



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

Sixth Meeting

Málaga, Spain
3–7 April 2006

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies

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1. OPENING AND WELCOMING ADDRESSES

Mr Elie Jarmache, Chairman of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS) opened the Sixth Meeting of IOC/ABE-LOS at 16:45 on Monday 3 April 2006. He invited the authorities of the Central Government of Spain, the Regional Government (la Junta de Andalucía), the local Government of Málaga (Diputación and Town Hall) and the IOC Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the IOC Executive Secretary/Assistant Director-General of UNESCO to make their welcoming addresses and statements.

The Mayor, Francisco de la Torre, welcomed the Delegations to the city of Málaga, renowned around the world by its hospitality and highlighted the significance of hosting this event for a city with such longstanding maritime history. The Vice-President of the “Diputación Provincial of Malaga”, Marisa Bustinduy, expressed her views on the extreme political sensitivity of the issues to be discussed during the sessions to come and their direct influence in the protection of life, property and exploitation of resources. In turn, Ms Concepción Escobar, Head of the International Juridical Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pointed out the importance of IOC/ABE-LOS as well as the need to increase the knowledge in order to regulate the activities, being collection of oceanographic data and marine scientific research of paramount importance. She further expressed the fact that all human activities, including the collection of data and the marine scientific research should be carried out taking into account customary Law of the Sea and UNCLOS, respecting the rights and obligations of the States. Concepción Soto, the Director of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography mentioned the new requirements resulting from the recent technologies and the contribution of oceanography to the sustainable development and the climate change research.

Prof. Mario Ruivo, Vice-chairman of IOC, addressed the meeting on behalf of the Executive Secretary, Patricio Bernal, who could not attend the meeting for reasons of health. He highlighted the increasing importance of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the international community as the problems related to the oceans are coming back as priority on the agendas of Member States (complete text available at [Annex V](#))

The “Vice-consejero de Medio Ambiente de la Junta de Andalucía”, Antonio Llaguno, reiterated the close relationship of Andalusia with the marine environment and its interest for the international cooperation, as the protection of environment is a whole. He remarked the interest of Andalusia to continue collaborating with IOC Programmes, citing as an example the contribution made to the publication of the CGTMT.

Bernardino León Gross, Secretario de Estado, brought to attention the threats and impacts on the oceans of human activities, exploitation of resources and pollution. This being said, he underlined the great work carried out by the group and urged for results at the end of the week. He underlined the fact that Spain firmly believes in multilateralism and the respect of international legality.

The IOC/ABE-LOS Chairman, Mr Elie Jarmache, thanked the hosts for the support and arrangements for the meeting of this group that counts with a real universal representation and a truly multidisciplinary constitution.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

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

2.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Advisory Body adopted the agenda and timetable of the meeting, on the basis of the Provisional Agenda (Doc. IOC/ABE-LOS VI/1 prov.) and Timetable (Doc. IOC/ABE-LOS VI/1 Add. prov.) adding a new agenda item 3.3. (reports of the Chairperson of I-GOOS and the Technical Co-ordinator of the Argo Information Centre).

2.3 DOCUMENTATION

The Technical Secretary introduced the list of documents (Doc. IOC/ABE-LOS VI/4 prov.) for the meeting.

3. REPORTS OF INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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

Mr Elie Jarmache, Chairman of IOC/ABE-LOS, summarised Doc. IOC/ABE-LOS VI/6 ([Annex IV](#) to this report) and invited the participants to comment on it. He emphasised the good reception by the IOC at the 23rd IOC Assembly of the Procedure for the application of Article 247 of UNCLOS. He also brought attention to the issue of marine biodiversity beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and the discussions being held at the UN, underlining that the IOC Governing Bodies might eventually have to consider giving a mandate to the Group to address the subject.

As a preliminary reaction on the Chairman's report, one Delegation pointed out the fact that IOC/ABE-LOS should remain faithful to the mandate of IOC Resolution XIX-19 providing advice to IOC, as competent international organisation, to carry out its activities in the framework of Parts XIII and XIV of UNCLOS. It further expressed that the UN was the proper forum to discuss the marine biodiversity issues under part XI and, once the political debate is solved, there will be additional tasks for IOC/ABE-LOS within Parts XIII and XIV. Several Delegations shared this opinion.

In this context, some Delegations further suggested that IOC/ABE-LOS should remain ready to discuss the issue once the UN General Assembly, as the appropriate body, adopts decisions on this matter.

Several Delegations agreed on the importance and convenience of counting with a Secretariat report reflecting the intersessional activities and developments resulting in a useful tool to put the work of the group into perspective.

3.2 PROGRESS REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT

The IOC Technical Secretary, Ms Aurora Mateos, introduced this item as an Addendum to the report of the Chairman. She informed the Advisory Body on the intersessional activities which has been undertaken in accordance with the IOC/ABE-LOS V Recommendations and the IOC Assembly Resolutions XXIII-8 and 9, summed up in document IOC/ABE-LOS VI/7. She summarized the results achieved and the work in progress by the IOC Secretariat in relation to the above mandates and the interactions with the IOC Programmes.

The Advisory Body commended the Secretariat on the work done during the intersessional period, including the provision in due time of the documents in both working languages. **The Advisory Body welcomed** the initiative of providing a detailed report on the intersessional activities which aims at following-up the work of the Secretariat.

The dedicated website was considered an important development which needed further support in order to ensure its dynamic and continuous update. The website should be progressive and user-friendly. Some Delegations proposed the implementation of password or access restriction mechanisms to enable the use of the site to post information and documents of restricted distribution. The Secretariat informed that this mechanism was already created in the web and it was in process to make it functional for Experts.

One Delegation proposed the addition of a Newsletter to the website, which could help Experts to provide with selected information on Transfer of Marine Technology and Marine Scientific Research. Another Delegation proposed to post on the web information on the practices of Member States, such as statistics on the requests and processing of authorizations for Marine Scientific Research. Another Delegation doubted the usefulness of such information due to a probable lack of comprehensive coverage, geographically as well as substantially.

One Delegation underlined the importance of the report by the Secretariat and proposed to focus it in the future on the intersessional activities with regard to the work of the Advisory Body.

Several Delegations agreed that there must be close cooperation and interaction with UN/OLA/DOALOS with regards to the National Legislation database so as to avoid duplication. The IOC Secretariat called for more collaboration in receiving specialized National Legislations on Marine Scientific Research and Transfer of Marine Technology in view of creating this new section on the web.

One Delegation pointed out the need for promoting the Roster of Experts by the IOC Secretariat. Another Delegation brought the attention to the need of a wider spectrum of languages in point 7 of the “Orientation Guide” to give advice to the requesting Member State. One Delegation stressed the importance of discussing in depth the “Orientation Guide”, particularly the application Procedure. The Chairperson remarked that the Guide is still a draft and invited the Delegations to extend comments. Various Delegations suggested the need for the “Orientation Guide” to clarify the procedure of selection of experts to be included in the Roster of Experts.

One Delegation was of the opinion that the reference to the Argo project and article 247 was not correct as such project did not qualify for the implementation of the “Procedure for the application of Article 247 of UNCLOS by the IOC”. This view was not shared by other Delegation who considered that Argo did perfectly qualify for this Procedure on Article 247 of UNCLOS.

3.3 REPORTS BY THE I-GOOS CHAIRMAN AND THE ARGO TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

The Chairman of I-GOOS, François Gérard, introduced his report on GOOS and the law of the sea as part of the mandate received from the IOC Assembly through Resolution XXIII-8. He presented the structure of GOOS and I-GOOS within IOC, providing description of the scope of GSSC, GRAs and JCOMM. He pointed out that monitoring activities demanded long-term commitments, sustainability, data timely available though not necessarily all in real-time, and a clear legal framework. He presented the GOOS action for the period 2005–2009 and gave information on the implementation of Argo, surface drifter programme and XBT observations.

One Delegation considered that there were some communication problems between scientists and jurists and that this closer interaction between I-GOOS and IOC/ABE-LOS was a solution that should be continued.

Several Delegations concluded that there were difficulties in reaching an agreed definition of the term “Operational”. One Delegation further expressed that the Argo project was regulated by UNCLOS as any other collection of data in the sea.

The continuity of Argo and the ability to accommodate new sensors in the floats was raised by one Delegation.

Another Delegation considered that GOOS activities were closely intertwined with science and research and that the coastal zone was a very important interface. Additionally, he considered the IOC-WMO Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) fundamental to cover ocean and atmosphere requirements.

Responding to a question, Dr Gérard said that operational programmes were meant to benefit society and not research, though he recognised that research also benefited society. Several Delegations were of the opinion that there was no clear division between marine scientific research and operational oceanography.

One Delegation noted the importance and unique character of Argo data for operational hurricane track forecasting.

The Delegations agreed in the fact that no one questioned the free and open availability of the data. One Delegation further expressed that once the data is collected according to appropriate legal procedures under UNCLOS, there are no restrictions to the data flow.

One Delegation stated that it is fundamental to know in all cases who is the responsible operator of each float, citing the example of the floats operating in the European Union

The Argo project Technical Coordinator, Mr Mathieu Belbeoch, introduced the information document Report on the “Argo project” in which he presented its current status together with the background and activities of the Argo Information Centre.

Some Delegations expressed the need to continue the awareness and capacity building efforts and showed concern about the limitations the lack of proper funding could pose on current or future participation in the project.

Some Delegations mentioned that although the report was an information document, it touched issues that almost turned it into a working document.

One Delegation expressed the support to this modality of marine scientific research as well as to the valuable work of the Argo Information Centre (AIC) as clearinghouse. Nevertheless it disagreed with the affirmation that the AIC was created responding to IOC Resolution XX-6 mandate. It added that the mentioned resolution clearly states that the project must be fully consistent with UNCLOS which, among other factors, requires a bilateral relationship between the Researcher State or institution and the coastal State. He further stated the disagreement with the information document from its point 2.3 onwards as it proposes mechanisms contrary to those established in UNCLOS, not being any other notification procedure for marine scientific research besides the one established in Part XIII of UNCLOS.

Another Delegation expressed his full agreement with this position and stated that any authorization mechanism different from the one regulated in Part XIII was unacceptable and called upon the Argo Technical Coordinator for clarity to avoid confusions.

The Argo Technical Coordinator pointed out that the notification of deployments directly in EEZ, since the deployments are done by the Coastal Member State or with the legal consent of the Coastal State, is done for transparency purposes and not as a substitute for legal clearance mechanisms. One Delegation did not agree with the statement.

3.4 PROGRESS REPORT BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE IOC/ABE-LOS 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 summarized the process of drafting the first and second draft and informed on the comments received on the First Draft from 12 Member States, and UN/OLA/DOALOS. He also noted that two more sets of comments were submitted later in the intersessional period. He commented the interaction with the IOC Secretariat, UN/OLA/DOALOS and I-GOOS in the intersessional period. On the substance, he considered various options and decided to include in the first draft a proposal of notification arrangements, where the IOC Secretariat would be involved in, which would take use of the databases available to IOC membership, and which would take into account the special nature of data collection to the benefit of the international community as a whole. He pointed out the difficult challenges of this subject.

The Chairman thanked the excellent work done by Professor Kari Hakapää during the intersessional period in such complex matter, in which he made remarkable advances.

One Delegation stressed the complexity of the various issues addressed in the Draft Guidelines. He suggested that the best way to achieve results would be to divide the project in various phases limited to specific methods of data collection, and limited to projects under the auspices of IOC. He proposed to start drafting guidelines limited to the deployment of profiling floats in the framework of the Argo project.

Several Delegations stated that the distinction between marine scientific research and data collection was in part artificial since these activities were closely interrelated. Some Delegations further recalled that UNCLOS chose not to distinguish fundamental from applied research.

It was pointed out that it is necessary to clarify the nature of collection of Oceanographic Data and the responsibility of the operator to determine the legal regime applicable.

Some representatives commented that their National Legislations consider the Collection of Oceanographic Data under Part XIII of UNCLOS.

One Delegation stated that the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea decided that the collection of marine meteorological data is not marine scientific research regulated by Part XIII of UNCLOS, according to the Oral Report of the Chairman of the Third Committee to the Third Committee at its 46th meeting in 1980. He remarked that the routine collection of ocean observations is clearly analogous to the collection of marine meteorological data that are distributed openly and for free and for purposes for common good and the protection of natural resources, human life and property. One Delegation reacted by stating that activities related to operational oceanography can fall within Article 258 of UNCLOS.

Underlining the fact that the subgroup was dealing with draft guidelines, several Delegations called upon the search of pragmatic solutions to address the issues under discussion within the framework of UNCLOS and taking into account the Argo experience. One Delegation stated his understanding that the guidelines will not be a legal binding text and thus it will not change or replace the rights and obligations under the UNCLOS. This remark had no objections.

One Delegation called for solutions promoting international cooperation on marine scientific research as well as developing ways and means to facilitate it within the spirit of art. 242 and 255 of UNCLOS. One Delegation added that the I-GOOS and Argo presentations reaffirmed the need to improve the current procedures, based on the legal framework reflected in UNCLOS. It was also remarked that it is not a task of the Advisory Body to interpret or revise UNCLOS.

One Delegation posed the question on whether the existing system for gathering and distributing the data was appropriate and urged the participants to help identify unfulfilled needs.

One Delegation reminded that the group was working on the data collection issue due to the insistent request of the operational oceanography community, which was reflected on the mandate of IOC Resolution XXIII-8.

The general discussion was followed by a paragraph by paragraph treatment of the document IOC/ABE-LOS VI/8 ([Annex III](#)).

3.5 EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON EMERGING ISSUES

The Vice-chairman of IOC, Prof. Mario Ruivo, explained the rationale behind this item under the general concept that IOC needed to be alert and involved in any UN matter of interest to IOC Member States that might require the participation of this Body.

One Delegation expressed his concern about increasing requirements with respect to the conduct of marine scientific research and its possible impact on the environment.

The example of issues relating to marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction was cited as an issue of possible interest for the group in the future. Several Delegations considered that since this issue is being dealt with at the policy level by the UNGA, it was better to adopt a “wait and see” approach, in the understanding that IOC could be called upon by the UNGA to

cooperate in the undertaking of future studies, avoiding possible duplication of efforts. In this concern, one Delegation mentioned that one possibility of such studies could relate to the modalities of operation of marine biotechnology partnerships.

Keeping in mind that the mandate of IOC/ABE-LOS is defined at the request of the Governing Bodies or the IOC Executive Secretary, one Delegation pointed out that there was merit in the coming Executive Council in analysing the current mandate of the Body. He further raised the issue of carbon dioxide sequestration in geological structures under consideration by IMO as a potential matter of discussion within IOC. The Body could also give contributions on how to implement the criteria and guidelines on transfer of marine technology and the IOC procedure for the application of art. 247 of UNCLOS. He added that the impact on IOC of article 256 (marine scientific research in the area) of UNCLOS could be a matter of interest.

Several Delegations stressed the importance of promoting the transfer of marine technology and capacity building as a key element. Some Delegations stressed the need of IOC being actively involved in promoting the establishment of regional marine scientific and technological research centres as called for in article 276 of UNCLOS.

One Delegation suggested holding the next meeting of IOC/ABE-LOS in Gabon, Central Africa in the framework of promoting the creation of regional centres in developing countries.

One Delegation welcomed the discussions on “Emerging Issues” and, agreeing with the earlier explanation of Prof. Mario Ruivo, proposed to make a clear recommendation to establish IOC/ABE-LOS as a permanent body, among other reasons. He also suggested that IOC could play a role in developing capacity building and strong marine scientific research programmes under UNCLOS Article 247 for enclosed or semi-enclosed seas in the context of UNCLOS Part IX in relation to Parts XIII and XIV.

The Chairman recognized that the Delegations expressed a wide variety of issues, including recurring themes such as the need for technology transfer. He pointed out that IOC/ABE-LOS should be reflective and inform the governing bodies of the various interests of its members.

3.6 INFORMATION SESSIONS

Cecilia Gañan, General Director in the Regional Government of the “Junta de Andalucía”, presented the Andalusia (Spain-Morocco) “Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve” to the Participants. This is a pioneer partnership for the management of a natural intercontinental space in between the common boundaries (establishing the Gibraltar natural corridor) which is submitted by the two countries. She exposed that it aimed at contributing to the conservation of natural resources, and to the promotion of development respecting the environment. In this respect, it would encourage the development of the Sites of Biological Interest network in the north Morocco, and the consolidation of the Network of Protected Natural Areas in the Spanish region of Andalusia, at the same time as encouraging the sustainable use of the same to the benefit of the local population. This pioneer experience tends to improve the cooperation between regions that belong to different countries and different continents. The main objectives of the Project was to provide a management instrument that will allow promoting the development and consolidation of the protected natural areas in Andalusia and the north of Morocco and Promote a sustainable development model, favouring the enhancement and conservation of the specific natural and cultural resources and shared in the defined scope of the Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve, and also the social and economic development of the rural population.

Manuel Vargas, researcher from the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO) summed up the main marine scientific research activities which are undertaken by the IEO. He referred to the Spanish participation within the IOC Programmes and Projects (e.g. Harmful Algae Bloom IOC Office with the special support of the “Centro Oceanográfico” of Vigo, Spain). He also identified the main IEO oceanographic collecting networks (tide gauge and time series sections) in relation to the observation and monitoring of the marine environment and its role in the climate. He emphasized the importance and need of a global and multidisciplinary ocean observing system in order to study in depth and in an efficient manner the oceans and their role in the earth system.

Jamie Skinner, Director of the IUCN-Mediterranean Office, presented the IUCN Organization, which was created in 1948 in Paris under the auspices of UNESCO. He stated that its objectives are to mobilize persons, organizations and countries through a common network to provide and use the available knowledge for the benefit of the Humankind and Nature. He pointed out that IUCN-Med was created in 2001 under the sponsorship of the Spanish Minister of Environment and la Junta de Andalusia, being its mission to encourage and assist the Mediterranean people to conciliate the conservation of natural resources with its sustainable use. He briefly presented the IUCN-Med Marines activities related to the status of species, risk measurement of maritime traffic for the biodiversity, the improvement of Ocean Governance and the promotion of marine protected areas.

4. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Advisory Body adopted this report and recommendations ([Annex II](#)) at the sixth session of IOC/ABE-LOS in Málaga, Spain on 7 April 2006.

5. CLOSURE

Ms Cecilia Gañán, General Director in the Regional Government of the “Junta de Andalucía” highlighted the commitment of the “Junta de Andalucía” with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, as proven by the sponsorship of the publication on the Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology and the hosting of IOC/ABE-LOS VI.

Ms Concepción Escobar, Head of the Division Legal Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, congratulated the Advisory Body and the IOC Secretariat for the work undertaken.

Mr Elie Jarmache, Chairman of IOC/ABE-LOS, on behalf of the Body and IOC, extended warm thanks to the host authorities and the staff involved in the organization of the meeting.

The sixth meeting of IOC/ABE-LOS was closed by the Chairman at 14.00, Friday 7 April 2006.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**
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 - 2.3 DOCUMENTATION
 - 2.4 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION
- 3. REPORTS ON INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**
 - 3.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
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 - 3.3 REPORTS BY THE I-GOOS CHAIRMAN AND THE ARGO TECHNICAL COORDINATOR
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 - 3.5 OTHER BUSINESS
 - 3.5.1 Exchange of views on Emerging Issues**
 - 3.6 INFORMATION SESSIONS
- 4. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARY REPORT**
- 5. CLOSURE**

ANNEX II

ADOPTED RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- (a) That the IOC Executive Secretary actively explores the possibility to implement “the Procedure for the application of article 247 of UNCLOS by the IOC” for appropriate scientific programmes and systems which the IOC coordinates or sponsors;**
- (b) That the sub-group on the IOC legal framework for the collection of oceanographic data within the context of UNCLOS,**
 - (i) Continues its work on the basis of comments and observations made when discussing the matter in IOC/ABE-LOS V and VI, and**
 - (ii) Calls for increased participation of its members in the intersessional work.**

Such work shall be carried out in close cooperation with UN/OLA/DOALOS and in consultation with I-GOOS.

ANNEX III

DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON DOCUMENT IOC/ABE-LOS VI/8

Title: One Delegation suggested the title and original paragraph 3 should more accurately reflect the IOC Assembly's mandate, i.e., to propose practical guidelines for the conduct of deployments of specific means for the collection of oceanographic data. Another Delegation stated that such mandate was already clearly reflected in the title. After some debate on the title, it was decided to retain for the time being the current title, despite different views on the inclusion of the reference to UNCLOS.

SECTION A: One Delegation proposed to change the title of section A. in the French version from Antecedents to Genesis with the support of other Delegation, being followed in turn by yet another proposal to use the term Introduction.

Paragraph 1 and 2: In order to provide more consistency to the text, the group agreed to merge paragraphs 1 and 2 and, in a shorter version, become a new paragraph 2.

Paragraph 3: It was decided to convert this paragraph into the first paragraph of Section A. Proposals were made to amend the text.

Paragraph 4: After intense debate, it was agreed to move Paragraph 4 after Paragraph 5, introducing Paragraph 4 with the word "Accordingly" and keeping the full text between brackets.

Paragraph 5: The former paragraph 5 became the third paragraph and the group decided to postpone further debates on this text.

Paragraph 6: It was retained with minor editorial changes as paragraph five.

Paragraph 7: There was intense debate and several proposals regarding the use of the term sovereignty and/or, sovereign rights, as well as the need to keep or not the second sentence of the paragraph. One Delegation suggested the addition at the end of the first sentence of the text, "in so far as they conform with International Law, the Charter of the UN and the UN Resolutions". Another Delegate stated his wish to delete the full text of Paragraph 7. The text was kept between brackets since no final agreement was reached.

SECTION B: One delegation suggested to postpone consideration of the section on definitions until Section C on the scope of application is dealt with so as to avoid going back and forth between the two sections. Therefore, the group decided to discuss Section C, "Scope of Application", before Section B. Definitions in the understanding that eventual changes in the first one could affect the latter.

SECTION C: first sentence: One Delegation proposed to add the reference "in support of the IOC Programmes" or "under the auspices of IOC" so as to clarify the scope of application of the guidelines. This position was shared by some Delegations and, in turn, opposed by others who considered the proposal as unnecessarily restrictive. One Delegation said that the resolution did not limit the mandate of IOC/ABE-LOS and that the new wording was ambiguous as it would be difficult to define what activities of collection of oceanographic data were not under IOC. Another delegation explained that Paragraph 9 only established the scope of application of the guidelines as given by the IOC Assembly to IOC/ABE-LOS. One Delegation expressed his concern about the possibility of establishing a scope for the guidelines under discussion that

could go beyond the scope of programmes of oceanographic data collection undertaken under the auspices of IOC.

In accordance with the exact wording in IOC resolution, a Delegation suggested to redraft the first sentence as follows: “...*aim at the conduct of the following activities*”.

Para 9(i): It was agreed to remove the brackets in the first sentence and following a rich debate on the different types of floats, it was also agreed to delete the word “profiling” in brackets. However, while it was also agreed to delete the brackets around the words “and surface drifting buoys”, some delegations emphasized their acceptance of the reference to the general term “floats” to be defined later. Finally it was accepted to replace “surface drifting buoys” with “surface drifters” and retain “other IOC Member States” between brackets. Taking into account the nature of these Guidelines, one Delegation called upon the possibility of considering the case in which floats and drifters may enter into the EEZ of any State and not only IOC Member States.

Para 9 (ii): It was agreed to amend the text following the same criteria as in subparagraph 9 (i). One Delegation proposed to change the word “Nationality” without providing an alternative term and was not accepted. He further proposed to delete “profiling”, changing “surface drifting buoys” with “surface drifters”. It was also accepted to delete the brackets between “an IOC Member State or by an Institution...”

One Delegation posed the question on the deployment of floats and surface drifting buoys within an IOC Member State by an State of Institution non Member of IOC.

One Delegation raised the necessity to complement the text of this sub-paragraph with the last part of the previous one, considering the possibility of deploying a float in one EEZ that can drift into the EEZ of the neighboring coastal State. It was pointed out that very often floats can also drift from EEZ to a Territorial Sea.

Para 9. (iii): One Delegation proposed, with the support of other Delegations, to concentrate first on formulating guidelines for the profiling floats and drifters and suspend for the time being discussion on XBTs as these were an entirely different modality of collection of data requiring a different treatment, thus meriting a separate discussion after the work on the floats had advanced. He then proposed to separate the discussion of item (iii) from the items (i) and (ii). Some Delegations agreed while other Delegations disagreed with the proposal of separating the item (iii) from (i)-(ii), in the understanding that the way Section C was written, reflected the Assembly mandate. It was further mentioned that although all three means of data collection, namely floats, drifters and XBTs, were themselves different instruments, technologies and collection modalities that would require individual treatment. For the sake of consistency with IOC Resolution XXIII-8 items (i), (ii) and (iii) need to remain together as they appear in the second draft.

The Chairperson of ABE-LOS pointed out that Section F of the draft document dealt specifically with XBTs, providing the opportunity to discuss that means of collection of data and give it a separate treatment.

One Delegation stated that the issue of responsibility is an important matter, posing the question of the liability in the case of violations within projects not conducted in accordance with International Law.

The text of item (ii) was amended following the same criteria as (i), remaining open the discussion on the term “nationality”.

Following previous agreement the discussion on item (iii) was postponed.

SECTION B: The group begun discussions on Section B: “definitions”. Various Delegations highlighted the usefulness of this Section.

Para 8 (i): Several Delegations agreed on the importance of data and metadata. Notwithstanding, there was an extensive debate on the definition of oceanographic data.

One Delegation pointed out the complexities of trying to define oceanographic data and cited IOC Resolution XXII-6 as an example. He considered that if the objective was to create a tool flexible enough to address future needs resulting from technological developments, instead of listing observed variables or parameters, a broader approach should be used.

Three different positions were established;

- a. produce a non exclusive, non restrictive open list of variables,
- b. produce a closed and limited list of variables, and
- c. not produce any variable list at all

One Delegation considered that there was no need to define oceanographic data in this document and considered that the parameters were sufficiently defined in sections D, E and F.

Different proposals were made on the definitions of oceanographic data, without reaching a final agreement.

One Delegation stated that the definition of oceanographic data had to be fully compatible with IOC existing policies, and suggested to have a listing with a broad focus rather than a restrictive one.

Another Delegation was of the opinion that even though it was recognized that collected data is for the benefit of all countries, the number of variables included in the definition should be restricted as it was not possible to produce a comprehensive list.

One Delegation called for flexibility in the definitions.

One Delegation considered important to clarify what was understood by each of the data collection means under consideration.

The Chairman of IOC/ABE-LOS proposed to create an annex compiling the variables collected by different means which would be informative and reviewed and updated on a regular basis following technical evolution and progress. While recognizing the technical validity of this method, one Delegation pointed out the practical difficulties that this proposal may entail.

One Delegation reminded that some of the equipments were vehicles which could carry different sensors to measure different variables.

Two proposals on definition of data were presented for analysis during the intersessional period.

One Delegation suggested that the coordinator should receive the assistance of an expert to deal with technical matters.

One Delegation considered that there were, so far, three alternatives on how to proceed:

- not defining oceanographic data
- give a more or less broad definition of oceanographic data
- create an annex compiling an indicative list of measured variables

Another Delegation stated some other approaches to be considered:

- Defining oceanographic data in wide sense
- Defining oceanographic data with regard to the activities mentioned in IOC Resolution XXIII-8.
- Creating an annex with the collection of the measured parameters.

One Delegation stated that there was a need to clarify what was expected from IOC/ABE-LOS on the issue under discussion. He put clearly that ongoing discussion of IOC/ABE-LOS regards specifically the use of equipments for data collection that can drift into waters under jurisdiction of a coastal State -emphasizing that it may not only involve EEZs - and, in the case of XBTs, that are launched within such jurisdiction. He also highlighted the difference between the mandate of IOC/ABE-LOS and requests addressed to this Advisory Body. In this regard, he quoted Resolution XX-6, and emphasized that the need for expedited practical guidelines should not hinder legal solutions. Finally, he reminded that the responsibility under International Law for equipments deployed in the sea falls on the States, as all ships have a flag.

One Delegation supported by other Delegations posed the question related to the conduct to undertake in case of request of authorization and deployment in the marine areas in dispute or conflict of boundaries between two countries.

One Delegation expressed his satisfaction for the level of attendance and participation. Notwithstanding, he regretted the lack of appropriate level of response to the coordinator's requests during the intersessional period. He considered that last minute contributions limited the progress of the work of IOC/ABE-LOS at meetings.

ANNEX IV

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

By Elie Jarmache, Chairman of IOC/ABE-LOS

You have received a report prepared by the Technical Secretary of IOC/ABE-LOS on the activities developed during the intersessional period. It is the first time that a report of this kind is established; it is worth mentioning the quality of the work as well as the interest of the information therein contained. You can get acquainted with the different activities that a Secretariat can do even if it is limited to just one person.

You have then the possibility of asking questions and to request some clarifications on certain matters as well as of expressing your appreciation or to manifest your deception.

The initiative taken the Technical Secretary simplifies the task of presenting my own report which will be a complement, without entering into the details as to the activities developed during the intersession.

After our fifth session, I have submitted a report to the IOC Assembly on the progress made by our group and, on behalf of it, I have requested that our recommendation be adopted, particularly the one concerning the implementation of an internal IOC procedure for the application of Article 247 of the Montego Bay Convention. The Assembly has endorsed our recommendation. A debate not directly related to our work but to the budget allotted by the IOC to ABE-LOS, its subsidiary organ, has taken place.

The negative comments expressed sometimes with respect to ABE-LOS are a minority. We must try to keep them this way by working rigorously and being efficient, and particularly by producing results.

I would like to share with you some events that have taken place after our session in Buenos Aires. I think that they reflect the importance of our work.

The common denominator of these facts is the issue of marine scientific research, its nature, its role and its definition or the absence of it. As a complement to these events, the matter of transfer of marine technology should be mentioned.

The numerous intergovernmental or international conferences have insisted on the value and the central role that oceans play within the global natural system, especially as the question of climate change is concerned. We are dealing in this case with a scientific matter as well as one of governance.

The first consequence is the need for more scientific knowledge on oceans because it will facilitate the understanding and the management or the governance of marine ecosystems. The second consequence is the need of sharing knowledge, of disseminating as much information as possible, particularly to developing countries. This must be done by encouraging the collaboration among States, but mainly by means of the application of programs developed by international organisations competent in the maritime area.

The International Seabed Authority is an example worth mentioning. During its session of August 2005, it decided to deal with this request by anticipating to implement a mechanism whereby

scientists from developing countries would associate in order to elaborate research programs that the Authority could carry out together with its contracting parties and other partners. In this way, the Authority intends to apply Article 143 and 144 of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Among the recent international meetings that may have a relation to our work, or at least be of interest to us, mention should be especially made of the ad hoc group on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. This working group has been established by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 59/24 of 17 November 2004, pursuant to paragraph 73. The meeting took place in New York from February 13 to 17 2006.

The participants to this Conference have insisted on an issue well known by IOC/ABE-LOS – even if we have difficulties in finding a solution to it- concerning the definition of marine scientific research. This question has emerged in relation to a matter known as “bioprospection”.

Everybody knows that no text provides a definition for bioprospection. The different approaches have been established by analogy with the prospection of mineral resources. The most basic definition affirms that it is a collection of biological resources in specific ecosystems where a special category of resources called genetic can be obtained. These resources have a commercial and industrial potential, and therefore a real economic value.

The difficulty arising from the issue of bioprospection is that the collection makes use of the same means and materials as those utilized in marine scientific research. The main actors in the field of bioprospection are scientists. The answer to the question of a definition for bioprospection may have consequences on the research in the high seas as well as an impact on the regime of access to resources.

Notwithstanding the criteria adopted for a definition, it has been noted that marine scientific research activities could have, in themselves, dangerous effects on biodiversity. It has been suggested to elaborate a code of conduct in order to provide the researching activities and scientists with an adequate framework.

The following quotation is an excerpt from the report by the Co-Chairpersons of the ad hoc working group: “an area where the need for further international cooperation has been identified relates to the status of marine scientific research addressing biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, particularly in the deep seabed.” Two different views emerge from the report in this regard: on the one hand, the fact that it is an activity under the freedom of research and, on the other hand, that the research regime is that regulated by the provisions dealing with MSR in the Area (Part XI) and in Part XIII.

It is evident that this is an incipient debate and that it will occupy a central place when assessing the mandate the UN General Assembly has assigned to the ad hoc working group. You are a member of IOC/ABE-LOS but you are also recognised experts in your countries that may be consulted on this matter.

It is interesting to observe that a debate of the same type is included in our agenda, concerning the collection of oceanographic data. In fact, in both cases, bioprospection and our issue, two elements coexist: scientific research and applications.

I wish that our reflections lead to a consensus on the ways of setting a framework for the collection of oceanographic data, which can be of use to our future work.

ANNEX V

WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR MARIO RUIVO, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF UNESCO

On behalf of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, I wish to welcome the participants to the Sixth Session of the Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS) and, in particular, to thank the authorities of the Central, Autonomic and Local Administration present for their support to the IOC of UNESCO. With their help, the Group IOC/ABE-LOS has had the opportunity of meeting in a privileged setting, door of the Mediterranean.

Spain, a coastal State par excellence, plays an essential role within the Law of the Sea and in the activities developed by the main international organizations dedicated to the oceans, as a result of a long historical tradition. This feature will constitute the inspirational framework for the debates of IOC/ABE-LOS.

The existence of this Intergovernmental Group dates back to 1996, immediately after the Convention of the Law of the Sea came into force. It started as a “small committee”, gathering representatives of various States, who were called upon in order to provide an answer to many of the questions revolving around the Convention, also called the “Constitution of the Oceans”. To date, the number of members of this small Group has never ceased to increase, as evidenced by the high attendance to this Session. In this way, it has built its reputation within the international community and has become a point of reference, as indicated by the last resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

This Sixth meeting raises high hopes within the IOC with respect to the project of IOC/ABE-LOS, body whose 135 Member States work in cooperation with the Secretariat and DOALOS in New York, in a continuous way, in order to make their contribution within the framework of the mandate granted by the IOC.

The results achieved by IOC/ABE-LOS in the past are today not more than the point of departure for further work, a challenge for the implementation of instruments such as the “IOC Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology” and the “Procedure for the application by the IOC of Article 247 of the Convention”. IOC does not consider that the discussions on these documents have been accomplished with the agreements achieved by the Governments participating in the debates because now the moment has come to give them life. Likewise, this challenge gives way to new issues, such as those related to the legal framework for the collection of oceanographic data and other potential matters as biodiversity, discussions on which are closely followed by the Secretariat.

As the European Strategy of the Sea demonstrates, the matters related to the oceans represent again a priority in the agendas of States; the results of this meeting in Malaga having thus a clear impact at the international level.

In this context, the results of this IOC/ABE-LOS meeting, including those related to item 3.4.1 on emerging issues, are fundamental to allow the Executive Council to dispose, at its next session, of a wide range of the positions of Governments present, which will facilitate—in a consensual manner, we hope—the task of making comments on the future work of the Commission in relation to Part XIII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other provisions pertaining to Science.

As Said al'Andalusi, a poet of this land, expressed:

“men of science have been the light in the dark, the guides leading us into the right way, the masters of men and the elite of nations.”

We should not forget that we are here today, to the service of these men, thanks to the hospitality of Member States such as Morocco, Portugal, Greece and Argentina, in previous opportunities, and to Spain on this occasion, particularly to its regional Government, the Junta de Andalucía.

ANNEX VI

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document Code	Title	Agenda Items	Langages
	WORKING DOCUMENTS		
IOC/ABE-LOS VI/1 prov. Rev	Revised Provisional Agenda	1-5	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VI/1 Add. prov.	Provisional Timetable	2.2, 2.4	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VI/2 prov	Provisional Annotated Agenda	2-5	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VI/3 prov.	Draft Summary Report (<i>to be prepared during the meeting</i>)	1-5	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VI/4 prov.	Provisional List of Documents	2.3	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VI/5 prov.	Provisional List of Participants	--	--
IOC/ABE-LOS VI/6	Chairman's report on IOC/ABE-LOS activities during the intersessional period (<i>Elie Jarmache</i>)	3.1	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VI/7	Progress report by the IOC Secretariat	3.2	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VI/8	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 (<i>Kari Hakapää</i>)	3.3	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS VI/9	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 (<i>Secretariat</i>)	3.3	E F
	INFORMATION DOCUMENTS		
A/RES/60/30	UNGA Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea		E F
A/RES/59/24	UNGA Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea		E F
	IOC Resolutions XX-6, XXI-6, XXIII-8, XXIII-9		E F

Document Code	Title	Agenda Items	Langages
IOC/ABE-LOS V/Recommendation 1.b	Orientation Guide for the IOC Roster of Experts on Marine Scientific Research and transfer of Marine Technology (<i>Secretariat</i>)	3.2	E F
IOC/ABE-LOS V/3	Summary Report of the Fifth Meeting of the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea		E F
	IOC Criteria and Guidelines on Transfer of Marine Technology		E F
	Report on the “Argo Project”		

ANNEX VII

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III. ORGANISATIONS

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ANNEX VIII

LIST OF ACRONYMS

Argo	GODAE global profiling float project (not an acronym)
CGTMT	IOC Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology
UN/OLA/DOALOS	Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
GMA	Global Marine Assessment
GODAE	Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment
GSSC	GOOS Scientific Steering Committee
GRA	GOOS Regional Alliance
ICSU	International Council for Science
IOC/ABE-LOS	Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC of UNESCO)
I-GOOS	IOC-WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO)
IUCN	World Conservation Union
JCOMM	Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology
MSR	Marine Scientific Research
TMT	Transfer of Marine Technology
TMTA	Transfer of Marine Technology Application
UN	United Nations
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
XBT	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 CO₂ 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 CO₂ Advisory Panel Meeting
113. First Meeting of the IOC/WESTPAC Co-ordinating Committee for the North-East Asian Regional - Global Ocean Observing System (NEAR-GOOS)
114. Eighth Session of the Joint IOC-WMO-CPPS Working Group on the Investigations of "El Niño" **(Spanish only)**
115. Second Session of the IOC Editorial Board of the International Bathymetric Chart of the Central Eastern Atlantic **(Also printed in French)**
116. Tenth Session of the Officers Committee for the Joint IOC-IHO General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO), USA, 1996
117. IOC Group of Experts on the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS), Fifth Session, USA, 1997
118. Joint Scientific Technical Committee for Global Ocean Observing System (J-GOOS), Fourth Session, USA, 1997
119. First Session of the Joint 100-WMO IGOSS Ship-of-Opportunity Programme Implementation Panel, South Africa, 1997
120. Report of Ocean Climate Time-Series Workshop, Joint GCOS-GOOS-WCRP Ocean Observations Panel for Climate, USA, 1997

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