Reports of Governing and Major Subsidiary Bodies

# Twenty-fourth Session of the Executive Council

Paris, 5-6 March 1991

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**UNESCO** 

# IOC/EC-XXIV/3 Paris, 26 April 1991 Original: English

In this Series	Languages
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:	
1. Eleventh Session of the Working Committee on international	E, F, S, R
Oceanographic Data Exchange	2,1,0,11
2. Seventeenth Session of the Executive Council	E, F, S, R, Ar
3. Fourth Session of the Working Committee for Training,	E, F, S, R
Education and Mutual Assistance	
4. Fifth Session of the Working Committee for the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment	E, F, S, R
<ol> <li>First Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions</li> </ol>	E, F, S
6. Third Session of the ad hoc Task Team to Study the Implications,	E, F, S, R
for the Commission, of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the New Ocean Regime	_,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
7. First Session of the Programme Group on Ocean Processes and Climate	E, F, S, R
8. Eighteenth Session of the Executive Council	E, F, S, R, Ar
9. Thirteenth Session of the Assembly	E, F, S, R, Ar
10. Tenth Session of the International Co-ordination Group	E, F, S, R
for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific	
11. Nineteenth Session of the Executive Council	E, F, S, R, Ar
12. Sixth Session of the IOC Scientific Committee for the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment	E, F, S
13. Twelfth Session of the IOC Working Committee on International Oceanographic Data Exchange	E, F, S, R
14. Second Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for	<b>F F O</b>
the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions	E, F, S
15. First Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Eastern Atlantic	E, F, S
16. Second Session of the IOC Programme Group on Ocean Processes and Climate	E, F, S
17. Twentieth Session of the Executive Council	E, F, S, R, Ar
18. Fourteenth Session of the Assembly	E, F, S, R, Ar
19. Fifth Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Southern Ocean	E, F, S, R
20. Eleventh Session of the International Co-ordination Group for the Tsu tami Warning System in the Pacific	E, F, S, R
21. Second Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Co-operative	E, F
Investigation in the North and Central Western Indian Ocean	
22. Fourth Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Western Pacific	E only
23. Twenty-first Session of the Executive Council	E, F, S, R
24. Twenty-second Session of the Executive Council	E, F, S, R
25. Fifteenth Session of the Assembly	E, F, S, R
26. Third Session of the IOC Committee on Ocean Processes and Climate	E, F, S, R
27. Twelfth Session of the International Co-ordination	F F O F
Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific	E, F, S, R
28. Third Session of the Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions	E, S
29. First Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific	E only
30. Fifth Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Western Pacific	Eonly
31. Twenty-third Session of the Executive Council	E, F, S, R
32. Thirteenth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange	E only
33. Seventh Session of the IOC Committee for the Global Investigation	
of Pollution in the Marine Environment 34. Fifth Session of the IOC Committee for Training, Education	E, F, S, R
and Mutual Assistance in Marine Sciences	E, F, S, R
35. Fourth Session of the IOC Committee on Ocean Processes and Climate	E, F, S, R
36. Twenty-fourth Session of the Executive Council	E, F, S, R
37. Sixteenth Session of the Assembly	E, F, S, R

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# SUMMARY REPORT

# Page

1.	OPENING		
2.	ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS		1
	2.1	DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR	1
	2.2	ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	1
	2.3	CONDUCT OF THE SESSION	1
3.		NISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SIXTEENTH ON OF THE ASSEMBLY	1
	3.1	APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	1
	3.2	FORMATION OF THE TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR RESOLUTIONS	1
	3.3	TIMETABLE	1
4.	MEASURES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE AND DEPENDABLE RESOURCES FOR THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK (FURES)		
2	FUR		
5.	TRAINING, EDUCATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE MARINE SCIENCES (TEMA)		3
6.	DATES AND PLACE OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL		5
7.	CLOS	URE	5

# ANNEXES

- I Agenda
- II List of Participants

#### 1. OPENING

2

4

5

6

8

The Chairman called the Council to order at 10.00 on 5 March 1991. He reminded the Council that, at this Session, it was acting as the Steering Committee for the Sixteenth Session of the Assembly, in accordance with Rule of Procedure No. 12(2) and would also consider two substantive subjects under Agenda Items 4 and 5.

# 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

The Executive Council accepted the proposal by Thailand to designate Mr. R. Harriss (Australia) as Rapporteur for the Session.

- 2.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- 3 The Executive Council adopted the Agenda as reproduced in Annex I hereto.
  - 2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION
  - The Executive Council agreed to endeavour to complete the consideration of its Agenda by the end of the morning session on 6 March, with a view to adopting the Summary Report at the end of that afternoon. A List of Participants is attached as Annex II hereto.

# 3. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

#### 3.1 APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- In pursuance of Rule of Procedure 12, paragraph 2, the Executive Council, as Steering Committee of the Assembly, decided on the following composition of the Nominations Committee for the Sixteenth Session of the Assembly: Poland (Chairman), China, Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria, USSR, USA and Venezuela.
  - 3.2 FORMATION OF THE TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR RESOLUTIONS

The Executive Council recalled that, although it has no statutory duty to appoint such a Committee for the Assembly, it has been the practice to recommend the membership thereof, in its capacity as Steering Committee for the Assembly, since its Sixteenth Session (Paris, 2 November 1982). It therefore agreed to continue this practice and accordingly recommended to the Assembly the following composition of the Technical Review Committee for Resolutions: Pakistan (Chairman), Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, China, France, Indonesia, Nigeria, Spain, USSR, UK, USA and Venezuela.

- 7 In making such a recommendation to the Assembly, the Executive Council recalled the views expressed at the Fifteenth Session of the Assembly regarding the desirability of reducing the length and complexity of draft resolutions.
  - 3.3 TIMETABLE
  - The Executive Council agreed, with one adjustment to allow earlier discussion of Agenda Item 11 on the Programme and Budget, with the Timetable for the work of the Sixteenth Session of the Assembly as given in Document IOC-XVI/1 Add.prov.rev.1. In doing so, the Executive Council noted that information on regional activities not specifically referred to in the Agenda would be dealt with under Agenda Item 8.3. - Matters Arising in Other Regional Subsidiary Bodies - and that activities of the former

Division of Marine Sciences would be discussed under Agenda Item 11. Information about recent relevant developments in UNESCO e.g. with respect to structure, would be presented under Agenda Item 4.1.

9

4.

MEASURES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE AND DEPENDABLE RESOURCES FOR THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK (FURES)

In introducing this Agenda Item, M. Murillo, First Vice-Chairman IOC, presented the Summary Report of the Third Session of the *ad hoc* Study Group on Measures to Ensure Adequate and Dependable Resources for the Commission's Programme of Work (Document IOC/FURES-III/3). As it had not been possible to issue the full report in the four working languages of the Commission, the First Vice-Chairman gave a detailed and extensive summary of the major conclusions reached by the *ad hoc* Study Group, with particular emphasis on subjects related to: (i) functional autonomy; (ii) the respective roles of the Assembly and Executive Council; and (iii) future work to be undertaken by a similar *ad hoc* mechanism.

10 As a general conclusion, he conveyed the views of the *ad hoc* Study Group that, although its original mandate had been fulfilled to the extent possible, the nature and number of tasks assigned to it by the IOC Governing Bodies indicated the need for a similar, non-permanent body which could address expanded study of some issues as well as new tasks as they might arise. Two categories had been identified: one on matters related to ensuring adequate resources and the other on adjustment of the IOC to new developments and challenges (as reflected e.g. in the SWCC, IPCC and UNCED processes and results) and ratification of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Both of these issues have constitutional implications and support the need to continue work on legal aspects and constitutional matters, including review and eventual revision of the Rules of Procedure as a first priority, with subsequent adjustment to the IOC Statutes in a longer time-frame, if required.

11 In response to requests for further information regarding progress made in clarifying the functional autonomy of the Commission, the Chairman IOC reported to the Executive Council on the series of consultations he had had with the Director General of UNESCO since the previous session of the Council in March 1990. An information paper on Developments Regarding IOC Functional Autonomy Within UNESCO Since the Twenty-third Session of the Executive Council (Document IOC-XVI/Inf.3) was presented, containing a compilation of the correspondence between the Chairman IOC and the Director General as well as the relevant decisions of the Commission and UNESCO.

- 12 The Chairman expressed the view that the successive steps in the negotiation had led to a most satisfactory and fruitful clarification as demonstrated by DG/Note/90/30 of 31 August 1990 and DG/Note/91/3 of 17 January 1991. The former had established a single, unified marine science programme for UNESCO under the Office of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and marine science related issues and also reaffirmed the functional autonomy of the Commission within UNESCO. The latter provided internal directives to UNESCO senior executives regarding the delegation of authority to the Secretary IOC as agreed to by the Chairman IOC and the Director General.
- 13 The Executive Council noted that putting the concept of functional autonomy into effect was an evolutionary process which would naturally require further consultation as the application of various

practices proceeded. Due recognition was given to the fact that exercise of functional autonomy carries with it the implication of greater responsibilities for the Commission and its Member States in ensuring that the IOC can provide appropriate follow-up to the commitments made.

14 Having studied in detail information provided by the Chairman on developments within UNESCO regarding implementation of IOC functional autonomy, the Executive Council expressed its satisfaction with progress made and its appreciation to the Chairman IOC for his dedicated involvement and to the Director General for his understanding and endorsement of IOC's proposals. The Executive Council noted also the need to deliberate further the IOC position in the UNESCO Organigram for the coming biennium.

# IOC/EC-XXIV/3 page 3

- 15 During the ensuing debate the three basic issues of functional autonomy, the respective roles of IOC Governing Bodies, and future work were addressed by the Executive Council with a view to providing specific advice to the Assembly. In recommending that a Sessional Working Group would be set up by the Assembly on Agenda Item 12, the Executive Council agreed to the suggestion by the Secretary IOC that informal notes reflecting the numerous views and opinions voiced in the debate would be prepared by the Secretariat in order to facilitate subsequent discussion and as a complement to the specific advice found below.
- 16 Consideration of the need to clarify the respective roles of the Assembly and the Executive Council generated considerable interest within the perspective of increasing the efficiency of these two bodies and, eventually, reducing the length of their meetings. Although there was general agreement to the principles proposed by the *ad hoc* Study Group, alternative suggestions were made to reduce the length of meetings, taking into account the need to maintain flexibility in establishing lists of speakers and the particular concerns of small delegations. The possibility of having longer intersessional periods was also raised. The Secretary noted that the present 2-year period had been maintained in view of the Unesco General Conference schedule.
- 17 The Executive Council agreed that the application of Article 5, para 3 of the Statutes should be more strictly adhered to and recommended that the Sixteenth Session of the Assembly, under Agenda Item 14, should provide guidance as to the Provisional Agenda for the Twenty-fifth Session of the Executive Council.
- 18 In making this proposal, the Executive Council pointed out that adjustments to the Provisional Agenda for the Assembly (Document IOC-XVI/1 prov.) should be taken up under Agenda Item 3.1 so that the Assembly could identify throughout the session those topics to be delegated to the Executive Council.
- 19 Having reviewed the proposals made by the *ad hoc* Study Group on future work, the Executive Council agreed that a similar *ad hoc* mechanism is needed to deal with a variety of tasks requiring in-depth study as indicated by the First Vice-Chairman IOC in his introduction. The Executive Council emphasized that such a mechanism should be set up for specific tasks and with a defined period during which it would be expected to complete its work. The Executive Council advised that the composition of such an *ad hoc* group should be determined by the Assembly in accordance with the proposed mandate and subject areas to be studied.
- 20 Recalling that the present *ad hoc* Study Group had been over- burdened by a successive accumulation of tasks, the Executive Council suggested that the responsibility for certain subjects could also be studied, for example, by the Officers of the Commission, a designated rapporteur, or by a Member State willing to assume a lead role.
- 21 The Executive Council emphasized the role of the IOC in global and climate change issues, the oceans being very significant in this context. In order for the IOC to play a leading role in these matters, it should be adequately resourced to meet demands and agreements. The proposed pledging system merits further study.
- 22 The Executive Council expressed its satisfaction with the work carried out by the *ad hoc* Study Group since its establishment by the Fourteenth Session of the Assembly in 1987 and conveyed to the First Vice-Chairman and the Members its deep appreciation for the time and effort invested in ensuring comprehensive and in-depth investigation of the tasks assigned.

# 5. TRAINING, EDUCATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE MARINE SCIENCES (TEMA)

23 The Chairman of the IOC Committee for TEMA introduced this Agenda Item. Referring to documents IOC/INF-612 and IOC/INF-808, he reviewed the background of the Document entitled: IOC/EC-XXIV/3 page 4

"Draft TEMA Strategy and Action Plan for 1991-1995" (IOC/TEMA-V/9 rev.2) adopted at the Fifth Session of the Committee, Paris, 25 February-1 March 1991. The UNESCO/IOC Comprehensive Plan for a Major Assistance Programme to Enhance the Marine Science Capabilities of Developing Countries (Document IOC/INF-612) was adopted at the Twelfth Session of the IOC Assembly in 1982 as a conceptual framework for the TEMA programme. Later the Committee for TEMA discussed, at its Fourth Session (Lisbon, 1984), modalities for the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan and recommended that the Action Plan for implementation be given a high priority in IOC's work programme. The Seminar on Partnership in Ocean Sciences and Services for Sustainable Development (Bremerhaven, Germany, 19-22 September 1989, Document IOC/INF-808) reviewed in particular the development of marine science capabilities in developing countries and stressed that co-operation among Member States (developing and industrialized) as well as between international agencies should be enhanced, and recommended the Fifth Session of the Committee, taking into account various suggestions made at the Workshop "Year 2000 Challenge for Marine Science Training and Education World-Wide" (UNESCO Reports on Marine Science, n° 52), and presented to the Executive Council as Document IOC/TEMA-V/9 rev.2.

In the ensuing debate, the Executive Council expressed support for the proposed strategy and action plan, with specific comments as follows:

- (i) Although short-term, intensive high-level education and training activities are useful to facilitate participation of developing Member States in the IOC on-going and evolving programmes, in many developing Member States there remains a need to develop basic marine science capabilities through long-term degree-related training. These two different training activities should be included in the TEMA action plan in a well-balanced way. The recent measures on restructuring taken by the Director General will facilitate this.
- (ii) There is a need to ensure the continuity of both specialist and regionally based high-level education and training opportunities and to ensure that follow-up activities occur.
- (iii) IOC through its TEMA Programme could seek to provide more information on high-level education and training opportunities available through various bilateral co-operation programmes. IOC could also consider communicating the needs of developing Member States to both its industrialized Member States and various multilateral and bilateral donor agencies.
- (iv) It is essential that both regional and technical bodies of the Commission identify TEMA needs of Member States participating in their programmes and seek to identify possible ways and means of meeting these needs.
- (v) Participation in research cruises, including shipboard training is an important activity for developing Member States. Details of proposed cruises and the scope for Member States participation in them would also be a useful information task for IOC.
- (vi) The strengthening of the TEMA staff in the Secretariat is a crucial issue as the extent of the TEMA programme and present low staffing situation does not allow satisfactory fulfilment of all required tasks.
- (vii) The High Level Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, September 1991, will lead to increased awareness of TEMA needs and related support.
- (viii) Improved utilization of modern technology could narrow existing gaps among Member States, and means to access and transfer such technology with associated training of personnel should be regarded as a priority task.

The Executive Council welcomed the submitted document and recommended it for consideration by the Assembly as appropriately revised. The Executive Council reiterated the high priority of TEMA in the work of the Commission.

24

25

# IOC/EC-XXIV/3 page 5

- 26 The Executive Council welcomed the offer by the Representative of the IHO to provide regular details of known bilateral hydrographic projects and of the creation of regional centres for the maintenance of marine scientific equipment and training of nautical cartographers and instructed the Secretary IOC to maintain close contact with the IHO on relevant parts of the TEMA programme.
- 27 The Executive Council expressed its concern for the increasing knowledge and technology gaps among Member States and it recommended a well balanced approach to programme oriented/specialized training, and basic marine science training. It also recognized the importance of continuity of training and follow-up activities.
- .28 The Executive Council recognized IOC's role in interacting with existing bilateral programmes and suggested that the compilation of existing high-level education, training and mutual assistance and development opportunities, as well as the MSCP's, would create a useful information base, for the role of the IOC as a clearing house in Training, Education and Mutual Assistance in the Marine Sciences.

# 6. DATES AND PLACE OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

29 The Executive Council accepted the dates of 10-18 March 1992 proposed by the Secretary for its Twenty-fifth Session, at UNESCO, Paris.

# 7. CLOSURE

.30 The Chairman closed the Session at 17.30 on 6 March 1991.

IOC/EC-XXIV/3 Annex I

# 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
- 3. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY
  - 3.1 APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
  - 3.2 FORMATION OF THE TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR RESOLUTIONS
  - 3.3 TIMETABLE
- 4. MEASURES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE AND DEPENDABLE RESOURCES FOR THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME OF WORK (FURES)
- 5. TRAINING, EDUCATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE MARINE SCIENCES (TEMA)
- 6. DATES AND PLACE OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
- 7. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT
- 8. CLOSURE

# АNNEX П/ANNEXE П/ANEXO П/ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ П

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

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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