



**IOC Circular Letter No 3071**  
(Available in English, French, Russian and Spanish)

IOC/VH/XY/pbo  
5 March 2026

- To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with the IOC in States Members of the IOC Executive Council  
Executive Heads of Organizations part of UN-Oceans  
Executive Heads of Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations cooperating with the IOC  
The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission  
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)
- C.c. : Other IOC Member States (Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and National Commissions for UNESCO)

**Subject: Invitation to the 59th Session of the IOC Executive Council,  
UNESCO HQ, Paris, 30 June–3 July 2026**

It is my great pleasure to invite you, on behalf of the IOC Chairperson Professor Yutaka Michida, to attend the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Executive Council. IOC Member States not members of the Executive Council, the organizations cooperating with and contributing to the work of the Commission, and the IOC Subsidiary Bodies are welcome as observers. The session will be held at UNESCO Headquarters from 30 June to 3 July 2026 and will be preceded by the meeting of the Officers on Monday 29 June 2026. Please note that the meeting of the Open Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (IFAG), which usually precedes the Executive Council meeting, will this year be held online approximately two weeks before the Council session. The date of this meeting will be communicated to you at a later date.

The attached provisional agenda and timetable for the session were prepared in consultation with the Officers at their meeting last January. May I recall that draft resolutions (DRs) under agenda items may be submitted by one or more Member States of the Executive Council in accordance with document [IOC/INF-1315](#) no later than Thursday, June 25, with the exception of the draft resolution on governance, programming and budgeting issues of the Commission that will be submitted during the session by the sessional Financial Committee. A form for submitting DRs is attached. The documentation and all the relevant information for the session will be made available at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4607>.

**Chairperson**

Yutaka MICHIDA, Prof.  
Special Presidential Envoy  
for UN Ocean Decade  
The University of Tokyo (Atmosphere  
and Ocean Research Institute)  
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**Executive Secretary**

Mr Vidar HELGESEN  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic  
Commission — UNESCO  
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**Vice-Chairpersons**

Ms Allison D. REED  
Foreign Affairs Officer  
U.S. Department of State  
Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs  
Washington, DC  
USA

Dr Atanas PALAZOV  
Former Director, Professor  
Institute of Oceanology  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
40 Parvi May Str.  
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Capt Carlos ZUÑIGA ARAYA  
Director of the Chilean Navy Hydrographic and  
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Dr Hansan PARK  
Principal Research Scientist, Korea  
Institute of Ocean Science & Technology  
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Director general of the Korea–Indonesia Marine  
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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Prof. Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA  
President of Marine Hazards  
Mitigation Center (MHMC)  
National Institute of  
Oceanography and Fisheries  
(NIOF)  
Qaitbay, Al-Anfoshi  
Alexandria  
EGYPT

The Action Paper (IOC/EC-59/AP Prov.) is the guiding document for the session, including the contextual information for each agenda item and a draft decision. The first version of the Action Paper will be available on the Council website by the statutory deadline of 30 April 2025. As customary, decisions will be reviewed on-screen and adopted immediately after an agenda item is discussed.

For organizational purposes, it is particularly important that IOC Members States (through their National Focal Point for IOC and their Permanent Delegation to UNESCO) and partner organizations notify the Secretariat of the complete list of their delegation (with names of the Head of delegation, alternate, and representatives) as early as possible but not later than 30 May 2026. This list will serve as accreditation for the secretariat, which will validate individual online registrations.

Delegates and participants, including members of permanent delegations to UNESCO, are invited to register online for the session at <https://indico.un.org/event/1018996/>. Indico is an open-source meeting organisation tool used by United Nations organizations. Please follow the [instructions on the registration page to first create an Indico account](#), before registering. If you need further information or assistance, please contact the Secretariat (c/o Mr Patrice Boned, [p.boned@unesco.org](mailto:p.boned@unesco.org) or Ms Yun Sun, [yu.sun@unesco.org](mailto:yu.sun@unesco.org)).

Due to the high level of activity at headquarters during the month of June, delegations wishing to organise an event or offering a “coffee service” during the session are invited to contact the conference service or the catering service as soon as possible and inform the Secretariat for overall coordination purposes. The list of side events and their locations will be displayed on the Council webpage.

To ensure optimal meeting conditions in plenary meeting room XI, allow me to encourage Member States to organize their delegations so as not to have more than 3 persons present in the room at any given time. Passive webcast of the plenary meetings will be provided for the duration of the Executive Council session.

Finally, I would like to take advantage of this invitation to urge you to check the contact details of your national coordinating agencies for liaison with the IOC and your national focal points in the IOC's online register of official national contacts. You can use the form attached to [circular letter n° 2634](#) to send any updates to the secretariat as soon as possible but no later than 30 May 2026.

The IOC Secretariat looks forward to welcoming you to UNESCO.

Yours sincerely,

*[signature]*

Vidar Helgesen  
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (4):

- 1/ Provisional Agenda for the 59th Session of the Executive Council of IOC (IOC/EC-59/2.1.Doc)
- 2/ Provisional Timetable for the 59th Session of the Executive Council of IOC (IOC/EC-59/2.1.Doc Add)
- 3/ Submission form for Draft Resolutions
- 4/ List of current States members of the IOC Executive Council, 2025–2027



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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

**Fifty-ninth Session of the Executive Council**  
UNESCO, Paris, 30 June–3 July 2026

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**1. OPENING**

**2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA  
[Rule of Procedure 8]

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR  
[Rule of Procedure 25.4]

2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS  
[Rule of Procedure 12]

2.4 INTRODUCTION OF TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION  
[Rule of Procedure 11, Dec. EC-55/5.3, A-31/3.2]

2.5 ROGER REVELLE MEMORIAL LECTURE  
[IOC-XXVI/3]

**3. IOC MATTERS AND REPORTS**

3.1 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED  
SINCE THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY (July 2025–May 2026)  
[Rule of Procedure 49.1]

will also present:

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *Global Ocean Science Report* and the *2026 State of the Ocean Report*
- Report on the Implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)
- Progress report of the Working Group on Advancing Ocean Data Sharing for Sustainable Development in areas within national jurisdiction
- Draft proposal by the GOOS Steering Committee on the Ship-of-Opportunity Programme

- 3.2 WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEMS FOR OCEAN HAZARDS  
[Rule of Procedure 48.3]
  - 3.2.1 Regional Early Warning Services**
  - 3.2.2 Global Coordination of Warning and Mitigation for Ocean Hazards**
- 3.3 GLOBAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM (GOOS) GOVERNANCE  
[Dec. A-32/4.8.1, EC-57/4.1, A-33/4.5.1]
- 3.4 GLOBAL SEA-LEVEL OBSERVING SYSTEM (GLOSS) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN  
2026–2030  
[Resolution EC-XXXIII.9 Annex 1]
- 3.5 DEVELOPMENT OF AN IOC DATA ARCHITECTURE  
[Dec. A-33/3.4.3]
- 3.6 JOINT WMO-IOC COLLABORATIVE BOARD (JCB) STRATEGIC ADVICE  
ON JOINT WORK TO ACHIEVE COMMON OBJECTIVES  
[Res. XXX-2, Dec. A-33/4.6]
- 3.7 REPORT OF THE IOC WORKING GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY  
BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION  
[Dec. IOC/EC-55/3.4; Dec. A-32/4.8.2; Dec. A-33/4.5.3]
- 3.8 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE IOC GROUPS OF EXPERTS ON CAPACITY  
DEVELOPMENT AND ON OCEAN LITERACY: OUTPUTS OF JOINT WORK AND  
MECHANISMS DEVELOPED FOR ALIGNMENT  
[Dec. A-33/4.2; A-33/4.4]

#### **4. GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING (IOC Resolutions A-33/3 & A-33/1)**

- 4.1 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2026–2027 (43 C/5)
- 4.2 REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCESSES  
[Res. EC-57/2; Res A-33/3(III)]
  - 4.2.1 Update on progress and next steps**
  - 4.2.2 Review of the working methods of IOC Governing Bodies**
  - 4.2.3 New IOC Communication Strategy**
- 4.3 IOC AND THE FUTURE OF THE OCEAN CONSULTATION PROCESS  
[Dec. IOC/EC-55/3.2.Doc(1); Res. XXX-3; Dec. IOC/EC-55/3.2 ; Res. EC-57/2; Res. A-33/3(IV)]
  - 4.3.1 Phase II report and proposal for Phase III**
  - 4.3.2 Vision for strengthening IOCAFRICA and other  
IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies**  
[Res. A-33/1]
- 4.4 DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2028–2029 (44 C/5) – PRELIMINARY  
PROPOSAL FROM THE SECRETARIAT
- 4.5 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE  
[Statutes Art. 1.2]

**5. PREPARATION OF THE NEXT SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY  
AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

[Dec. A-33/5.6; Res A-33/3(III)]

**6. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND MODALITIES  
FOR THE FINALISATION OF THE REPORT**

[Statutes, Art. C.7; Rule of procedure 19.2]

**7. CLOSURE**



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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)  
**Fifty-ninth Session of the Executive Council**  
Paris, 30 June–3 July 2026

IOC/EC-59/21.Doc Add.  
Paris, 23 January 2026  
English only

**PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

Time	Monday 29 June	Tuesday 30 June	Wednesday 1 July	Thursday 2 July	Friday 3 July	
08.00 - 10.00		<b>Deadline for the submission of draft resolutions: Thursday 25 June</b>	Financial Committee (II)	Financial Committee (optional)		
10.00 - 11.30		<b>1. Opening</b> <b>2. Organization of the Session</b> (2.1 – 2.4) <b>3. IOC Matters and Reports</b> <u>3.1</u> Report of the Executive Secretary on the work accomplished since IOC-33 Assembly	<u>3.1, 4.1-4.4</u> <i>(Replies of the Executive Secretary to the debate)</i>	<u>3.4</u> Global Sea-Level Observing system (GLOSS) Implementation Plan 2026-2030 <u>3.5</u> Development of an IOC Data Architecture	<u>4.5</u> Report by the Chair of the Financial Committee  <b>5. Preparation of the Next Sessions of the Assembly and Executive Council</b>	
11.30 - 11.45	<i>Break</i>					
11.45 - 13.00		<i>Cont'd</i>	<u>3.7</u> Report of the IOC Working Group on Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction	<u>3.6</u> Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board (JCB) Strategic Advice on Joint Work to achieve common Objectives	<b>6. Adoption of Resolutions and Modalities for the Finalization of the Report</b>  <b>7. Closure</b>	
13.00 - 15.00	<i>Lunch break</i>	Financial Committee (I)	Financial Committee (III)	Resolutions Committee (II)	Resolutions Committee (optional)	
15.00 - 16.30	<b>IOC Officers Meeting</b>	<b>4. Governance, Programming &amp; Budgeting</b> <u>4.1</u> Programme & Budget 2026–2027 and Preliminary Proposals for 43 C/5 ( <i>intro</i> ) <u>4.2</u> Review of Governance and Management Processes ( <i>intro</i> )	<b>3. IOC Matters and Reports</b> <u>3.2</u> Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards <b>3.2.1 Regional Early Warning Services</b> <b>3.2.2 Global coordination of warning and mitigation systems for ocean hazards</b>	<b><u>2.5</u> IOC Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture, 2026</b>		
16.30 - 16.45		<i>Break</i>				
16.45 - 18.00		<u>4.3</u> IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation Process ( <i>intro</i> ) <u>4.4</u> Draft Programme and Budget 2028–2029 (44 C/5) – Preliminary proposals ( <i>intro</i> )	<u>3.3</u> GOOS Governance	<u>3.8</u> Reports of the Chairs the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development and on Ocean Literacy: Output of Joint Work and Mechanisms developed for Alignment		
After 18.00		IOC RECEPTION				



## DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMISSION FORM

With reference to the revised guidelines for the preparation and consideration of Draft Resolutions ([IOC/INF-1315](#)), a draft resolution is a proposed text submitted by one or several Member States to a Governing Body with a view to its adoption by the Governing Body concerned during the session to which the draft resolution is presented for consideration under the adopted agenda.

The deadline for submission is: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Draft Resolution proposal</b>	
Agenda item:	
Title:	
Submitted by:	

The attached Draft Resolution fulfils at least one of the following criterion (tick for the relevant one(s)):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Reflect major policy, programmatic, external relations, financial and institutional decisions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approve or modify the Commission's programme and budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take action on formal Recommendations made to the Commission by any recognized entities concerned with the oceans

Budgetary implications and source of financing:	
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Name:	
Position:	
Signature:	
Date:	

Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat: \_\_\_\_\_

**Screening by the Resolutions Committee:**

**Screening by the Financial Committee:**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

The **IOC Executive Council** shall consist of up to 40 Member States, including those Member States of which the elected chairperson and the five Vice-chairpersons are nationals.

**List of current States members of the IOC Executive Council (40)**  
elected at the 33rd Session of the IOC Assembly (Paris, 25 June–3 July  
2025)

*(List as of 2 July 2025)*

**Electoral Group I (10 seats)**

1. Belgium
2. Canada
3. France
4. Germany
5. Greece
6. Portugal
7. Spain
8. Türkiye
9. United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland
10. **United States of America** **Vice-Chairperson:** Ms Allison D. Reed (*1st term*)

**Electoral Group II (3 seats)**

1. **Bulgaria** **Vice-Chairperson:** Mr Atanas Palazov (*1st term*)
2. Poland
3. Ukraine

**Electoral Group III (9 seats)**

1. Argentina
2. Brazil
3. **Chile** **Vice-Chairperson:** Mr Carlos Zuñiga Araya (*1st term*)
4. Colombia
5. Costa Rica
6. Ecuador
7. Honduras
8. Mexico
9. Peru

**Electoral Group IV (9 seats)**

1. Australia
2. China
3. India
4. Indonesia
5. **Japan** **Chairperson:** Prof. Yutaka Michida (*2nd term*)
6. Pakistan
7. Palau
8. Republic of Korea **Vice-Chairperson:** Mr Hansan Park (*1st term*)
9. Thailand

## Electoral Group V (9 seats)

1. Côte d'Ivoire
2. Egypt
3. Guinea
4. Kenya
5. Mauritius
6. Morocco
7. Mozambique
8. Oman
9. South Africa

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Amr Zakaria Hamouda (*2nd term*)