



IOC Circular Letter No 3031
(Available in English, French, Russian and Spanish)

IOC/VH/AC/pbo
14 March 2025

- To : IOC National Official Coordinating Bodies of IOC Member States
Permanent Delegates / Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
- C.c. : Chair and Vice-Chairs of IOC and its Major Subsidiary Bodies
Members of the IOC Intersessional Financial Advisory Group
Members of the IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management

Subject: IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Phase 1 Consultation of Member States via an online survey

This Circular Letter is to request inputs from Member States to the Phase 1 consultation for the 'IOC and Future of the Ocean' process in line with Decision [A-32/5](#) of the 32nd Session of the IOC Assembly and Resolution [EC-57/2](#) of the 57th Session of the IOC Executive Council.

As part of the Phase 1 consultation process, an online survey has been developed to gather Member State inputs. This survey seeks to solicit information 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, 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.

The survey can be found at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZNSZF8M>. Offline versions of the survey in PDF and Word format can be found here: <https://oceanexpert.org/document/35892>. IOC Focal Points are encouraged to consult widely within relevant Ministries, agencies and institutions when completing the survey and are kindly requested to complete the online survey by 23:59h CET on 15 April 2025.

As background to this request, at its 32nd session in 2023, the IOC Assembly discussed the long-term sustainability and expansion of the IOC in view of the fast-evolving developments in ocean science and action. In Decision A-32/5, the Assembly called for a consultation on how IOC could 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.

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At its 57th Session in 2024, the Executive Council further considered the consultation process and resolved that the 'IOC and Future of the Ocean' consultation would take place over three years synchronized with the calendar of IOC governing body sessions. Resolution EC-57/2 of the Council contained the structure of the consultation process with the following phases:

- (i) Phase 1: June 2024–June 2025: Needs in knowledge, decision-making and action with results to be presented to the 33rd Session of the IOC Assembly in 2025.
- (ii) Phase 2: June 2025–June 2026: Dialogue on the effectiveness of multilateral ocean frameworks with results to be presented to 58th Session of the IOC Executive Council in 2026.
- (iii) Phase 3: June 2026–June 2027: IOC and the Future of the Ocean with results to be presented to the 34th Session of the IOC Assembly in 2027.

Resolution EC-57/2 further states that the consultation exercise will be carried out in consultation with IOC programmes, Regional Subsidiary Bodies, Member States (including through the IOC Intersessional Financial Advisory Group and IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management), and other relevant stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary

Answer the survey on your mobile phone.

