

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



# **The Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS)**

## **Fifth Session**

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## 1. OPENING AND WELCOMING ADDRESSES

Mr Elie Jarmache, Chairman of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS) opened the Fifth Meeting of IOC/ABE-LOS at 10:00 on Monday 11 April 2005. He invited the representatives of the Government of Argentina and the IOC Executive Secretary/Assistant Director-General of UNESCO to make their welcoming addresses and statements.

Mr Eugenio María Curia, Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the delegates to the city of Buenos Aires and invited the Executive Secretary, Patricio Bernal, to address the participants. The Executive Secretary thanked the Government of Argentina for its hospitality and the warm reception. He highlighted the fact that IOC/ABE-LOS is the best way to contribute to the implementation of UNCLOS, especially Part XIII and XIV. He further noted the progress made with respect to Article 247 and presented the IOC publication on the Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology, following the mandate of the IOC Assembly. He expressed his satisfaction for the increasing recognition of the work of IOC/ABE-LOS at the international level, as proven by the high governmental participation. He congratulated the IOC/ABE-LOS Chairman, Mr Elie Jarmache, for his work. He finally extended thanks to the governments of France, Greece, The Netherlands, Belgium through ODINAFRICA and Spain through the Junta de Andalucía for their contributions to the IOC Trust Fund, which enabled the attendance of experts from developing countries and the organization of the meeting.

The Rear-Admiral Rafael Sgueglia, Under-Secretary of Maritime Interests of the Argentine Navy welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of scientific knowledge as the basis of sustainable development. The Secretary of Science and Technology, Ingeniero Tulio del Bono, underscored the need of fostering Marine Scientific Research to cover the gap in knowledge about the oceans. Ambassador Roberto García Moritán, Under-Secretary for Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, addressed the participants acknowledging the important role of IOC in relation to the establishment of early warning systems and for earth observation, and reporting on the establishment, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of a consultation group on matters related to the areas of competence of the Commission, the "GRACO".

## 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

### 2.1 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

The Advisory Body was invited to designate a Rapporteur for the meeting in accordance with the IOC Rules of Procedure n°25. Mr Ariel Troisi from Argentina offered himself as volunteer. **The Advisory Body accepted** the offer.

### 2.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**The Advisory Body adopted** the agenda and timetable of the meeting, on the basis of the Provisional Agenda (Doc. IOC/ABE-LOS V/1 prov.) and Timetable (Doc. IOC/ABE-LOS V/1 Add. prov.).

## 2.3 DOCUMENTATION

The Chairman introduced the list of documents (Doc. IOC/ABE-LOS V/4 prov.).

## 3. REPORTS OF INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### 3.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON IOC/ABE-LOS ACTIVITIES DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD

Mr Elie Jarmache, Chairman of IOC/ABE-LOS, presented Doc. IOC/ABE-LOS V/6 (Annex III to this report) and invited the participants to comment on it. He emphasized the five years of IOC/ABE-LOS. He also brought attention to the issue of marine biodiversity beyond the limits of national jurisdiction as an emerging new topic, pointing out that for the Group to address this issue, the IOC Governing Bodies would eventually have to give it a mandate to do so.

Commenting on the Chairman's report, one delegate noted the fact that IOC/ABE-LOS is being more frequently cited by the UN system, for example in UN General Assembly Resolutions. Following up on the issue of biodiversity, another delegate cautioned that the Advisory Body should avoid duplicating efforts by assuming tasks already being covered by other international UN bodies.

Several delegates highlighted the importance of marine biodiversity issues. Some delegates expressed interest in the protection of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction while others expressed concern on the status of biodiversity within national jurisdiction. Another delegate suggested that IOC/ABE-LOS should wait until the first results of the UN "Ad hoc open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction" before assuming any task on this matter.

Some delegates mentioned the fact that the issue is being addressed in multiple fora.

One delegate congratulated the IOC Secretariat for the excellent publication on the Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology (CGTMT) and expressed his concern that implementation of the CGTMT is the next challenge of the IOC Secretariat.

Another delegate commended the Secretariat for the excellent work and timeliness with which the documents in their French version were made available, as well as for meeting the deadlines.

### 3.2 PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COORDINATOR ON THE IOC/ABE-LOS SUB-GROUP ON THE PRACTICE OF IOC MEMBER STATES IN THE APPLICATION OF PARTS XIII AND XIV OF UNCLOS

Ms. Elizabeth Tirpak (USA), Coordinator of the IOC/ABE-LOS Sub-Group on the Practice of IOC Member States in the Application of Parts XIII and XIV of UNCLOS, reported on Doc. IOC/ABE-LOS V/7 and presented an analysis of the responses to the Questionnaire 3. She reminded the previous work already undertaken by Mr Roland Rogers and thanked DOALOS and the IOC Secretariat for their support to her analysis.

**The Advisory Body acknowledged** the excellent work of the Coordinator.

The Chairman of the Advisory Body expressed the need to have a pragmatic approach leading to practical recommendations.

One delegate proposed the following practical recommendations:

- (i) to constitute a team of experts within IOC to assist Member States in developing legislation;
- (ii) to assume a proactive role stimulating partnerships and joint ventures for TMT;
- (iii) to promote identification of focal points for TMT;
- (iv) to increase consistency and visibility of the legislations;
- (v) to update the questionnaires regularly.

It was pointed out that the development of regional policies applicable to Marine Scientific Research and Transfer of Marine Technology, as well as the promotion of training both in legal as well as in scientific fields was a desirable objective. In addition, concern was expressed with regards to the representativity of the results given the fact that only 50% of Member States have responded to the Questionnaire n° 3.

In this regard, the IOC Vice-Chairman, Mario Ruivo, stated that there should be a close interaction between the promotion of and training in the field of the Law of the Sea and the IOC capacity-building initiatives. He further stated that cooperation among relevant institutions should be encouraged and supported.

The suggestion was made to use a common template that would allow Coastal States to monitor the consent application process as well as another one to monitor the Transfer of Marine Technology.

Several delegates recognised that the questionnaire was a useful tool to identify gaps in their respective national practices regarding Parts XIII (Marine Scientific Research) and XIV (Transfer of Marine Technology) of UNCLOS.

Additionally, the Advisory Body recognized that the Transfer of Marine Technology plays a vital role in the development of the tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean as stated by the Executive Secretary, Patricio Bernal, as well as for the establishment of warning systems in other regions.

One delegate proposed that the IOC/ABE-LOS website should list links to those educational institutions providing training to foreign students on marine scientific research and transfer of marine technology. Another delegate noted the availability of training on law of the sea generally. In this view, one delegate informed of the 30th Virginia Law of the Sea Conference to be hosted in Ireland from 24 to 26 May 2006 on this issue.

It was further proposed to integrate the DOALOS and IOC/ABE-LOS websites on national legislation to avoid duplication.

There was general agreement that States should continue to submit their responses to Questionnaire n°3 as soon as completed or when needed to reflect revisions and that the Advisory Body should periodically review the analysis, perhaps on a three- or five-year basis. The analysis should be regularly updated on the IOC/ABE-LOS website on the basis of new information received.

One delegate stressed the importance of proper web-publication as evidence of State practice.

One delegation was of the view that the analysis presented by Ms Tirpak was of a general character and proposed to complement it with an analysis by regions.

### 3.3 PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COORDINATOR OF THE IOC/ABE-LOS SUB-GROUP ON THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN APPROPRIATE IOC INTERNAL PROCEDURE RELATED TO AN EFFECTIVE USE OF ARTICLE 247 OF UNCLOS ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY OR UNDER THE AUSPICES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Professor Alfred Soons, Coordinator of the sub-group in charge of drafting an IOC internal procedure on Article 247 of UNCLOS, explained the work undertaken since IOC/ABE-LOS IV in 2004. After introducing the revised Draft, he invited the Advisory Body to discuss the document.

After discussing the working methodology, the Advisory Body decided to proceed paragraph by paragraph, starting with the title.

**The Advisory Body decided** to adopt the following title for the procedure: "Procedure for the application of Article 247 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission".

Paragraph 1: On the proposal by a delegate, the text was adopted as written.

Paragraph 2: The word "standing" was deleted, while the words "permanent" and "ad hoc" were not withheld. The text was modified to read as follows "...the Assembly hereby establishes, in accordance with IOC statutes and rules of procedure, an advisory body for the application ...". The reference to "committee" was also replaced throughout the text of the Procedure with "Body" (i.e. paragraphs 2, 3 and 4). The words "implementation" and "use" were replaced with "application".

Paragraph 3: It was agreed that the text "... shall be appropriately and timely notified and be invited to participate ..." was to be included in the last sentence, as well as "...within the Advisory Body" at the end of the same sentence.

Paragraph 4: The text was approved after modifying the last sentence, which now reads "...the proposed conditions set out in Article 249 of the Convention".

Paragraph 5: The Advisory Body agreed with the proposed text.

Paragraph 6: Two delegates proposed the following changes to paragraph 6: It should be added "in accordance with the IOC rules of procedure" as well as "this session can only be held if conditions of paragraphs 3 and 4 are met". Paragraph 6 was adopted by the Advisory Body with the proposed modifications. One delegate expressed concern about the financial implications that might arise under the proposed IOC procedure for the application of Article 247 with regard to convening extraordinary sessions for adopting resolutions that eventually could not wait for the next regular session so as to be dealt with.

Paragraph 7: After the discussion on paragraph 10 was concluded, it was agreed to add "Member" before "States". Paragraph 8: One delegate proposed to add "Member" before



“States”, as well as replacing "... the coastal State." in the third line by " ... such coastal State". This was adopted after agreement was reached on paragraph 10.

Paragraph 9: One delegate suggested to change the word "may" by "shall" and move the word "only" in front of the word "if" in the second line. On the change of "may" to "shall", one delegate proposed to keep the translation of the word "may" as it was in the French version. The Advisory Body agreed to move the word "only" and discussed the change from "may" to "shall" at length without reaching a conclusion on the issue.

One delegate presented caveats to this formulation stating his understanding that whenever a State abstains or is absent, the project will not be undertaken within its EEZ and continental shelf. He further asked Professor Soons which were the means whereby States could "otherwise" express their willingness to participate in the project.

Professor Soons answered stating that the reference in the second part of the sentence of paragraph 9 was included to reflect Article 247 of UNCLOS. If the State could not participate in the Assembly meeting or at that moment, or had not yet been able to take a decision, that State could, between the adoption of the resolution and before the notifications are sent out, still decide to participate and send a message to the Executive Secretary to that effect.

The delegate highlighted then the importance of retaining paragraph 11, stating the need for consistency with UNCLOS, as he understood that there must be no situation under which a coastal State will be pressured to participate in a given project.

After some discussions, the Advisory Body agreed to change the order of the paragraphs so that paragraph 9 was located immediately after paragraph 6, modifying the numeration and cross-references accordingly.

Paragraph 10: On the issue of non-Member Coastal States, one delegate expressed his concerns about the financial implications that the provisions being considered might have within IOC. There followed a detailed debate, arriving to the conclusion that MSR should be encouraged for the sake and benefit of science.

After discussing several options, the Group agreed that the drafting committee should draft a new text based on the comments sent by Portugal on 22 December 2004.

Paragraph 11: One delegate proposed to insert "national legislation" between "rights" and "jurisdiction". This proved unacceptable to the Group. Some delegates stated that the text referring either to "international law" or "international law of the sea" reflected the interests of the IOC Member States not parties to the UNCLOS. The Advisory Body decided to approve the text by modifying "...international law,..." into "... international law of the sea,...".

Reflecting the above discussions, the Advisory Body approved the revised text in Annex II and applauded Professor Soons for his ability to incorporate the different views and for the hard work undertaken for the last four years.

### 3.4 PROGRESS REPORT BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE IOC/ABE-LOS SUB-GROUP ON THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF UNCLOS, WHICH IS APPLICABLE FOR THE COLLECTION OF OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA

The Chairman called the attention of the Advisory Body to the draft terms of reference of the sub-group as presented to the IOC Executive Council. The Technical Secretary explained that the terms of Reference were circulated on the basis of the Lefkada meeting discussions and that the document had been commented upon during the intersessional period. One delegate suggested coming back to the document at a later time.

Professor Kari Hakapää, Coordinator of the sub-group, introduced his new draft and provided a general overview of the document IOC/ABE-LOS V/9 taking into account the recommendations included in the document IOC/ABE-LOS V/9 Add. His introduction included both procedural matters and substantive considerations. He stated that the document was meant to facilitate discussions, help focus on goals and purposes and find core problems.

At the outset, several delegates congratulated Professor Hakapää on his very constructive and useful document after which, it was agreed to discuss the document section by section without engaging into drafting details.

Several delegates provided general views, including their concern about the inclusion of lists of disciplines, parameters and platforms in the text which could not be exhaustive and would affect the flexibility to deal with changing circumstances. Other delegates proposed to include such non-exhaustive lists as an annex to the document.

Several delegates commended DOALOS for its paper, suggesting it could be used as a contribution for further discussions. It was also mentioned the interest of the Group in receiving contributions from the IOC-UNEP-ICSU Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System (I-GOOS).

Some delegates were in favour of narrowing the scope of the discussions, while others were of the opinion of having a broader scope. One delegate raised the item of the different kind of interests (general and private) involved in the operational oceanography.

Several delegates were of the view that the subgroup should tackle practical approaches in order to deliver the legal advice requested by the mandate. Reference was made to the Argo project.

Professor Hakapää proposed the following title for the document to be produced: "Memorandum on the basis for providing advice on the legal framework within the context of UNCLOS which is applicable for the collection of oceanographic data".

SECTION I: the text led to discussions about the importance and convenience of defining oceanography, operational oceanography and marine scientific research. Some delegates were of the opinion that the Group should not be specific when referring to data but rather refer to general categories such as geophysical (including geophysical, geodetic, geological and physical), chemical and biological. One delegate stressed the importance of promoting oceanographic data collection in Africa.

**SECTION II:** Two major issues were raised, one regarding *in situ* collected data as a focus of concern and the areal scope. Some delegates proposed to focus on the EEZ, while others favoured a broader approach in the understanding that the mandate does not exclude such view.

**SECTION III:** One delegate expressed his concern about the inclusion of the concept of military purposes in the document contrary to what is stated in UNCLOS. Another delegate requested that the word “military” be deleted from the text, referring to document Resolution XXII-6 on “IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy, which does not mention the term, and proposed a new text. Another delegate mentioned that peaceful activities consistent with the United Nations Charter may include certain military activities, so they are not totally excluded. Several delegates were of the view not to make reference to military activities or purposes.

One delegate asked why the text retained the reference to monitoring the state of fish stock while the mention of evolution of fisheries was deleted. Professor Hakapää answered that the deletion obeyed to the comments made by a Member State, and that for the moment there was no request for deletion of the reference regarding the monitoring of fish stock. The delegate proposed then the deletion of such a reference.

The link between data collection and exchange was discussed at length. Reference was made to IOC Resolution XXII-6 as a basis for data exchange.

One delegate proposed the development of a template containing the following information: maritime zones, list of parameters, platforms used to collect the data, uses and purposes and the corresponding existing legal response or the one that should be prepared. There were no objections to the proposal.

**SECTION IV:** It was pointed out that this section was the core of the whole issue and as such, generalizations should be avoided. Specific difficulties, if any, should have been identified. One delegation objected to the contents of paragraphs 11 and 12 on the following grounds, (a) UNCLOS does not distinguish between pure and applied marine scientific research; (b) the legal status of the report of a meeting of a Conference cannot be compared with the one of the Convention itself; and (c) in the report referred to, reference was made to meteorological data, not oceanographic.

Another delegate mentioned that there is disagreement at the international level with respect to the difference between pure and applied research and in this regard referred the colleagues to paragraph 92 of UNICPOLOS report (United Nations Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process on oceans and the Law of the Sea); document 59/122.

One delegate highlighted the existence of legal, technical and methodological concerns and pointed out that the latter two are capacity-building issues, but for the purpose of drafting the legal framework for collection of oceanographic data, the Advisory Body shall focus on the legal regimes issue. Another delegate disagreed pointing out that the group had both legal and technical expertise to provide advice on those areas.

One delegate considered it necessary not to confuse routine and operational data collection.

Before proceeding to Section V, the Advisory Body continued discussing the text of the terms of reference of the "IOC/ABE-LOS Open-ended working Sub-group on the legal framework within the context of UNCLOS, which is applicable to the collection of oceanographic data". One delegate suggested to delete the expression "for final adoption" at the end of paragraph 5, as well as the second sentence of paragraph 6. Another delegate proposed to add in paragraph 2 the word "further" before the words "working methodology". He also proposed to delete the word "possibly" in paragraph 5.

SECTION V: After an introduction by Professor Kari Hakapää, discussions began. One delegate was of the view that there were two general approaches to the issue of collection of oceanographic data, those being: the provision of practical answers or addressing essential legal issues. If the latter option was to be lifted, he stressed the importance of the text of the Chairman of the Third Committee of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea relating to meteorological data gathering from a legal point of view. Other delegates were of the opinion that in both cases the framework was UNCLOS.

One delegate mentioned that the oceanographic community was looking at the Advisory Body for advice on how to carry out the following four activities under UNCLOS:

- Deployment of Argo floats within EEZ;
- Deployment of surface drifters in EEZ;
- Ships of opportunity deploying XBTs in EEZ;
- Facilitation of access to sea level data in real time.

Another delegate expressed his appreciation for the fact that finally IOC/ABE-LOS had been able to identify these four activities concerning the collection of oceanographic data. He agreed in discussing the first three activities in the context of UNCLOS, understanding that the fourth one was a policy issue to be addressed by the States. He subsequently proposed that the Coordinator should prepare a paper tackling the first three activities.

One delegate proposed to add the document prepared by DOALOS to the report of this meeting to be duly provided to the Assembly.

One delegate asked clarifications to Professor Hakapää about why paragraphs 18 to 21 were focused on the Argo project. He stated that it was to reflect the original focus and interests of Argo similar projects.

Replying to a question from a delegate, Professor Hakapää stated that, for practical reasons, a representative from WMO could be invited to IOC/ABE-LOS meeting(s) once the questions for that representative become clearer.

Following up on the proposal for a template illustrating the discussion at hand, one delegate presented a series of charts with a succinct compilation of information regarding data types, platforms, uses of data and legal regimes. Another delegate expressed his opinion that such presentation was not a working document nor could it form the basis for further consideration by the Group. Several other delegates considered the text as a means to foster further analysis of the issue. One delegate was concerned that certain maritime areas seemed to have been excluded. Another delegate noted that the table of under "legal regime" was not complete. It was explained that the text was just meant to be a simple work in progress without the intention of conveying national positions.

One delegate pointed out a conceptual problem with section 4 of the charts on "Uses of data collected" because it implied a distinction between the regimes applicable to pure and applied research, a difference her delegation disagreed with.

One delegate raised the question on the need to clarify the distinction between pure and applied research.

One delegate pointed out that concerns previously mentioned by other delegate regarding to difficulties in collection oceanographic data with particular instruments might be solved through appropriate implementing of procedures indicated in the Part XIII of UNCLOS. He further explained that his country submitted to Coastal States concerned a research plan in their EZZs for their consents to carry out marine scientific research activities including observation with Argo floats and XBTs since these surveys are mostly conducted for research purpose in his country, but in practice, obtained data are transmitted to the operational organization on near real-time basis for the sake of ultimate use of oceanographic data.

The IOC/ABE-LOS Chairman pointed out that the three identified scenarios are concrete points of debate for the Advisory Body and referred to IOC Resolution XX-6 as well as UNCLOS. He encouraged the Advisory Body to focus its efforts in preparing a draft on a procedural proposal to deal with the nature of the identified platforms and the nature of the use of the data.

**The Advisory Body adopted** the Terms of Reference of the sub-group included in Annex III.

### 3.5 INFORMATION SESSION

The IOC Vice-Chairman, Javier Valladares, made a presentation on the development of operational oceanography and the need of a multidisciplinary and cooperative approach to allow the insertion of new technologies in the current framework of UNCLOS.

The Vice-Chairman of the Argentine National Commission on the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf (COPLA), Ambassador Luis Baqueriza, and the General Coordinator, Dr. Frida Armas Pfrter, explained how COPLA develops its work, the surveys already carried out and the actual and future steps of its work. They highlighted that Argentina was one of the first countries to claim rights over the continental shelf, even before Truman's declaration. COPLA was created in 1997, after UNCLOS entered into force, with the objective of elaborating a definitive proposal for establishing the outer limits of the Argentinean continental shelf in accordance with UNCLOS and the Argentinean Law of Maritime Areas.

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Advisory Body adopted** the Recommendations included in Annex II to be submitted to the 23rd session of the IOC Assembly (June 2005).

## **5. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

**The Advisory Body adopted** this report at the fifth session of IOC/ABE-LOS in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 15 April 2005.

## **6. CLOSURE**

Mr Alan Beraud, Deputy Legal Adviser of the Argentinean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, congratulated the Advisory Body for the work undertaken and confirmed the commitment of Argentina to IOC activities, including those related to IOC/ABE-LOS.

The IOC Vice-Chairman, Mario Ruivo, thanked the Argentinean authorities which made possible the conditions for such a fruitful IOC/ABE-LOS session.

The fifth meeting of IOC/ABE-LOS was closed by the Chairman at 14.00 p.m., Friday 15 April 2005.

ANNEX I

**AGENDA**

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**
  - 2.1 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR
  - 2.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
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- 3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**
  - 3.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
  - 3.2 PROGRESS REPORT BY THE CHAIRWOMAN OF THE IOC/ABE-LOS SUB-GROUP ON PRACTICE OF IOC MEMBER STATES IN THE APPLICATION OF PARTS XIII AND XIV OF UNCLOS
  - 3.3 PROGRESS REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE IOC/ABE-LOS SUBGROUP ON THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IOC INTERNAL APPROPRIATE PROCEDURE RELATED TO AN EFFECTIVE USE OF ARTICLE 247 OF UNCLOS ON MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY OR UNDER THE AUSPICES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
  - 3.4 PROGRESS REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE IOC/ABE-LOS SUBGROUP ON THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF UNCLOS, WHICH MAY BE APPLICABLE TO THE COLLECTION OF OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA
  - 3.5 INFORMATION SESSION
- 4. RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 5. ADOPTION OF SUMMARY REPORT**
- 6. CLOSURE**

## ANNEX II

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea at its fifth meeting (IOC/ABE-LOS V) recommends the following:

1. That, as a first step for the follow-up to the work of the open-ended IOC/ABE-LOS Sub-group on the practice of IOC Member States regarding marine scientific research and transfer of marine technology, the 23rd session of the IOC Assembly approves the following initial actions requesting the IOC Executive Secretary:
  - (a) to establish, in collaboration with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations (UN/OLA/DOALOS), a single database containing legislation and States practice on marine scientific research and the transfer of marine technology, and to ensure the consistency, visibility and rapid update of such database. This action recognizes the importance of strengthening capacity building in Member States, to meet the needs of developing countries to effectively conduct, within the context of UNCLOS, marine scientific research and sustained observations programmes, to enhance the use of ocean observations, data and warning services, as proposed to UNESCO General Conference by document draft 33 C/5 (*Draft Programme and Budget for 2006–2007*).
  - (b) to establish and administer a roster of experts, in order to respond rapidly to requests by Member States for advice or guidance on the development of legislation and practice regarding marine scientific research and transfer of marine technology. The selected experts shall provide such advice on the basis of an “Orientation Guide” to be elaborated by the IOC Executive Secretary, in consultation (by electronic correspondence) with IOC/ABE-LOS Members and DOALOS, and with due regard to the database referred to in paragraph (a) above;
  - (c) to actively implement the “Criteria and Guidelines for the Transfer of Marine Technology” approved by the 22nd session of the Assembly—in particular, as regard the identification and promotion of partnerships or joint ventures between the suppliers and receivers of marine technology;
  - (d) to actively promote the establishment of project offices on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in accordance with the Guidelines for decentralized bodies approved by the 22nd session of the IOC Assembly, in interested Member States that are either suppliers or receivers of marine technology;
  - (e) to periodically report to the Executive Council and the Assembly on the implementation of the above paragraphs (a) to (d), starting at the 39th session of the Executive Council (2006); and
  - (f) to instruct the Sub-group on the practice of IOC Member States regarding marine scientific research and transfer of marine technology to undertake at the Eighth Meeting of IOC/ABE-LOS, an updated evaluation of the questionnaires on marine scientific research and transfer of marine technology, and accordingly encourages those Member States that did not complete the Questionnaire n° 3 to do so.



2. That the 23rd session of the IOC Assembly adopts the “Procedure for the application of Article 247 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission”, appended to these Recommendations.
3. That the 23rd session of the IOC Assembly:
  - (a) Takes note of the progress report by the Chairman of the open-ended IOC/ABE-LOS Sub-group on the legal framework within the context of UNCLOS which is applicable for the collection of oceanographic data;
  - (b) Requests that, as a next step, taking into account the intersessional work, the Sub-group propose at IOC/ABE-LOS VI practical guidelines for the conduct, within the context of UNCLOS, of the following activities: (i) the deployment of floats in high seas which may drift into EEZs, (ii) the deployment of floats and surface drifting buoys into EEZs, and (iii) deployment of XBTs by ships of opportunity into EEZs. Such work shall be carried out in close co-operation with DOALOS and in consultation with I-GOOS, and on the basis of the comments and observations made when discussing this matter at IOC/ABE-LOS V.

#### APPENDIX TO RECOMMENDATIONS

##### **Procedure for the application of Article 247 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO**

1. This Procedure will apply to a marine scientific research project governed by the provisions of Part XIII of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention") which the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission ("the Commission") wants to carry out in accordance with Article 247 of the Convention.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Assembly hereby establishes, in accordance with the Commission's Statutes and Rules of Procedure, an advisory body for the application of this procedure (the Advisory Body for the application of Article 247 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea by the Commission, the "Advisory Body"). All IOC Member States are entitled to participate in the work of the Advisory Body.
3. An initiative by one or more IOC Member States to submit a proposal that the Commission undertake a marine scientific research project under Article 247 of the

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<sup>1</sup> Article 247 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea reads as follows:

“A coastal State which is a member of or has a bilateral agreement with an international organization, and in whose exclusive economic zone or on whose continental shelf that organization wants to carry out a marine scientific research project, directly or under its auspices, shall be deemed to have authorized the project to be carried out in conformity with the agreed specifications if that State approved the detailed project when the decision was made by the organization for the undertaking of the project, or is willing to participate in it, and has not expressed any objection within four months of notification of the project by the organization to the coastal State.”

Convention shall be referred by the Executive Secretary to the Advisory Body. The Executive Secretary shall ensure that all Member States in whose exclusive economic zone (“EEZ”) or on whose continental shelf such project is to be carried out, or otherwise to be involved in the execution of the project, shall be appropriately and timely notified and be invited to participate in the discussion of the proposed project within the Advisory Body.

4. The Advisory Body shall make a recommendation to the Assembly as to whether or not the proposed project should be carried out. A positive recommendation by the Advisory Body that the Commission undertake the proposed project shall be submitted to the Assembly in the form of a draft resolution. To the draft resolution shall be annexed a detailed description of the project containing the information referred to in Article 248 of the Convention and the proposed ways to comply with the conditions set out in Article 249 of the Convention.
5. A decision that the Commission undertake a marine scientific research project under Article 247 of the Convention shall be taken by the Assembly by means of the adoption of a resolution. The draft for such a resolution, together with the Annex as referred to in paragraph 4, shall be communicated to all Member States at least two months in advance of the starting date of the meeting of the Assembly, and shall explicitly indicate that its adoption is for the purpose of applying Article 247 of the Convention.
6. If it is deemed necessary for an effective execution of the proposed project, the Assembly will be convened, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, in an extraordinary session for the purpose of the adoption of the resolution. Such session can only be held if the conditions of paragraphs 3 and 4 are respected.
7. Subject to paragraphs 8 and 9, a project shall not be carried out in the EEZ or on the continental shelf of a Member State unless that State has voted in favour of the resolution referred to in paragraph 5 or has otherwise expressed its willingness to participate in the project as described in the Annex to the resolution prior to the notification referred to in paragraph 8.
8. The IOC Executive Secretary shall provide notification through appropriate official channels to each Member State in whose EEZ or on whose continental shelf the research project is to be carried out as soon as possible after the adoption of the resolution, but no later than six months in advance of the actual starting date of the project in the EEZ or on the continental shelf. The notification shall include the text of the adopted resolution and its Annex.
9. The research activities may be commenced in the EEZ or on the continental shelf of a Member State six months after the receipt of the notification referred to in paragraph 8 by the Member State if no objection has been communicated by such State to the IOC Executive Secretary within four months of the receipt of that notification.
10. In case of a marine scientific research project under Article 247, part of which is planned to be carried out in the EEZ or on the continental shelf of a coastal State which is not a Member of the Commission, bilateral negotiations may be initiated by the Commission with the coastal State in question, with a view to conclude an agreement on

the conditions under which the research activities may be carried out in those maritime zones. The coastal State shall be invited to contribute to the discussion of the project before its submission to the Assembly. The part of the project concerning such a coastal State may be only carried out if the referred agreement, including in the Annex to the resolution corresponding to the project, has been concluded between the coastal State and the Commission, in conformity with the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Commission. In that event, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the present procedure will apply.

11. Nothing in this Procedure shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under the international law of the sea, in particular the Convention. This Procedure shall be interpreted in the context of and in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Convention.

ANNEX III

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
FOR THE IOC/ABE-LOS OPEN-ENDED SUB-GROUP ON THE BASIS LEGAL  
FRAMEWORK WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF UNCLOS WHICH IS APPLICABLE  
FOR THE COLLECTION OF OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA**

1. The main Purpose of the IOC/ABE-LOS open-ended sub-group is to provide advice on the legal framework within the context of UNCLOS which is applicable for the collection of oceanographic data.
2. The IOC/ABE-LOS open-ended sub-group shall work by electronic correspondence in consultation with the I-GOOS Board with regard to the scientific and technical aspects and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (UN/OLA/DOALOS). Professor Hakapää, hereinafter referred to as “Chairperson” of the open-ended sub-group, as stated in IOC Circular Letter 2092, shall decide on the further working methodology of the sub-group.
3. The Chairperson of the sub-group shall issue the First Draft on “the legal framework within the context of UNCLOS which is applicable for the collection of oceanographic data” by 1 October 2004. The Draft shall then be circulated to members of the IOC/ABE-LOS for discussion and comments.
4. On the basis of these consultations, the Chairperson of the sub-group will prepare a revised Draft which shall be circulated at least two months in advance of the Fifth Session of IOC/ABE-LOS in 2005. This revised draft shall contain a Memorandum, to be prepared by the IOC Secretariat, setting out a summary of views and comments provided by the experts
5. The Fifth Session of IOC/ABE-LOS will examine the revised draft, and adopt recommendations on the progress made by the sub-group to be submitted to the IOC Assembly at its 23rd Session
6. Should the IOC/ABE-LOS sub-group need further information, the Chairperson shall be entitled formally to contact National Experts and Institutions only through the IOC Secretariat.
7. The IOC/ABE-LOS sub-group shall also assist IOC in fulfilling effectively its purpose and functions as set out in Articles 2 and 3 of its Statutes by giving advice on the legal framework within the context of UNCLOS which is applicable for the collection of oceanographic data when requested by the IOC Secretariat.
8. The activities of the IOC/ABE-LOS sub-group on the legal framework within the context of UNCLOS, which is applicable for the collection of oceanographic data, shall be interpreted in accordance with the IOC Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

ANNEX IV

**REPORT ON IOC/ABE-LOS ACTIVITIES  
DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD**

*By Elie Jarmache, Chairman of IOC/ABE-LOS*

I wish to start this report by recalling the populations, regions and States victims of the tsunami of 26 December 2004. On behalf of the Member States of the Advisory Body of Experts, I voice and extend my active solidarity and sympathy to the delegate colleagues of the region.

The intersessional period started with the presentation of the Chairman's report to the 37th Session of the IOC Executive Council (June 2004) after the meeting of the Advisory Body of Experts held in Lefkada from 4 to 7 May 2004.

I wish to recall that the work developed in Greece consisted mainly in dealing with the issues under the responsibility of Professors Soons and Hakapä, i.e. the pursuit of a procedure for the implementation of Article 247 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, on the one hand; and the pursuit of a legal framework within the context of the Convention which is applicable for the collection of oceanographic data, on the other.

Both issues are important for different reasons with which every member of the Group is well acquainted.

When presenting my report to the Executive Council, I expressed my hope that the procedure for the implementation of Article 247 be ready after the Fifth Session of IOC/ABE-LOS in order to take advantage of the meeting of the IOC Assembly in June 2005 and ensure that a resolution aimed at the effective implementation of this Article be adopted.

I have also stated that, in the absence of a final result to submit to the Assembly, it would be wise not to persist on an issue that the IOC has placed under the responsibility of the Advisory Body of Experts as from the First Session. Everybody should know when the time to work on a certain matter is over, since the absence of results leads to the loss of credibility of the Group within the governing bodies of the IOC where it is supported but also criticized. This has been the case of the last Executive Council.

I have reported to the Executive Council on the progress achieved as regards the legal framework that should guide the collection of oceanographic data. Such framework shall be consistent with the provisions of the Convention, where they exist. I recalled that this is a difficult and sensitive issue. Besides, I stated that since all State members have access to the Executive Council's report, it must have become evident that, considering the different interventions, there remains quite a considerable work to be done.

During the intersessional period, the Executive Secretary and myself, after consulting between us, requested our colleague Elizabeth Tirpak to provide for the coordination of the working group on the Practice of States regarding Parts XIII and XIV of the Convention. She has accepted and I thank for that since she has a great and concrete experience in dealing with this matter. The work developed by her in the course of some months, with the help of the Secretariat, has resulted in a quality product that deserves recognition. During this session,

she shall expose her analyses of the responses provided to the questionnaire that she has significantly contributed to reinvigorate.

The year that has just elapsed, which separates the two sessions —from Lefkada to Buenos Aires— has been rich in activities related to oceans and law of the sea.

I would like to draw the attention of the delegates on the fact that the work of our Group has been considered in Resolution A/RES/59/24 of the United Nations General Assembly on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

Paragraph 11 of this Resolution states that the Assembly should encourage the IOC to pursue the dissemination and publication as well as the implementation of the «Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology» adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 22nd Session. It is important and symbolic that this fact is mentioned in this report because it is a way of acknowledging the efforts of our colleague Ariel González, who has been the coordinator of this work and thanks to whom this meeting in Buenos Aires is a reality.

From June 2004, the annual session of the Informal Consultative Process on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea has been held at the United Nations. This session was *inter alia* of particular interest because the report of an experts' group on the global marine assessment (GMA) was presented. Their objective is to obtain the most advanced possible global knowledge on the state of the environment in order to combine sustainable development and the continuity of economic and social activities. This request was introduced for the first time at the Johannesburg Summit in August 2002 and later reconsidered in a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. As part of the issues dealt with, we should highlight the nature of GMA responsible mechanism, the importance and place of the regional level of evaluation with respect to the global one (and we have talked about the «evaluation of evaluations»), the financing of the evaluation mechanism. One issue that has also triggered off a hot debate is that of determining whether to include fishing within the evaluation.

The experts report has not reached consensus within the informal consultative process and the inauguration conference to be held in October 2004 had to be postponed.

The creation and the development of a global mechanism has again been included in the agenda of a three-day special session (13–16 June 2005). This question should be considered in the period between the informal consultative process and the annual session of the Meeting of States Parties of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

During the intersessional period, the question of biodiversity beyond the limits of national jurisdiction has been promoted. The debate has started some years ago but for a long time it has not been considered from a political perspective.

In 2004, this issue further developed when the United Nations General Assembly included in its resolution a provision requiring the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group to examine the questions related to conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

The terms of reference of the group are quite ample. They include and examine scientific, economic, socio-economic, technical and legal aspects. The stage preceding the

meeting of this group is the publication of a report of the United Nations General Secretary — requested by the same resolution— and aimed at the analysis of the situation of marine biodiversity at the international level.

Considering the advances in the law of the sea, I wish to share with you this important issue since at the IOC Executive Council of June 2004 the delegation of one of the State Parties suggested that IOC/ABE-LOS could or should be asked to examine this question.

I recall at this point that the field of marine biodiversity is considerably extensive since it covers different areas, from fishing resources to genetic ones. As this last field is concerned, the legal and political discussion has already started. I draw your attention on the fact that the scientific research at sea is one of the issues directly implied in the matter of marine biodiversity status. Moreover, it should also be highlighted that IOC/ABE-LOS has a competence and an experience that can be of benefit to whom may request for it.

The intersessional period has led the Executive Secretary into renewing IOC Members within the organisation known as ABLOS (Advisory Board of the Law of the Sea). Thanks to this initiative, three institutions have been brought together, namely the International Hydrographic Organisation, the International Association of Geodesy and our IOC. In September 2004, Mr Bernal has designated me as representative of the IOC.

For administrative reasons, I have not been able to attend the ABLOS meeting held in Canberra in October 2004.

I interpreted this designation as the concern of the Executive Secretary to strengthen the legitimacy of IOC/ABE-LOS wherever IOC is present, particularly in cases in which law of the sea issues are discussed. In my opinion, the mandates of both groups differ.

ABLOS is mainly a group of study, and its link with the law of the sea is indirect. Its aim is the pursuit of technical studies and training.

On the other hand, IOC/ABE-LOS has a direct link with the matters related to the law of the sea. This link is based on an explicit mandate granted by a resolution of the IOC Assembly. It is advisable to maximize common points of view and forces for the success of the respective mandates.

Finally, I would like to highlight the quality of work of our Technical Secretary and colleague, Miss Aurora Mateos, during the intersessional activities. Thanks to her, working conditions have considerably improved, mainly by the establishment of deadlines for the presentation of documents addressed not only to coordinators but also to experts. Moreover, she is also responsible for increasing the membership of IOC/ABE-LOS by promoting the participation of new experts. Besides, she has been able to create a good working relationship with our Argentine hosts, which shall most probably result in the success of our session.

I have voluntarily limited my report to the consideration of certain matters and I am attentive to the discussions, comments, observations and questions of the delegates.

I wish each of you an excellent Fifth Session in Buenos Aires.

ANNEX V

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

Document Code	Title	Agenda Items	Langages
	<b>WORKING DOCUMENTS</b>		
IOC/ABE-LOS V/1 prov.	Provisional Agenda	1-5	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS V/1 Add. prov.	Provisional Timetable	2.2, 2.4	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS V/2 prov.	Provisional Annotated Agenda	2-5	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS V/3 prov.	Draft Summary Report <i>(prepared during the meeting)</i>	1-5	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS V/4 prov.	Provisional List of Documents <i>(this document)</i>	2.3	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS V/5 prov.	Provisional List of Participants <i>(issued early during the Session)</i>	--	--
IOC/ABE-LOS V/6	Chairman's report on IOC/ABE-LOS Activities during the intersessional period (Elie Jarmache)	3.1	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS V/7	Progress Report of the Chairwoman of the IOC/ABE-LOS Sub-Group on Practice of IOC Member States in the application of Parts XIII and XIV of UNCLOS (Elisabeth Tirpak)	3.2	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS V/8	Progress Report of the Chairman of the IOC/ABE-LOS Sub-Group on the possible establishment of an IOC internal appropriate procedure related to an effective use of Article 247 of UNCLOS on marine scientific research projects undertaken by or under the auspices of international organizations (Alfred Soons)	3.3	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS V/8 Add.	Memorandum (Summary of views) of the IOC/ABE-LOS Sub-Group on the possible establishment of an IOC internal appropriate procedure related to an effective use of Article 247 of UNCLOS on marine scientific research projects undertaken by or under the auspices of international organizations (Secretariat)	3.3	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS V/9	Progress Report of the Chairman of the IOC/ABE-LOS Sub-Group on the legal framework within the context of UNCLOS which is applicable for the collection of oceanographic data (Kari Hakapää)	3.4	E F



Document Code	Title	Agenda Items	Langages
IOC/ABE-LOS V/9 Add.	Memorandum (Summary of views) of the IOC/ABE-LOS Sub-Group on the legal framework within the context of UNCLOS which is applicable for the collection of oceanographic data (Secretariat)	3.4	E F
	<b>INFORMATION DOCUMENTS</b>		
IOC/ABE-LOS V/Inf.1	Template Document for the correction of the Draft Summary Report		E
IOC/ABE-LOS V/Inf.2	IOC Questionnaire No. 3 on the practices of the IOC Member States regarding Marine Scientific Research and Transfer of Marine Technology		E F
A/59/24	UNGA Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea		E F
IOC/ABE-LOS IV/3	Summary Report of the Fourth Session of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea		E F

ANNEX VI

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ANNEX VII

**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

<b>ABLOS</b>	IHO/IAG/IOC Advisory Board on the (Technical and Scientific Aspects of the) Law of the Sea
<b>Argo</b>	GODAE global profiling float project (not an acronym)
<b>CGTMT</b>	IOC Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology
<b>COPLA</b>	Argentine National Commission on the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf
<b>UN/OLA/DOALOS</b>	Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>GMA</b>	Global Marine Assessment
<b>GODAE</b>	Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment
<b>ICSU</b>	International Council for Science
<b>IOC/ABE-LOS</b>	Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea
<b>I-GOOS</b>	IOC-WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System
<b>IOC</b>	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO)
<b>MSR</b>	Marine Scientific Research
<b>TMT</b>	Transfer of Marine Technology
<b>TMTA</b>	Transfer of Marine Technology Application
<b>UNCLOS</b>	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
<b>UNGA</b>	United Nations General Assembly
<b>UNICPOLOS</b>	United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization
<b>XBT</b>	Expendable Bathythermograph

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**)
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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
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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
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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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48. Twelfth Session of the Joint IOC-IHO Guiding Committee for the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans
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
52. Fourth Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean
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**)
55. Fifth Session of the IOC-UNEP-IMO Group of Experts on Effects of Pollutants
56. Second Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Indian Ocean
57. First Meeting of the IOC *ad hoc* Group of Experts on Ocean Mapping in the WESTPAC Area
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
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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
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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
75. Third Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Marine Information Management
76. Fifth Session of the IODE Group of Experts on Technical Aspects of Data Exchange
77. ROPME-IOC Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Integrated Project Plan for the Coastal and Marine Environment of the ROPME Sea Area
78. Third Session of the IOC Group of Experts on the Global Sea-level Observing System
79. Third Session of the IOC-IAEA-UNEP Group of Experts on Standards and Reference Materials
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<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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-IBCWIO-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)**