



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

## **Eighth Session**

Paris, France

21–25 April 2008

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

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**UNESCO 2008**

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## 1. OPENING AND WELCOMING ADDRESSES

Mr Patricio Bernal, Executive Secretary of IOC and Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Elie Jarmache, Chairman of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS) opened the Eighth meeting of IOC/ABE-LOS at 10:30 a.m. on Monday 21 April 2008.

The IOC Executive Secretary welcomed the Delegates to the UNESCO Headquarters, where IOC/ABE-LOS started its work, recalled the mandate and terms of reference of the IOC/ABE-LOS and highlighted the fact that it is the only IOC Subsidiary Body explicitly dealing with legal issues related to science and technology. He stressed the need that IOC/ABE-LOS should maintain its focus in facilitating marine scientific research and the transfer of marine technology, two core functions in IOC's field of competence.

Mr Elie Jarmache welcomed the participants and called upon them to make a special effort during this 8th session of ABE-LOS to finalize at least part of the mandate given by the IOC Assembly and convey concrete results to the 41st session of the Executive Council.

## 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. The Chairman proposed Mr Ariel Troisi from Argentina to act as Rapporteur. Mr Ariel Troisi and **the Advisory Body accepted** the proposal.

### 2.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

One Delegate proposed adding a sub-item entitled "Report of the Chairman on the intersessional activities" under agenda item 3 to discuss specifically all the issues presented in the Chairman's report (document IOCABELOS.VIII/INF-02). He further proposed to devote a full morning to the treatment of the Agenda item 3.4 "Other business".

Another Delegate suggested adding a sub-item entitled "Information on the work by the Future of IOC Working Group, established by the IOC Assembly" under agenda item 3.4. The Executive Secretary explained that the work of this WG was in progress and that its report is being submitted to the next Executive Council that will determine the next steps in this process and assess the eventual need for ABE-LOS to contribute.

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

### 2.3 DOCUMENTATION

The IOC/ABE-LOS Technical Secretary, Ms Aurora Mateos, introduced the list of documents (Doc. IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/4 prov.).

### 2.4 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION

The IOC/ABE-LOS Technical Secretary provided information on the working hours of the session. The Chairman reminded the participants that the Drafting Group on recommendations was scheduled on Thursday afternoon.

### **3. REPORT ON THE INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

#### **3.1.1 Report of the Secretariat on the Intersessional Activities**

The Executive Secretary, introduced this item by presenting two new publications issued by IOC, the "IOC Procedure for the application of Article 247 of UNCLOS ", and the compilation "National Ocean Policies...". He then reported on intersessional activities based on the information document IOC-INF 1245 "IOC and UNCLOS..." which summarize all IOC activities related to UNCLOS. The Delegates welcomed the report and considered it was not only very comprehensive, but also provided a good basis to raise awareness on IOC/ABE-LOS work. It was further remarked that its value as an information document for the 41<sup>st</sup> Executive Council was very high.

Answering questions from the participants, he gave further details on the work undertaken by IOC in cooperation with other international organizations such as IMO, on tsunami prevention, UN/OLA/DOALOS and UNEP with respect to raising awareness and capacity building on the delimitation of the continental shelf.

#### **3.1.2 Report of the Chairman on the Intersessional Activities**

The IOC/Chairman, Elie Jarmache, introduced this item presenting the information document IOC/ABE-LOS.VIII/INF-02 summarizing some of the recent international events on Law of the Sea. In the following debate, it was concluded that marine science is an important topic in the international agendas of States. The Group further concluded that some of the topics will be discussed under point 3.4 of the agenda.

The IOC Executive Secretary recalled the subsidiary character of the Advisory Body of Experts with respect to the governing bodies of IOC and read the first paragraph of its Terms of Reference, highlighting the importance of fulfilling the mandate given by the Assembly and Executive Council while giving due consideration to the existence and competence of other fora.

### **3.2 PROGRESS REPORT BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE SUBGROUP ON THE IOC LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE COLLECTION OF OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF UNCLOS.**

Professor Kari Hakapää, Coordinator of the sub-group on the IOC Legal Framework for the Collection of Oceanographic Data within the Context of UNCLOS, introduced this item. He reminded the group that the issue has been under discussion for the last five years and recalled the request by the 24<sup>th</sup> IOC Assembly to come up with a consensual text as soon as practicable. He summarized the activities following the Seventh session of IOC/ABE-LOS in Libreville, Gabon, his interaction with the IOC Secretariat, UN/OLA/DOALOS and I-GOOS during the intersessional period, as well as the results of the informal consultations held at Easton, Maryland, USA. These results were included in the document IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/6rev.

Several Delegations expressed their gratitude to Professor Kari Hakapää for his remarkable efforts and detailed work, as well as to the hosts and participants of the Easton informal consultations. They shared the concern of the Coordinator on the importance of delivering results, and considered that the outcome of the Easton meeting provided a pragmatic and balanced approach and constituted a good basis for discussion.

Some Delegations requested clarifications on the nature of the Easton meeting. The Executive Secretary clarified that the meeting was an informal consultation between experts acting in their individual capacity, organized and facilitated by one member state and not a formal IOC/ABE-LOS intersessional activity. He stressed the fact that under the authority of the Coordinator of the Working Group, consultations can be conducted at any time and that it was

under his authority that ABE-LOS will be informed of these actions and give continuity to the formal intergovernmental process.

One Delegation expressed its concern that the document IOC/ABE-LOS VII/7 was not used during the Easton discussions, and regretted that such valuable work could be lost. On this point, several Delegations expressed their view that the previous work accomplished by ABE-LOS had fully informed the discussions and led to the Easton results and constituted an invaluable asset for future work on these matters. The IOC/ABE-LOS Chairman stated that Document IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/6 does not replace Document IOC/ABE-LOS VII/7 which is the key document for future discussions on the legal framework for the collection of oceanographic data since Document IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/6 only deals with one type of instrument to collect oceanographic data: the Argo floats.

One Delegation recalled the importance of providing proper and timely answers to the challenges posed by actual and new and fast evolving technologies, pointing out that many of the difficulties in making progress until now could be explained by discussing data collection in general, without having a full, in-depth appreciation of a given technology and its applications, something that constituted a lesson learned in the process. He also stressed the need for recognizing that a direct relationship between implementing and coastal states might appear, and that in those circumstances legitimate rights of the coastal states under the Law of the Sea Convention do exist and would need to be protected.

One Delegation shared the concern on the challenges to deliver results in a timely manner consistent with technological advances and developments, and expressed its view that all observations are to be considered under art. 247 of UNCLOS.

One Delegation shared the view on the importance of focusing the discussions and considered that exercises like the one held in Easton would be useful when dealing with drifters and XBTs. It further stressed the role of the Argo Information Center as a basis for notification, recalling that according to the statement of the Chairman of the Third Committee of the United Nations Third Conference on the Law of the Sea, the collection of marine meteorological data was not covered by Part XIII of UNCLOS and expressed the view that not all the data collected by Argo floats fall under the aforementioned Part.

The group unanimously agreed to first focus the work of the Group on the legal framework for the collection of oceanographic data by means of Argo floats, leaving treatment of surface drifters and XBTs to a subsequent stage.

Following the consensus decision adopted by the Advisory Body to address first only the deployment of Argo floats, and the postponement for future consideration of the collection of oceanographic data by other instruments, the Coordinator guided the examination of the proposed text on this matter. After some debate, the following title for the Text was proposed; "GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION XX-6 OF THE IOC ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE DEPLOYMENT OF FLOATS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ARGO PROGRAM".

The Coordinator requested the participants to provide substantive comments on each of the paragraphs of the proposed text, with the aim of collecting the different views and positions of Member States and to postpone a detailed wordsmithing of the Resolution until he as Coordinator came up with a new text. After these procedural clarifications the Advisory Body engaged in a detailed reading and discussion of the text on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis.

**Paragraph 1:** Several delegations expressed their preference to maintain the phrase "as reflected in UNCLOS". One Delegation specifically referred to the fact that the mandate of the Subgroup was to draft practical guidelines for the collection of oceanographic data within the context of UNCLOS and that Resolution XX-6 emphasized that the ARGO project shall be fully

consistent with UNCLOS. There were further discussions on the use of the expression “is entitled to” or replacing this formulation with “may request”. It was recalled that following Resolution XX-6, all Member States of IOC must be informed of any Argo float deployed in the High Seas that may drift into their EEZ. Considering that for some Member States the existing mechanisms currently providing such information are considered as insufficient, some delegates stated that only Member States expressing their interest to receive further information according to the Guidelines been defined in the Resolution, should do so. There was no opposition to replace the text “Argo Program float” with “any float within the framework of the Argo Program (hereinafter, Argo Program Floats)” in this paragraph. Some Delegations proposed additional texts.

**Paragraph 2:** It was agreed to use “will” instead of “shall/should” in the first sentence. It was also proposed to replace the last sub-item by the same text that appears in the last sub-item of paragraph 3. One Delegation clarified that the concept of “type” of instruments includes its technical specifications. Some Delegations proposed additional texts.

**Paragraph 3:** It was agreed to use “will” instead of “shall/should”. It was also agreed to retain the expression “with reasonable anticipation to the expected entry of the floats into the EEZ” without requesting a more precise timeline. There was general agreement that the information listed as sub-items of the paragraph was sufficient and, in the case of needing additional information, the Coastal State could request it from the Implementer. Some Delegations proposed additional texts.

**Paragraph 4:** There was general agreement to maintain it without modifications.

**Paragraph 5:** It was agreed to use “will” instead of “shall/should”. There was an intense debate regarding the mention of the exploration and exploitation of natural resources. As for the expression “a Member State, including the notified Member State”, it was made clear that it meant that the right to require the implementer not to distribute certain data pertain to both, the States requesting formal notification as per paragraph 1 and those not doing so. Some Delegations proposed additional texts.

**Paragraph 6:** It was agreed, following the title, to replace “Procedure” with “Guidelines” and, that reference should be made only to paragraphs 1 and 3 to 5, instead of 1 to 5. One Delegation proposed to add a reference to floats deployed over the Continental Shelf area of States that have not as yet established an EEZ.

**Paragraph 6bis:** Two Delegations proposed new paragraphs *ad hoc* for cases of disputes on land and maritime delimitation. One of these Delegations reminded the Group that the inclusion of a safeguard clause on this matter was a key issue since the meeting in Málaga and it was also mentioned in the comments submitted by that Delegation to the Circular 13. Another Delegation stated that although it could accept a general disclaimer clause, as specifically stated in the comments submitted by that Delegation to Circular 13 and Part I of Document IOC/ABE-LOS VII-7, it could not accept a notification to all parties to the dispute.

**Paragraph 7:** One Delegation proposed to replace “Competent Institutions” by “appropriate organizations”.

After thanking the Coordinator for the very substantive progress achieved during the day and before adjourning the meeting, the Chairman invited all the participants to an open ended informal consultation to be held in Room VII and starting at 18:30 hrs, in order to take collective stock of the day’s discussions with the view of further clarifying critical points for the new drafting effort by the Coordinator.

On the following working day, the Coordinator of the sub-group submitted a revised text of the Procedure annexed to document IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/6, having benefited from the open-ended



informal consultation held at the end of the previous plenary session on Tuesday the 22nd. He introduced the revised draft, explaining the rationale of the changes made to the previous draft after the consultations.

The Group began discussions on the new text, first in general and then in particular.

**Title:** After an exchange of views, the Group adopted the following new title: "GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION XX-6 OF THE IOC ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE DEPLOYMENT OF FLOATS IN THE HIGH SEAS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ARGO PROGRAM".

**Chapeau:** a new text was proposed in order to clarify the nature, objective and scope of the proposed guidelines. Upon continuation of discussions on the draft guidelines, on the Fourth working day, one Delegation proposed insertions to the text of the chapeau extracted from Resolution IOC XX-6 in order to provide a clearer context for the guidelines. This proposal received the approval of several Delegations.

**Paragraphs 1 to 5:** Most Delegations participating in the debate agreed, in general, on the text of paragraphs 1 to 5, adding only comments of a drafting and editorial nature. The compatibility and coherence of the guidelines with regard to Resolution XX-6 of the IOC Assembly were particularly addressed, and it was concluded that the text was in line with the aforementioned Resolution. Only one Delegation expressed its strong reservation towards the text, based on problems of substance.

On **paragraph 1**, on the Fourth working day, one Delegation proposed to keep part of the wording between brackets. After subsequent discussion, another Delegation proposed a new text for consideration which would meet the concerns of the aforementioned Delegation. It was further clarified that the request referred to in this paragraph constituted a one-time and for-all-floats request. It was agreed that additional references to Resolution XX-6 of the IOC Assembly would be made in the corresponding Draft Resolution.

There was intense debate on the text of **paragraph 4**, regarding the reference to the exploration and exploitation of natural resources as well as the time limit for restriction of data distribution. One delegation proposed to include a reference to the major contribution that the ensemble of Argo floats already deployed meant for the Global Ocean Observing System.

On paragraph 4, on the Fourth working day, one Delegation stated that, following consultations, its reservations on paragraph 4 were lifted. Another Delegation stated that Argo collects information on temperature, salinity and pressure; and that certain conditions for dissemination of information might be placed to data collected in EEZ.

**Paragraph 5bis:** This new paragraph presented three alternatives between brackets. Several Delegations supported the First alternative offering the most general caveat protecting the interests of any state that might have a pending issue in the area of the delimitation of its maritime spaces; others supported the Third one, while some supported the Second alternative. Since there was no consensus on any alternative in particular, it was decided to maintain all three of them between brackets. Some Delegations strongly stated that in any case a reference to the matter has to be made within the Guidelines, due to the legal effects on the procedure that was going to be established, while others considered that the omission of the whole paragraph was also an acceptable alternative since the paragraph introduced to different degrees aspects of the delimitation of maritime spaces by Member States, issues that hardly can be considered as pertaining to or central in the regulation of the collection of oceanographic data by Argo floats.

**Paragraph 5ter:** After discussing the text at length, a new text was proposed for consideration and inclusion as an integral part of paragraph 3. In the opinion of a Delegation a paragraph was

needed to facilitate the work of the implementer but mainly in order to assure the use of official sources for this purpose.

On the Fourth working day, it was agreed that the proposal presented the previous day by two Delegations should remain as a stand-alone paragraph 5ter and not be included as an integral part of paragraph 3.

**Paragraph 6:** (paragraph 7 in the draft Guidelines of document IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/6) It was agreed to delete it from the Guidelines and insert the corresponding text in the Draft Resolution. During discussions on this paragraph, different opinions on the status of floats within the EEZ under UNCLOS were expressed. Several Delegations and the Executive Secretary stressed the importance of promoting international co-operation in the collection of oceanographic data by IOC programs, given the importance of the public services that these programs sustain, such as improved weather and climate forecasting, including development of a better understanding for climate change.

At the beginning of the plenary session on the third day of the meeting, Dr. Howard Freeland (Argo Co-Chairman) made a presentation of the project Argo. The talk was centered on three headings: (i) What is Argo?, (ii) How does Argo work?, (iii) Why is the world a better place for having Argo?. Dr. Freeland outlined the need for the Argo Project as a key contribution to the understanding and forecasting of climate and contrasted it with the project WOCE, The World Ocean Circulation Experiment a seven-year effort using 25 ship-years, the only previous time that the state of the global ocean was examined, something that now Argo does it on a regular basis. He explained that an "Argo float" is a "profiling float" that measures temperature, salinity (through measuring the electric conductivity of sea-water) and pressure (depth) and reports the data in conformity with the Argo Project data policy. He added that a float delivers data with little delay on the GTS (Global Telecommunications System, managed by WMO). Thus any country that is a member of the WMO and/or IOC will receive the data as the system "pushes" the data to WMO and IOC users (GTS focal points or nodes) without waiting for a request. A higher quality product, after quality control procedures applied to the data, is assembled for lodging on two global Argo Data Centres that following the data policies of WMO and IOC allows all global data to be accessed by anyone with internet access by "pulling" the data to themselves at their own initiative.

The Advisory Body thanked Dr Freeland for his very clear and concise presentation, and placed several questions seeking additional information and clarifications. The Advisory Body agreed that capacity building was a fundamental pillar to ensure that all countries can benefit from the program.

Several Delegations agreed on the need to reiterate and reinforce the Joint IOC-WMO Circular Letter JCOMM No. 00-2 of 7 February 2000, highlighting the importance of encouraging IOC Member States who have not yet designated an Argo National Focal Point to do so, as well as to those who have done so to update the information as appropriate.

Finalizing the rich discussions of this session, the Coordinator of the sub-group committed himself to produce a new consolidated text of the draft guidelines, reflecting all the position and proposals, submitting it for consideration of the Advisory Body by the end of the working day.

On Friday 25 April, the Fifth working day of the meeting, the Coordinator of the Sub-group Professor Kari Hakapää submitted a new text that consolidated the results of the discussions held during the session of Thursday 24 April. The IOC/ABE-LOS Chairman presented the amended Guidelines to the Advisory Body for approval as a whole. Not obtaining support from the plenary for the approval of the whole text, he then proceeded to guide a paragraph by paragraph consideration of the final text.

**Chapeau:** The advisory Body adopted the text, inserting the word “scientific” in the first sub-item before “research programmes”.

**Paragraph 1:** After an intense debate and objection by two Delegations on the new draft for this paragraph proposed by one Delegation, as amended by another Delegation, the Group adopted the paragraph.

**Paragraph 2:** It was agreed without change.

**Paragraph 3:** It was decided to replace the word “instruments” with “floats” and to introduce at the beginning of the last sub-item the reference “Argo Program Float”.

**Paragraph 4:** It was agreed without changes.

**Paragraph 5:** The verb “set out” was replaced by “set forth”. In addition it was decided to delete the line between brackets.

**Paragraph 5bis:** After discussion, option 2 was withdrawn by its proponent to be accommodated in option 3 by the addition of an additional pair of brackets in the last phrase of the paragraph. Different views were expressed reflecting the complex nature of the options proposed. One Delegation stated that its agreement to the approval of the Guidelines was under the *conditio sine qua non* of inserting one paragraph relating to this subject. Another Delegation proposed to use the language set forth in paragraph 11 of the “Procedure for the application of article 247 of UNCLOS by the IOC”. While one Delegation strongly objected to the notification to all parties to a disputed area since that obligation is not stated in UNCLOS, another Delegation replied that this reference followed the mention contained in the “Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf”. In return it was argued that the relevant binding applicable provisions of UNCLOS on maritime delimitation contain no such reference. Due to the highly controversial and political character of the issues addressed by this paragraph, **the Group conveyed the paragraph as a fully contested text between brackets to the IOC Governing Bodies to decide on this matter.**

**Paragraph 5ter:** the Advisory Body approved it without changes. It further decided to number it as paragraph 6.

On the **Draft Resolution**, the Advisory Body of Experts requested that it should, more appropriately, be discussed by the IOC Governing Bodies and not by IOC/ABE-LOS. However, some Delegations formulated comments on the available text for the Draft Resolution. One Delegation proposed adding the reference of “as a component of GOOS” when referring to the Argo project. One Delegation expressed its objection to include a reference to the Argo Information Centre in paragraph 4, since the IOC have not attended yet to the request formulated by its government regarding the correction of the graphics used by the Argo Information Center where the maritime dominium of such country has been drawn inaccurately. One Delegation stated that reference should be made to Coastal States which have not as yet established an EEZ by inserting a non-prejudice clause with respect to their sovereign rights over the Continental Shelf.

At the end of the debate one Delegation proposed to insert a reference in the Resolution about the need to increase capacity building activities in general and within the Argo Project in particular, as the only means to secure the wide use of this new valuable ocean data by coastal states. Finally the Advisory Body agreed on the need to encourage Member States, that still haven’t done so, to designate an Argo focal point as requested by the IOC Executive Secretary and the WMO Secretary General in a Joint IOC-WMO Circular Letter (JCOMM No. 00-2 of 7 February 2000).

After the Advisory Body of Experts adopted the draft text of the Guidelines to be submitted to the Executive Council of IOC, with some text between brackets, some countries formulated the following statements with the explicit request that they be included in the written report of the meeting:

**Statement from the US Delegation:**

"I regret that I have to make this statement, but am compelled to do in light of the developments this week under agenda item 3.2.

Yesterday's presentation by Dr. Freeland, Argo Co-chair, demonstrated that the data collected by Argo profiling floats is essential for, and is used for, short term weather forecasting, for ocean state forecasting, and for understanding climate change.

Consequently, the gathering of these data is exactly the sort of activity which the World Meteorological Organization obtained the decision of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea in 1982 was not marine scientific research governed by Part XIII of the Convention. This is more fully spelled out in the 10 January 2007 comments of the United States contained in document ABE-LOS VII/8, pages 17-31.

Mr. Chairman,

Because we understand that Argentina does not accept this, the United States, as an exception and without prejudice to its position, has, as a matter of courtesy and cooperation, provided notification to Argentina of its Argo floats that may drift into Argentina's EEZ.

Mr. Chairman,

The Guidelines we have been working on all these years are supposed to be practical. They are not legally binding, of course. To give the notifications contemplated by paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of the draft Guidelines to other coastal States is simply not practicable. No implementer such as the United States is staffed to make such notifications to other coastal States. To the extent that making such notifications becomes expected, I regret to say that the United States will have to reconsider the situation.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by addressing the other means of collecting this data which is also extraordinarily valuable for all coastal States. The information gathered by drifting buoys and XBTs is also used for weather forecasting and ocean state estimation. The use of those instruments is, also, not marine scientific research governed by Part XIII of the Convention. Further, there is at present no information center, comparable to the Argo Information Center, for drifting buoys. As XBTs obtain data only one-time, I see no need for any Guidelines for their deployment or control over their data.

The deployment of Argo profiling floats, drifting buoys and XBTs are traditional exercises of the high seas freedom of navigation. They are not subject to coastal state control."

**Statement from the Peru Delegation:**

"Peru joins the consensus on the paragraphs of the Guidelines adopted by the Advisory Body expressing that the activities related to the collection of oceanographic data are marine scientific research, and therefore are subject to the consent regime by the Coastal State".

**Statement from the Argentinean Delegation:**

Argentina reaffirms that all activities directed at the obtaining of scientific data by instruments *in situ* in the jurisdictional waters of Coastal States are subject to the substantive provisions of Part XIII of UNCLOS -in particular, those asserting the consent of the Coastal State presiding such activities, in protection of its sovereign rights and jurisdiction over living and non-living resources.

ABE-LOS should not be used as a forum to attempt to revert this fact. Eventually, such issues should rather be addressed at the Meetings of States Parties to UNCLOS in New York.

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

In view of the lack of time, this item was not considered in details by the Advisory Body. However, within the context of discussions on the discussion paper presented by the delegation of the United Kingdom, the Chairman of ABE-LOS encouraged all delegations to consider the report of the Coordinator of the Subgroup, Ms. Liz Tirpak, as provided in English and French and to send comments to Ms. Mateos, Technical Secretary of ABE-LOS. One delegation recalled the importance of the work being undertaken under this item towards the implementation of article 251 of UNCLOS and another delegation called upon States, which still have not done so, to fill in and submit the relevant questionnaire.

**3.4 OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Lindsay Parsons from the Delegation of United Kingdom introduced this item, highlighting the main issues presented in document IOCABELOS.VIII/INF-01 "United Kingdom discussion paper on suggested topics of work to be undertaken by the IOC/ABE-LOS". He pointed out that the aim of the paper was to stimulate discussion on emerging issues that IOC/ABE-LOS, subject to IOC Governing Bodies approval, might undertake in its future activities. He suggested that the topics proposed in this document could be dealt with through small sub-groups working in parallel rather than in sequence, both at annual meetings of IOC/ABE-LOS and intersessionally.

The Advisory Body thanked the United Kingdom for its contribution. However, most of the Delegations agreed that the proposed working method for annual meetings would be very difficult to achieve since small Delegations would not be able to participate in all the parallel discussions, and would also require the additional presence of experts on several diverse disciplines. One Delegation suggested that intersessional informal consultative meetings, such as the one held in Easton (US) in October 2007, would be more helpful to achieve progress, together with the appointment of small groups of experts ("friends of the coordinator") supporting each of the coordinators of the sub-groups in drafting the working documents. This suggestion was supported by several Delegations.

**Topic 1.** One Delegation highlighted the importance of this topic for African countries and reminded the Group of the Resolution adopted on Item 16 of the 179th Session of the Executive Board of UNESCO. Several Delegations expressed their sympathy for the situation of the developing countries in relation with the critical deadline established in UN General Assembly Resolution 56/12, and informed the Group that consultations conducted around the subject in several fora and in New York indicate that a solution favorable to the plea of developing coastal nations will be found in the Meeting of the States Parties on the Law of the Sea. The Advisory Body agreed that IOC/ABE-LOS is not the proper forum to discuss this topic; the Meeting of the States Parties on the Law of the Sea is.

**Topic 2.** The Advisory Body shared the view that this is the main task that the Advisory Body is undertaking and that the Guidelines discussed in this meeting accomplishes only a part

of the mandate since it addresses only the deployment of Floats in the High Seas within the framework of the Argo Program. This topic was seen by several Delegations as a priority.

**Topic 3.** The Advisory Body reminded the Group of past discussions held in other ABE-LOS sessions, in which different positions were expressed regarding the nature of Marine Scientific Research. One Delegation stated that it is an interesting topic to be analyzed by legal scholars to be produced by IOC, while some Delegations were of the view that the topic was not one to be considered by the Group. It was further recalled that only a mandate from the IOC Governing Bodies could lead to IOC/ABE-LOS dealing with a new topic.

**Topic 4.** One Delegation stated that the current Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology are not being implemented by IOC Member States and that it was necessary to consider an amendment to the current Guidelines or an additional instrument to give effectiveness to this ABE-LOS product. Several Delegations remarked upon the importance of this tool for IOC Member States in the implementation of Part XIV of UNCLOS.

**Topic 5.** Most of Delegations agreed that this topic is being discussed in other UN fora, such as the *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*. However, the Chairman stated that in the Terms of Reference of this Working Group living resources were not included. The Advisory Body agreed that the proper procedure to deal with this topic was to receive a mandate from the UN General Assembly through the IOC Governing Bodies.

In taking note of the discussion, the Chairman added that attempts should be made to limit the number of agenda items at future meetings and that it would be useful to have an information of capacity-building day at the beginning of meetings.

Following discussions on the UK draft discussion paper, the representative of DOALOS referred to the recently adopted UNESCO resolution on the needs of African Coastal States facing the existing time limit for submission of their the data and other material concerning the outer limits of the continental shelf in areas where those limits extend beyond 200 nautical miles. The representative noted the call for assistance to DOALOS in cooperation with other organizations and stated that while DOALOS will certainly be studying the resolution, it should be pointed out that this concern has already been drawn to the attention of DOALOS by States and that this issue would constitute an item on the agenda of the forthcoming Meeting of States Parties, which will take place in New York, from 13-20 June 2008.

In addition, the representative of DOALOS recalled that while DOALOS performs the functions of Secretariat to UNCLOS, in order to assist in the effective implementation of UNCLOS, the Division follows a division of labour criteria by cooperating with relevant specialized agencies and programmes such as FAO, IOC, IMO and UNEP in their respective areas of competence.

#### 3.4.1 Updating Process under UN/OLA/DOALOS of the "Marine Scientific Research: A Guide to the Implementation of the Relevant Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea"

The representative of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea conveyed to the delegations that DOALOS had indeed decided to prepare an update of the MSR Guide. The representative stated that the brainstorming in the Division on this issue was still in its initial stages and that therefore, she was not in a position to offer any details as to the terms of reference for such an update. Recalling some concerns expressed during the meeting on this issue, the representative of DOALOS called upon delegations at IOC/ABE-LOS not to prejudge the work still to be developed on the update.

Dr Bernal, Executive Secretary stated that in accordance with the Resolution adopted by the IOC Assembly on the subject, IOC would assist DOALOS and contribute to the update of the MSR Guide.

#### **4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Advisory Body adopted** the Recommendations included in Annex II to be submitted to the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the IOC Executive Council.

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

The Advisory Body was invited to adopt this report and to send suggested amendments to the Secretariat through electronic correspondence by the 30 May 2008

#### **6 CLOSURE**

The IOC/ABE-LOS Chairman, Elie Jarmache, thanked all participants for their contributions and expressed the view that after serving as Chairman of the Advisory Body for eighth sessions, it was time for the group to think of a replacement of the Chair. The Chairman and the IOC Executive Secretary Patricio Bernal thanked the Coordinator of the open-ended Sub-group on the "IOC Legal Framework for the collection of oceanographic data within the context of UNCLOS" for the work undertaken.

The Advisory Body commended the work of the Chairman, the Coordinator and the Secretariat,

The Eighth meeting of IOC/ABE-LOS was closed by the Chairman at 13.15 p.m., on Friday 25 April 2008.

ANNEX I

**AGENDA**

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**
  - 2.1 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR
  - 2.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
  - 2.3 DOCUMENTATION
  - 2.4 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION
- 3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**
  - 3.1.1 Report of the Secretariat on the Intersessional Activities**
  - 3.1.2 Report of the Chairman on the Intersessional Activities**
  - 3.2 PROGRESS REPORT BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE IOC/ABE-LOS SUB-GROUP ON THE "IOC LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE COLLECTION OF OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF UNCLOS"
  - 3.3 PROGRESS REPORT BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE IOC/ABE-LOS SUB-GROUP ON THE PRACTICE OF MEMBER STATES IN THE APPLICATION OF PARTS XIII AND XIV OF UNCLOS.
  - 3.4 OTHER BUSINESS:
    - 3.4.1 Updating Process under UN/OLA/DOALOS of the "Marine Scientific Research: A Guide to the Implementation of the Relevant Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea"**
- 4. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARY REPORT**
- 5. CLOSURE**



## ANNEX II

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea at its 8<sup>th</sup> session (IOC/ABE-LOS VIII) recommended to the Executive Council of IOC the following:

1. To examine and, if appropriate, endorse the proposed *Guidelines* for implementation of Resolution XX-6 on the Argo Project, annexed to a Draft Resolution, and in particular to seek resolution of the opposing views expressed by the Group as reflected in text between brackets;
2. To engage the Advisory Body of Experts to continue to work in conformity with the current mandate given by the IOC Assembly;
3. That the Executive Secretary, in co-operation with WMO, undertakes an effort to expand and update the list of Argo Focal Points.

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION XX-6 OF THE IOC ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE DEPLOYMENT OF FLOATS IN THE HIGH SEAS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ARGO PROGRAM**

The IOC Member States recall and confirm the validity of Resolution XX-6, in particular the following elements of the resolution:

- The Argo project is an important contribution to the operational ocean observing system of GOOS and GCOS, as well as a major contribution to CLIVAR and other scientific research programmes.
- There is a need to ensure that Member States gain maximum benefit from the data of the Argo project in real-time and at longer time scales, and that they have the possibility to participate in and contribute to the project.
- Concerned coastal States must be informed in advance, through appropriate channels, of all deployments of profiling floats which might drift into waters under their jurisdiction.

For the purposes of implementing Resolution XX-6 regarding the deployment of Argo floats in the high seas that may enter the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), IOC Member States should follow these Guidelines and promote awareness of them among interested institutions:

1. In accordance with Resolution XX-6, an IOC Member State must be informed in advance, through appropriate channels, of the deployment in the high seas of any float within the framework of the Argo Program (hereinafter, Argo Program float) that may enter its EEZ. In implementing this provision, the Executive Secretary of IOC will invite all IOC Member States to state at any time, if they so desire and by written note addressed to him, that they wish to be notified of the deployment in the high seas of all Argo Program floats that may enter their respective EEZs. The Executive Secretary of IOC will immediately communicate such written note to IOC Member States.
2. A governmental, non-governmental or private entity designated as responsible for Argo Program floats deployed in the high seas (hereinafter, the implementer) will transmit through the Argo Information Centre to the Argo focal points designated by the IOC Member States the following information:

- type and number of floats planned to be deployed
- dates and geo-coordinates of locations where floats are to be deployed in the high seas
- contact information of the implementer
- parameters and variables to be collected by sensors
- other information that the implementer might consider of interest.

3. Whenever an Argo Program float deployed in the high seas might drift into the EEZ of an IOC Member State that has requested the notification referred to in paragraph 1, the implementer of such Argo Program float will notify the Argo focal point of the IOC Member State, by transmitting to it, reasonably in advance of the expected entry of the float into the EEZ, the following information:

- type of the float deployed
- date and geo-coordinates of location where the float was deployed in the high seas
- date and geo-coordinates of latest location of the float
- contact information of the implementer
- parameters and variables being collected by sensors
- other information that the implementer might consider of interest
- other Argo Program float information that the coastal State might consider of interest, as specified in the original notification.

Upon request of the responsible IOC Member State, and with the express agreement of the coastal State that has requested notification referred to in paragraph 1, the Argo Information Center can undertake the notification on behalf of the implementer.

4. All the data obtained by the Argo Program floats once they enter the EEZ will be made freely available by the implementer, with the exception of data of direct significance for the exploration and exploitation of natural resources, whether living or non-living, which, to protect its sovereign rights and jurisdiction in its EEZ, the IOC Member State whose EEZ the float enters formally requires the implementer not to be distributed. The aforementioned IOC Member State is encouraged, when possible, to determine a time limit for this request.

5. The guidelines set forth in paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 apply *mutatis mutandis* to an Argo Program float deployed in the high seas and drifting into the EEZ of an IOC Member State from the EEZ of another IOC Member State.

6. No action or activity taken on the basis of these Guidelines shall be interpreted or considered as prejudicing the positions of States Parties to a land or maritime sovereignty dispute or to a dispute concerning the delimitation of maritime areas.

7. For the purpose of an effective application of these Guidelines including, in particular, the notification to be provided by the implementer:

- a. the charts and lists of geographical coordinates of points, specifying the geodetic datum, duly publicized and deposited by IOC Member States with the Secretary-General of the United Nations will be used: or
- b. when such information is not available, the IOC Member States are encouraged to provide the relevant information to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the IOC or to the implementer, as appropriate.

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document Code	Title	Agenda Items	Langages
	<b>WORKING DOCUMENTS</b>		
IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/1 prov. Rev	Provisional Agenda	1-5	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/1 Add. Prov	Provisional Timetable	2.2, 2.4	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/2 prov	Provisional Annotated Agenda	1-5	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/3	Draft Summary Report (to be prepared during the meeting)	1-5	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/4 prov./rev	Provisional List of Documents (this document)	2.3	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/5 prov.	Provisional List of Participants (to be issued early during the Session)	--	--
IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/6 rev	Circular n.14 and Annexes (the "IOC Draft Resolution on the Argo Program" and the "Procedure for the implementation of Resolution XX-6 of the IOC Assembly regarding the deployment of floats contributing to the Argo Program"). (Professor Kari Hakapää)	3.2	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VII/7 <sup>1</sup>	Draft [practical] Guidelines of IOC, within the context of UNCLOS, for the collection of Oceanographic data by specific means (Professor Kari Hakapää)	3.2	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/7	Memorandum (summary of views) of the IOC/ABE-LOS Sub-Group on the IOC legal framework for the collection of Oceanographic Data within the context of UNCLOS (Secretariat) <b>(only available in electronic form)</b>	3.2	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/8	Report by the Coordinator of the Working Group on the Practices of Member States on Marine Scientific Research and Transfer of Marine Technology (Mrs. Elizabeth Tirpak)	3.3	E-F

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that it is a working document of IOC/ABE-LOS VII

Document Code	Title	Agenda Items	Langages
	<b>INFORMATION DOCUMENTS</b>		
IOC/INF-1245	IOC/INF-1245 IOC AND UNCLOS: Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Law of the Sea (2007-2008)	3.1	E
IOC Information Document, 1222	Procedure for the application of Article 247 of UNCLOS by IOC	3.1	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VII/3	Summary Report of the Seventh Session of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea	1-5	E F
IOC Technical Series, 75 IOC/LOS Dossier 1	National Ocean Policy: The basic texts from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Russian federation and USA	3.1	E
IOCABELOS.VIII/INF-01	United Kingdom discussion paper on suggested future topics of work to be undertaken by the IOC/ABE-LOS	3.4	E
IOCABELOS.VIII/INF-02	Report of the Chairman related to the IOC/ABE-LOS activities	3.1	E-F

ANNEX IV

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**I. OFFICERS OF THE MEETING/  
OFFICIERS DE LA RÉUNION**

**Chairman/Président**

Mr. Elie JARMACHE  
Secrétariat Général de la Mer  
16, boulevard Raspail  
75007 Paris, France  
Tel: (+33) (0) 1 53634158  
Fax: (+33) (0)1 53634178  
Email: elie.jarmache@sgmer.pm.gouv.fr

**Coordinator of the subgroup on the IOC  
Legal framework within the context of  
UNCLOS which is applicable to the collection  
of oceanographic Data**

Prof. Kari Hakapää  
Professor of Public International Law  
University of Lapland, Faculty of Law  
P.O. Box 122  
FIN-96101 Rovaniemi  
Finland  
Phone: (+358) 358 40 721 30 45  
Fax: (+358) 16 341 2500  
E-mail: Kari.Hakapaa@ulapland.fi

**II. EXPERTS PARTICIPANTS  
FROM MEMBER STATES/EXPERTS  
PARTICIPANTS DES ETATS MEMBRES**

**Algeria/Algérie**

Prof. Mostefa BOULAHIDID  
ISMAL, BP 19, Campus Universitaire de Dely  
Ibrahim  
Bois des Cars  
16320 Dely Ibrahim  
Alger  
Algérie  
Tel : 213-21917774  
fax : 213-21017791  
m\_boulahdid@ismal.net

**Angola**

Mme Lussinga JAMBA  
Délégation de l'Angola  
1, rue Miollis  
75015 Paris  
Tel : 0617685558  
Fax : 0145675748  
luluseteco@yahoo.com.br

**Argentina/Argentine**

Mr. Ariel Walter GONZÁLEZ  
Consejero de Embajada  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio  
Internacional y Culto  
Esmeralda 1212  
C1007 Buenos Aires  
Tel : (+54) 11 48198008  
Fax : (+54) 11 48198004  
Email: awg@mrecic.gov.ar

Mr. Ariel Hernán TROISI  
Representante Científico Alterno ante la COI  
Jefe de Departamento Oceanografía  
Servicio de Hidrografía Naval  
Ministerio de Defensa  
Avda Montes de Oca 2124  
C1270ABV Buenos Aires  
Tel : (+54) 11 43013091  
Fax : (+54) 11 43013091  
Email: atroisi@hidro.gov.ar

José Luís FERNÁNDEZ VALONI  
Primer Secretario de Embajada  
Delegación de la República Argentina auprès de  
l'UNESCO  
UNESCO 1, rue de Miollis  
75015 PARIS  
Tel: +33.1.45683437  
Email: jl.fernandez@unesco.org

Mrs Josefina BUNGE  
Secretario de Embajada  
Dirección General de Consejería Legal  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio  
Internacional y Culto  
Esmeralda 1212, piso 15  
C1007 Buenos Aires  
Tel: (+54) 11 4819-8008  
Fax: (+54) 11 4819-8009  
Email: jfb@mrecic.gov.ar

**Belgium/Belgique**

Prof. Dr. E. FRANCKX  
Director  
Faculty of Law  
Department of International and European Law  
Centre for International Law  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
Pleinlaan 2, 1050 Brussels  
Tel: (+32) 2 629 2606  
Fax: (+32) 2 629 1259  
Email: erik.franckx@vub.ac.be

### **Brazil/Brésil**

Capt (Ret). Luiz Alberto MARINS NASCIMENTO  
General Directorate of Navigation – Brazilian  
Navy  
Pca. Barao de Ladario, s/no. - Ed. Alte  
Tamandare - 6o. Andar  
20091 000 Rio de Janeiro- Estado de Rio de  
Janeiro  
Phone: +55 21 04 6748  
Fax : +55 21 2104 6095  
E-mail: lmarins@con.mar.mil.br

Daniela Arruda BENJAMIN  
First Secretary  
Permanent Delegation of Brazil to UNESCO  
UNESCO House  
Tel : +33.1.45682888  
Email : d.benjamin@unesco.org

### **Cameroon/ Cameroun**

Mr Pierre Ricard NJIKE NGAHA  
Docteur d'État des Sciences- Chef de Cellule de  
Suivi (Directeur)  
Ministère de la Recherche Scientifique et de  
l'Innovation  
B.P..1457 Yaoundé  
Tel. 237.77740792  
E-mail: pr.njike@yahoo.fr

### **Canada**

Ms. Vesna GUZINA  
Legal Officer/Agente juridique  
Oceans and Environmental Law Division /  
Direction du droit des océans et de  
l'environnement  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International  
Trade/  
Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du  
Commerce international  
Lester B. Pearson Building  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2  
Tel/Tél: +1 613-944-0681  
Fax/Téléc: +1 613-992-6483  
Email: Vesna.Guzina@international.gc.ca

Howard John Freeland  
Argo Co-Chairman- Res. Scientist  
Institute of Ocean Sciences  
9865 West Saanich Road  
North Saanich, V8L 4B2  
British Columbia - Canada  
Tel: 01(250)-363-6590  
Fax: 01 250 363 6690  
Howard.Freeland@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

### **China/Chine**

Dr. Haiwen ZHANG (Head of Delegation)  
Research Fellow  
Deputy Director-General  
China Institute for Marine Affairs (CIMA)  
State Oceanic Administration (SOA)  
1 Fuxingmenwai Ave  
Beijing 100860  
P.R. China  
Tel: (+86) 10 68044631  
Fax: (+86) 10 68044631  
Email: haiwen@cima.gov.cn;  
haiwencima@yahoo.com

Dr. Guijun HAN  
Research Proffessor  
National Marie Data and Information Service  
(NMDIS)  
State Oceanic Administration (SOA)  
93, Liuwei Road, Hedong  
District, Tianjin 300171  
P.R China  
Tel: 86 22 24010846  
Fax: 86 22 24010926  
Email: gjhan@mail.nmdis.gov.cn

### **Republic of Congo/République du Congo**

Mr. Alain Claver BATCHY  
Consultant en Ecosystèmes Marin et côtier/  
Consultant  
Cabinet  
Ministère des Tansports Maritimes et de la  
Marine Marchande  
Bureau 16 étage Tour Nabemba  
BP 15000 Brazzaville  
Tel : (+242) 82 55 16  
Cel. : (+242) 521 38 80  
B.P. 4808 Pointe Noire  
Fax: (+242) 82 55 14  
Email: batchyalain@yahoo.fr;  
aclabat@hotmail.com, mtmmm@hotmail.com

Jean baptiste MAVOUNGOU-SOUAMI  
Conseillère Juridique (magistrat)  
Expert en droit de la mer  
Ministère des Tansports Maritimes et de la  
Marine Marchande  
Bureau 16 étage Tour Nabemba  
BP 15000 Brazzaville  
Tel : (+242) 82 55 16  
Email : mavoungou\_souami@yahoo.fr,  
mtmmm@hotmail.com

## **Cuba**

Orlando REY  
Director of Environment  
Ministry of Science, Technology and  
Environment  
Capitolio National,  
Ciudad Habana  
Tel : 537. 8670598  
Fax : 537. 8670615  
Email: orlando@chma.cu

## **Egypt**

Prof. Ahmed ABOU-ELWAFA  
Professeur de droit international public  
Département de droit international  
Faculté de droit, Université du Caire  
21, rue Al-Akhshead- Le Caire  
Tel : 0020.23649006  
Fax : 0020. 235688636  
Email: a\_wafa\_faclawcairo@hotmail.com

Prof. Mohamed Ahmed SAID  
Professor of Physical Oceanography  
National Institute of Oceanography & Fisheries  
(NIOF)  
8, Dr Abdel Hamid street, El-Shatby  
21111 Alexandria, Egypt  
Tel. +20.12. 377.9117, +2035907223  
Fax: +2034801553  
Email: mamsaid2@hotmail.com

## **Finland/Finlande**

Prof. Kari HAKAPÄÄ  
Professor of Public International Law  
University of Lapland, Faculty of Law  
P.O. Box 122  
FI-96101 Rovaniemi  
Tel: (+358) 40 721 3045  
Fax: (+358) 16 341 2500  
Email: kari.hakapaa@ulapland.fi

## **France/France**

Mr. Elie JARMACHE  
Secrétariat Général de la Mer  
16, boulevard Raspail  
75007 Paris  
France  
Tel: (+33) (0) 1 53634158  
Fax: (+33) (0)1 53634178  
Email: elie.jarmache@sgmer.pm.gouv.fr

## **Gabon/Gabon**

Dr. Pierre MAGANGA  
Ambassador Director General of the law of the  
sea  
DGDM / Ministry of Foreign Affairs Cooperation,  
Francophony and Regional Integration

B.P 408 Libreville  
Tel: (+241) 73 12 48 / 730959  
Fax : (+241) 730 963  
Mobile. (+241) 06246587/07505444  
Email: magp58@yahoo.fr

## **Germany/Allemagne**

Dr. Stefan KEIL  
Deputy Head of the law of the sea division  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Germany  
Werderscher Markt 1  
D- 14167 Berlin  
Tel.: +49 301 5000 3832  
Fax: +49 30 5000 5 3832  
Email: 504-0@diplo-de

Dr. Kai TRÜMLER  
Legal officer  
Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie  
(BSH)  
(Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency)  
D- 20359 Hamburg  
Tel.: +49 40 3190-2121  
Fax: +49 40 3191 5000  
Email: kai.truempler@bsh.de

Ms Gitte WARNICK, LL.M.  
Legal Adviser  
Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH  
(Research Centre Jülich)  
Seestrasse 15  
D-18119 Rostock  
Tel.: 49 381 5197 427  
Fax: 49 38151509  
Email: g.warnick@fz-juelich.de

## **Greece/Grèce**

Dr Anastasia STRATI  
Expert Counselor for the Law of the sea  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
3, Academias Str. Athens 10671  
Tel:+30 694 78 10 501  
+30 210 3682138  
Fax:+30 210 3682239  
Email: astrati@cc.uoa.gr

## **Haiti**

Jean Marie DENISE  
Déléguée permanente adjoint, chargée  
d'affaires auprès de l'UNESCO, diplomate  
35 avenue de Villiers 75017 Paris  
Délégation permanente d'Haïti auprès de  
l'UNESCO  
Tel. 01 42127054  
fax/télécopie : 01 42 12 82 38  
Email : delehaitiunesco@wanadoo.fr

### **India/Inde**

Dr. S. K. DAS  
Adviser  
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Block-12, CGO  
Complex,  
Lodi Road,  
110003 Govt of INDIA New Delhi  
91) 11 24362023/ (91) 1124362023  
Email: skdod@Yahoo.com

Dr. Krothapalli SOMASUNDAR  
Director, Ministère of Earth Science  
Block-12 CGO Complex Lodi Road  
110003 New Delhi, INDIA  
Tel : 011-24306831  
Fax : 011-24362644  
Email: somadod@gmail.com

### **Japan/Japon**

Dr. Kazuhiro KITAZAWA  
Special Adviser for the Minister of Education,  
Culture, Sports, Science and Technology  
Planning Department  
Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and  
Technology  
(JAMSTEC)  
2-15 Natsushima-cho  
Yokosuka 237-0061  
Japan  
Tel: (+81) 46 867 9191  
Fax : (+81) 46 867 9195  
Email: kitazawa@jamstec.go.jp

### **Kenya/Kenya**

Dr Johnson M. KAZUNGU  
Director,  
Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute  
P.O. Box 81651  
Mombasa  
Tel/Fax: (+254 41) 47 51 57  
Email: jkazungu@kmfri.co.ke

### **Republic of Korea/République du Corée**

Dr. Mr. Seong Wook Park  
Principal Senior Research scientist  
Korean Ocean Research and Development  
Institute  
ANSAN P.O. Box 29  
KYHNGGIDO 426-144  
Tel: 82 31400 5604  
Fax: 82 31400 6505  
Email: swpark@kordi.re.kr

Ms. Charity M. LEE  
Senior Research Specialist  
Policy Research Division  
Korean Ocean Research and Development  
Institute  
ANSAN P.O. Box 29  
KYUNGIDO 426-144  
Tel: (+82) 31400 6218  
Fax: (+82) 31400 6505  
Email: cmlee@kordi.re.kr

### **Kuwait**

Dr Khaled AL-BANAA  
Research Scientist  
Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research  
Coastal and Air pollution department  
P.O.Box 24885  
13109 Safat  
Tel. 945.7142228  
Fax: 945. 498 9759  
Email: kbanaa@kisr.edu.kw

### **Madagascar**

Dr Mr Faneva RANDRIANANDRAINANA  
Conseiller scientifique  
Représentation Permanente de Madagascar  
auprès de l'UNESCO  
40, rue du Général Foy  
75008 Paris  
Tel : 0618449247  
Fax : 0145222289  
Email : faneva@hotmail.com

### **México**

Dr. Ismael Madrigal Monarrez  
Scientific Adviser  
Permanent Delegation of Mexico to UNESCO  
1, rue Miollis  
75015 Paris  
Tel. (+33) 145683487  
Email : i.madrigal@unesco.org

### **Morocco/Maroc**

Prof. Mohammed MONCEF  
Représentant du Maroc- Chef de délégation  
Laboratoire d'Etude et d'Analyse  
Environnementales (LEAE)  
Université Chouaïb Doukkali  
Faculté des Sciences  
B.P. 20  
24000 – EL JADIDA  
Tel: (+212) 23 34 30 03/ +212 61230442  
Fax: (+212) 23 34 21 87  
Email: mdmoncef@yahoo.fr



Prof. Larbi SBAI  
Docteur d'Etat en droit  
Conseiller du Secrétaire Général  
Département Pêche Maritime  
Av. belhassan Ouazzani, Nouveau quartier  
administratif  
Haut Agdal  
Rabat  
Tel: (+212) 37 68 82 60  
Fax: (+212) 37 68 82 99  
Email: sbai@mpm.gov.ma

#### **The Netherlands/Les Pays-Bas**

Mr Alfred H.A. SOONS  
Professor of Public International Law  
Utrecht University  
Achter Sint Pieter 200  
NL-3512 HT Utrecht  
Tel: (+31) 30 253 7056  
Fax: (+31) 30 253 7073  
Email: A.SOONS@LAW.UU.NL

#### **Oman**

Dr Masoud KASHOOB  
Law expert  
Ministry of Fisheries Wealth  
Fax: 00968.24740159

Dr. Hamed ALGHEILANI  
Marine Ecology researcher  
Ministry of fisheries wealth  
Tel: 00.968.99.340685  
Fax: 00.968.24740159  
Email: asadalaqidah@hotmail.com

#### **Peru/Pérou**

Dr. Elvira VELÁSQUEZ  
Minister at the Embassy of Peru in Austria  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Peru  
Gottfried Keller-Gasse, 2/1-2  
1030 Vienna  
AUSTRIA  
Tel: (+43) 1 7134377, 71 57486 and 7137054  
Email: evelasquez@embaperuaustria.at

Alfredo PICASSO de OYAGUE  
Conseiller délégation du Pérou auprès de  
l'UNESCO  
102, rue de Ranelagh  
75016 Paris  
Tel. 00.33.1.45686342  
apicasso@club-internet.fr

#### **Poland/Pologne**

Dr. Dorota LOST-SIEMINSKA  
Ministry of Infrastructure- Concellor  
Dpt of Maritime Transport  
Chakubinskiego 4/6  
01-171 Warsaw  
tel. 0048.603089004  
Email: dsieminska@mgm.gov.pl

#### **Portugal/Portugal**

Prof. Maria Eduarda GONCALVES  
Department of Law  
Instituto Superior de Ciencias do Trabalho e da  
Empresa  
Avenida das Forças Armadas 1649-026  
Lisbon  
Phone: (+21) 351 21 7903494  
Fax: (+21) 790 64710  
Email: mebg@iscte.pt

#### **Senegal/Sénégal**

Ms. Marième Diagne TALLA  
Juriste des droits de la mer  
Chef du bureau Législation et Suivi des Accords  
et Conventions  
Direction des Pêches Maritimes  
Ministère de l'Economie Maritime et des  
Transports Maritimes Internationales  
1, rue Joris – DAKAR  
BP 289 DAKAR  
Tel: (+221) 823 01 37  
Fax: (+221) 821 47 58  
Email: dopm@orange.sn; masodiagne@yahoo.fr

Birane SAMB  
Chercheur  
Centre de recherches océanographiques de  
Dakar Thiroye  
BP 2241 Dakar  
Tel : 338328265  
Fax : 338328262  
Email : bsambe@yahoo.fr

Docteur Moussa BAKHYOKHO  
Représentant du Sénégal au groupe de travail  
sur l'avenir COI  
Ministère de l'Economie maritime  
Tel : 221 33 8497174  
221 77 64 50389  
Email : bakhayok@yahoo.fr

Mr Mouhamed KONATE  
Conseiller, point Focal pour la COI  
1, rue Miollis  
75732 Paris cedex 15  
Tel : 0145683389  
Fax : 0143061055  
Email : m.konate@unesco.org

### **Spain/Espagne**

Mr. Luis FONSECA SÁNCHEZ  
Consejero Tecnico  
Asesoría Jurídica Internacional  
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de  
Cooperación  
Plaza de la Provincia 1  
28071 Madrid  
Phone: (+34) 91 379 99 11  
Fax: (+34) 91 364 06 45  
Email: luis.fonseca@maec.es

Dr. Gregorio PARRILLA BARRERA  
Investigador A-1  
Instituto Español de Oceanografía  
Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación  
Corazon de Maria 8  
28002 Madrid  
Phone: (+34) 91 347 36 08  
Fax: (+34) 91 413 55 97  
E mail: gregorio.parrilla@md.ieo.es

### **Syrian Arab Republic/République arabe syrienne**

Prof. Hawash SHAHIN  
Bramkeh  
Université de Damas, Faculté de Droit,  
Département de Droit International  
Damas, Syrie  
Tel: (+963).11.3234655  
Fax: (+963).11.944270142  
Email: hawash@scs-net.org

### **Togo/Togo**

Prof. Adoté Blim BLIVI  
Chercheur en Géomorphologie et Gestion du  
Littoral  
Université de Lomé  
Centre de Gestion Intégrée du Littoral et de  
l'Environnement  
Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines  
Département de Géographie  
B.P. 1515 / 60047 Bè Lomé Togo  
Phone: (D/H) : (+228) 227 08 50 / 270 77 11  
Cel: (+228) 905 39 14  
Phone: (B/O): (+228) 221 68 17/222 4865  
Fax: (+228) 221 85 95  
Email: adoblivi@hotmail.com; cgileul@yahoo.fr

### **Tunisia/Tunisie**

Prof. Sammari CHERIF  
Head of the Laboratory of the Marine  
Environment  
Institut National des Sciences et Technologies  
de la Mer (INSTM)  
28 Rue 2 Mars 1934  
2025 Salammbô  
Tel : (+216) 71 730 420/(+216) 71 277 735

Fax : (+216) 71 732 622  
Email: cherif.sammari@instm.rnrt.tn

### **Turkey/Turquie**

Dr. Ahmet TÜRKER  
Head of the Technical Group  
The Office of Navigation, Hydrography and  
Oceanography  
34805 Cubuklu  
Beykoz Istanbul, 34805  
Tel: (+90).216.322.25.80 (ext 3000)  
Fax: (+90).216.331.05.25  
Email : aturker@shodb.gov.tr,  
ahmet.turkerr@gmail.com

### **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland/Royaume Uni de Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord**

Dr. Trevor GUYMER  
Inter-Agency Committee on Marine Science and  
Technology (IACMST)  
National Oceanographic Centre Southampton  
European Way  
Southampton SO14 3ZH  
Tel: 44 23 8059 6789  
Fax: 44 23 80 59 6204  
Email: thg@noc.soton.ac.uk

Dr. Lindsay PARSON  
National Oceanography Centre  
European Way  
Southampton SO14 3ZH  
Tel: 44 0238 596541  
Fax: 44 02380 596554  
Sec: 44 02380 596542/596555  
Email: L.parson@noc.soton.ac.uk

Lt.Cdr. Roland ROGERS (retired)  
Senior Defence Analyst (Environment)  
Room 251/08  
National Oceanography Centre Southampton,  
European Way  
Hampshire SO14 3ZH  
Tel: (+44).2380.596314836314  
Fax: (+44).2380.596142  
Email: rjrogers1@QinetiQ.com

Sir Michael WOOD  
Senior fellow  
Lauterpacht Centre for International Law  
5 Cranmer Road, Cambridge CB3 9BL  
Email: mwood@20essexst.com

**United States of America/Etats Unis  
d'Amérique**

Capt. J. Ashley ROACH  
Office of the Legal Adviser (L/OES)  
U.S. Department Of State,  
2201 C ST NW,  
Washington, DC 20520 - 6419  
Phone: (+1 202) 647 1646  
Fax: (+1 202) 736 7620  
Email: roachja@state.gov

Dr. Stephen R. PIOTROWICZ  
Deputy Director, Oceanographer  
NOAA / The National Office for Integrated and  
Sustained Ocean Observations (OCEAN US)  
1100 Wayne Avenue, suite 1210  
Silver Spring  
Maryland 20910  
Tel: 1-301 4272493  
Fax: 1-301 4272131  
Email: steve.piotrowicz@noaa.gov

**Venezuela**

Mr Julian OCHOA  
First secretary delegation of Venezuela to the  
UNESCO  
Email: J.Ochoa@unesco.org

**III. ORGANISATIONS/ ORGANIZATIONS**

**Argo Information Centre/  
Centre d'information Argo**

Mr. Mathieu BELBEOCH  
Argo Technical Coordinator  
JCOMMOPS 8-10 Rue Hermes  
Parc Technologique du Canal 31526  
Ramonville Cedex-France  
Tel (+33) 561 394730  
Fax (+33) 561 751014  
Email: belbeoch@jcommops.org

**Permanent Commission for the South Pacific  
(CPPS)**

Fernando PARDO  
Under Secretary, Permanent Commission for the  
South Pacific (CPPS)  
Av. Carlos Julio Arosemena, km 3 ½  
Complejo Alban Borja, edif Classic, piso 2  
Guayaquil  
Ecuador  
Tel. 5934.222 1202  
Fax: 5934 222 1201  
Email: fpardo@cpps-int.org

**International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea  
(ITLOS)**

Mr. Louis SAVADOGO  
ITLOS Greffe  
Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1 – 22609  
Hamburg - Germany  
Tel.: (49)(40)35607238 - Fax: (49)(40) 35607-  
245  
E-mail: itlos@itlos.org, savadogo@itlos.org

**The International Union for the Conservation  
of Nature (IUCN)**

Dr Philomène VERLAAN  
Adviser- IUCN Commission on Environmental  
Law  
Attorney at Law and Oceanographer  
2 Tredegar Mews, London E3 5AF  
United Kingdom  
Tel (+44) 20 8981 1245  
Fax: same  
Email: tcipav@yahoo.com

**UN/OLA/DOALOS (United Nations/Nations  
Unies /Office of Legal Affairs /Bureau des  
Affaires Juridiques/ Division for Ocean  
Affairs and the Law of the Sea/Division des  
Affaires Maritimes et du Droit de la Mer)**

Ms. Alice HICUBURUNDI  
Law of the Sea/ Ocean Affairs Officer  
Deputy Capacity-building Coordination  
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the  
Sea  
Office of Legal Affairs  
United Nations  
2 UN Plaza; Room DC2-422  
New York, NY 10017  
United States of America  
Tel: (+1 212) 963-59 15  
Fax: (+1 212) 963-58 47  
Email: hicuburundi@un.org

**IV. IOC SECRETARIAT/  
SECRETARIAT DE LA COI**

Dr. Patricio BERNAL  
Executive Secretary IOC  
B4.21  
Tel. +33145683983  
Email: p.bernal@unesco.org

Ms. Aurora MATEOS  
Technical Secretary for UNCLOS  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission  
of UNESCO  
1 rue Miollis, Office B 430  
Paris 75775  
FRANCE  
Tel: (+33 1) 45683994  
Email: a.mateos@unesco.org

ANNEX V

**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

<b>AIC</b>	Argo Information Centre
<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>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>GSSC</b>	GOOS Scientific Steering Committee
<b>GRA</b>	GOOS Regional Alliance
<b>ICSU</b>	International Council for Science
<b>IOC/ABE-LOS</b>	Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC of UNESCO)
<b>I-GOOS</b>	IOC-WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System
<b>IMO</b>	International Maritime Organization
<b>IOC</b>	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO)
<b>IUCN</b>	World Conservation Union
<b>JCOMM</b>	Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology
<b>MSR</b>	Marine Scientific Research
<b>TMT</b>	Transfer of Marine Technology
<b>TMTA</b>	Transfer of Marine Technology Application
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<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>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**)
12. Joint 100-WMO Meeting for Implementation of IGOSS XBT Ships-of-Opportunity Programmes
13. Second Session of the Joint CCOP/SOPAC-IOC Working Group on South Pacific Tectonics and Resources
14. Third Session of the Group of Experts on Format Development
15. Eleventh Session of the Joint CCOP-IOC Working Group on Post-IDOE Studies of South-East Asian Tectonics and Resources
16. Second Session of the IOC Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean and Overlay Sheets
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
24. Second Session of the IOC-UN(OETB) Guiding Group of Experts on the Programme of Ocean Science in Relation to Non-Living Resources (**Also printed in French and Spanish**)
25. Third Session of the IOC Group of Experts on Effects of Pollutants
26. Eighth Session of the IOC-UNEP Group of Experts on Methods, Standards and Intercalibration
27. Eleventh Session of the Joint IOC-IHO Guiding Committee for the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (**Also printed in French**)
28. Second Session of the IOC-FAO Guiding Group of Experts on the Programme of Ocean Science in Relation to Living Resources
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
47. Cancelled
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
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
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 CO2 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**)
212. First meeting of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG), Paris, 3–4 April 2008 (**Executive Summary in English, French, Russian and Spanish included**)
213. First Session of the Panel for Integrated Coastal Observation (PICO-I), Paris, 10–11 April 2008 (**electronic copy only**)
214. Tenth Session of the IOC Group of Experts on the Global Sea level Observing System (GLOSS), Paris, 6–8 June 2007 (**electronic copy only**)
215. Eighth Meeting of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS), Paris, 21–25 April 2008 (**bilingual English/French**)