Day  Dr Atanas Palazov (Chair, Bulgarian National Oceanographic Commission) reiterated his willingness to deliver a lecture on the achievements of the Black Sea oceanographic research community.  Action: The proposal was accepted after having been rescheduled several times. Invitation sent to Prof. Palazov on 24 January 2025. |
| * Any additional Side events |  | | Side meetings may be proposed by the Secretariat and Member States (Member States must inform the Secretariat of their intention and organize the event directly with the conference service if the general timetable for the session allows).  The Secretariat provisionally propose side events on: BBNJ-CBD and GOOS |
| * Meeting of Regional Subsidiary Bodies Officers and Secretariat | JB | | 120 min, no interpretation on Tuesday 24 June p.m. The meeting is open ended.  Actions: IOC/MPR will prepare the agenda;  Chair Michida will chair the meeting |
| * Pre-Assembly information session with Member States on elections | Xenia | | There is a request from the Executive Council 58 to organize an information meeting prior to A-33 or by electoral Group as preparatory meetings. |
| * Ocean Science Day | Henrik | | Proposed date: 30 June 2025:  [Note](https://oceanexpert.net/document/35456) + [presentation](https://oceanexpert.net/document/35472) |
| * 2nd [IOC M. Ruivo Memorial Lecture](https://eurocean.org/mario-ruivo-memorial-lecture/) | Julian/Alison | | Applications from Early Career Ocean Professionals are due before 2 February 2025 (Ref; IOC Circular Letter [3011](https://oceanexpert.org/document/35269)) |
| * Screening of “Ocean” + roundtable |  | | Proposed date: 30 June evening at 18.00 in room 1 (supported by Monaco). The Australian Embassy seems also willing to organize an event in that context. The Secretariat will clarify the arrangements with the sponsors. |
| **Governance, Programming & Budgeting**  Update on IFAG work (Res. A-32/4, EC-57/2) | Vidar, Juan Camilo, Xenia | | Vice-Chair Juan Camilo FORERO HAUZEUR introduced the work of IFAG through online meetings.  <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35478> |
| Draft Programme and Budget for 2026–2027 (draft 43 C/5) | Vidar, Xenia | |  |
| External Assessment of IOC’s Governance and Management Processes Proposal | Vidar,  Xenia | | * Follow-up to IOC Resolution EC-57/2 * 2026-2027 Programming & Budgeting cycles + proposed amendments * External Assessment of Governance & Management   <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35474> |
| IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Consultation process | Vidar,  Xenia,  Alison | | <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35475> |
| **Programmatic Developments**  Draft IOC-wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management | Julian | | <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35479> |
| Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Items   1. Governance | Joanna | | <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35492> A single presentation covers the following (i-iii) items and the JCB item. |
| 1. GOOS Steering Committee Workplan | Joanna | | <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35492> |
| 1. Progress report on Ocean Observations in areas under National Jurisdiction | Joanna | | <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35492> |
| Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board (JCB) strategic advice on joint work to achieve common objectives | Joanna | | <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35492> |
| **IOC Report to the 43rd General Conference of UNESCO** | Xenia | |  |
| **IOC Contribution to UN Governance Processes** |  | |  |
| 1. UN Ocean Conference, Nice 2025 | Alison | | <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35477> |
| Tuesday 14 January: Lunch at the UNESCO restaurant (MTM + Officers) offered by IOC | | | |
| **IOC Contribution to UN Governance Processes** (cont.) |  | |  |
| 1. BBNJ Preparatory Process | Julian | | Dr Charlotte Salpin, DOALOS ([salpin@un.org](mailto:salpin@un.org)) was invited to deliver an online 10-15 mn presentation:  <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35504> |
| 1. CBD and IOC Biodiversity Agenda 2. UNFCCC | Julian  Joanna | | No presentation |
| Report on the Ocean Decade implementation and results of the mid-term evaluation | Julian/Alison | | <https://oceanexpert.net/document/35476> |
| **IOC elections** | Chair/Vidar | | Only electoral group 1 vice-chair will have completed her second term at A-33 and will not be eligible.  Electoral group 3 vice-chair announced that he will not be standing for a second term due to his retirement.  Electoral group 4 vice-chairship is vacant.  Nominations for GOOS-SC electoral group representatives will be called for with the invitation to A-33.  The invitation to A-33 will launch the election process. |
| **(cont’d) Preparation of the 33rd IOC Assembly**  Conclusion: Presentation of the revised draft agenda and timetable; calendar of preparation; misc. questions | | Vidar, Xenia, Patrice | The [revised draft provisional agenda](https://www.oceanexpert.org/document/35433) and [timetable](https://www.oceanexpert.org/document/35434) were presented with the addition of agenda item 3.4.3 IOC Data Architecture and slight reorganization of the timetable. (The Secretariat can still refine this timetable before dissemination.) |
| **Other matters / Conclusion** | | Chair | Chair Michida expressed his gratitude to Peter Pissierssens, Head of IOC/IODE Project Office in Ostend, who will retire before the next Officers meeting and Assembly. |
| Update on the International Platform for Ocean Sustainability (IPOS) | | Vidar, Julian | This issue will be part of the Ocean Decade item during A-33. |
| Review of Expression of interests for hosting the 2027 Decade Conference | | Officers, DCU, ES | *Private meeting* |
| *Officers Private meeting* | |  |  |

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