

**Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission**  
*Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies*



# **IOC Working Group on the Future of IOC**

## **First Session**

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France  
19–20 February 2008

**UNESCO**

**Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission**  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance to Resolution XXIV-1 and the subsequent work plan established by the Officers following the Assembly and distributed to all Member States, an open-ended Working Group meeting was held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 19–20 February 2008. The meeting was well attended and participants included at least two Member States from each geographical region, to ensure satisfactory distribution of regional views. The Working Group also had access to the results of a questionnaire that had been widely distributed to Member States and interested organizations soliciting views on the present and future status of the Commission.

The Working Group was chaired by Dr S. Narayanan (Canada), one of the nominated co-chairs for the Group, as the other co-chair, Dr Haiqing Li (China) was unavailable. The Chairman of the IOC and the Executive Secretary also participated in the meeting.

The Working Group generated a very useful discussion and exchange of ideas among participants, which are detailed and made available in the Summary Report of the meeting. The participants were reminded that the issues of programme, resources and future of the IOC had been under discussion for many years under similar exercises such as FURES<sup>1</sup> and DOSS<sup>2</sup> and more recently by the document "We have a Problem" (IOC-XXIII/2 Annex 8) prepared by the current Chairman, which addressed increasing concerns of IOC Member States with respect to the financial constraints faced by the Commission. However, during the Assembly, the theme of the group was expanded to include fundamental questions about the challenges ahead for IOC and the necessary adaptations to cope with them. Many of these new issues refer to the mission of IOC as defined in the Statutes approved in 1999.

The Chairman presented the objectives for the Working Group as examining the various options for the IOC *vis-à-vis* the UN and UNESCO, the IOC mandate and future needs, funding opportunities, increasing the involvement of Member States and the enhancement of cooperation with other organizations.

As part of the background information for the Working Group, the consultants conducting the study about the visibility and perception of the IOC (Atkins Global International) delivered a brief synthesis of the results from the questionnaire, which was distributed on 21 November 2007 to 304 users, including 138 Focal Points, 45 partner organizations and 125 Permanent Delegations. Atkins received by 17 January 2008, 26 IOC Focal Point responses (19%) and 8 Partner Organization responses (18%).

Key messages extracted from the set of responses indicated that IOC is delivering an important service to Member States and the community at large and confirmed that IOC definitely has a worthwhile role to play in the future. On institutional and financial matters there was a strong consensus that the IOC should remain within UNESCO and should consider all opportunities to find the financial and in-kind support needed to deliver its ocean mandate.

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<sup>1</sup> Ad hoc Study Group on Measures to Ensure Adequate and Dependable Resources for the Commission's Programme of Work

<sup>2</sup> Ad hoc Study Group on IOC Development, Operations, Structure and Statutes

The Working Group recognized that the analysis of the questionnaire responses provided a useful reference for discussion. The group agreed that there would be no further refinement to the present questionnaire during this current process

On the many issues discussed at the meeting the following represent the main conclusions.

**On the current mandate:** The Working Group confirmed that the current IOC mandate is appropriate and that the existing IOC mandate and Medium-Term Strategy provides a positive starting point for assessing long-term trends that may affect the IOC. The Group further re-affirmed that the Statutes, as amended in 1999, provide a comprehensive IOC statement of purpose and is a flexible institutional mechanism enabling the IOC to adapt to emerging trends in oceanography and respond to Member State priorities in a timely manner.

**On institutional arrangements:** The Working Group agreed that the future of IOC should be based on the premise that the IOC will remain, and should be reinforced, within UNESCO. The IOC should look for an enhanced role within UNESCO in terms of intersectoral cooperation, based on its strong technical expertise on ocean sciences, ocean services and capacity development. Options for a more independent IOC outside of UNESCO did not receive consensus within the Group.

**On financial and programme matters:** The Working Group agreed that IOC should seek a clear identification of IOC's budget in the corresponding appropriation resolution of the UNESCO General Conference and in full recognition of the governance expressed by the IOC Assembly, explore the possibility of obtaining from the general Conference the IOC budget as a "financial allocation".

The Working Group agreed the Commission should explore innovative ways of making full use of Article 10 of the IOC Statutes and to look for every available mechanism for leveraging additional financial resources. The Group also agreed that there is a need for further Secretariat review on how the IOC Special Account is functioning and how it could be improved.

The Working Group also felt that the present programme priorities, as agreed by the Assembly and supported by the UNESCO General Conference, were not an issue for further discussion by the Working Group.

**On relations with other intergovernmental and international organizations:** The Working Group agreed the Commission should reinforce cooperation with other UN Agencies and to also look for partnerships with appropriate private sector organizations, in accordance with UNESCO Guidelines.

The Working Group requested that, when consulting with competent UN bodies and other competent international organizations and bodies dealing with ocean issues, on matters of policy that will involve the approval of the respective governing bodies, the Officers of the Commission and the Executive Secretary should inform the IOC focal points and Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, in order that Member States can play an active and appropriate role in such consultations.

**On improving the involvement of Member States:** The Working Group agreed that IOC needs enhanced political will and commitment from Member States to strengthen the

implementation of IOC programmes. Member States should examine and re-affirm their agreed obligations to the IOC as stated in IOC Statutes.

The Group recommended Member States further their commitment to IOC through interventions and support at appropriate organizations of the UN system and through the UNESCO strategic planning and budgetary process.

**On regional programmes:** The Working Group agreed the Commission should look for improved delivery of programme and benefits in IOC regions using existing regional and technical bodies and programmes.

In addition to these findings the Working Group produced a list of short-term actions to be considered by the Executive Council:

- Explore the form that specific agreements between Member States and IOC could take, to strengthen the implementation of, and to increase the national benefits from IOC programmes, with particular emphasis on priority setting.
- Reinvigorate ocean partnerships within the UN system to increase efficiency and improve programme delivery and to identify IOC's niche and leadership role. In this regard it was suggested IOC could revisit the ICSPRO Agreement (1969) as a possible model or vehicle for action.
- Urge Member States to support a Ministerial Round Table on "Oceans and the IOC" at the next UNESCO General Conference.
- Consider the merits of a ministerial-level meeting or a UN Conference in the medium term, perhaps as soon as 2010, as a mechanism to enhance visibility and political commitment to IOC among Member States.
- Consider the value of a new partnership or other arrangement within UNESCO that could relieve many of the administrative difficulties presently being experienced by the Commission, possibly using existing practices available to UNESCO and also consider whether such interim arrangements could be submitted to the UNESCO General Conference in a Resolution. According to the Resolution that gave rise to the Group, these options, including any raised by the Executive Council based on issues that were not object of a consensus in the group, such as a Protocol, Convention or similar legal framework associated to the implementation of Article 10 of the Statutes, would need to be consulted with the UNESCO Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs and discussed by the appropriate National authorities during the next intersessional period.



## RESUME ANALYTIQUE

Conformément à la Résolution XXIV-1 et au plan de travail correspondant établi par le Bureau de la Commission à l'issue de l'Assemblée et distribué à tous les Etats membres, un groupe de travail à composition non limitée s'est réuni au Siège de l'UNESCO, à Paris, les 19 et 20 février 2008. La réunion a attiré de nombreux participants qui représentaient au moins deux Etats membres de chaque région géographique, de façon à permettre aux différentes régions de faire connaître leur point de vue. Le Groupe de travail a également pu prendre connaissance des résultats d'un questionnaire qui avait été largement distribué aux Etats membres et aux organismes intéressés afin de solliciter leur avis sur le statut actuel et futur de la Commission.

Le Groupe de travail a été présidé par M. S. Narayanan (Canada), l'un des deux coprésidents nommés pour le Groupe, l'autre coprésident, M. Haiqing Li (Chine) étant indisponible. Le Président de la COI et le Secrétaire exécutif ont également participé à la réunion.

Le Groupe de travail a suscité un débat et un échange d'idées des plus utiles entre les participants ; on en trouvera le détail dans le compte rendu de la réunion. Il a été rappelé aux participants que les questions relatives au programme, aux ressources et à l'avenir de la COI faisaient l'objet de discussions depuis de nombreuses années dans le cadre de travaux similaires comme ceux du FURES<sup>3</sup> et du DOSS<sup>4</sup> et plus récemment dans le document intitulé « Nous avons un problème » (IOC-XXIII/2 Annexe 8), établi par le Président actuel et qui fait état des préoccupations croissantes des Etats membres de la COI face aux difficultés financières rencontrées par la Commission. Toutefois, au cours des débats de l'Assemblée, le champ de réflexion du Groupe a été élargi pour inclure des questions fondamentales concernant les défis auxquels la COI sera confrontée et les adaptations qui s'imposent pour les relever. Ces nouvelles questions ont trait pour une large part à la mission de la COI telle qu'elle est définie dans les Statuts approuvés en 1999.

Le Président a présenté les objectifs du Groupe de travail : examiner les diverses options envisageables en ce qui concerne les rapports de la COI avec les Nations Unies et l'UNESCO, le mandat et les besoins futurs de la Commission ainsi que ses possibilités de financement, la participation accrue des États membres et le développement de la coopération avec d'autres organisations.

Dans le cadre de la documentation générale destinée au Groupe de travail, les consultants qui mènent l'étude sur la visibilité de la COI et la façon dont elle est perçue (Atkins Global International) ont présenté une brève synthèse des résultats du questionnaire transmis le 21 novembre 2007 à 304 utilisateurs, dont 138 points focaux, 45 organisations partenaires et 125 délégations permanentes. Atkins avait reçu, au 17 janvier 2008, les réponses de 26 points focaux de la COI (19 %) et de 8 organisations partenaires (18 %).

Ces réponses indiquent essentiellement que la COI assure un service important auprès des Etats membres et de l'ensemble de la communauté et confirment qu'elle a sans conteste

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<sup>3</sup> Groupe d'étude ad hoc sur les mesures propres à assurer au programme de travail de la Commission des ressources suffisantes et fiables

<sup>4</sup> Groupe d'étude ad hoc sur le développement, le fonctionnement, la structure et les statuts de la COI

un rôle précieux à jouer à l'avenir. En matière institutionnelle et financière, il a été largement reconnu que la Commission devrait rester au sein de l'UNESCO et passer en revue tous les moyens de se procurer l'assistance financière et en nature nécessaire à l'assouplissement de sa mission océanique.

Le Groupe de travail a reconnu que l'analyse des réponses au questionnaire fournissait des références utiles au débat. Il a également décidé que dans l'immédiat, le questionnaire actuel ne serait pas affiné davantage.

On trouvera ci-après les principales conclusions auxquelles sont parvenus les participants sur les nombreuses questions examinées lors de la réunion.

**Mandat actuel :** Le Groupe de travail a confirmé que le mandat actuel de la COI était approprié et qu'avec la Stratégie à moyen terme, il constituait un excellent point de départ pour évaluer les tendances à long terme qui pourraient affecter la Commission. Le Groupe a en outre réaffirmé que les Statuts tels que modifiés en 1999 énonçaient parfaitement les buts et objectifs de la COI et constituaient un mécanisme institutionnel flexible permettant à la Commission de s'adapter aux nouvelles tendances de l'océanographie et de répondre en temps opportun aux priorités des Etats membres.

**Dispositions institutionnelles :** Le Groupe de travail a convenu qu'en ce qui concerne l'avenir de la COI, il fallait partir du principe que la Commission resterait, et serait renforcée, au sein de l'UNESCO. Elle devrait envisager de prendre une part accrue à la coopération intersectorielle au sein de l'Organisation, compte tenu de sa solide compétence technique en matière de sciences océaniques, de services océanographiques et de renforcement des capacités. Les options en faveur d'une plus grande indépendance en dehors de l'UNESCO n'ont pas fait l'objet d'un consensus au sein du Groupe.

**Finances et programme :** Le Groupe de travail a convenu que la COI devrait faire en sorte que son budget ressorte clairement dans la Résolution portant ouverture de crédits adoptée par la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO et, compte dûment tenu de la gouvernance manifestée par l'Assemblée, envisager la possibilité d'obtenir de la Conférence générale que ce budget soit traité comme une « allocation financière ».

Le Groupe de travail a convenu que la Commission devrait étudier des moyens novateurs de tirer pleinement parti de l'article 10 de ses Statuts et envisager tous les mécanismes disponibles pour mobiliser des ressources financières supplémentaires. Le Groupe a également convenu qu'il était nécessaire que le Secrétariat examine plus avant comment fonctionne le Compte spécial de la COI et comment améliorer ce fonctionnement.

Le Groupe de travail a également estimé qu'il n'y avait pas lieu de discuter plus avant des priorités actuelles du programme telles qu'elles ont été approuvées par l'Assemblée et appuyées par la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO.

**Relations avec les autres organisations intergouvernementales et internationales :** Le Groupe de travail a convenu que la Commission devait coopérer plus activement avec les autres organismes des Nations Unies et s'efforcer également d'établir des partenariats avec des organisations du secteur privé, conformément aux principes directeurs de l'UNESCO.

Le Groupe de travail a demandé que lorsqu'ils consultent les organes compétents des Nations Unies et d'autres organisations et organes internationaux traitant de questions

océaniques, au sujet d'orientations qui nécessiteront l'approbation de leurs organes directeurs respectifs, le Bureau de la Commission et le Secrétaire exécutif en informent les points focaux de la COI et les délégations permanentes auprès de l'UNESCO pour que les États membres puissent jouer un rôle actif et approprié dans les consultations en question.

**Participation accrue des États membres :** Le Groupe de travail a convenu qu'il était nécessaire, pour la COI, que les États membres fassent preuve d'une volonté politique accrue et s'engagent plus résolument à renforcer l'exécution des programmes de la COI. Les États membres devraient examiner et réaffirmer les obligations dont ils sont convenus à l'égard de la COI, telles qu'elles sont énoncées dans les Statuts de la Commission.

Le Groupe a recommandé aux États membres de consolider leur engagement envers la COI en menant des actions et en apportant leur appui aux organismes appropriés du système des Nations Unies, et en opérant dans le cadre de la planification stratégique et du processus budgétaire de l'UNESCO.

**Programmes régionaux :** Le Groupe a convenu que la Commission devait s'efforcer d'améliorer l'exécution du programme et les avantages qui en découlent dans les régions de la COI en faisant appel aux organismes et programmes régionaux et techniques existants.

En plus de ces conclusions, le Groupe de travail a établi la liste suivante de mesures à court terme à soumettre à l'attention du Conseil exécutif :

- Envisager la forme que pourraient prendre des accords spécifiques entre les États membres et la COI, pour améliorer l'exécution des programmes de la COI et accroître les avantages qui en découlent au niveau national, en accordant une attention particulière à la fixation de priorités.
- Donner un nouvel élan aux partenariats océaniques au sein du système des Nations Unies en vue de réaliser des gains d'efficacité, d'améliorer l'exécution des programmes et d'identifier la mission spécifique de la COI et son rôle de chef de file. À cet égard, il a été suggéré que la COI réexamine l'accord du CIPSRO (1969) pour l'utiliser éventuellement comme modèle ou cadre d'action.
- Demander instamment aux États membres d'apporter leur appui à une Table ronde ministérielle sur le thème « Les océans et la COI » lors de la prochaine Conférence générale de l'UNESCO.
- Examiner les avantages que présenterait la tenue à moyen terme, peut-être dès 2010, d'une réunion au niveau ministériel ou d'une conférence des Nations Unies pour faire mieux connaître la COI et renforcer les engagements politiques des États membres en sa faveur.
- Réfléchir à l'intérêt que présenterait un nouveau partenariat ou un autre arrangement, au sein de l'UNESCO, susceptibles d'atténuer une grande partie des difficultés administratives que connaît actuellement la Commission, éventuellement en suivant des pratiques en vigueur à l'UNESCO, et déterminer également si des dispositions intérimaires de ce genre pourraient être soumises à la Conférence générale de l'UNESCO dans une résolution. Conformément à la résolution portant création du Groupe de travail, ces options, y compris celles que pourrait formuler le Conseil exécutif à partir des questions n'ayant pas donné lieu

à un consensus au sein du Groupe, telles qu'un protocole, une convention ou un cadre juridique similaire associé à la mise en œuvre de l'article 10 des Statuts, devraient faire l'objet d'une consultation avec l'Office des normes internationales et des affaires juridiques de l'UNESCO et devraient être examinés par les autorités nationales compétentes durant la prochaine intersession.

## RESUMEN DISPOSITIVO

De conformidad con la Resolución XXIV-1 y el plan de trabajo elaborado ulteriormente por la Mesa de la Comisión tras la celebración de la Asamblea, que se distribuyó a todos los Estados Miembros, los días 19 y 20 de febrero de 2008, se celebró en la Sede de la UNESCO, en París, una reunión del Grupo de Trabajo abierta a todos los Estados Miembros. La asistencia a la reunión fue nutrida e incluía al menos dos Estados Miembros de cada región geográfica con objeto de asegurar un equilibrio satisfactorio de los puntos de vista regionales. El Grupo de Trabajo disponía además de los resultados de un cuestionario ampliamente distribuido a los Estados Miembros y las organizaciones interesadas, en el que se solicitaban opiniones sobre la situación presente y futura de la Comisión.

Presidió la reunión del Grupo de Trabajo el Dr. S. Narayanan (Canadá), uno de los dos copresidentes designados del Grupo, al no poder estar presente el otro copresidente, el Dr. Haiqing Li (China). El Presidente y el Secretario Ejecutivo de la COI también participaron en la reunión.

El Grupo de Trabajo propició un debate y un intercambio de ideas entre los participantes sumamente fructíferos, de los que se da cuenta detalladamente en el Informe Resumido de la reunión. Se recordó a los participantes que las cuestiones relativas al programa, los recursos y el futuro de la COI se venían discutiendo desde hace muchos años, por ejemplo en el marco del Grupo Especial de Estudio de las Medidas para Garantizar la Estabilidad y la Continuidad de los Recursos Requeridos para el Programa de Trabajo de la Comisión (FURES) y el Grupo Especial de Estudio sobre el Desarrollo, el Funcionamiento y los Estatutos de la COI (DOSS), y que más recientemente habían sido objeto del documento “Tenemos un problema” (IOC-XXIII/2 Anexo 8), que elaboró el actual Presidente y que abordaba las crecientes preocupaciones de los Estados Miembros de la COI por las limitaciones financieras a que hacía frente la Comisión. Sin embargo, durante la Asamblea el tema se amplió para abarcar cuestiones fundamentales sobre los retos futuros para la COI y los cambios necesarios para responder a ellos. Muchos de estos nuevos asuntos se refieren al cometido de la COI tal como se define en los Estatutos aprobados en 1999.

El Presidente expuso los objetivos del Grupo de Trabajo: examen de las diversas opciones que se plantean para la COI respecto de las Naciones Unidas y la UNESCO; el mandato de la COI y las necesidades futuras; las posibilidades de financiación; el aumento de la participación de los Estados Miembros, y la intensificación de la cooperación con otras organizaciones.

Entre la información de referencia destinada al Grupo de Trabajo, la empresa consultora que llevó a cabo el estudio sobre la notoriedad y la imagen de la COI (Atkins Global International) presentó una breve síntesis de los resultados del cuestionario distribuido el 21 de noviembre de 2007 a 304 usuarios, entre ellos 138 centros de enlace, 45 organizaciones asociadas y 125 delegaciones permanentes. A 17 de enero de 2008 Atkins había recibido respuestas de 26 centros de enlace de la COI (19%) y 8 organizaciones asociadas (18%).

Los mensajes más importantes extraídos del conjunto de respuestas indicaban que la COI prestaba un importante servicio a los Estados Miembros y a la comunidad en general, y confirmaban que, sin lugar a dudas, le correspondería desempeñar un papel esencial en el futuro. En lo tocante a los asuntos institucionales y financieros, hubo un sólido consenso en

que la COI debía seguir formando parte de la UNESCO y que convenía examinar todas las posibilidades para recabar la asistencia financiera y en especie necesaria para que cumpla con su mandato respecto de los océanos.

El Grupo de Trabajo reconoció que el análisis de las respuestas al cuestionario había facilitado un útil marco de referencia para las deliberaciones. El Grupo acordó que durante el proceso en curso no se introducirían modificaciones en el cuestionario.

A continuación se exponen las principales conclusiones relativas al gran número de cuestiones discutidas en la reunión:

**Mandato actual:** el Grupo de Trabajo confirmó que el actual mandato de la COI era apropiado y que tanto éste como la Estrategia a Plazo Medio constituían un punto de partida constructivo para evaluar las tendencias a largo plazo que podrían afectar a la COI. Además, el Grupo reafirmó que los Estatutos, en su forma enmendada en 1999, constituían una declaración general de la misión de la COI y un mecanismo institucional flexible que permitía a la COI adaptarse a las nuevas tendencias que iban manifestándose en el ámbito oceanográfico y que, además, respondía oportunamente a las prioridades de los Estados Miembros.

**Disposiciones institucionales:** el Grupo de Trabajo convino en que el futuro de la COI debía basarse en la premisa de que seguiría formando parte de la UNESCO, y fortalecerse dentro de la Organización. La COI procurará desempeñar un papel más prominente en el marco de la UNESCO en lo que respecta a la cooperación intersectorial, apoyándose en sus sólidas competencias técnicas en ciencias oceánicas, servicios oceánicos y aumento de capacidades. Las opciones relativas a una mayor independencia de la COI fuera del marco de la UNESCO no obtuvieron consenso en el Grupo.

**Asuntos financieros y programáticos:** el Grupo de Trabajo convino en que la COI debía conseguir que el presupuesto de la COI se distinguiera claramente en la Resolución de Consignación de Créditos de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO y que, a fin de tener plenamente en cuenta los principios de gobierno expresados por la Asamblea de la COI, debía explorar la posibilidad de que el presupuesto de la COI se consignara en forma de “asignación financiera”.

El Grupo de Trabajo acordó que la Comisión debía estudiar formas innovadoras de aprovechar plenamente lo dispuesto en el Artículo 10 de los Estatutos de la COI, y examinar todos los mecanismos de que disponía para obtener recursos financieros adicionales. El Grupo convino asimismo que era necesario que la Secretaría siguiera examinando el funcionamiento de la Cuenta Especial de la COI y la manera de mejorarlo.

El Grupo de Trabajo estimó además que las actuales prioridades del programa, establecidas por la Asamblea y respaldadas por la Conferencia General de la UNESCO, no eran un tema que debía seguir discutiendo el Grupo de Trabajo.

**Relaciones con otras organizaciones intergubernamentales e internacionales:** el Grupo de Trabajo reconoció que la Comisión debía reforzar la cooperación con otras organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y procurar establecer relaciones de colaboración con las organizaciones apropiadas del sector privado, de conformidad con las directrices de la UNESCO.

El Grupo de Trabajo pidió que, cuando se consultara a órganos competentes de las Naciones Unidas y otros organismos y organizaciones internacionales que se ocupaban de los océanos sobre cuestiones de política que requirieran la aprobación de los órganos rectores correspondientes, la Mesa de la Comisión y el Secretario Ejecutivo informaran a los centros de enlace de la COI y a las Delegaciones Permanentes ante la UNESCO, a fin de que los Estados Miembros pudieran desempeñar un papel activo y apropiado en el marco de tales consultas.

**Aumento de la participación de los Estados Miembros:** el Grupo de Trabajo convino en que la COI necesitaba una mayor voluntad política y un compromiso acrecentado de sus Estados Miembros para fortalecer la ejecución de sus programas. Los Estados Miembros debían examinar y reafirmar las obligaciones que aceptaron asumir en relación con la COI establecidas en los Estatutos de la Comisión.

El Grupo recomendó que los Estados Miembros reforzaran su compromiso para con la COI interviniendo y apoyándola en el marco de las organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas apropiadas y en el proceso presupuestario y de planificación estratégica de la UNESCO.

**Programas regionales:** el Grupo acordó que la Comisión debía procurar lograr una mejor ejecución de sus programas, que redundara en mayores beneficios para las regiones de la COI, recurriendo a los actuales programas y organismos técnicos y regionales.

Además de estos resultados, el Grupo de Trabajo elaboró una lista de medidas que han de adoptarse a corto plazo para someterla a la consideración del Consejo Ejecutivo:

- Examinar la forma que podrían adoptar determinados acuerdos entre los Estados Miembros y la COI para fortalecer la ejecución de los programas de la COI y aumentar los beneficios que aportan a los países, haciendo especial hincapié en el establecimiento de prioridades.
- Revitalizar las asociaciones relativas a los océanos en el marco del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para incrementar la eficacia y mejorar la ejecución de los programas, así como para determinar el ámbito propio de la COI y su función de liderazgo. A este respecto, se sugirió que la COI reexaminara el Acuerdo del ICSPRO (1969) como posible modelo o instrumento para la acción.
- Instar a los Estados Miembros a que apoyen la organización de una mesa redonda ministerial sobre el tema “Los océanos y la COI” en la próxima reunión de la Conferencia General de la UNESCO.
- Examinar la conveniencia de celebrar a medio plazo una reunión a nivel ministerial o una conferencia de las Naciones Unidas, quizás en 2010, como mecanismo para reforzar la notoriedad de la COI en los Estados Miembros y el compromiso político de éstos para con la Comisión.
- Examinar el interés de un nuevo acuerdo de asociación u otras disposiciones en el marco de la UNESCO que permitan subsanar muchas de las dificultades administrativas que experimenta actualmente la Comisión, sirviéndose quizás de las actuales prácticas a disposición de la UNESCO, y considerar también la posibilidad de someter tales disposiciones provisionales a la consideración de la

Conferencia General de la UNESCO en una Resolución. De conformidad con la resolución que dio origen al Grupo, estas opciones, incluidas las planteadas por el Consejo Ejecutivo basándose en cuestiones que no lograron el consenso en el Grupo, tales como la de un protocolo, una convención o un marco jurídico similar asociados a la aplicación del Artículo 10 de los Estatutos, deberían consultarse con la Oficina de Normas Internacionales y Asuntos Jurídicos y ser discutidas por las autoridades nacionales competentes en el transcurso del próximo periodo entre reuniones.



## РАБОЧЕЕ РЕЗЮМЕ

В соответствии с резолюцией XXIV-1 и последующим рабочим планом, подготовленным должностными лицами после Ассамблеи и распространенным среди всех государств-членов, 19-20 февраля 2008 г. в Штаб-квартире ЮНЕСКО в Париже состоялось заседание Рабочей группы открытого состава. Заседание было весьма представительным; в число его участников входили по меньшей мере два государства-члена от каждого географического региона, что обеспечило удовлетворительное отражение региональных точек зрения. Рабочая группа также имела в своем распоряжении ответы на вопросник, который был широко распространен среди государств-членов и заинтересованных организаций и в котором запрашивалось мнение о нынешнем и будущем статусе Комиссии.

На заседании Группы председательствовал д-р С. Нараянан (Канада), один из назначенных сопредседателей Группы, ввиду отсутствия другого сопредседателя, д-ра Ли Хайцина (Китай). В заседании также приняли участие Председатель и Исполнительный секретарь МОК.

Участники заседания Рабочей группы провели весьма полезную дискуссию и обмен мнениями, подробный отчет о которых содержится в кратком докладе встречи. На заседании отмечалось, что вопросы программы, ресурсов и будущего МОК уже много лет обсуждались в рамках аналогичных форумов, таких как ФУРЕС и ДОСС, и позднее рассматривались в подготовленном нынешним Председателем документе под названием «У нас проблема» (ИОС-XXIII/2 Annex 8), который отражает растущую озабоченность государств – членов МОК по поводу финансовых проблем, стоящих перед Комиссией. Однако в ходе Ассамблеи тематика, которой занимается Группа, пополнилась фундаментальными вопросами о задачах, стоящих перед МОК, и о необходимости адаптации в целях их выполнения. Многие из этих новых вопросов относятся к миссии МОК, как она определена в Уставе, утвержденном в 1999 г.

Целями Рабочей группы Председатель назвал изучение различных вариантов статуса МОК по отношению к ООН и ЮНЕСКО, мандата и будущих потребностей МОК, возможностей финансирования, расширения участия государств-членов и укрепления сотрудничества с другими организациями.

В качестве справочной информации консультанты, проводящие исследование наглядности деятельности и восприятия МОК («Аткинз глобал интернэшнл»), представили Рабочей группе краткое изложение ответов на вопросник, разосланный 21 ноября 2007 г. в адрес 304 пользователей, в том числе 138 координационным центрам, 45 партнерским организациям и 125 постоянным представительствам. К 17 января 2008 г. «Аткинз» получил ответы 26 координационных центров МОК (19%) и восьми партнерских организаций (18%). Суть полученных ответов сводилась к тому, что МОК предоставляет важные услуги государствам-членам и сообществу в целом. В ответах подтверждалось, что МОК определенно должна сыграть в будущем полезную роль. По институциональным и финансовым вопросам имелся твердый консенсус относительно того, что МОК должна оставаться в составе ЮНЕСКО и должна изучить все возможности изыскания финансовой и материальной поддержки, необходимой для осуществления ее мандата, связанного с проблематикой океана.

Рабочая группа отметила, что анализ ответов на вопросник дает полезную основу для дискуссии. Группа согласилась с тем, что нет необходимости в дальнейшей доработке нынешнего вопросника в рамках текущего процесса.

Из всего множества вопросов, обсуждавшихся на заседании, были сделаны следующие главные выводы.

**Нынешний мандат.** Рабочая группа подтвердила, что текущий мандат МОК является адекватным и что существующий мандат и Среднесрочная стратегия МОК служат хорошей отправной точкой для оценки долгосрочных тенденций, которые могут затронуть МОК. Группа также подтвердила, что Устав с поправками 1999 г. представляет собой всеобъемлющее изложение намерений МОК и является гибким институциональным механизмом, позволяющим Комиссии адаптироваться к новым тенденциям в океанографии и своевременно реагировать на приоритетные нужды государств-членов.

**Институциональные рамки.** Рабочая группа согласилась, что будущее МОК должно основываться на той предпосылке, что Комиссия будет продолжать действовать и должна укрепляться в рамках ЮНЕСКО. Опираясь на свои технические экспертные знания и опыт в областях наук об океане, океанических служб и создания потенциала, МОК должна стремиться к усилению своей роли в рамках ЮНЕСКО в том, что касается межсекторального сотрудничества. Варианты в пользу более независимой МОК вне рамок ЮНЕСКО не стали предметом консенсуса в рамках Группы.

**Вопросы финансов и программы.** Рабочая группа согласилась с тем, что МОК должна добиваться четкого определения своего бюджета в соответствующей резолюции Генеральной конференции ЮНЕСКО об ассигнованиях и, на основе всестороннего признания задач управления, сформулированных Ассамблеей МОК, проработать возможность получения от Генеральной конференции бюджета Комиссии в виде «финансовых ассигнований».

Рабочая группа согласилась с тем, что Комиссия должна изучить новаторские пути, позволяющие максимально задействовать статью 10 Устава МОК, а также стремиться использовать все возможные механизмы привлечения финансовых ресурсов. Рабочая группа также согласилась с необходимостью осуществления Секретариатом дальнейшего обзора характера функционирования Специального счета МОК и путей его возможного совершенствования.

Рабочая группа также посчитала, что нынешние программные приоритеты, согласованные на Ассамблее и поддержанные Генеральной конференцией ЮНЕСКО, не подлежат обсуждению Рабочей группой.

**Отношения с другими межправительственными и международными организациями.** Рабочая группа пришла к единому мнению о том, что Комиссия должна крепить сотрудничество с другими учреждениями ООН, а также стремиться к установлению партнерских связей с соответствующими организациями частного сектора согласно Руководящими принципам ЮНЕСКО.

Рабочая группа обратилась к должностным лицам и Исполнительному секретарю Комиссии с просьбой при проведении консультаций по вопросам политики, требующим решений соответствующих руководящих органов, с компетентными

органами ООН и другими компетентными международными организациями и учреждениями, работающими по проблематике океана, соответственно информировать координационные центры МОК и постоянные представительства при ЮНЕСКО с тем, чтобы государства-члены могли играть активную и надлежащую роль в проведении таких консультаций.

**Расширение участия государств-членов.** Рабочая группа согласилась с тем, что МОК нуждается в более сильной политической воле и приверженности со стороны государств-членов в целях совершенствования выполнения программ МОК. Государствам-членам надлежит изучить и подтвердить свои согласованные обязательства по отношению к МОК, как это предусмотрено в ее Уставе.

Группа рекомендовала государствам-членам и далее крепить свою приверженность МОК путем осуществления мероприятий и оказания поддержки в соответствующих организациях системы ООН, а также в рамках процесса стратегического планирования и бюджетирования ЮНЕСКО.

**Региональные программы.** Члены Группы выразили единое мнение о том, что Комиссия должна стремиться к совершенствованию осуществления программы и повышению результативности работы в регионах МОК с использованием существующих региональных и технических органов и программ.

В дополнение к этим выводам Рабочая группа подготовила список краткосрочных мер для рассмотрения Исполнительным советом.

- Изучение возможной формы специальных соглашений между государствами-членами и МОК, которая могла бы способствовать укреплению осуществления программ МОК и повышению отдачи от них для стран с уделением особого внимания определению приоритетов.
- Активизация деятельности партнерских структур в рамках системы ООН по проблематике океана для повышения эффективности и улучшения осуществления программы, а также для определения сферы деятельности МОК и ее руководящей роли. В связи с этим было предложено, что МОК могла бы пересмотреть Соглашение об ИКСПРО (1969 г.) как возможную модель или средство для деятельности.
- Настоятельный призыв к государствам-членам об оказании поддержки проведению совещания за круглым столом на уровне министров по теме «Океаны и МОК» в ходе следующей сессии Генеральной конференции ЮНЕСКО.
- Рассмотрение целесообразности проведения в среднесрочной перспективе совещания на уровне министров или конференции ООН, возможно уже в 2010 г., как средства повышения наглядности и укрепления политической приверженности государств – членов МОК.
- Рассмотрение вопроса о желательности установления нового партнерства или достижения иной договоренности с ЮНЕСКО, которые могли бы устранить многие административные трудности, испытываемые сегодня Комиссией, и которые, возможно, предусматривали бы использование

нынешней практики, имеющейся в распоряжении ЮНЕСКО, а также рассмотрение возможности представления таких временных механизмов Генеральной конференции ЮНЕСКО в виде резолюции. Согласно резолюции, в соответствии с которой была учреждена данная Группа, эти варианты, включая любые варианты, выдвигаемые Исполнительным советом, которые основываются на вопросах, не ставших предметом консенсуса в Группе, такие как протокол, конвенция или аналогичный юридический документ, связанный с осуществлением статьи 10 Устава, потребуют консультации с Управлением ЮНЕСКО по международным стандартам и правовым вопросам и обсуждения с соответствующими национальными органами власти в следующем межсессионном периоде.

## **1. OPENING SESSION**

Dr Savi Narayanan, Co-Chairperson of the Working Group on the Future of IOC and Chairperson of the meeting opened the meeting at 10:00. She noted the interest among Member States of IOC on the issues to be discussed by this Group in view of the high attendance of representatives from different parts of the world. This is not the first time that Member States have discussed the future of IOC and will probably not be the last, however, given the increasing interest in the oceans and the many challenges we face, the present exercise is very timely. She wished the Group a very productive discussion and offered the floor to the IOC Chairman, followed by the IOC Executive Secretary.

### **Welcome by the Chairman of IOC**

Capitán Javier Valladares, Chairman of IOC welcomed participants and hoped for a very active and productive two days of work on the matter of the IOC future. He then indicated that all IOC Officers and the Secretariat are available to help and work together to make this meeting a positive step towards the goal of strengthening the IOC. He thanked all participants for their interest in the Working Group and wished them a good stay in Paris.

### **Welcome by the Executive Secretary of the IOC**

Dr Patricio Bernal, IOC Executive Secretary, welcomed the participants on behalf of UNESCO's Director General, Mr Koichiro Matsuura. He reminded the meeting participants that the mandate of the Working Group is very well established and defined in Resolution XXIV-1. As Dr Narayanan reminded the participants, this is not the first time that the IOC has convened similar Working Groups. He recalled the ad hoc Study Group on Measures to Ensure Adequate and Dependable Resources for the Commission's Programme of Work (FURES) established in 1987 that worked for two years and was followed by a FURES-II Group that lasted for 6-7 years. In the following decade the IOC established the ad hoc Study Group on IOC Development, Operations, Structure, and Statutes (DOSS) that produced the "Quo Vadis IOC" report. The second phase of this Group, DOSS-II had the mandate of proposing modified Statutes for the IOC, which ended with the approval of the current IOC Statutes by the 29th UNESCO General Conference in 1999. In his view it is interesting to note that much of the discussion of this meeting refers to the mission of the IOC as defined in the Statutes approved in 1999.

He recalled that the establishment of the present Working Group was the result of the analysis by the 39th Executive Council of the document "We Have a Problem" prepared by the current Chairman when he was in charge of financial aspects, as Vice-Chairman for the period 2005-2007, followed by the analysis of by the 24th Assembly of the document prepared by the Officers of the Commission "The Future of IOC: a proposal by the Officers to the Member States" (IOC-XXIV/2 Annex 2). These documents reflect concerns of the IOC Member States with respect to the financial situation of the Commission. However, during the discussions, the agenda of the group evolved to consider a different set of fundamental questions about the challenges ahead of the IOC and the necessary adaptations to cope with them. The Executive Secretary then indicated two main problems he sees as opportunities to improve:

1. The strength of an intergovernmental body is based on having a clear counterpart within each Member State that engages that government with the mission and the objectives of the organization. We have to recognize that very often the IOC has fallen short in this

regard due to the absence of clear, officially nominated, counterparts for the IOC in several of its Member States

2. Another major difficulty is the way Member States organize themselves internally and within the United Nations, with very few communicating bridges among national agencies and among those and their corresponding UN counterparts. This is due to the compartmentalized fashion in which both national and UN agencies are forced to work.

To cope with these problems, the IOC has long promoted the establishment of national oceanographic coordination committees, without complete success.

Conversely, the most valuable IOC asset is the fact that it does have a very legitimate series of themes under its mandate, which do need intergovernmental coordination. The IOC is a legitimate focal point for developing countries in need of support for building their capabilities in generating knowledge, and using that knowledge for societal applications. In recent years, the most visible IOC programme that relies on this clear mandate is a fully nationally sustained ocean observing system. However, only 50 countries, mostly developed, are actively implementing this system, with only 10 countries supporting about 90% of the costs. At the same time, under the oceanographic data exchange policy adopted by the IOC, all data collected under IOC programmes is freely exchanged among countries. Both the observing system and the oceanography data exchange have been critical for acquiring a relevant portion of the knowledge we now possess on climate change. This same data is needed by several economic activities including maritime transport, offshore exploitations, meteorological forecasting and coastal hazard assessment, to name a few, both in developed and developing countries. This is a big asset for the IOC that provides a very healthy rationale for a balanced discussion concerning the allocation of resources, Member States' commitments and, in particular for this Working Group, methods for improving the performance of the organization, better organizing our work to deliver our established mandate and solidifying the future of the Commission.

## **2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

### **2.1 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Chairperson introduced this item informing the plenary that an initial version of the preliminary agenda was circulated in early January to the elected members of the Working Group and to the IOC Officers. Upon their feedback a revised version was circulated. She opened the floor for comments on the provisional agenda. Portugal suggested an amendment to item 3.3. to reflect that this item would deal with all background available to the Group proceedings and not only to the questionnaire, for which Portugal has some reservations. The Group adopted the proposal of Portugal to rename item 3.3. to "BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT".

Japan proposed interchanging items 4 and 5 of the draft provisional agenda to discuss first the future of oceanography and then exchange views about the current mandate and its adequacy. After some discussion the Group agreed to include item 5 as a sub-item at the beginning of item 4.

The adopted agenda is in Annex I.

## 2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

The Chairperson requested nominations for Rapporteur of the meeting. Australia proposed Arthur Paterson from USA and Portugal seconded this proposal. The Chairperson thanked USA for providing the Rapporteur for this meeting and invited Mr. Paterson to take his place at the podium.

## 2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

The Chairperson indicated that in order to get the maximum interaction from delegates, the meeting would be held in plenary, with interpretation in four languages within working hours as defined in the timetable. The Secretariat read the list of documents distributed for the meeting, as follows:

IOC-WG Future of IOC/1 Prov:	Provisional Agenda
Resolution XXIV-1	Working Group on the Future of IOC (2007)
IOC-XXIV/2 Annex 2	The Future of IOC: a proposal by the Officers to the Member States
IOC-XXIII/2 Annex 8	Financing and ownership of IOC's programmes: "We Have a problem" (2005)
IOC/DOSS-III/3	Ad-hoc Study Group on IOC Development, Operations, Structure and Functions; Bergen, Norway (1992)
IOC/FURES-III/3s	Third Session of the ad hoc Study Group on Measures to Ensure Adequate and Dependable Resources for the Commission's Programme of Work, Executive Summary
IOC/FURES-II/3s	Second Session of FURES, Paris, 11-13 January 1990
Questionnaire The Future Of IOC	Final Analysis Report, February 2008

Upon Portugal's request, the meeting participants were also provided with copies of the Manual of IOC (Document IOC/INF-785) and copies of the ICSPRO Agreement.

The delegate of Portugal expressed that in his understanding the meeting is open to all Member States included the core Group (elected Member States and Officers) and requested confirmation of this understanding. Japan requested clarification on the responsibilities of the core Group.

The Executive Secretary clarified by explaining that there was an election process to select a core membership to the Group, for the purpose of ensuring adequate participation from all geographical voting groups. This does not deny that the Group is open ended and open to participation by all Member States. The IOC Chairman confirmed that all Member States have equal status and that all IOC Member States may participate equally in all deliberations of the Working Group at this meeting and any subsequent intersessional work prior to the submission of the report to the Executive Council.

Portugal asked about the status of the nomination of the two Co-Chairs of the Working Group, a decision welcomed by Portugal because this provides different sensibilities or visions with regard to the matters under scrutiny by this Group.

The IOC Chairman indicated that the IOC Officers nominated both Mr Haiqing Li and Dr Savi Narayanan as co-chairs of this Group. Mr Haiqing Li was unable to attend this meeting and the Chairman hoped he will be available for future activities of the Working Group.

### **3. REPORT ON PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES**

#### **3.1 PREPARATION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

The Chairperson introduced agenda items 3.1 and 3.2 together for expediency, requesting comments to be withheld until after the introduction. She expressed the view that the demand on the IOC for leadership on intergovernmental coordination for oceanography is increasing. At the same time Member States have concerns because resources supporting the IOC are diminishing. All Member States are committed to finding appropriate solutions, but in order to do so Member States need to discuss if some changes are needed within the IOC, if more Member State involvement is necessary, or if Member States should be more active in UNESCO to support the IOC.

She then referred to the background documentation for this meeting including the one contained in documents IOC/FURES-III/3, IOC/DOSS-III/3, THE FUTURE OF IOC: A proposal by the officers to the member states, June 2007 and RESOLUTION XXIV-1: WG ON THE FUTURE OF IOC.

Dr Narayanan summarized the recommendations of FURES (1991) as follows:

- The IOC is entering into a new dimension, both in terms of scope and complexity of its programmes, operations, as well as planning & implementation;
- The IOC is moving rapidly from a basically research and science entity to one providing Member States, the world community and the UN system as a whole with operational ocean services & related supporting systems which call for advanced planning, continuity, stability and timeliness in the implementation of agreed actions;
- The IOC must develop programmes and activities which carefully balance the needs of its Member States with the resources they provide.

To this end, FURES suggested that the IOC should:

- Establish a framework to guide the allocation of the Commission's financial and staff resources;
- Provide guidance to Member States on the specific needs of the IOC programmes and activities;
- Base this framework on: (a) a set of guidelines and procedures through which the IOC will be able to periodically review and establish priorities, which will guide the Commission's allocation of financial and human resources. (b) When unfunded programmes of highest importance are undertaken, the IOC will generate the



substantial extrabudgetary resources required from Member States, through the UN system and/or from other sources.

On the Status of IOC within UNESCO, FURES recommended:

- Further improvement of the working relationship between the IOC and UNESCO on the status of the IOC & its functional autonomy;
- Reporting directly to UNESCO Director-General on matters of importance;
- Signing an MOU with other international organizations.

On the role of Member States, FURES recommended:

- Establishing proper liaison mechanisms and adequate national coordinating structures;
- Increasing awareness of the IOC;
- Increasing contributions to the IOC, in-kind and funds.

The Chairperson supported the FURES recommendations and recalled that the ad hoc DOSS Group in 1992 recognized the need to examine critically the plethora of subsidiary bodies and the associated funding issue. .

She then summarized the main aspects of the current status of the IOC within UNESCO. The IOC is included within the Natural Sciences Sector with its Executive Secretary having the status of an Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, reporting directly to UNESCO's Director-General. The IOC has a flagship status, but no specific tangible advantages are linked to this. It has functional autonomy within UNESCO, with its own Member States and Statutes and is allocated about 1% of UNESCO budget.

Dr Narayanan recalled that, in the document IOC-XXIII/2 Annex 8, the current Chairman of IOC highlighted a serious mismatch between the demands on the IOC and its capacity to deliver, the increasing expectations of Member States and other organizations and the increasing cost of delivery of programmes, which are already heavily streamlined, making it very difficult to make further reductions. .

To cope with the above identified problems, a set of options was proposed by the IOC Officers through document IOC-XXIV/2 Annex 2:

- Establish a new independent specialized organization inside the UN consolidating programmes on ocean affairs;
- Establish a new independent specialized organization inside the UN, with the current mandate as expressed in the statutes of the IOC;
- Define a funding regime with additional Member State contributions (Article 10);
- Make a closer functional arrangement with one or more of the existing UN organizations or programmes (i.e. FAO, IMO, UNEP, WMO);

- Reinforce IOC with its current mandate inside UNESCO by obtaining a more secure budgetary horizon guaranteed by a negotiated and binding agreement with UNESCO.

She then referred to the Terms of Reference of the Working Group and reminded the participants that a written report for discussion by the IOC Executive Council at its 41st Session (June 2008) has to be presented to the Secretariat by 24 March 2008 as requested in Resolution XXIV-1. She summarized the sessional meeting of June 2007 and the steps that were agreed upon. One of these was the preparation, distribution and analysis of a questionnaire subsequently sent out to Member States Focal Points, Permanent Delegations to UNESCO and partner organizations in November with a deadline of January 11, 2008.

### 3.2 PROPOSED METHODOLOGIES AND WORKPLAN

The Chairperson introduced this item by indicating the objectives of the meeting as to discuss and recommend on:

- How IOC will work with and coordinate with UN and UNESCO
- IOC Mandate and future needs
- Framework for funding options
- How to improve involvement of Member States
- How to enhance cooperation with other appropriate organizations
- Development of a work plan with deliverables and a timeline
- Use of the questionnaire results as a guide

She proposed conducting all discussions in plenary, requested interventions to be short and to the point and proposed a list of questions prepared to help focus discussions on each topic under agenda item 4. She then opened the floor for comments both for item 3.1. and 3.2.

Portugal started its intervention by noting with appreciation the clear and useful presentation provided by the Chairman, including a very objective identification of key previous messages that may shape the work of the Group. He indicated that we do not need to influence other agencies but Member States should decide to act in a coherent form in different agencies with a view to ensuring interagency cooperation for the oceans. With respect to financial needs he expressed that the crucial aspect is to get stable and steady resources for the IOC. He stressed that Portugal is not prepared to use the questionnaire as a guide but only as a reference document, among others. Portugal suggested defining a timeline for the work of the Group and exploring possibilities for an additional meeting before the 41st Executive Council. Peru seconded the Portugal's comments.

Germany recalled that according to Resolution XXIV-1 this Group is requested to present a document for discussion three months prior to the 41st Executive Council. This means producing a document and finalizing the work of the Group within one month. This timeline was confirmed by the IOC Executive Secretary.

Peru wanted to have more information about eventual discussions among agencies to properly inform capitals and allow guidance to Member States interventions at assemblies or meetings of other agencies interested in the IOC. The Executive Secretary informed the Working Group that the Officers and Executive Secretary are inviting formal comments of UN agencies and programmes on the future role of IOC according to Resolution XXIV-1.

Portugal suggested that a short summary note be circulated also to Member States for internal coordination and guidance for officers in charge of different UN agencies and programmes. Portugal also proposed recalling the ICSPRO agreement in this note. Madagascar suggested circulating the presentation delivered by the Chairperson in French as well, and inquired if the IOC is participating in the Year of the Planet Earth. The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to translate her presentation and circulate it to Member States after the meeting. The Executive Secretary reported that the IOC is participating in the Year of the Planet Earth in the framework of planning and execution of the Year of the Planet Earth that was launched in UNESCO.

Venezuela congratulated the Chairperson's presentation while regretting that the questionnaire is available only in English. He requested that all documents be made available in all four languages of the IOC. Venezuela seconded Portugal and Peru's suggestion of having more time for this Working Group to develop the work of the Group and eventually deliver it to the Assembly in 2009.

The Executive Secretary reported that the cost of translation and interpretation is expensive but this is inherent to intergovernmental process and a budget shall be available for this purpose. However within the IOC, there is no special budget available supporting the translation into all the official languages of UNESCO. However he indicated that the Secretariat will do its best to take into account the comment on translation.

The United States of America joined the previous speakers in thanking the Chairperson for her presentation, particularly in summarizing previous efforts, and encouraged circulation of the Chairperson's presentation. He indicated that more work needed to be done to more clearly identify IOC's institutional challenges that must be resolved. The USA review of prior IOC reports and recommendations, e.g. FURES, suggest that IOC tried to resolve the same challenges 15 years ago. The USA encouraged more attention be given to problem definition: is there a problem with UNESCO, within our own governments or with the organizational structure of IOC?

Canada emphasized that the mandate of the Working Group is to report to the Executive Council and then it will be up to the Executive Council to decide on the follow up action.

Portugal suggested that the mandate of this Group is not to deliver a final substantial document to the 41st Executive Council but to provide a clear proposal for defining the content of major points to be explored beyond the 41st Executive Council. Expecting to get a final substantial document within one month is unrealistic in view of the importance of the issues and subjects to be discussed. Consideration should be given at the forthcoming Executive Council to maintain the Working Group, with a view of preparing the final proposals to be submitted to the Assembly, in 2009.

The Chairperson suggested proceeding with the discussions as defined in the agenda, structured in topics, and after that decide how to proceed. In support of this, Cuba reaffirmed that

the Group needs to concentrate on delivering to the Executive Council as per its Terms of Reference and discuss substance according to the mandate given by the Assembly.

The Working Group requested that, when consulting with competent UN bodies and other competent international organizations and bodies dealing with ocean issues, on matters of policy that will involve the approval of the respective governing bodies, the Officers of the Commission and the Executive Secretary should inform the IOC focal points and Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, in order that Member States can play an active and appropriate role in such consultations.

### 3.3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

The Chairperson invited Mr Jonathan McCue, Principal Coastal Consultant Water & Environment, representing Atkins Global International to deliver a 15-minute presentation on the synthesis of the questionnaire report.

Mr Jonathan McCue started his presentation by summarizing the purpose of the study, its methodology, results per section and a set of common “themes” and outcomes. The aim of the survey was to seek views of main IOC stakeholders, including Member States, Partner Organizations and Permanent Delegations, on what role IOC should play to contribute to the effective coordination of ocean affairs. He informed the Group that the questionnaire was distributed on 21 November 2007 to 304 users, including 138 Focal Points, 45 partner organizations and 125 Permanent Delegations. Atkins received, by 17 January 2008, 26 IOC Focal Point responses (19%) and 8 Partner Organization responses (18%).

In terms of its current mandate the key message from the responses is that the IOC is delivering a service and definitely has a worthwhile role in the future. Some specific comments are:

- The IOC is fulfilling its mandate on international cooperation on oceanographic matters;
- The IOC is effective in applying existing knowledge;
- The IOC is effective in helping Member States improve decision-making;
- The IOC is doing good work with institution building in Africa, although the volume is too small;
- The IOC structure could be organized to be the ocean equivalent of WMO;
- Funding levels are not adequate for applying knowledge;
- The IOC should better coordinate international or regional programmes and not be involved in domestic programs.

With respect to the scientific issues related to the oceans where the IOC is working, the key message found in the responses is that the IOC should continue and also improve its technical support role, namely:

- Improve coordination of climate change research for oceans (observation and monitoring);

- Expand, the already sound, work in delivering ICM “toolkits” (linking strategies for climate change and marine hazards, setting ICM indicators and developing decision support tools);
- Improve coordination on the state of the marine environment reporting;
- There is limited IOC collaboration with other programmes or agencies (e.g. FAO/UNEP) that set MPAs and deliver fisheries management under an ecosystem approach.

The questionnaire also collected views about management, institutional and financial issues. On institutional and financial matters there was a strong consensus that the IOC should remain within UNESCO and should consider all opportunities to find the financial and in-kind support needed to deliver its ocean mandate.

The Chairperson thanked Atkins' representative for its presentation and reminded the meeting participants that the full report is available as a reference document for the meeting. She then opened the floor for comments.

Portugal re-stated that the decision for this questionnaire was premature as it should be for the Group to decide whether to use a questionnaire, define its content and seek the Secretariat's support in this task. From their analysis this questionnaire is unbalanced, with a number of mistakes (i.e. naming JCOMM as a Programme). Now the report is available and been replied to by 26 Member States, Portugal does not consider this as a working document but as a reference document. France intervened to express that, due to unforeseen technical problems, it did not respond to the questionnaire. About the questionnaire itself, France expressed that it is interesting but limited in terms of responses. This is however useful information and it may be helpful to have a second questionnaire with amendments, for example on the relationships with some organizations, and taking into account the works of this Group at this meeting.

Madagascar seconded France's views, stating that, even if the rate of responses is not satisfactory, it is a useful document for the discussions of this Group. He clarified that Focal Points and Delegations are the same. Madagascar supports sending a second, modified, shorter questionnaire.

Norway found the exercise useful and used it to improve coordination and communication internally. Norway suggested having a better management of the process to increase the number of respondents. The findings are useful for further analysis. Norway suggested taking this forward.

Vice-Chairman from Electoral Group V, Prof. Cherif Sammari (Tunisia), indicated that there is a low level of representation of Group V (Africa) in the responses and suggested a regionally focused analysis. Tunisia also suggested extending the deadline for receiving responses.

Cuba valued the questionnaire report but agreed that the questions may be better phrased. If a second questionnaire is launched, capacity building should be considered within other themes but kept as an independent item. Cuba suggested that there is value in extending the process and having a second version for this questionnaire.

Brazil expressed reservations with respect to the communication process for this questionnaire and with respect to some of the questions. That being said Brazil joined other delegations in expressing that the results of the questionnaire are an interesting and useful reference for future discussions, among others. In agreement with Madagascar, she indicated that the IOC Focal Points and Permanent Delegations both represent the Member State.

The Chairman clarified that one of the reasons for dispatching the questionnaire to both Permanent Delegation and Focal Point was to secure getting a single coordinated response. Canada itself coordinated its response with the Focal Point and Permanent Delegation.

Japan indicated that it followed the same process and integrated several organizations in the process of preparing a response. With respect to the questionnaire the part referring to fisheries management is probably not within the IOC's mandate. Japan reported that it was a useful exercise despite the problems that had already been highlighted

Germany expressed its reluctance to agree with a second round of the questionnaire. There are no surprises in the results so far. A new questionnaire will add no new results, in principle. The Group should start to discuss possible necessary and realistic actions. The questionnaire itself should be kept as a reference document.

Canada indicated that attendance in the IOC Assemblies usually consisted of only 50 participating countries, therefore the 26 responses to the questionnaire is not a bad percentage in terms of responses. Canada agreed to use the report as a reference document.

Italy shared concerns about the questionnaire and highlighted that there should be a separate analysis for Member States and Partners responses. Italy wanted to know if the analysis has statistical significance in terms of Member States responses.

India congratulated the Chairperson for its guidance during the proceedings of the meeting. India appreciated the questionnaire process and communications with the Secretariat. For India, the questionnaire is useful as is. India supported Germany's proposal to not start a second round and to initiate discussions on actions to be taken.

Croatia found the questionnaire a useful exercise at a very minimum for internal purposes. Croatia was surprised by the low rate of responses, but did not find the answers themselves surprising. Croatia supported Germany in not having a second questionnaire due to the tight timeline. The Executive Secretary intervened to clarify that page 162 and 163 of the questionnaire report do contain details on which are the 26 countries and organizations that responded to the questionnaire. Answers were received from different groups as follows: Group 1 (total membership is 24) 10 countries, Group 2 (total membership is 11) 2 countries, Group 3 (total membership is 26), 7 countries; Group 4 (total membership is 24), 5 countries, Group V (total membership is 44), 2 countries. Half of the elected Working Group Member States responded.

Summarizing the discussions under this agenda item the Chairperson indicated that many countries found the questionnaire a very useful tool, while some found it difficult to respond fully.

Some countries wanted to have an extended deadline and asked the Executive Secretary to provide for two more months to receive responses.

**The Working Group recognized** that the analysis of the questionnaire responses provided a useful reference for discussion. **The Group agreed** that there would be no further refinement to the present questionnaire during this current process.

#### **4. RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OVER THE COMING DECADE (2008–2017)**

The Afternoon session started at 2:00 p.m. and the Secretariat was requested to inform the participants about the new documents available as per decisions of the morning session. The new documents available were the ICSPRO agreement (1969) in French and English as well as the introductory presentations delivered by the Chairperson and by Mr McCue from Atkins during the morning session. All documents were added to the IOC website.

##### **4.1 FUTURE OCEANOGRAPHY AND ROLE OF THE IOC, THE LONG TERM VISION**

This item was introduced by the IOC Vice-chairman in charge of Programme and Budget, Mr Neville Smith (Australia). His presentation addressed the existing Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) of the IOC.

He highlighted that a substantial debate on future strategic directions, for science, technology, systems and services, took place at the 39th Session of the IOC Executive Council and the results were confirmed at the 24th Assembly. In broad terms, the sense was captured in the Statement attached to the Resolution creating this Working Group which referred to the “... special challenges posed by climate change, sea-level rise, and the accelerating degradation of the marine environment simultaneously with attendant habitat and biodiversity losses, and the large loss of lives and livelihoods from marine-based natural hazards.” That does, in his view, capture the over-arching future motivation and direction for what the IOC does. These thoughts are projected in more detail into the MTS, as adopted at the Assembly and grouped under three high level objectives

- 2.2 Safeguarding marine ecosystem health and integrated management
- 2.1 Addressing the impacts of climate change and variability, including sea level rise
- 3.1 Mitigating impacts from tsunamis and other marine hazards

And also through two cross-cutting objectives:

- 2.3 Capacity-building, data and information services
- 2.4 General policy and coordination

As the IOC Vice-chairman in charge of Programme and Budget of IOC, his view was that Member States have already agreed on IOC's future direction, confident that we matched the scientific and technical trends and requirements. If further confirmation was needed, it came through the UNESCO 34<sup>th</sup> General Conference and its strategic priorities which supported the IOC's emphasis on climate change adaptation and impacts and natural hazards and, ultimately through the fine work of many, including several in attendance, resulting in resource supplementation to undertake these tasks. As several members have noted, the survey strongly endorsed this strategic direction.

Therefore, his introductory message is (i) recognize the good works that have already been done, (ii) talk about the future but do not destroy the clarity and purpose that exists in the

IOC's MTS; and (iii) recall that it is the Executive Council, not this working group that is truly responsible for setting scientific strategy and agreeing on the programme. The Group can add value here in the context of our overall mandate, but the energies might be best spent on other items.

Japan was asked to intervene on this item as it was initially suggested by Japan. Dr Yamagata, Head of Delegation, intervened to remind the Group that, in order to foresee the future, it will also be important to examine the past. The late Prof. Hidaka of Tokyo University worked hard to introduce an international oceanographic body under ICSU in the 1950s with such world-leading oceanographers as Drs Deacon, Sverdrup, Flemming and Bruun. The preliminary body was called 'International Advisory Committee of Marine Sciences (IACOMS)'. Due to lack of resources, they decided to ask UNESCO to take on this marine scientific advisory body. This was the forerunner of IOC, later established in 1960. The IOC was the result of a recommendation from the International Conference on Oceanic Research in Copenhagen, and endorsed at the 11th Assembly of UNESCO held in July 1960. Along these lines, this Working Group meeting is quite timely after the IOC's achievements over almost 50 years. As already mentioned by the early giants in oceanography, the IOC should strengthen its roles of leadership and coordination in ocean observations, ocean sciences and data management with capacity building activities for the world community. One specific concern raised here is that involvement of leading experts has now been decreasing. Under the global warming stresses and deteriorating marine environment, the roles of IOC are extremely important.

Senegal indicated that substantial discussions are taking place at this meeting. Senegal is pleased to see that the IOC is reinforcing its capacity building activities in sub-Saharan Africa. Senegal considers that in the long term the possibility of having a more independent and strengthened IOC for dealing with ocean issues should not be discarded. In the mid-term, and keeping in mind the diversity of agencies dealing with ocean matters, there is a good opportunity for reinforcing partnerships with agencies working in fields where the IOC can provide technical assistance and help in capacity building.

Canada commented that in the long-term there are a number of emerging issues for which the IOC has not yet been recognized as having legal responsibility. Some are currently being handled by other agencies, whilst the IOC does have some work in progress on the extension of seabed resources and with drifting oceanographic instruments. However, there are also a number of issues dealt with under UNCLOS like Technology Transfer and transboundary effects of Marine Pollution that are largely ignored at the moment but that could devolve to the IOC or require assistance in the provision of coordinated scientific evidence. There are also arising issues that are not dealt with under UNCLOS like genetic resources in the international ocean and international MPAs. With regard to the mid-term, the priorities are well addressed by the MTS as stated by the IOC Vice-chairman in charge of Programme and Budget, but the Group should also look a little beyond and connect with the work done by UNESCO on capacity building.

Portugal intervened to express that the existing IOC mandate, if provided with adequate resources, provides a solution for dealing with current and future requirements. The IOC started with large expeditions because many ocean areas were unknown at that time, i.e. the Indian Ocean. Later on, living marine resources and programmes addressing coastal issues, including living marine resources, were established. The IOC needs to maintain effective regional subsidiary bodies to be able to keep this reactivity. As well, the IOC has been able to react to UNCLOS and also to the UNCED, modifying our Statutes as required. The IOC has been able to respond with its existing mechanisms.



On specific issues, climate change and its effect on oceans is of concern for Portugal from specific issues on heat exchange in the oceans to coastal impacts. At the same time, for Portugal and perhaps for many other countries, coastal zone management and water quality control in coastal areas are very relevant, particularly because of tourism interests. Deep sea issues also need to be addressed, especially the biodiversity aspects, and should be in the IOC's activities. In connection with fisheries there is finally a new trend regarding a management scheme for fisheries based on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and ecological regions where the IOC should have a role. In short, the IOC does not need to have a prospective study or invent what will emerge but to keep the mechanisms for good adaptive capacities, including effective regional subsidiary bodies. Joint specialized mechanisms for science, for observations and for capacity building should be also developed. The Group should note previous decisions of governing bodies and decisions from UN fora and adapt as needed.

For China, the IOC, as an organization for marine science and ocean services, should make full use of its advantages and do what others could not do and take the lead, in such fields as of ocean observation, ocean services, forecasting and marine hazards and disaster mitigation, (such as GOOS, Argo and GRAME) and make them flagship programmes or projects of the IOC.

Second, the IOC should make more effort in responding to the hot issues, especially, in the areas that UNCED, Agenda 21 and WSSD called for. For example, in the field of climate change, the protection of the marine biodiversity, and the ecosystem-based management, though they are all covered by IOC programmes, should be more prominent, and not only follow others.

Third, with regard to the relation with the UNCLOS, the IOC already has a few activities in this regard, but could go further. The UNCLOS covers almost all aspects of the ocean, especially providing guiding principles for the sustainable development of marine environment and its resources, emphasizing that the Integrated Marine Management is one of the important measures to reach the goal. These are in accordance with the goal set forth in the 2nd article of the Statute of the IOC. Whether the IOC could become one of the main functional organizations for implementing UNCLOS needs further discussion, but it is possible that the IOC could at least take, as one of its important responsibilities, the implementation of relevant provisions of UNCLOS, and evolve gradually towards an organization which is science-based and has the function of ocean management, thus filling a gap within the UN system.

France does not think there are really new issues with respect to what has already been addressed by the MTS. The question before the Working Group is how to respond to these issues already identified. In that sense, there are some views looking for the IOC to be the WMO for the oceans: this is a limited approach bearing in mind that WMO's mandates and tasks are very simple and all related to weather forecast and now climate, while IOC addresses a series of complex issues. There are two issues here: (i) the required Secretariat and (ii) the implementation. Those two are different. The IOC should not be a financial agency but the Secretariat should keep the IOC programmes alive while leaving the implementation to Member States, including raising funds for international cooperation.

Madagascar noted that 50 years is a long time ahead and speculated it not highly probably to be able to predict the future position of GOOS. Madagascar stated that it is necessary to look at global questions such as: Should the IOC be under the Natural Science Sector in 50 years or be independent?

Brazil seconded comments from Australia, Canada, France, Madagascar and Portugal. The IOC has a set of priorities for the next five years. In the long run the identification of priorities is probably not possible. The task before the Group is to identify how best to use the available resources.

Portugal emphasized a new demand is in front of the IOC: the concept of sustainable development implies integrated management including ecosystem socio-economic and environmental aspects. This implies an intersectoral approach for the IOC to concentrate on its own priorities but keeping a capacity for reacting to new demands where scientific information is a key element for adapting and for facilitating intergovernmental decision-making processes. He recalled in his intervention the Purpose of the IOC (Article 2.1) and supported France's views on the clear differences in complexities of issues being addressed by WMO and the IOC.

The Executive Secretary intervened to say resources have been shrinking due to a very diverse list of tasks and growing charges. He provided WMO/IOC comparative figures in terms of funding and staff to illustrate the problems faced by the IOC.

The Chairperson summarized discussions under this item. She noted that the future of oceanography calls for a series of relevant current challenges that would probably remain for at least a few years and possibly much longer. She reminded the participants that they were here to address some of the challenges for the near term, bearing in mind the long-term vision, but looking for immediate solutions.

#### 4.2 IOC MANDATE AND FUTURE NEEDS

The Chairman indicated that we need ensure that this Group discussion and suggestions add value to the existing MTS and the biennial working plans, which the IOC governing bodies have already been able to agree upon and decide. She then introduced this item by suggesting that, in view of comments already expressed by delegates in previous items the working Group could agree that IOC Programme priorities as they are now are right and any adjustment to that should be done at the Executive Council or Assembly and we may move on to implementation of these priorities.

Australia indicated its agreement with the proposal from the Chairperson and expressed that those priorities be taken as given and moves to the next item to discuss more substantial issues.

Portugal agreed with Australia but nevertheless commented that the Group should reply to the question about the relevance of the mandate in view of the challenges ahead. For Portugal the present Statutes or any future instrument that eventually may be adopted, could build on the present purpose statement as contained in the Statutes. The existing mandate can respond to the current challenges and can be adapted in its present form to future challenges. The IOC has a clear mechanism to allow its governing bodies to adapt, provided that the means and the capacity to accept new requirements is maintained and ensured.

With respect to future needs, Portugal believes that because of the new nature of scientific research on the oceans and because of societal requirements for development and management, the most relevant challenge is to be able to respond with interdisciplinarity to a variety of stakeholders. In connection with this Portugal suggests the negotiation of partnerships with other agencies (FAO, WMO, IMO, and UNEP and any other as required) with a view of eventually acting on behalf or in agreement with other agencies in order to increase efficiency,

taking into account the spirit of the ICSPRO agreement and Article 11, paragraph 3 of the IOC Statutes. Finally, Portugal suggested further clarifying the relation and liaison between the IOC Member States and UNESCO's main programmes.

The Russian Federation agreed with Australia in that the present priorities are suitable. With respect to priorities, all five first priorities proposed in the Chairperson's introduction need to be examined as a Group, while Ocean Observation and Data Information and Management are tools.

The Chairperson clarified that the list of priorities suggested in her presentation was just an example, with a more comprehensive list available under the MTS. She further agreed with Portugal's comments on the need to respond with interdisciplinarity to a variety of stakeholders.

Germany thanked the Chairperson for the clarification and asked what it really means to have a list of priorities. It further questioned the placement of additional issues beyond these priorities and whether or not they should be placed under existing ones. Additionally, they questioned the clarity of the definition of the IOC's function and the resources available to discharge that definition of function.

India suggested the question of the efficiency of the IOC could be answered by reviewing its ability to respond to the different aspects of its mandate and then defining how to improve.

Senegal reacted to the list presented by the Chairperson and suggested introducing management aspects, specific to African countries and related to capacity building. Africa can of course participate in the ocean observation programmes but need the capacity to use the oceanographic data and information for societal issues. For example the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing usually has a significant impact on the sustainability of both the targeted species and the ecosystem. It has a huge economic impact on developing countries by direct loss of the value of the catches that in the case of sub-Sahel Africa is in the order of 800 million euros per year. The UNCED and FAO as well as the European Union have recognized this important and urgent problem and the IOC should also pay attention to this.

Cuba stressed that changing the mandate of IOC would take a huge effort as per previous experiences, for example the discussions of DOSS-II. Assuming the mandate remains as in the Statutes, then the needs for the near future are:

- Find new mechanisms to lever financial resources for IOC;
- Suggest to Executive Council readjustment of programmes to fit the resources available;
- Look at human resources available and to improve management processes within the available human resources.

Norway stated its agreement with the Chairperson's statement and Australia's views that there is no need for this Group to review the overall mandate of the IOC and suggested that the Working Group could agree that IOC Programme priorities as they are now are right and any adjustment to that should be done at the Executive Council or Assembly. The group needs to explore how to increase visibility at a higher level, with proper recognition and associated resources. GOOS, IODE, Hazard monitoring and mitigation are issues where the IOC does well and should continue. IOC is not a relevant actor in fisheries and should not be a leader in that area. Some partnerships for concrete activities should be established (i.e. with ISDR for using a

multi-hazard approach). Recognizing that the mandate is broad, defining priorities and providing focus is a requirement. In other words, focus and prioritization are necessary to increase visibility.

Canada recalled the Terms of Reference of the Group. Priorities and mandate are not in the remit of this Working Group. The focus should be on identifying difficulties. They suggested that delivery could be improved through use of external opportunities and better management of limited resources.

The Executive Secretary recalled the five UNESCO functions: (i) a laboratory of ideas, (ii) a clearing house, (iii) a standard-setter, (iv) a capacity-builder of Member States, and (v) a catalyst for international cooperation. The IOC has not been very prominent in functions (i) and (ii).

The Chairperson summarized the consensus on the MTS being the main guidance and not new issues. The discussion highlighted the need to define how to implement these priorities.

#### 4.3 STRUCTURAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Chairperson introduced this item recalling the main issues that have been discussed in different meetings and documents, in terms of options for structure, institutional arrangements and legal requirements:

- The possible future of the IOC could be outside UN
- The possible future of the IOC could be outside UNESCO
- The possible future of the IOC could be as an independent organization inside the UN
- The possible future of the IOC could be as an independent specialized organization outside of the UN
- The possible future of the IOC would be to remain in UNESCO taking advantage of a renewed and improved partnership arrangement, whilst pursuing other avenues for support and resources.

Canada indicated that there is no surprise that in the responses to the questionnaires a trend emerged in order to keep the current status of the IOC within UNESCO. Even if in a few decades the IOC may grow and has a different view on these aspects, it is not useful to open a discussion on other options at this stage. However, there might be ways and means of increasing the efficiency of the IOC by making better use of cross-sectorial avenues within UNESCO to raise funds or define partnerships to increase resources available to the IOC. Canada also believes that having weak links with national entities is a real problem and wonders why, 15 years after having urged Member States to establish Oceanographic Committees, this problem continues. Canada questioned whether or not it is feasible to continue these efforts.

Cuba considered that the IOC should stay within UNESCO. Cuba also agreed with Canada that a real national representation of Member States at the IOC is required. True national representation is required at the Commission. To that end a clear interaction of IOC Focal Points with UNESCO's National Commissions and national delegates to the UNESCO General Conference is necessary. A recent positive example is the effective intervention of UNESCO

Member States at the General Conference that allowed for an increased assignation to the IOC. Cuba acknowledged the important role Dr Narayanan played in this process.

The Russian Federation indicated that the results of the analysis of the questionnaire coincide with Russian Federation views. Future proposals in terms of expansion of services for example, would be consistent with the Medium-Term Strategy; if IOC's coordination of operational oceanography is successful then more resources and visibility for the IOC at the international level should be expected. Mechanisms for the transition could be explored, as for example an agreement between countries, for example those involved in GOOS, on a number of concrete items (i.e. observing systems, data exchange, products, financial contributions).

Portugal pointed out that the question of whether or not to remain within UNESCO is too premature with respect to the work of the Group, as this would be one of the final conclusions after discussing the different options. Portugal believed that the immediate framework is to try to improve the present arrangement with UNESCO and the cooperation with other agencies. On the structural issues, Portugal identified the immediate problem to be solved as the need to define a minimum UNESCO budget contribution to the IOC. All Directors General have been sympathetic to the IOC's role on ocean international cooperation but when allocating resources at the General Conference, this is not translated into actual new resources. A senior staff member should be looking at these matters. For Portugal, the institutional and legal issues should be kept for a second round of discussion. The ICSPRO agreement could be revisited at that time, to optimize ways and means of increasing developing IOC's capacities. A governmental conference in 2010 could be a good opportunity for this second round. This may coincide with the 50th Anniversary celebration. The commemoration of the IOC's anniversary in connection with a renewed commitment from its Member States may be indeed a very good signal and public relations supplementary activity.

The United States of America pointed out that some of the comments refer to relationships with UNESCO and with other organizations and may fall within item 4.5 but the USA will treat these as a unit in its remarks. When it comes to the question of whether the IOC should remain within UNESCO, the USA would probably be interested in a survey of other independent organizations to find out if it would be easier to get contributions to support the work of the IOC simply as an independent organization. The USA does not necessarily believe this will be the conclusion. The United States of America noted, as had previous speakers, that since the IOC Assembly session in June 2007 there had been some changes, particularly at the UNESCO General Conference, thanks to the leadership provided by Brazil and other countries. If the IOC is important and vital for Member States, then its role should be addressed in the UNESCO forum as happened at the last General Conference. It seems however that there is still work to be done in that regard. For the USA, institutional arrangements are a tool for delivering a mandate, and if people understand the importance of the IOC, success should be attainable in other fora too. For example, institutional arrangements like memoranda of understanding with partner organizations should address not only UNESCO and UN agencies and programmes but also implement partnerships with the private sector including foundations that may help the IOC to enhance capacity building on ocean matters.

Brazil indicated that the IOC plays an important role within UNESCO and should keep that role. The actual framework seems to work well while in need of improvement. That said, the problem should be more clearly defined to determine appropriate improvements to be made. For example some interventions have addressed the need for partnerships but the mechanism for partnerships already exist in Article 11 of the Statutes, including partnership arrangements, begging the question why are these tools not being fully used?

Venezuela also agreed that the IOC should stay within UNESCO. Venezuela emphasized that the IOC is mandated for scientific and technical research on marine sciences and under this mandate Venezuela has been able to coordinate and develop activities in this field linked with IOC. He referred also to IOCARIBE that may develop better if resources are provided. In the view of Venezuela the IOC should refrain from initiating activities outside of its mandate, for example on fisheries research or management that is a field of activity led by FAO.

Madagascar expressed the view that the IOC is getting bigger and bigger with its programmes within the Natural Science Sector. Looking to the next 10 or 20 years, if the IOC continues to grow, at some point it will not be able to expand within the Natural Science Sector. It may be necessary to think of the present arrangement as one of a transition position within UNESCO.

Japan suggested an important way to get stronger support for the IOC within UNESCO. To achieve the needs for the climate change issue, one of the most important mandates of the IOC, integrated, intersectorial, and interdisciplinary approaches must be introduced. For example, coastal regions are most endangered by the climate change through marine hazards such as storm surges, sea-level rise, and at the same time they are influenced by deterioration of forest and river conditions in addition to marine environment. Along these lines, one possible way forward is to develop intersectorial programmes under close cooperation with IHP, MAB and the International Geological Correlation Programme within UNESCO, which will assist in receiving stronger support from UNESCO and result in more visibility to IOC activities.

Senegal recalled its earlier intervention referring to the long-term and recognizing that ocean affairs develop and evolve in a broader framework than the one defined by UNESCO. In the short term and mid term Senegal would like the IOC to be the only operator for all activities directly related to oceans within UNESCO, including educational aspects. Therefore, the challenge is to find a mechanism to transfer funds from other areas that will be coordinated by IOC but would integrate with other sectors.

Germany expressed the view that there seems to be consensus in that the IOC should stay within UNESCO. Germany fully shares the United States caution with respect to the improbable financial viability of the IOC outside of UNESCO. Therefore the option before the IOC is to strengthen its position within UNESCO. Germany suggested that instead of a new Conference at Ministerial Level, as suggested by Portugal, the best option is to organize an IOC Assembly at Ministerial level. A relevant issue here is how to intensify the commitment of Governments with the IOC, including how to better perform in terms of preparation of meetings, and not only how to interact better with National Commissions. Germany expressed its full support to the Russian Federation's suggestion of having specific agreement between some interested countries, for example those involved in GOOS, on a number of concrete items like observing systems, data exchange, and financial contributions.

The Vice-chairman for Electoral Group III, Capitán Julian A. Reyna Moreno (Colombia) noted there is a growing consensus on the way forward, including developing different aspects of sustainable management of the marine environment, and improving internal decision making processes within Member States. There seems also to be an agreement that establishing the IOC outside of UNESCO would require more resources that are not automatically available. The consensus seems to be to seek a better implementation of IOC programmes, for example on climate change and marine-related natural hazards, but within UNESCO, focusing in a limited set of priorities that will show clear results.

Portugal answered Germany's consideration of an Intergovernmental Conference recalling that this was suggested by the IOC Officers in document IOC-XXIV/2 Annex 2 which proposed "an Extraordinary Session of the Assembly [in 2008], where an initial agreement among the Member States of the IOC could take place leading to the organization of an Intergovernmental Oceanographic Conference for the year 2010". If more time is required to appropriately organize such a meeting then this decision should possibly be moved to the 25th Assembly in 2009. Portugal is open minded regarding the nature of an agreement to be discussed at that opportunity.

India aligned itself with the majority views expressed regarding the questionnaire responses and at this meeting in that the IOC should remain within UNESCO. Regarding the time devoted by staff to organizing meetings he asked if this could be outsourced. As well, current developments within World Heritage Centre are suggesting terms of new mechanisms for staffing, which could be also explored by the IOC.

France reaffirmed that there is a consensus that the IOC should remain within UNESCO but the question would be where in UNESCO. If expansion is the goal of the IOC, then a specific place and role within UNESCO may be necessary. The question should at least be posed. Following suggestions by the Russian Federation and Germany for specific funding agreements, the critical path is to have committed financial agreements, which are very few and not easy to put in place, as the experience available within WMO shows.

Mexico expressed support of the views that the IOC should remain within UNESCO. Addressing the recognition of the IOC within UNESCO, he had the view that it is UNESCO itself, including its IOC, which has visibility problems. As far as the issue of the IOC not being fully visible to Member States, perhaps establishing National Committees may help to overcome this problem and, in that sense, Mexico would welcome any effort to reinforce National Oceanographic Committees.

The Executive Secretary expressed that it has been a very rich discussion and some ideas are very valuable. We should not let them disappear. He clarified that the IOC is not a Programme of the Science Sector (Major Programme II: Natural Sciences), is not a Division but instead an autonomous body with functional autonomy, with its own Statutes but not a Convention. He further expanded on the structure of the UNESCO Programme and Budget, its sectoral priorities, main lines of actions and activities. With respect to India's inquiry about alternative staff hiring procedures he signalled that the World Heritage Centre (WHC) is using new mechanisms for hiring staff and fully using temporary hiring mechanisms, already available in UNESCO. The tools WHC is using are the same that the IOC is using i.e. Limited Duration Assignments (ALDs), that is used for almost all the Tsunami Coordination Unit staff. Responding to Brazil's comment about the use of the tools that are already available, the Executive Secretary expressed that the IOC has some tools that are not fully used, particularly Article 10 of the Statutes that provides ample possibilities for establishing arrangements with Member States or donors. Governing bodies of UNESCO and the IOC have a lot of power to establish new financial arrangements just by using Article 10 and this is not being used fully, probably because governance mechanisms do not make it easy to assign budget from other activities within UNESCO to IOC. To put it in other terms, repeating the extraordinary decision of the UNESCO General Conference at its 34<sup>th</sup> session to assign resources at the level of \$500,000 for the IOC by reducing the same amount in another activity or programme in UNESCO would be extremely difficult. Conversely, the IOC does use actively the IOC Special Account with voluntary contributions that are addressed to main programmatic priorities as decided by IOC governing bodies.

Portugal thanked the Executive Secretary for the explanation. He urged mobilizing IOC Member States through its UNESCO Permanent Delegations to UNESCO. A small group could be established to develop and to establish a strategy to strength the position of IOC within UNESCO.

The Chairperson summarized, indicating that some very good ideas had been put forward during the meeting and suggested a small sessional drafting group to develop a specific action document with short term actions, building on the good ideas suggested at this first day meeting. Volunteers for this group were Mr Geoff Holland (Canada), Mr Jack Dunnigan (USA), Mr Guillermo Garcia (Cuba), Mr Nicolai Mikhailov (Russian Federation), Dr Yamagata (Japan), Prof. Mario Ruivo (Portugal) and Dr Bakhayokho (Senegal).

#### 4.4 FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, OTHER RESOURCES AND MEASURES TO ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE AND STEADY PROGRAMME

The Chairperson introduced this item by reminding the Group that some options have been identified for financial arrangements during IOC meetings and in Member States' responses to the questionnaire, including:

- Adopting a “Protocol” or “Convention” which would include an agreement on assessed contributions;
- Creation of a new negotiated agreement with UNESCO that sets a new long-term budget;
- Establishment of a regime of assessed additional Member States contributions using Article 10 of the statutes (“Financial and other resources”).

The Chairperson indicated that a decision on financial arrangements will require a clear timetable and definition of the process required to achieve the goal of financial stability.

Portugal proposed consideration of a pledging system, noting prior discussion at DOSS and FURES meetings and other arrangements within UNESCO such as the one of the World Heritage Centre (WHC). Portugal encouraged a new priority be given to supporting global IOC implementation through regional bodies, where those subsidiary bodies could play an effective role for programme implementation.

China, considering the need for increased funding for the IOC, proposed expanded collaboration with funding agencies like GEF and the World Bank. The IOC could support and encourage subsidiary bodies to develop proposals for regional components of the IOC core programme to be submitted to these funding agencies to increase the financial capabilities of the IOC and benefits to Member States.

Canada expressed the view that a convention or similar arrangement could increase the stability of regular funding. However this is probably not a viable solution in the short-term since it may take 10 years or more to negotiate and enter into force. Canada noted that while short-term, extrabudgetary funds might be raised through the Secretariat or Member State proposal development to donors, this option may over-burden a Secretariat already busy with core programme implementation. Canada queried whether the IOC could request funding agencies such as the World Bank or regional banks to consider the loan of staff to the IOC to facilitate development of fundraising proposals.



Argentina expressed its willingness to review the merits of an arrangement, or convention to give sustainability to the IOC, consolidate the IOC's structure and address other pending issues such as data exchange and access. Argentina encouraged further review of the use of Article 10 of Statutes, in parallel with consideration of a Convention. It noted some successful financial arrangements in UNESCO, such as the World Heritage Fund. With respect to a "new negotiated agreement," Argentina requested clarification on whether this refers to a negotiated agreement between Member States or between Member States and UNESCO.

The Chairperson clarified that if there is a possibility of more direct allocations to the IOC from UNESCO, and then this could be explored and formalized as a new negotiated agreement.

Canada added there might be a misunderstanding about what a convention could add to the IOC. No other body within UNESCO has more autonomy within UNESCO than the IOC. Therefore a convention will not improve autonomy, unless the IOC is considering being an Institute, which provides full autonomy. However, the trend is that Member States in UNESCO do not want to commit to fix assessed contributions through conventions. The World Heritage Convention has a particular clause on contributions but no other convention has replicated this approach thus far.

With respect to the methodology, Canada clarified that the process for negotiating a convention begins with the General Conference asking the Director-General to proceed with a study that is tabled for consideration at the next General Conference. Conventions take several years to negotiate, even when supported by substantial political will. Canada recalled that the Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention, which was negotiated in a relatively short six-year process, has not yet entered into force because ratifications are very slow.

Brazil stated concerns about the added value of a convention and about the time this may take to negotiate. Furthermore, inclusion of a pledging system would require even more time to negotiate. Brazil noted prior discussion of options for mobilizing financial support, e.g., an interim report of DOSS-2 (Study Group on IOC Development, Operations, Structure and statutes- DOSS-2, Southampton, United Kingdom, 13–17 January 1997, Interim Report, pp. 29 and 33) One DOSS-2 option was to establish rules like those existing in WHC linking nomination in governing bodies with funding commitments, which was finally not adopted as an option by Member States. Member States rejected the introduction of two categories of membership, those that contribute and those that do not. For the short term, Brazil requested more information from the Secretariat on how the IOC Special Account is working, and how it may be improved. As an initial response to this request, basic documents including the IOC Financial Rules and functional autonomy and administrative authority relevant documents are included under Annex III.

Australia agreed with Brazil on the need to consider all implications of a pledging system mirroring the WHC approach and also recalled that this system was explored and Member States had decided not to follow that option.

Australia stated that introducing specific product lines and services in UNESCO is productive and useful for financial stability. The recent General Conference proved that sound arguments can attract support and funding. Of course the acceptance of new money carries the responsibility of delivering the associated programmes. Even if IOC is small, it is extremely well considered in UNESCO, an opinion confirmed at the Review of Sciences Programmes. Australia will not support any convention or similar instruments at the Executive Council. None

of the problems mentioned during the meeting suggest that a structural change is needed now. The only clear challenge is funding. The problem is that many are trying to access the IOC and its capacity is overtaxed. Just testing and increasing the IOC efficiency should help. Reinforcing regional mechanisms has been mentioned several times. Australia noted programme and institutional overlaps between global and regional IOC levels and encouraged a review to strengthen the IOC organizationally and eliminate overlaps.

The United States of America welcomed the morning's contributions, because the Working Group is finally addressing essential issues. The USA noted that several delegations concurred that revitalizing commitments from national capitals is needed to strengthen some vital functions of the IOC. For some countries there is a need for some instrument to achieve that goal. The USA shares the views of Australia, Brazil, Canada and other countries that there are dangers and pitfalls in discussing a new convention. In practical terms, a treaty negotiation might not be an easy task, recognizing that for many countries present at the meeting, the nature of the problem is slightly different. Working Group discussions are still clarifying our understanding of those differences and specific concerns. With respect to the negotiation within UNESCO, the IOC must be recognized as a creature of UNESCO. The IOC and Member States should review UNESCO priorities, e.g. education, to understand how IOC can improve its programme delivery while serving the more general main thrusts of UNESCO.

The United States of America expressed that whatever is done in terms of new financial mechanisms, it is necessary to look beyond governments, the World Bank and GEF, to also include the private donor community and the private sector. If there are to be new financial mechanisms, then exploring partnerships with private sector interests and foundations is very worthwhile.

Germany shared fully the concerns expressed by many previous speakers about the non-feasible option of discussing new instruments. If the main objective is to mobilize more public money then this is unrealistic as a mechanism. Germany itself is not looking to increase contributions to UN organizations. Instead, very specific arrangements to fulfil oceanographic tasks, for example for GOOS, including financial agreements could be more productive.

The Chairperson commented on the initiative of Angus McEwan in getting more commitments for GOOS, noting this was not successful at that time and questioning the possibility of more willingness on the Member States part now to follow that approach. She concluded that it would be very useful if the meeting could agree that this is a possible option and she invited comments of Member States on this issue.

Norway joined previous speakers that are hesitant to explore the option of a new convention or similar tool. There are many unknowns on that option. Concurring with the USA, Norway stated it is necessary to be realistic, look for improving work and in this way show that the IOC is worthy of funding, while increasing access to GEF and similar funding sources. The IOC should be more focused and visible, and be cooperating with other agencies and GEF.

Croatia indicated that the discussion was finally touching on the real problem, which is lack of resources. Croatia also joined previous speakers in agreeing that a new convention protocol or agreement will not resolve by itself the existing problems, but may postpone the solution to real problems. According to Croatia's views the Statutes give sufficient room for discussing and solving the funding problem, in particular through Article 10. The problem is not the legal text but perhaps the implementation of Article 10. Croatia agrees that we should look

into private funding sources and also some regional cooperation in the fields of the IOC's expertise should be encouraged, to find additional funding.

The Chairperson asked the Executive Secretary to explain specific rules or guidelines for private partnerships under UNESCO. The Executive Secretary indicated that there are guidelines for Public-private partnerships. The UN and UNESCO have significantly improved the mechanisms for interacting with the private sector, setting rules that care for preservation of the intergovernmental mandate and governance mechanisms. Therefore, there are clear guidance and mechanisms for interacting with private sector in UN and UNESCO.

Portugal, commenting on Australia's statement about its position at the next Executive Council on possible institutional arrangements, intervened to propose maintaining a logical sequence in the discussions and concentrate on the financial alternatives at this point. He suggested avoiding final statements about the work of the Group but to proceed step by step. With regard to relationships with UNESCO with the specificity of finances and staffing, Portugal joined Brazil, Norway and Croatia supporting the need to look at other agencies when looking at resources for the IOC, because that refers not only to money but also to other kinds of support.

France thanked the delegations for a very fruitful discussion and joined other countries with regard to the necessity of reinforcing the IOC within UNESCO. With respect to the possibility of a convention, France shares the prudent approach expressed by many other delegations. France joins Croatia and Portugal and others in the need to look into synergies and partnerships as Australia also mentioned. On the financial mechanisms, France agreed with Germany's views in that agreements for specific activities should be explored, as well as new uses of Article 10 as Argentina proposed.

Peru agreed with previous speakers and suggested that a consensus arises on the following points: that we should first of all look at UNESCO, following the example of Brazil at the last General Conferences; that increased financial commitment from Member States is very troublesome for many countries; that we have to look for imaginative solutions using existing mechanisms and including partnerships with other agencies, join projects, services, studies; and, finally that the partnership with regional bodies, i.e. the Permanent Commission for the South East Pacific (CPPS), are very important as this has been recently proved by IOC getting CPPS funds for technical activities in the region. Peru expressed concern about the severe stress that exploring a new formula both in administrative and financial terms would impose on smaller countries.

Senegal joined previous speakers on the importance of regional approaches for mobilizing resources and the role of the IOC as a catalyst for establishing regional programmes, built with Member States and helping to find funds to solve concrete problems of Member States.

Cuba suggested that there is a missing theme in the discussion, which is the scarcity of resources. Indeed, the diminishing funding calls for prioritization of programmes. A number of previous reports analyze these issues. Obviously prioritizing is painful and difficult but having a full bag of activities without prioritization is not solving the problem. Refusing to face the need to prioritize and reduce IOC programmes contributes to the problem. Without adequate support of the IOC within UNESCO, regular resources shrink and prioritization and reduction activities and programmes becomes necessary. If resources do not increase then the programmes and activities of the IOC must be reduced. Cuba shared the views of Senegal about regional

implementation but with the caution that we have to solve the extreme bureaucracy that UNESCO imposes for regional activities.

The United Kingdom agreed with comments from various Member States in considering subsequent general items before deciding on financial mechanisms. Increased support from Member States through UNESCO is something that the United Kingdom has pursued and is showing to be a successful approach. The United Kingdom believes that the IOC is an example to other international science programmes within UNESCO and is using this message to try and improve efficiencies within the UNESCO system. It also believes that there are opportunities for synergies with some other international science programmes especially in relation to climate change and this could be used for increased partnerships and support within UNESCO and with other agencies and other UN Programmes. The United Kingdom contributions to UNESCO are routed through the International Development Department (DFID) whereas our Environment Department primarily supports UNEP. United Kingdom joined the United States of America in stating that Member States should take advantage of the different mechanisms within each country to maximize the money going into marine science programmes. About involving industry, and having in mind the priority many Member States expressed for GOOS in the questionnaire, we need to think about the appropriate mix between long-term structures and measurement networks and short-term financing of observational projects, typically supported by the industry.

Venezuela supported the need for the IOC to remain in UNESCO which is its natural framework. With respect to financial needs, Venezuela is of the view also that delegates should lobby their respective governments and stimulate cooperation programmes which have regional impact. In that sense, reviewing national legislations to streamline marine science institutional frameworks could help.

Canada recalled that the Group has so far discussed the quantity of support but not the stability of support which is as important. Perhaps one simple solution would be to review Member States contributions to the IOC Special Account or Trust Funds and look for mid-term commitments (say up to 5-6 years).

Japan indicated its agreement with most of the concerns previously expressed. For Japan, it is obvious that the IOC is facing financial problems and a shortage of budget. In that connection, Cuba's proposal to reduce programmes is also shared by Japan. For Japan, Climate Change and its relation with oceans is a priority as a global issue that relates directly with the IOC mandate. However in the regions, coastal issues are also important, in connection with climate change. At this point Japan proposes to have systematic review mechanisms for programme implementation that they feel is a currently weak.

The Chairperson summarized saying the idea of a convention had little support at this stage. Private Partnerships are an option supported by several countries. Canada proposed to look for longer-term commitments from Member States contributing to the IOC Special Account and Trust Funds. As well, for this Group, Member States have a major role to play in streamlining internal coordination and through this there is room for improving Member States commitments with the IOC, through UNESCO and through other international programmes and UN agencies.

The Executive Secretary commented on Peru's intervention about regional bodies. The IOC indeed can develop synergies with those bodies. This is in contrast to the regional approach of UNESCO and the IOC. It is necessary to look very carefully into the effectiveness of regional deployment. If priorities must be set, the IOC's regional offices should be carefully and

objectively assessed. Responding to Cuba's comments about the heavy UNESCO bureaucracy for regional implementation, he indicated that for having a field office with administrative capacities there are requirements in terms of staffing that are out of the reach of the IOC. The modality of implementation of the IOC's programmes in regions should be closely looked at. We should rely more on existing UNESCO regional structures, with administrative support, rather than developing our own field network.

#### 4.5 IMPROVING INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBER STATES

The Chairperson introduced this item by referring to the main aspects to be discussed under this agenda item. The question is: what steps need to be undertaken to increase Member States involvement in the IOC and with what timeline? Member States were requested to inform the plenary on their own level of involvement at a national level with the IOC, how the internal coordination is effected and what commitments could Member States take to improve involvement.

Canada introduced at this stage the comments provided by Member States in the sessional drafting group that was tasked to develop a specific action document with short-term actions, building on the ideas suggested at this meeting. The sessional group considered the responsibilities of Member States in relation to many of the issues facing the Commission, in particular, the problems related to the designation of national contact points and the support available to the many IOC programmes. These actions, including the possibility of renewing with Member States, their obligations and responsibilities as given in the revised Statutes, were discussed in detail and agreed upon as conclusions of the Working Group first meeting, under item 5.0 below.

Tunisia stressed that the IOC is not as well known in Tunisia as UNEP or FAO. The delegate of Tunisia believes that this is due to the relatively small size of the marine research community working on oceanography and marine sciences in Tunisia. This in turn translates into few and weak links with policy-making and management bodies. In his view, and following France's comments about renewed commitments, Member States must assume their responsibilities and increase their commitment and at the same time IOC needs to improve its communication mechanisms towards Member States decision-makers.

China has no problem with its internal coordination on IOC matters. An interministerial coordination with all ocean related ministries is in place and official nomination of delegates is routine. If improvements are needed it is when IOC communicates with the many academic institutions in China, it is important to coordinate and notify the IOC national coordinating body to ensure proper internal arrangements and coordination.

Venezuela has a national oceanographic commission established in 1985 but new committees and bodies have been established for coastal matters, for example the Instituto Nacional para Areas Costeras. Therefore, Venezuela is now discussing a new instrument (Decree) to coordinate across these bodies. As suggested by the sessional drafting group, Venezuela supports improving communications and appealing to Member States to get more committed. Venezuela also suggested better use of media and maintaining support to subsidiary regional bodies.

Australia commented that while it is true that the recognition of IOC was low within Australia; however this has recently been enhanced as a consequence of arrangements subsequent to the 26 December 2004 tsunami, and work associated with GOOS and IODE. IOC

is not on the critical path for delivering Government policy except in a few specific areas. One conclusion Australia draws is that enhanced visibility within the Informal Consultative Process (ICP) for UNCLOS, and in partnerships with UNEP brings attention from parts of Government. With respect to National Commissions/focal points there seems to be a change as we shift from a predominant focus on science, to an organization associated with services and systems, including information systems and capacity building. It is slow, but re-alignment is taking place. Low level of coordination is not the only and definite factor that hampers our effectiveness working with the Commission, or in attracting investment in oceanography. There are many other factors that are higher on that list. Australia noted that similar conclusions with WMO might have been drawn – there is no significant visibility of WMO in EMA, bushfire agencies, and other major clients of Meteorological services. The Bureau of Meteorology is visible, as an agent of WMO, but not WMO itself. However, the level of visibility fits the purpose. Australia is looking with interest at the proposal described by Canada, as it emerged from the sessional drafting group. It fits very well with reforms of the Budget and Programme. It would grab the attention of Policy levels in Government, in a positive and constructive way. It would reinforce the idea that when programmes are undertaken the responsibility and accountability lies most of the Member States, not with the Secretariat. It should be possible to reflect the sustainability and insurability as it exists with our Governments in the work of the Commission. It would even be more effective if in parallel with renewing vows with the Commission to find ways of renewing vows with partners as UNEP, WMO and others, that would enhance co-investments in IOC activities.

Japan reported that it has a long history of national coordination and commitment with the IOC. The delegate of Japan recalled that, based on the recommendation of FURES in 1992, Japan made every effort to vitalize its national coordination mechanisms for the IOC. Furthermore, taking the opportunity of the forthcoming 50th anniversary, and in order to further revitalize its national coordination mechanisms for the IOC, Japan has just reformulated an advisory mechanism for the National Committee for the IOC to cope with the need of having highly scientific expert level inputs, and intersectorial coordination from a broader range of experts. Japan suggested making IOC's programmes more active through regional integrated projects, promoting coastal area management programmes to give more visibility at the national level (i.e. protection from coastal hazards, prevention of pollution effects on the coastal environment). In order to activate regional programmes, global and regional programmes should be much more consistent than they are now. Closer cooperation with other bodies inside and outside UNESCO is required for coastal programmes.

The Russian Federation underlined the fact that it has also revitalized its national coordination mechanism for IOC, with a National Commission headed by the Ministry of Science and Technology. The Russian Federation agreed with reinvigorating Member States' commitment and sending a letter as suggested by the sessional drafting committee. Some improvement is required in the way the IOC communicates, for example under Resolution XXIV-2 (IOC Biennial Strategy 2008–2009) here are no clear instructions to Member States on how to achieve the expected results.

The United Kingdom reported that the IOC is not well known even in the marine community while, some IOC programmes like GOOS are better known. However, the United Kingdom has an interagency coordination body that does not make policy but does inform policy bodies. Also, the Secretary of this interagency coordination body participates at the UNESCO National Commission. Last year a parliamentary consultation took place concerning coordination of intergovernmental bodies. The IOC was mentioned in that document, which recommended pursuing commitments for the implementation of GOOS, sustained funding for the United Kingdom participation in ARGOS and renewed commitments for international organizations

dealing with oceans, including the IOC. Therefore there are good reasons to believe that the profile of the IOC and its subsidiary programmes is increasing in the United Kingdom and there are mechanisms to improve that further.

Norway reported that there is low awareness of the IOC in Norway, both for individual scientists and relevant authorities. Scientists and relevant institutions do contribute to and recognize several of the IOC's activities which are much better known than the IOC itself. In the past two years, the visibility of the IOC in Norway has increased in the National Commission for UNESCO and stepped up the intensity of cross-ministerial consultation in developing positions *vis-à-vis* the IOC's work. In order to enhance awareness of the IOC there is a need to move beyond traditional UNESCO circles and identify key stakeholders at a governmental level. However, this requires a clearer profile of the IOC's programme of work. In the case of Norway, to improve its involvement in the future, a national committee for the IOC is not essential. Rather, the main issue is to find one lead agency and home in Norway for using the IOC to achieve relevant policy aims.

Germany stated that the visibility of the IOC in Germany is very poor. This is also true for oceanographic issues. Issues that are visible and raising awareness for the time being are climate change, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), Biodiversity and the deep sea. No-one relates these issues to the IOC and that make it very clear that the IOC has to improve its partnership with the organizations working on these issues and to provide oceanographic inputs from the IOC. With respect to improved collaboration, Germany suggested focusing on specific issues. Argo is an example where Germany has an integrated programme that is part of the national operational oceanography permanent tasks. Germany has an IOC National Section that comprises relevant ministerial and academic institutions but Germany expects the IOC to improve in terms of contributing to the solution of problems and to demonstrate that participation in the IOC really means added value.

The United States of America informed the Working Group that while the USA has established national coordination mechanisms for the IOC, it is only for the last year and a half that the USA established an Ocean Committee as a subsidiary body to the US Commission for UNESCO, which is beginning to prove very useful. The recent IOC effort to plan its programme with explicit outcomes and results clearly linked to budget allocations is particularly beneficial to national policy and programme dialogue. To improve further transparency, and in order to enhance delivery of a positive message back home from governing bodies' meetings, the IOC needs to clearly identify how it contributes to the solution of the world's societal issues linked with oceans. There is a perception in the United States that the IOC does not really contribute to United States' own needs. If the IOC succeeds in delivering a clear message that with its work contributes to national needs, with an orientation to services, it would raise IOC's profile in national capitals.

Colombia described its national arrangements that led from the former Colombian Commission for Oceanography (1969) to the current Colombian Commission for the Oceans (CCO, 2000), under the Republic Vice-presidency. The IOC has a clear national coordination body in Colombia that is fully recognized by the governmental agencies. This is important for the IOC's awareness in the public perception, as the CCO plays an active role in disseminating information and increasing public awareness about the oceans and the IOC. Colombia recommended looking for IOC's support in order to have more presence of IOC experts in national fora so as to disseminate better the importance of the oceans and of the IOC for societal needs, and promote citizens' ownership of their oceans.

Portugal recalled that from the Lisbon Expo in 1998 devoted to the oceans, Portugal has been very active in establishing internal mechanisms and coordination for ocean matters. In December 2006, the Council of Ministers approved the National Ocean Strategy (ENM) which was followed by the establishment of the Inter-ministerial Commission for Maritime Affairs (CIAM) in March 2007. The Commission is coordinated by the Task Group for Maritime Affairs (EMAM) and responsible for the implementation of the Strategy. The Portuguese Committee for the IOC is the mechanism that prepares and follows up IOC programmes and activities in relation with the IOC, with high level representation from major governmental and non-governmental bodies and recognized institutions dealing with the oceans. As an example of this internal coordination, Portugal referred to the newly created national committee for tsunamis that hosted the ICG/NEAMTWS-IV session. With respect to ways of increasing Member States' involvement, Portugal is of the view that services such as GOOS and Data Management are not the only programmes that could benefit from greater Member State commitment but science programmes should also be promoted among these. In order to improve communications, Portugal will formally request at the next Executive Council that the IOC Manual is updated, among other things to improve communication mechanisms. High level officers' visits to Member States are also helpful in raising IOC visibility at the national level, including for public awareness. He also thought a proposed ministerial conference in connection with the 50th anniversary would be a good opportunity to raise awareness. Portugal expressed its strong support to regional mechanisms as defined in Resolution XXIV-11

Argentina indicated there is a coordination problem at the level of UNESCO science programmes and between the UNESCO National Commissions and National Focal Points for the different science programmes at the national level. Argentina commented on the renewed commitment proposed by the sessional drafting group, that is an interesting proposal that deserves attention but it is questionable as to whether this would be linked to a modification of the Statutes.

India informed the Group that the IOC is well known at governmental levels in India, particularly in respect to the tsunami activities of the IOC. This is also applicable for programmes like Argo. In the future the interaction will surely increase. The challenge for the IOC is then to define programmes that rely and connect with national programmes and activities. This is not an easy task because each nation has its own priorities and requirements but this is probably a worthwhile effort.

#### 4.6 RELATIONSHIP WITH UNESCO AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM

#### 4.7 FOSTERING COOPERATING WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS

These two item agendas were treated as a single unit.

The Executive Secretary introduced these items referring to the Oceans and Coastal Areas Network (subsequently renamed UN-Oceans) established in 2003 by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB/2003/7) to establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system. He referred then to the frequent coordination at high levels, within the Consultative Informal Process and, before the 2003 establishment of UN-Oceans, within the Sub-Committee on Oceans and Coastal Areas (SOCA). He commented that, nonetheless, and contrasting with these coordination mechanisms, only limited resources are available for effective coordination within UN and the coordination is taking place only for policy matters, not for implementation,



with the exception of very specific projects. He called delegates to provide precise examples where the few resources available for cooperation can be better used.

Canada suggested linking this item with the previous one that discussed national involvement as positive steps could be advanced to promote IOC within and outside UNESCO with further Member State involvement. Canada suggested that the next Ministerial Round Table at the 35th General Conference be devoted to the IOC and the Oceans. Member States and the Executive Secretary should work together to make this to happen. This is shared decision of the Executive Board and of the Director-General. With respect to what steps need to be undertaken for the IOC to succeed under UNESCO, it is necessary to ensure that national internal mechanisms are established to coordinate Member State positions in different UN bodies. In that respect Canada suggested using document 34 C/INF.13 (An Overview of Scientific Programmes and Initiatives in the United Nations System) as a guide when referring to coordination within the UN. Also, with UNESCO becoming active on the One-UN process perhaps Member States should promote the integration of marine science issues under the national cooperation frameworks.

Australia supported Canada's proposal and comments. GRAME<sup>5</sup> is a project that should be given priority as a signal that priority is assigned to relationships with UNEP on marine issues. Coastal projects as well should be given priority along the same lines, and that should happen as from the next Executive Council.

Portugal shared and appreciated Canada's proposition of a Round Ministerial Table devoted to the IOC and the Oceans. Portugal also supported Australia's suggestion of strengthening cooperation with UNEP in the framework of GRAME. Other ideas to explore are revisiting the ICSPRO Agreement, as mentioned earlier at this meeting, defining specific projects and mobilizing external funds to that end, exploring intergovernmental coordination for deep-sea research possibilities where IOC could play a role, and revisiting resolution XXIV-11 on regional bodies where there is a clear request for enhancing cooperation with regional bodies.

Cuba suggested that Member States coordinate their positions at the IOC, the Executive Board and the General Conference to move forward from Canada's excellent proposal. It is imperative to speak with a single voice in these different *fora*. As previously expressed for the IOC, at the global level the resources are not moving at the same pace as the establishment of new programmes and priorities (i.e. GRAME and many others). It must be ensured that the IOC national coordinating bodies reach delegates to UN and UNESCO governing bodies with a message of support to IOC.

Norway thinks it is important to have continued evaluation and efficient distribution of work at the UN. Norway finds document 34 C/INF.13 (An Overview of Scientific Programmes and Initiatives in the United Nations System) useful to show how coordination takes place in science within the UN and UNESCO. Having the IOC in UNESCO suggests that capacity building and links to culture; education and information technologies should be emphasized. Beyond UNESCO, WMO, which is named many times at this meeting, cooperates with the IOC on GOOS. The IOC could, for example, build more on UNESCO five's functions associated with GOOS, while operations are more linked to WMO machinery.

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<sup>5</sup> Regular Process for the Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio- Economic Aspects

Brazil commented that the IOC could benefit a lot from the participation within UNESCO. Canada mentioned a very good one as the proposed Ministerial Round Table, Norway also mentioned synergies with other programmes. Brazil would like to hear more on the problems, and then quoted the Executive Board report of 1999 on administrative and financial measures related to the functional autonomy and suggested that the next Executive Council may receive an updated report on these matters. On coordination issues Brazil thinks that the Group should not be distracted from the main task of fulfilling its mandate as cooperation is a tool not a means in itself.

Argentina reminded the Group that the IOC has a very singular status within UNESCO but there are some unclear parts of this status. Argentina referred particularly to the budget percentage which is not defined in the existing mechanisms. Argentina also supported Canada's proposal of having a Ministerial Round Table. Perhaps it is necessary to also speak with a single voice at the General Conference and Executive Board in order to improve the financial support the IOC receives from UNESCO.

Japan commented that close cooperation with partner agencies, particularly with ICSPRO agencies, is essential towards strengthening the IOC's contributions to UN programmes. With respect to UNCLOS, one of the outstanding contributions is the *Continental Shelf Limits–The scientific and legal interface*<sup>6</sup>, a publication jointly produced with IHO, is a good example of contributions IOC could further develop to reinforce IOC's pertinence.

Madagascar expressed that to improve involvement of Member States in the IOC visibility of the IOC must be increased at the national level. For the case of Madagascar this can be done by creating a regional institute of Category II under UNESCO in the field of Oceanography. Madagascar would like to propose that its National Institute for Oceanography Research becomes a UNESCO Category II Institute and will appreciate if the IOC supports this proposal. For Madagascar, to succeed within UNESCO, the IOC needs to improve its position, giving IOC more room and more freedom to expand within UNESCO.

Croatia commented on the Executive Secretary's intervention on total absence of coordination of UN agencies dealing with oceans, which in Croatia's views is unacceptable and should be stopped. With respect to coordination with UN, Croatia believes there is room for increasing cooperation with IMO.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Geoff Holland (Canada) presented the action items produced by the sessional drafting Group. As well, the Chairperson and the Rapporteur presented a summary of the main consensual agreements reached at the meeting. The suggested actions arising from the discussions at the first meeting of the Working Group on the Future of IOC were discussed in detail and in plenary. The text below represents the agreement of the Working Group.

**On the current mandate:** The Working Group confirmed that the current IOC mandate is appropriate and that the existing IOC mandate and Medium-Term Strategy provides a positive starting point for assessing long-term trends that may affect the IOC. The Group further re-affirmed that the Statutes, as amended in 1999, provide a comprehensive IOC statement of

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<sup>6</sup> P.J Cook and C. M. Carleton Editors. Oxford University Press 2000. ISBN 0-19-511782-4, 363 pp, English.

purpose and is a flexible institutional mechanism enabling the IOC to adapt to emerging trends in oceanography and respond to Member State priorities in a timely manner.

**On institutional arrangements:** The Working Group agreed that the future of IOC should be based on the premise that the IOC will remain, and should be reinforced, within UNESCO. The IOC should look for an enhanced role within UNESCO in terms of intersectoral cooperation, based on its strong technical expertise on ocean sciences, ocean services and capacity development. Options for a more independent IOC outside of UNESCO did not receive consensus within the Group.

**On financial and programme matters:** The Working Group agreed that IOC should seek a clear identification of IOC's budget in the corresponding appropriation resolution of the UNESCO General Conference and in full recognition of the governance expressed by the IOC Assembly, explore the possibility of obtaining from the general Conference the IOC budget as a “financial allocation”.

The Working Group agreed the Commission should explore innovative ways of making full use of Article 10 of the IOC Statutes and to look for every available mechanism for leveraging additional financial resources. The Group also agreed that there is a need for further Secretariat review on how the IOC Special Account is functioning and how it could be improved.

The Working Group also felt that the present programme priorities, as agreed by the Assembly and supported by the UNESCO General Conference, were not an issue for further discussion by the Working Group.

**On relations with other intergovernmental and international organizations:** The Working Group agreed the Commission should reinforce cooperation with other UN Agencies and to also look for partnerships with appropriate private sector organizations, in accordance with UNESCO Guidelines.

The Working Group requested that, when consulting with competent UN bodies and other competent international organizations and bodies dealing with ocean issues, on matters of policy that will involve the approval of the respective governing bodies, the Officers of the Commission and the Executive Secretary should inform the IOC focal points and Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, in order that Member States can play an active and appropriate role in such consultations.

**On improving the involvement of Member States:** The Working Group agreed that IOC needs enhanced political will and commitment from Member States to strengthen the implementation of IOC programmes. Member States should examine and re-affirm their agreed obligations to the IOC as stated in IOC Statutes.

The Group recommended Member States further their commitment to IOC through interventions and support at appropriate organizations of the UN system and through the UNESCO strategic planning and budgetary process.

**On regional programmes:** The working Group agreed the Commission should look for improved delivery of programme and benefits in IOC regions using existing regional and technical bodies and programmes.

In addition to these findings the Working Group produced a list of short-term actions to be considered by the Executive Council:

- Explore the form that specific agreements between Member States and IOC could take, to strengthen the implementation of, and to increase the national benefits from IOC programmes, with particular emphasis on priority setting.
- Reinvigorate ocean partnerships within the UN system to increase efficiency and improve programme delivery and to identify IOC's niche and leadership role. In this regard it was suggested IOC could revisit the ICSPRO Agreement (1969) as a possible model or vehicle for action.
- Urge Member States to support a Ministerial Round Table on "Oceans and the IOC" at the next UNESCO General Conference.
- Consider the merits of a ministerial-level meeting or a UN Conference in the medium term, perhaps as soon as 2010, as a mechanism to enhance visibility and political commitment to IOC among Member States.
- Consider the value of a new partnership or other arrangement within UNESCO that could relieve many of the administrative difficulties presently being experienced by the Commission, possibly using existing practices available to UNESCO and also consider whether such interim arrangements could be submitted to the UNESCO General Conference in a resolution. According to the resolution that gave rise to the Group, these options, including any raised by the Executive Council based on issues that were not object of a consensus in the group, such as a Protocol, Convention or similar legal framework associated to the implementation of Article 10 of the Statutes, would need to be consulted with the UNESCO Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs and discussed by the appropriate National authorities during the next intersessional period.

## **6. CLOSING SESSION**

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 20February 2008 by thanking the interpreters and the Secretariat. India indicated to put in the records their appreciation to the Chairperson and Rapporteur, as well as Executive Secretary and its team.

## **ANNEX I**

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. OPENING SESSION**

Welcome by the Chairman of IOC

Welcome by the Executive Secretary of the IOC

#### **1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

2.1 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

#### **2. REPORT ON PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES**

3.1 PREPARATION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

3.2 PROPOSED METHODOLOGIES AND WORKPLAN

3.3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

#### **3. RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OVER THE COMING DECADE (2008-2017)**

4.1 FUTURE OCEANOGRAPHY AND THE ROLE OF IOC

4.2 IOC MANDATE AND FUTURE NEEDS

4.3 STRUCTURAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

4.4 FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS, OTHER RESOURCES AND MEASURES  
TO ENSURE AN EFFECTIVE AND STEADY PROGRAMME

4.5 IMPROVING INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBER STATES

4.6 RELATIONSHIP WITH UNESCO AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE UN  
SYSTEM

4.7 FOSTERING COOPERATING WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE  
ORGANIZATIONS

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5. CLOSING SESSION**

## ANNEX II

### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Code	Titre
	Questionnaire – The Future of IOC: Final Analysis Report Presentation Opening remarks
IOC/CL-2254	First Meeting of “Working Group on the Future of IOC”: Basic Documentation
IOC/CL-2255	First meeting of the “Working Group on the future of IOC”: Final Results of the Questionnaire
IOC-XXII/2 Annex 8	Financing and Ownership of IOC’s programmes: we have a problem
IOC-XXIV/2 Annex 2	The Future of IOC: a proposal by the Officers to the Member States, June 2007
IOC-XXIV/3	Twenty-fourth Session of the Assembly
IOC/DOSS-III/3	Ad-hoc Study Group on IOC Development, Operations, Structure and Functions; Bergen, Norway (1992)
IOC-FURES/II/3s	Second Meeting of the Ad-hoc Study Group on Measures to Ensure Adequate and Dependable Resources for the Commission’s Programme of Work
IOC-FURES/III/3	Third session of the Ad-hoc Study group on measures to Ensure adequate and dependable Resources for the Commission’s Programme of Work
Extract from IOC/INF-785	ICSPRO Agreement
34 C/INF.13	An overview of scientific programmes and initiatives in the United Nations System
	UNESCO-Private sector partnerships: making a difference
	DRAFT List of Participants

ANNEX III

**IOC FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND DOCUMENTS RELATED TO IOC'S  
FUNCTIONAL AUTONOMY AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY**

**U N E S C O**

Memo LA/GEN/2005/006  
13 January 2005

To: ADG/IOC

From: Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs (LA)

SUBJECT: DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO ADG/IOC TO SIGN FUNDS-IN-TRUST AGREEMENTS AND ESTABLISH RELATED ACCOUNTS.

1. With reference to your memo IOC/548/PB/BA and our related discussions thereon, I wish to provide the following comments.
2. You will recall that LA on previous occasions has explained to IOC that the IOC "functional autonomy" covers programme matters only. The questions of administrative authority are covered by the principle of "delegation of authority" by the Director-General. These two concepts have apparently been used interchangeably in the past by mistake, which has caused some confusion.
3. Consequently, to respond to your query it is necessary to examine the extent to which the Director-General has delegated signature authority and authority concerning accounts.
4. Article 6.2 of the Financial Regulations applicable to the IOC, drawn up by the Director-General, provide that "Trust Funds, Subsidiary Special Accounts and any other Reserve Accounts may be established by the Secretary, who shall report to the IOC Assembly and the IOC Executive Council."
5. It can therefore be logically assumed that since the ADG/IOC has authority to establish trust funds, he also has the authority to sign funds-in-trust agreements that are necessary for the establishment of the trust funds.
6. However, since the Director-General has not exempted IOC from Unesco's financial regulations and other related rules it must be assumed that IOC must still obtain the usual necessary visas before entering into such agreements, and it is DCO that will open and ensure the financial administration and controls over the related accounts.
7. LA remains at your disposal for any further legal advice that may be required.

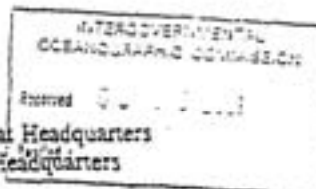
Abdulqawi A. Yusuf  
Director

UNESCO

DDG/95/Memo 66  
1 March 1995

Deputy Director-General a.i.

To : Assistant Directors-General  
Directors of Bureaux, Offices and Divisions at Headquarters  
Directors of Established Offices away from Headquarters



Subject: Experimental functional autonomy of IOC and WHC

Under the authority of the Director-General, SEC/IOC and DIR/WHC are hereby authorized, during 1995, to exercise functional autonomy within the limits of the total financial and staff resources placed at their disposal.<sup>1</sup> This delegation of authority, to come into effect as from the date of this memo, covers the following:

1. Approval of workplans and workplan amendments;
2. Use of staff cost savings to recruit consultants, supernumeraries and fee contractors;
3. As concerns the IOC, budgetary control of the IOC Trust Fund;
4. Approval and signature of Travel Orders including:
  - a) exemption of the requirement of introducing planned travel into the computerized travel schedule, and
  - b) the possibility of reimbursing travellers for authorized travel upon receipt of proper invoices and ticket stubs;
5. With respect to consultancies and supernumerary contracts, the authority to determine the duration of contracts and, for the former, DSA rates;
6. Administration of established posts;

.../...

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<sup>1</sup> SC/MRI is not concerned by the present memo.



- 2 -

7. Appointment of staff in the GS category after consulting a JPAB and DIR/PER, and of grades P/1 to P/3 in the Professional category after consulting an SPAB, DIR/PER and ADG/MA; grades P/4 and P/5 will be appointed by the DDG upon the recommendation of IOC and WHC as well as of DIR/PER and ADG/MA after consulting an SPAB;
8. Signature of staff performance reports, within-grade increment forms, and personnel action forms (subject to normal clearance by PER and BB);
9. Authority to sign invitations to meetings and to States Parties, and agreements of co-operation with institutions and international organizations;
10. Assignment of functions devolving upon the Director-General by virtue of the Rules of Procedure of the intergovernmental committees (convening of sessions, preparation of the provisional agenda, implementation of the decisions taken, etc.), and representation of the Director-General at meetings of these bodies in his absence; and
11. Relations with the public and the media.

During this interim year, the AO/SC and AO/WHC will continue to act as the certifying officers of the IOC and WHC respectively, it being understood that all UNESCO regulations, rules and administrative practices not specifically modified by this memorandum will continue to apply to these bodies.

It goes without saying that "functional autonomy" should not be interpreted to mean any dilution of accountability to the Director-General nor weakening of the prudent and cost-effective rules and procedures of the Organization: on the contrary, such autonomy implies that SEC/IOC and DIR/WHC will be held even more strictly accountable to the Director-General for the efficient and successful management of their programmes.

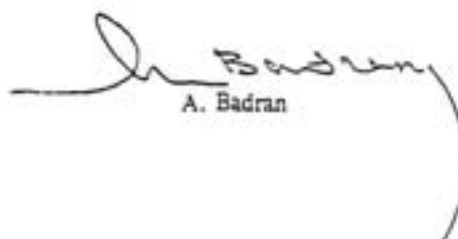
Finally, the present delegation of authority should not in any way appear to distance IOC and WHC from UNESCO:

1. The name and emblem of UNESCO must appear on all stationery and in connection with the individual logo of IOC and WHC;
2. During any international, regional or national meeting in which the autonomous body is represented, the name of UNESCO should be shown not only on the documentation but also on the podium name plaques (UNESCO-IOC/UNESCO-WHC);
3. During any mission undertaken by the staff of the two autonomous identities, it should be clear that they are acting on behalf of UNESCO/IOC or UNESCO/WHC.

- 3 -

Once the General Conference has formally approved the functional autonomy of IOC and WHC, a definitive set of rules and regulations will be issued.

I would ask the ADG/MA to take up this question in good time so as to ensure that these new arrangements take effect as soon as possible.



A. Badran

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Abstract from document 157 EX/Decisions from November 1999  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001182/118211e.pdf>

## **Annex II**

### **Financial Regulations applicable to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)**

#### **Article 1 - Creation of a Special Account of UNESCO**

- 1.1 In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, there is hereby created a Special Account for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, hereinafter referred to as IOC.
- 1.2 The following Regulations shall govern the operation of this Special Account.

## **Article 2 - Financial period**

The financial period shall correspond to that of UNESCO.

## **Article 3 - Income**

3.1 As provided in its Statutes, the income of IOC shall consist of:

- (a) funds appropriated for this purpose by the General Conference of UNESCO;
- (b) voluntary contributions from States, international agencies and organizations, as well as other entities allocated to it for purposes consistent with the policies, programmes and activities of UNESCO and IOC;
- (c) such subventions, endowments, gifts and bequests as are allocated to it for purposes consistent with the policies, programmes and activities of UNESCO and IOC;
- (d) fees collected in respect of the execution of projects entrusted to IOC, from the sale of publications, or from other particular activities; and
- (e) miscellaneous income.

3.2 The Executive Secretary of IOC, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary, may accept income as set forth in Article 3.1 on behalf of IOC, provided that, in any case which would involve IOC in an additional financial liability, the Secretary shall obtain the prior approval of the IOC Executive Council and the consent of the Executive Board of UNESCO.

3.3 The Secretary shall report to the IOC Assembly and the IOC Executive Council on any subventions, contributions, grants, gifts or bequests accepted.

## **Article 4 - Budget**

4.1 The Secretary shall prepare, in a form to be determined by the IOC Assembly, a biennial programme and budget and shall submit it to the IOC Assembly for approval.

4.2 The appropriations voted in the budget shall constitute an authorization to the Secretary to incur obligations and to make expenditures for the purposes for which the appropriations are voted and up to the amounts so voted.

4.3 The Secretary is authorized to transfer funds between activities under the same appropriation line. The Secretary may be authorized by the IOC Assembly to transfer funds, when necessary, between appropriation lines within the limits established by the Appropriation Resolution voted by the IOC Assembly and shall report to the IOC Executive Council on all such transfers.

4.4 The Secretary is required to maintain obligations and expenditures within the level of the actual resources that become available to the General Account mentioned in Article 5.1 below.

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- 4.5 Appropriations shall remain available for obligation during the financial period to which they relate.
- 4.6 The Secretary shall make allotments and any modifications thereon, within the limits of the Appropriation Resolution, which shall be communicated, in writing, to the officials authorized to incur obligations and make payments.
- 4.7 Appropriations shall remain available for 12 months following the end of the financial period to which they relate to the extent that they are required to discharge obligations for goods supplied and services rendered in the financial period and to liquidate any other outstanding legal obligations of the financial period.
- 4.8 At the end of the 12-month period provided for in Article 4.7 above, the then remaining unspent balance of obligations retained shall revert to the General Account mentioned in Article 5.1 below.

#### **Article 5 - The General Account**

- 5.1 There shall be established a General Account, to which shall be credited the income of IOC as described in Article 3 above and which shall be used to finance the approved budget of IOC.
- 5.2 The balance remaining in this General Account shall be carried forward from one financial period to the next.
- 5.3 The uses to which this balance may be put shall be determined by the IOC Assembly.

#### **Article 6 - Trust Funds, Reserve and Subsidiary Special Accounts**

- 6.1 In addition to a Working Capital Fund, the Secretary shall establish a Reserve Fund to cover end-of-service indemnities and other related liabilities; the Fund shall be reported to the IOC Assembly at the time of the budget approval.
- 6.2 Trust Funds, Subsidiary Special Accounts and any other Reserve Accounts may be established by the Secretary, who shall report to the IOC Assembly and the IOC Executive Council.
- 6.3 The Secretary may, when necessary, in connection with the purpose of a Trust Fund, Reserve or Subsidiary Special Account, prepare special financial regulations to govern the operations of these funds or accounts and shall report thereon to the IOC Assembly and the IOC Executive Council. Unless otherwise provided these funds and accounts shall be administered in accordance with these Financial Regulations.

#### **Article 7 - Accounts**

- 7.1 The UNESCO Comptroller shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary and shall prepare, for submission to the IOC Assembly and the IOC Executive Council, the biennial accounts showing, for the financial period to which they relate:

- (a) the income and expenditure of all funds;
  - (b) the budgetary situation including:
    - (i) original appropriations;
    - (ii) the appropriations as modified by any transfers;
    - (iii) the amounts charged against these appropriations;
  - (c) the assets and liabilities of IOC.
- 7.2 The Secretary shall also give such other information as may be appropriate to indicate the current financial position of IOC.
- 7.3 The biennial accounts of IOC shall be presented in dollars of the United States of America. Accounting records, may, however, be kept in such currency or currencies as the Secretary may deem necessary.
- 7.4 Appropriate separate accounts shall be maintained for all Trust Funds, Reserve and Subsidiary Special Accounts.

**Article 8 - External audit**

The audited accounts of IOC, which constitute an integral part of the statement of the financial position of UNESCO, and the report of the External Auditor of UNESCO on IOC, shall be submitted to the IOC Assembly for approval.

**Article 9 - General provision**

Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations this Special Account shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.

ANNEX IV

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**1. CO CHAIR OF THE WG**

**CANADA**

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## ANNEX V

### LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>ALDs</b>	Limited Duration Assignments
<b>Argo</b>	Array for Real-time Geostrophic Oceanography (not an acronym)
<b>CCO</b>	Colombian Commission for Oceans
<b>CCS</b>	Carbon Capture & Storage
<b>CIAM</b>	Inter-ministerial Commission for Maritime Affairs
<b>CPPS</b>	Commission for the South East Pacific
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development
<b>DOSS</b>	Ad hoc Study Group on IOC Development, Operations, Structure and Statutes
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FURES</b>	Ad hoc Study Group on Measures to Ensure Adequate and Dependable Resources for the Commission's Programme of Work
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GOOS</b>	Global Ocean Observing System
<b>GRAMÉ</b>	Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment
<b>ICG/NEAMTWS</b>	IOC Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected Seas
<b>ICM</b>	Institute of Marine Sciences
<b>ICSPRO</b>	Inter-secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography
<b>IMO</b>	International Maritime Organization
<b>IOCARIBE</b>	IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
<b>IODE</b>	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
<b>JCOMM</b>	Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology
<b>LME</b>	Large Marine Ecosystem
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>UNCED</b>	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
<b>UNCLOS</b>	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>SOCA</b>	Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas
<b>WHC</b>	UNESCO World Heritage Centre
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization
<b>WSSD</b>	World Summit for Social Development

In this Series, entitled

**Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies**, which was initiated in 1984 and which is published in English only, unless otherwise specified, the reports of the following meetings have already been issued:

1. Third Meeting of the Central Editorial Board for the Geological/Geophysical Atlases of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
2. Fourth Meeting of the Central Editorial Board for the Geological/Geophysical Atlases of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans S. Fourth Session of the Joint IOC-WMO-CPPS Working Group on the Investigations of 'El Niño' (**Also printed in Spanish**)
4. First Session of the IOC-FAO Guiding Group of Experts on the Programme of Ocean Science in Relation to Living Resources
5. First Session of the IOC-UN(OETB) Guiding Group of Experts on the Programme of Ocean Science in Relation to Non-Living Resources
6. First Session of the Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean and Overlay Sheets
7. First Session of the Joint CCOP(SOPAC)-IOC Working Group on South Pacific Tectonics and Resources
8. First Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management
9. Tenth Session of the Joint CCOP-IOC Working Group on Post-IDOE Studies in East Asian Tectonics and Resources
10. Sixth Session of the IOC-UNEP Group of Experts on Methods, Standards and Intercalibration
11. First Session of the IOC Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping (**Also printed in French and Spanish**)
12. Joint 100-WMO Meeting for Implementation of IGOSS XBT Ships-of-Opportunity Programmes
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14. Third Session of the Group of Experts on Format Development
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17. Seventh Session of the IOC-UNEP Group of Experts on Methods, Standards and Intercalibration
18. Second Session of the IOC Group of Experts on Effects of Pollutants
19. Primera Reunión del Comité Editorial de la COI para la Carta Batimétrica Internacional del Mar Caribe y Parte del Océano Pacífico frente a Centroamérica (**Spanish only**)
20. Third Session of the Joint CCOP/SOPAC-IOC Working Group on South Pacific Tectonics and Resources
21. Twelfth Session of the Joint CCOP-IOC Working Group on Post-IDOE Studies of South-East Asian Tectonics and Resources
22. Second Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management
23. First Session of the IOC Group of Experts on Marine Geology and Geophysics in the Western Pacific
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25. Third Session of the IOC Group of Experts on Effects of Pollutants
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29. First Session of the IOC-IAEA-UNEP Group of Experts on Standards and Reference Materials
30. First Session of the IOCARIBE Group of Experts on Recruitment in Tropical Coastal Demersal Communities (**Also printed in Spanish**)
31. Second IOC-WMO Meeting for Implementation of IGOSS XBT Ship-of-Opportunity Programmes
32. Thirteenth Session of the Joint CCOP-IOC Working Group on Post-IDOE Studies of East Asia Tectonics and Resources
33. Second Session of the IOC Task Team on the Global Sea-Level Observing System
34. Third Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean and Overlay Sheets
35. Fourth Session of the IOC-UNEP-IMO Group of Experts on Effects of Pollutants
36. First Consultative Meeting on RNODCs and Climate Data Services
37. Second Joint IOC-WMO Meeting of Experts on IGOSS-IODE Data Flow
38. Fourth Session of the Joint CCOP/SOPAC-IOC Working Group on South Pacific Tectonics and Resources
39. Fourth Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Technical Aspects of Data Exchange
40. Fourteenth Session of the Joint CCOP-IOC Working Group on Post-IDOE Studies of East Asian Tectonics and Resources
41. Third Session of the IOC Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping
42. Sixth Session of the Joint IOC-WMO-CCPS Working Group on the Investigations of 'El Niño' (**Also printed in Spanish**)
43. First Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Indian Ocean
44. Third Session of the IOC-UN(OALOS) Guiding Group of Experts on the Programme of Ocean Science in Relation to Non-Living Resources
45. Ninth Session of the IOC-UNEP Group of Experts on Methods, Standards and Intercalibration
46. Second Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico
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49. Fifteenth Session of the Joint CCOP-IOC Working Group on Post-IDOE Studies of East Asian Tectonics and Resources
50. Third Joint IOC-WMO Meeting for Implementation of IGOSS XBT Ship-of-Opportunity Programmes
51. First Session of the IOC Group of Experts on the Global Sea-Level Observing System
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53. First Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Chart of the Central Eastern Atlantic (**Also printed in French**)
54. Third Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico (**Also printed in Spanish**)
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56. Second Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Indian Ocean
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58. Fourth Session of the IOC Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping
59. Second Session of the IOC-WMO/IGOSS Group of Experts on Operations and Technical Applications

60. Second Session of the IOC Group of Experts on the Global Sea-Level Observing System
61. UNEP-IOC-WMO Meeting of Experts on Long-Term Global Monitoring System of Coastal and Near-Shore Phenomena Related to Climate Change
62. Third Session of the IOC-FAO Group of Experts on the Programme of Ocean Science in Relation to Living Resources
63. Second Session of the IOC-IAEA-UNEP Group of Experts on Standards and Reference Materials
64. Joint Meeting of the Group of Experts on Pollutants and the Group of Experts on Methods, Standards and Inter-calibration
65. First Meeting of the Working Group on Oceanographic Co-operation in the ROPME Sea Area
66. Fifth Session of the Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric and its Geological/Geophysical Series
67. Thirteenth Session of the IOC-IHO Joint Guiding Committee for the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans **(Also printed in French)**
68. International Meeting of Scientific and Technical Experts on Climate Change and Oceans
69. UNEP-IOC-WMO-IUCN Meeting of Experts on a Long-Term Global Monitoring System
70. Fourth Joint IOC-WMO Meeting for Implementation of IGOSS XBT Ship-of-Opportunity Programmes
71. ROPME-IOC Meeting of the Steering Committee on Oceanographic Co-operation in the ROPME Sea Area
72. Seventh Session of the Joint IOC-WMO-CPPS Working Group on the Investigations of 'El Niño' **(Spanish only)**
73. Fourth Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico **(Also printed in Spanish)**
74. UNEP-IOC-ASPEI Global Task Team on the Implications of Climate Change on Coral Reefs
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80. Fourteenth Session of the Joint IOC-IHO Guiding Committee for the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans
81. Fifth Joint IOG-WMO Meeting for Implementation of IGOSS XBT Ship-of-Opportunity Programmes
82. Second Meeting of the UNEP-IOC-ASPEI Global Task Team on the Implications of climate Change on Coral Reefs
83. Seventh Session of the JSC Ocean Observing System Development Panel
84. Fourth Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management
85. Sixth Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric chart of the Mediterranean and its Geological/Geophysical Series
86. Fourth Session of the Joint IOC-JGOFS Panel on Carbon Dioxide
87. First Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Pacific
88. Eighth Session of the JSC Ocean Observing System Development Panel
89. Ninth Session of the JSC Ocean Observing System Development Panel
90. Sixth Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Technical Aspects of Data Exchange
91. First Session of the IOC-FAO Group of Experts on OSLR for the IOCINCWIO Region
92. Fifth Session of the Joint IOC-JGOFS CO, Advisory Panel Meeting
93. Tenth Session of the JSC Ocean Observing System Development Panel
94. First Session of the Joint CMM-IGOSS-IODE Sub-group on Ocean Satellites and Remote Sensing
95. Third Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Chart of the Western Indian Ocean
96. Fourth Session of the IOC Group of Experts on the Global Sea Level Observing System
97. Joint Meeting of GEMSI and GEEP Core Groups
98. First Session of the Joint Scientific and Technical Committee for Global Ocean Observing System
99. Second International Meeting of Scientific and Technical Experts on Climate Change and the Oceans
100. First Meeting of the Officers of the Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Pacific
101. Fifth Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico
102. Second Session of the Joint Scientific and Technical Committee for Global Ocean Observing System
103. Fifteenth Session of the Joint IOC-IHO Committee for the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans
104. Fifth Session of the IOC Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping
105. Fifth Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management
106. IOC-NOAA *Ad hoc* Consultation on Marine Biodiversity
107. Sixth Joint IOC-WMO Meeting for Implementation of IGOSS XBT Ship-of-Opportunity Programmes
108. Third Session of the Health of the Oceans (HOTO) Panel of the Joint Scientific and Technical Committee for GLOSS
109. Second Session of the Strategy Subcommittee (SSC) of the IOC-WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System
110. Third Session of the Joint Scientific and Technical Committee for Global Ocean Observing System
111. First Session of the Joint GCOS-GOOS-WCRP Ocean Observations Panel for Climate
112. Sixth Session of the Joint IOC-JGOFS C02 Advisory Panel Meeting
113. First Meeting of the IOC/WESTPAC Co-ordinating Committee for the North-East Asian Regional - Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS)
114. Eighth Session of the Joint IOC-WMO-CPPS Working Group on the Investigations of "El Niño" **(Spanish only)**
115. Second Session of the IOC Editorial Board of the International Bathymetric Chart of the Central Eastern Atlantic **(Also printed in French)**
116. Tenth Session of the Officers Committee for the Joint IOC-IHO General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), USA, 1996
117. IOC Group of Experts on the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS), Fifth Session, USA, 1997
118. Joint Scientific Technical Committee for Global Ocean Observing System (J-GOOS), Fourth Session, USA, 1997
119. First Session of the Joint 100-WMO IGOSS Ship-of-Opportunity Programme Implementation Panel, South Africa, 1997
120. Report of Ocean Climate Time-Series Workshop, Joint GCOS-GOOS-WCRP Ocean Observations Panel for Climate, USA, 1997
121. IOC/WESTPAC Co-ordinating Committee for the North-East Asian Regional Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS), Second Session,



Thailand, 1997

122. First Session of the IOC-IUCN-NOAA *Ad hoc* Consultative Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LME), France, 1997
123. Second Session of the Joint GCOS-GOOS-WCRP Ocean Observations Panel for Climate (OOPC), South Africa, 1997
124. Sixth Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, Colombia, 1996 (**also printed in Spanish**)
125. Seventh Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Technical Aspects of Data Exchange, Ireland, 1997
126. IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Coastal Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), First Session, France, 1997
127. Second Session of the IOC-IUCN-NOAA Consultative Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LME), France, 1998
128. Sixth Session of the IOC Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping (CGOM), Monaco, 1997
129. Sixth Session of the Tropical Atmosphere - Ocean Array (TAO) Implementation Panel, United Kingdom, 1997
130. First Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Steering Committee of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), France, 1998
131. Fourth Session of the Health of the Oceans (HOTO) Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), Singapore, 1997
132. Sixteenth Session of the Joint IOC-IHO Guiding Committee for the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), United Kingdom, 1997
133. First Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU-FAO Living Marine Resources Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), France, 1998
134. Fourth Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Indian Ocean (IOC/EB-IBWIO-IW3), South Africa, 1997
135. Third Session of the Joint GCOS-GOOS-WCRP Ocean Observations Panel for Climate (OOPC), France, 1998
136. Seventh Session of the Joint IOC-JGOFS C02 Advisory Panel Meeting, Germany, 1997
137. Implementation of Global Ocean Observations for GOOS/GCOS, First Session, Australia, 1998
138. Implementation of Global Ocean Observations for GOOS/GCOS, Second Session, France, 1998
139. Second Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Coastal Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), Brazil, 1998
140. Third Session of IOC/WESTPAC Co-ordinating Committee for the North-East Asian Regional - Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS), China, 1998
141. Ninth Session of the Joint IOC-WMO-CPPS Working Group on the Investigations of 'El Niño', Ecuador, 1998 (**Spanish only**)
142. Seventh Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean and its Geological/Geophysical Series, Croatia, 1998
143. Seventh Session of the Tropical Atmosphere-Ocean Array (TAO) Implementation Panel, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 1998
144. Sixth Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management (GEMIM), USA, 1999
145. Second Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Steering Committee of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), China, 1999
146. Third Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Coastal Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), Ghana, 1999
147. Fourth Session of the GCOS-GOOS-WCRP Ocean Observations Panel for Climate (OOPC); Fourth Session of the WCRP CLIVAR Upper Ocean Panel (UOP); Special Joint Session of OOPC and UOP, USA, 1999
148. Second Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU-FAO Living Marine Resources Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), France, 1999
149. Eighth Session of the Joint IOC-JGOFS CO2 Advisory Panel Meeting, Japan, 1999
150. Fourth Session of the IOC/WESTPAC Co-ordinating Committee for the North-East Asian Regional – Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS), Japan, 1999
151. Seventh Session of the IOC Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping (CGOM), Monaco, 1999
152. Sixth Session of the IOC Group of Experts on the Global Sea level Observing System (GLOSS), France, 1999
153. Seventeenth Session of the Joint IOC-IHO Guiding Committee for the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), Canada, 1999
154. Comité Editorial de la COI para la Carta Batimétrica Internacional del Mar Caribe y el Golfo de Mexico (IBCCA), Septima Reunión, Mexico, 1998  
IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico (IBCCA), Seventh Session, Mexico, 1998
155. Initial Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Commitments Meeting, IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU/Impl-III/3, France, 1999
156. First Session of the *ad hoc* Advisory Group for IOCARIBE-GOOS, Venezuela, 1999 (**also printed in Spanish and French**)
157. Fourth Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Coastal Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), China, 1999
158. Eighth Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean and its Geological/Geophysical Series, Russian Federation, 1999
159. Third Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU-FAO Living Marine Resources Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), Chile, 1999
160. Fourth Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU-FAO Living Marine Resources Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS). Hawaii, 2000
161. Eighth Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Technical Aspects of Data Exchange, USA, 2000
162. Third Session of the IOC-IUCN-NOAA Consultative Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LME), France, 2000
163. Fifth Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Coastal Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), Poland, 2000
164. Third Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Steering Committee of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), France, 2000
165. Second Session of the *ad hoc* Advisory Group for IOCARIBE-GOOS, Cuba, 2000 (**also printed in Spanish and French**)
166. First Session of the Coastal Ocean Observations Panel, Costa Rica, 2000
167. First GOOS Users' Forum, 2000
168. Seventh Session of the Group of Experts on the Global Sea Level Observing System, Honolulu, 2001
169. First Session of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (ABE-LOS), France, 2001 (**also printed in French**)
170. Fourth Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Steering Committee of the Global Ocean Observing System, Chile, 2001
171. First Session of the IOC-SCOR Ocean CO<sub>2</sub> Advisory Panel, France, 2000
172. Fifth Session of the GCOS-GOOS-WCRP Ocean Observations Panel for Climate (OOPC), Norway, 2000 (**electronic copy only**)
173. Third Session of the *ad hoc* Advisory Group for IOCARIBE-GOOS, USA, 2001 (**also printed in Spanish and French**)
174. Second Session of the Coastal Ocean Observations Panel and GOOS Users' Forum, Italy, 2001
175. Second Session of the Black Sea GOOS Workshop, Georgia, 2001
176. Fifth Session of the IOC/WESTPAC Co-ordinating Committee for the North-East Asian Regional – Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS), Republic of Korea, 2000
177. Second Session of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS), Morocco, 2002 (**also printed in French**)
178. Sixth Session of the Joint GCOS-GOOS-WCRP Ocean Observations Panel for Climate (OOPC), Australia, 2001 (**electronic copy only**)

179. *Cancelled*
180. Second Session of the IOC-SCOR Ocean CO<sub>2</sub> Advisory Panel, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A, 2002 (**electronic copy only**)
181. IOC Workshop on the Establishment of SEAGOOS in the Wider Southeast Asian Region, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 2001 (SEAGOOS preparatory workshop) (**electronic copy only**)
182. First Session of the IODE Steering Group for the Resource Kit, USA, 19–21 March 2001
183. Fourth Session of the IOC-IUCN-NOAA Consultative Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), France, 2002
184. Seventh Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management (GEMIM), France, 2002 (**electronic copy only**)
185. Sixth Session of IOC/WESTPAC Coordinating Committee for the North-East Asian Regional - Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS), Republic of Korea, 2001 (**electronic copy only**)
186. First Session of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Capacity Building Panel, Switzerland, 2002 (**electronic copy only**)
187. Fourth Session of the ad hoc Advisory Group for IOCARIBE-GOOS, 2002, Mexico (**also printed in French and Spanish**)
188. Fifth Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Indian Ocean (IBCWIO), Mauritius, 2000
189. Third session of the Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Pacific, China, 2000
190. Third Session of the Coastal Ocean Observations Panel and GOOS Users' Forum, Vietnam, 2002
191. Eighth Session of the IOC Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping, Russian Federation, 2001
192. Third Session of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS), Lisbon, 2003 (**also printed in French**)
193. Extraordinary Session of the Joint IOC-WMO-CPPS Working Group on the Investigations of 'El Niño', Chile, 1999 (**Spanish only; electronic copy only**)
194. Fifth Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Steering Committee of the Global Ocean Observing System, France, 2002
195. Sixth Session of the IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Steering Committee of the Global Ocean Observing System, South Africa, 2003
196. Fourth Session of the Coastal Ocean Observations Panel, South Africa, 2002 (**electronic copy only**)
197. First Session of the JCOMM/IODE Expert Team On Data Management Practices, Belgium, 2003 (*also JCOMM Meeting Report No. 25*)
198. Fifth Session of the IOC-IUCN-NOAA Consultative Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), Paris, 2003
199. Ninth Session of the IOC Consultative Group on Ocean Mapping, Monaco, 2003 (**Recommendations in English, French, Russian and Spanish included**)
200. Eighth Session of the IOC Group of Experts on the Global Sea level Observing System (GLOSS), France, 2003 (**electronic copy only**)
201. Fourth Session of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS), Greece, 2004 (**also printed in French**)
202. Sixth Session of the IOC-IUCN-NOAA Consultative Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), Paris, 2004 (**electronic copy only**)
203. Fifth Session of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS), Argentina, 2005 (**also printed in French**)
204. Ninth Session of the IOC Group of Experts on the Global Sea level Observing System (GLOSS), France, 2005 (**electronic copy only**)
205. Eighth Session of the IOC/WESTPAC Co-ordinating Committee for the North-East Asian Regional – Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS), China, 2003 (**electronic copy only**)
206. Sixth Meeting of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS), Spain, 2006 (**also printed in French**)
207. Third Session of the Regional Forum of the Global Ocean Observing System, South Africa, 2006 (**electronic copy only**)
208. Seventh Session of the IOC-UNEP-IUCN-NOAA Consultative Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), Paris, 2005 (**electronic copy only**)
209. Eighth Session of the IOC-UNEP-IUCN-NOAA Consultative Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), Paris, 2006 (**electronic copy only**)
210. Seventh Meeting of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS), Gabon, 2007 (**bilingual English/French**)
211. First Meeting of the IOC Working Group on the Future of IOC, Paris, 2008 (**Executive Summary in English, French, Russian and Spanish included**)