

**Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission**  
*Reports of Governing and Major Subsidiary Bodies*

# **Eighteenth Session of the Executive Council**

Paris, 11 March 1985

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**In this Series**

**Reports of Governing and Major Subsidiary Bodies**, which was initiated at the beginning of 1984, the reports of the following meetings have already been issued:

- Eleventh Session of the Working Committee on International Oceanographic Data Exchange
- Seventeenth Session of the Executive Council
- Fourth Session of the Working Committee for Training, Education and Mutual Assistance
- Fifth Session of the Working Committee for the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment
- First Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
- Third Session of the *ad hoc* Task Team to Study the Implications, for the Commission, of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the New Ocean Regime

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1. OPENING

1 The Chairman called the Council to order at 0945 on 11 March 1985. He reminded the Council that, at this Session, it was acting as the Steering Committee for the Thirteenth Session of the Assembly.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

2 The Delegate of France proposed Dr. S. A. H. Abidi (India) who had been Rapporteur for the Seventeenth Session; the proposal was supported by the United Kingdom and Egypt. Dr. Abidi was so designated.

3 The Delegate of France also suggested that Dr. Abidi be proposed as Rapporteur for the Assembly.

4 The Executive Council welcomed this proposal, but suggested that, since the Assembly would meet only in Plenary, the workload might be excessive, and that the Assembly might wish to consider designating Deputy Rapporteurs for each major Agenda Item to assist the Rapporteur and the Secretariat in the elaboration of the Draft Summary Report.

2.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5 The Executive Council adopted the Provisional Agenda as is; the Agenda is attached as Annex I hereto.

2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION

6 The Executive Council agreed to complete consideration of its Agenda by the end of the morning session and to adopt the Draft Summary Report at the end of the afternoon. A List of Participants is in Annex II.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

7 The Secretary outlined the arrangements for the Opening of the Assembly and the subsequent Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebrations and Bruun Memorial Lectures. He informed the Council that the Director General of Unesco would be present at the Celebrations, and that some Member States would be represented at the level of Minister or Secretary of State. Various UN organizations members of ICSPRO will also be represented at a high level: the Secretary General of WMO, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (Geneva), the Assistant Director General (Fisheries) of FAO, as well as the Assistant Director General for Science, of Unesco.

8 Already, several goodwill messages have been received, and many Member States have marked the Anniversary by means of commemorative posters, postage stamps and special events such as symposia.

9 The Delegate of the USSR expressed his strong concern at the late submission to the Member States of the working documents for the Assembly. This fact had hampered the Delegation's preparations for the Session because of the much restricted opportunity to study the documentation carefully.

- 10 Some other Delegates, while recognizing the heavy workload under which the Secretariat is operating, expressed similar concern, reminding the Secretary that, depending on the particular country, time was also required for: copying and distributing Assembly documents to concerned governmental and/or academic entities; and translation of basic texts into the national language to facilitate internal discussion. One Delegation stressed the importance of following the Rules of Procedure.
- 11 The Executive Council instructed the Secretary to make much greater use of the Chairmen of the IOC subsidiary bodies to prepare reports on the intersessional work of their respective bodies, and to prepare an Executive Summary of each session; these reports and summaries could be translated, printed and distributed by the Secretary as soon as available and not await a particular session of a Governing body. In short, the Executive Council instructed the Secretary to decentralize document preparation as much as possible. It also suggested that, for key documents at least, and to avoid delays in mailing, the Permanent Delegations to Unesco could be requested to ensure delivery by diplomatic pouch to the principal addressees in each Member State, and called on Member States formally to assist the Secretary in this sense.
- 12 The Secretary explained the nature of the difficulties facing the Secretariat; notably: the exceptionally arduous preparation of the Unesco Draft Programme and Budget for 1986-1987 and the Programme Activity Details for 1985, given the present difficult circumstances; the Secretariat overload; and the various stages of document despatch (Unesco, Post Office, etc.) beyond the Secretary's control. He recognized the well founded criticisms made by some Delegates, which he accepted as valid. He paid tribute to the efforts of his colleagues in the Secretariat and expressed his appreciation of the understanding of the situation shown by the Delegates. He informed the Executive Council of the plans to pay special attention to internal management of the Secretariat, in the near future, and he announced that arrangements have been made to retain the services of an expert in new techniques of management and computerized systems, to assist in achieving the desired improvements.
- 13 The Secretary informed the Council that the Delegates of Canada and the USA, prior to the Session, had informed him of their reservations on the arrangement of the Agenda Item 7. They were of the opinion that IGOS (now Item 7.1.1, under the heading 7.1 OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEMS) was not itself an Observing System even if, in its structure, there was one or more such systems, and should therefore not appear under 7.1. The Secretary had responded, pointing out that he had noted this discrepancy, but only after the Annotated Agenda and related Documentation had been circulated, making a correction impossible. He had discussed the matter with WMO as well.
- 14 The Secretary suggested that, to avoid creating difficulties of cross references to existing background documents, the Provisional Agenda be retained as is, and the Draft Summary Report adjusted, including the Agenda as presented in Annex I to the Report, according to the following arrangement:

- 7. OCEAN SERVICES
- 7.1 INTEGRATED GLOBAL OCEAN SERVICES SYSTEM (IGOSS)
- 7.2 OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEMS
- 7.2.1 Global Sea-Level Network
- 7.2.2 Drifting Buoys
- 7.3 INTERNATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA EXCHANGE AND MARINE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
- 7.3.1 Marine Information Management
- 7.4 INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM IN THE PACIFIC

15           The Executive Council accepted the Secretary's proposal and recommended to the Assembly the adoption of this approach.

3.1           CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMISSION

16           The Secretary indicated the expected sequence of events at the ceremony on the morning of 12 March 1985, and at the Bruun Memorial Lectures in the afternoon. He indicated the list of speakers, informing the Council of the time constraints. At the end of the ceremony, messages from co-operating organizations would be read by their Representatives, if time permits; these messages, together with the principal messages delivered orally, will be assembled in a commemorative publication, possibly as a supplement to the Summary Report of the Thirteenth Session. The Secretary appealed to Delegates to provide him with display material (posters, films, videorecordings, etc.) as soon as possible to enable the Secretariat to make timely arrangements for eventual display during the Assembly, if feasible.

3.2           APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

17           The Chairman reminded the Council that, under Rule of Procedure No 12 (2), it was required to form the Nominations Committee for the Assembly.

18           The Executive Council decided the following composition of the Nominations Committee for the Thirteenth Session of the Assembly: Poland (Chairman), China, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Peru, Turkey and USSR.

3.3           FORMATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

19           The Secretary indicated that, although the Executive Council has no statutory duty to appoint a Resolutions Committee for the Assembly, it might wish to recommend the membership thereof, in its capacity as Steering Committee for the Assembly; he recalled that experience at previous sessions of the Assembly and the Executive Council had shown this Committee to be a useful means of facilitating the sessional work.

20           The Executive Council recommended to the Assembly the following composition of the Resolutions Committee: United Kingdom (Chairman), Algeria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Germany (Federal Republic), Japan, Nigeria, Turkey, USA and USSR. However, it also suggested that any Member State that had a special interest in one or more particular Draft Resolutions should be allowed freely to participate in the Committee. (France, for example, had provided the Rapporteur for the First Session of the Programme Group for Ocean Processes and Climate which had yielded four important recommendations to the Assembly; France could therefore usefully contribute, through that Rapporteur, to the work of the Resolutions Committee.)

21           The Secretary also informed the Executive Council that the USA Delegation had, prior to the Session, proposed to him that consideration be given by the IOC to reviewing its past Resolutions to determine which operative paragraphs were now obsolete or contradictory, one with another, and could therefore be formally dropped. He pointed out that this would serve a useful purpose and the task would be facilitated by the computerization of all IOC Resolutions, which had been completed.

22           The Executive Council agreed that this proposal was sound, and recalled that WMO had undertaken such a task and now routinely evaluates its Resolutions in this sense. It recommended that the Assembly, at its Thirteenth Session, formally instruct the Resolutions Committee, besides its usual function (laid down in Annex V to the Summary Report of the Fourteenth Session of the Executive Council), to submit a proposal to the Assembly itself on guidance to the Secretary for achieving this objective of rationalization of the Commission's work.

### 3.4           TIMETABLE

23           The Secretary proposed minor adjustments to the provisional Timetable for the Assembly (Document IOC-XIII/1 prov. Add. rev). These were: (i) to advance discussion of LEPOR to Wednesday 13 March 1985, to take advantage of the presence of Prof. Warren Wooster at that time but not later in the Assembly; (ii) to provide time for discussion, on the afternoon of Friday 22 March 1985, of an anticipated Draft Resolution on possible adjustments to the IOC Statutes and on Rule of Procedure no. 26, and for this eventual adoption on the morning of Monday 25 March 1985 when problems of quorum are unlikely to arise, because of the Council elections; (iii) to allow time on the morning of Tuesday 26 March 1985 for comments on the Secretary's Report and the Draft Biennial Report, so as to allow Delegates as much time as possible to study these documents before approving them.

24           The Executive Council agreed with these changes, and the Timetable as revised is given in Document IOC-XIII/1 prov. Add. rev. 2.

25           The Executive Council strongly urged speakers at the Assembly to be as brief as possible, in view of the comparatively short duration of the Thirteenth Session relative to the Agenda.

26           It also recommended to the Assembly to encompass the work of ad hoc Drafting Groups, Sessional Committees (Nominations and Resolutions) and other ad hoc meetings within the working hours of the Assembly as far as possible, and in any case not in parallel with the Plenary.

### 4.           DATE AND PLACE OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

27           The Secretary proposed the period between mid-February and mid-March 1986, but advised the Council that a number of factors (public holidays, in France, and major Unesco meetings, inter alia) will have to be taken into account in deciding precise dates; the Council session would, in any case, be encompassed within one week. In view of the present situation, and for reasons of economy, the Secretary proposed Paris as the venue.

- 28            The Executive Council agreed to hold its Nineteenth Session in Paris, on dates between mid-February and mid-March 1986, to be determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.
5.           ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
- 29           On a motion of the Delegate of Italy, seconded by numerous other Delegations, the Executive Council adopted the Summary Report of its Eighteenth Session.
6.           CLOSURE
- 30           The Chairman closed the Session at 18.45 on 11 March 1985.



ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. OPENING
2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
  - 2.1 Designation of the Rapporteur
  - 2.2 Adoption of the Agenda
  - 2.3 Conduct of the Session
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**ANNEX II/ANNEXE II/ANEXO II/ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ II**

**الملحق الثاني / 附件**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS/LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/  
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES/СПИСОК УЧАСТНИКОВ**

**قائمة المشاركين / 与会者名单**

Names and titles in the following lists are reproduced as handed in to the Secretariat by the delegations concerned. Countries are shown in the English alphabetical order.

Les noms et titres qui figurent dans les listes ci-après sont reproduits dans la forme où ils ont été communiqués au Secrétariat par les délégations intéressées. Les pays sont mentionnés dans l'ordre alphabétique anglais.

Los nombres y títulos que figuran en las listas siguientes se reproducen en la forma en que las delegaciones interesadas los han comunicado a la Secretaría. Los países se mencionan en el orden alfabético inglés.

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下列名单系根据各有关代表团提交秘书处之姓名和头衔复制。国名按英文字母顺序排列。

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