



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

**Executive Board  
of the IOC-WMO-UNEP  
Intergovernmental Committee  
for the Global Ocean Observing System  
(I-GOOS Board-III)**

**Third Session**  
12 and 16 June, 2007  
Paris, France



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English only

*ABSTRACT*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the Executive Board of the IOC-WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System (I-GOOS Board) was held in Paris, France, on 12 and 16 June, 2007. On the first day the board prepared for I-GOOS-VIII held immediately following. On the second day, the board assessed the decisions and outcomes that had arisen from the I-GOOS-VIII meeting and decided on a specific set of actions to follow up on during the intersessional period.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY	Page
<b>1 OPENING AND WELCOME .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>2.1 REVIEW OF I-GOOS BOARD II ACTIONS .....</i>	<i>1</i>
<b>3 PREPARATION FOR I-GOOS VIII .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Follow-up to I-GOOS VIII .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>4.1 REVIEW AND COMPLETION OF GOOS DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR IOC ASSEMBLY XXIV.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>4.2 INTERSESSIONAL ACTIONS FOR THE BOARD.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>4.3 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<b>5 LIST OF ACTIONS.....</b>	<b>5</b>



## **1 OPENING AND WELCOME**

The chair, François Gérard, opened the meeting and welcomed the members. Four members, Chair, F. Gérard (France), Vice Chairs, K. Affian (Côte d'Ivoire), M. Altalo (USA), and H. Soldi (Peru), and GSSC Chair J. Field were present. Vice Chair S. Lin (China) sent her regrets. GPO Director, K. Alverson was present as Technical Secretary for the meeting. T. Aarup, J. Ahanhanzo, J. Baker, C. Clark, A. Fischer and T. Gross attended as additional professional support from the IOC Secretariat. The Chair thanked the IOC Secretariat for the generous arrangements.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 REVIEW OF I-GOOS BOARD-II ACTIONS**

The GPO Director reviewed the 13 action items from the second board report. All actions were agreed closed. The Secretariat noted that several actions had been closed without being completed including the actions on Board members to provide GPO Director with feedback on the draft template for benchmarking national observing contributions, to ensure their national responses filling in the benchmark template were completed early so as to be useful to other countries as an example, and to contact countries in their regions to ensure they responded to IOC Circular Letter No. 2199 nominating their I-GOOS representative and filled in the template benchmarking their contributions to GOOS. All other actions were completed successfully.

## **3 PREPARATION FOR I-GOOS-VIII**

The Board went through the Agenda of the I-GOOS-VIII meeting in detail. Several changes to the ordering were decided and it was agreed that the Chair would suggest these at the meeting before adoption of the Agenda and the Secretariat would prepare a revised version in advance for distribution immediately thereafter. A presentation from the ABE-LOS Chair was added to the Agenda.

## **4 FOLLOW-UP TO I-GOOS-VIII**

### **4.1 REVIEW AND COMPLETION OF GOOS DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR IOC ASSEMBLY XXIV**

Working from the draft prepared during I-GOOS-VIII the Board finalized a draft text to be passed to the IOC Assembly as a basis for a draft resolution for consideration by the IOC member states at their XXIV Assembly.

### **4.2 INTERSESSIONAL ACTIONS FOR THE BOARD**

The Board considered the list of decisions below as agreed at I-GOOS-VIII and agreed to the noted specific actions (in red) for follow-up during the intersessional period.

Decision: I-GOOS will commission, through the GSSC, a study of the technical aspects, including operational procedures, related to a standard set of routine underway measurements (such as sea surface temperature and current measurements) taken by research vessels for storage in international databases.

**Action 1.** *GSSC Chair to inform Detlef Stammer, with cc to GPO Director, that Detlef is invited to lead this effort for completion in 2008. Deadline: 1 July 2007.*

**Action 2.** *GPO Director to work with Detlef Stammer to support this effort. Deadline: 1 January 2008.*

Decision: The I-GOOS encouraged partnerships between GOOS Regional Alliances and other regional programs such as Large Marine Ecosystem projects and Regional Seas Conventions.

Decision: The I-GOOS approved the Terms of Reference for the I-GOOS Board as amended by the plenary.

Decision: The I-GOOS agreed to continue national reporting of quantitative and qualitative participation in GOOS in the form of “living document”, with a simplified template.

**Action 3.** *GPO to publish a ‘benchmark’ GOOS report based on the national commitments and contributions submitted as part of the I-GOOS-VIII national reporting exercise. Deadline: 1 January 2008.*

Decision: The Member States, through the I-GOOS Board, GSSC and PICO, and with the assistance of the GPO, to develop a mechanism to regularize national reporting and make routine the gathering of information on coastal observation networks. GRAs to develop a synopsis of observation networks, products and capacity development (“GRA Reports”), beginning from the National Reports, but enhanced to better represent regional engagement and plans for regional development, particularly with respect to coastal systems and products and involvement in pilot projects.

Decision. Highlight for the XXIVth IOC Assembly the significant progress in the development of the system and the several major impact areas (e.g. IPCC-4AR). Highlight emerging trends, e.g. in hazards and the impacts of, and adaptation to climate change.

Decision: The I-GOOS noted, based on the national reports, that funding will not be sufficient to implement the global module of GOOS at its initial design specification by the goal date 2012, and that increased investment by nations in the ocean observing systems will need to be supported by arguments of national benefit, at a national or regional level.

Decision: The I-GOOS Board, through the GSSC and the GPO, to develop a ‘Summary for Policy makers’ of major achievements in GOOS over the last decade and the outlines of the business for additional participation and investment.

**Action 4.** *Mary Altalo, assisted by GPO, Perth and Rio regional offices, to prepare a first draft ‘summary for Policy Makers’. Deadline: Board Meeting-IV, spring 2008.*



Decision: I-GOOS recognized ten existing GRAs, in accordance with GOOS principles and the GOOS Regional Policy. (EuroGOOS, MedGOOS, Black Sea GOOS, NEAR GOOS, Pacific Islands GOOS, Indian Ocean GOOS, IOCARIBE GOOS, GOOS-Africa, US GOOS, and SEA-GOOS).

Decision: I-GOOS recognized OCEATLAN and GRASP as additional Regional Alliances.

Decision: I-GOOS recommended that full use be made of the regional subsidiary bodies of the IOC in building new GRAs and in the work of existing ones.

Decision: The I-GOOS recognized the formation of the GOOS Regional Council as an advisory body to I-GOOS, and accepted the Terms of Reference as amended by the plenary.

**Action 5.** *GPO to prepare a letter to the GRAs informing them that the GRC is now recognized (including the ToR) and tell them to run the 4<sup>th</sup> forum in Guyaquil. Deadline: 1 August 2007.*

Decision: The I-GOOS requested all recognized GRAs nominate a representative to serve on the GOOS Regional Council (GRC).

Decision: The I-GOOS noted that the I-GOOS Board may invite the Chairperson of the GRC to the I-GOOS Board.

**Action 6.** *GPO to invite GRC Chair (once chosen) to I-GOOS Board meetings.*

Decision: I-GOOS Board will take the responsibility to coordinate and promote actions towards the establishment of an Arctic GOOS Regional Alliance, to take place before the next meeting of the IOC Executive Council in June 2008.

**Action 7.** *Chair to contact concerned member states and prepare a plan. Deadline: March 2008.*

Decision: I-GOOS welcomed the results of the independent review report of the Rio GOOS Office, that will be made available to the XXIV<sup>th</sup> IOC Assembly, and endorsed the recommendation of the report for the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the Rio GOOS Office.

GPO to re-sign MoU with Rio. Immediate.

Decision: The I-GOOS Board will investigate how to follow on from the work of GRAND through the GOOS Regional Council.

**Action 8.** *GPO to include this request as an action for the GRC in the letter being sent to GRAs (see Action 5).*

Decision: I-GOOS noted that PICO was set up as a subsidiary advisory body to GSSC and that there would be no cost implications.

**Action 9.** *GPO to call a meeting of PICO, preferably just prior to the GSSC. Deadline; Spring 2008*

Decision: I-GOOS decided that the regular budget staff line, which represents three contracted staff members, either based in the regions or with regional support responsibilities, constitutes a major support for GOOS regional activities and shall remain unchanged. For the remaining budget lines, I-GOOS decided to leave the secretariat flexibility to adjust in response to internal decisions (for example direction from groups such as the I-GOOS Board or the Assembly) and external actions/pressures/drivers.

**Action 10.** *GPO to wait for IOC Assembly budget result and then adjust the budget creatively as required.*

Decision: I-GOOS will pursue integration of GOOS Capacity Building with UNESCO programs by working through the IOC Capacity Building Program. I-GOOS noted that African expertise, while variable from one country to another, exists, and should be involved in all the activities of the international community including the IOC, and that any training offered to Africa should be multidisciplinary, in order to permit the efficient national, sub-regional or regional uptake of oceanographic research capabilities, conforming with the declaration of the Heads of States of the countries surrounding the Gulf of Guinea.

**Action 11.** *Kouadio Affian to work with Ehrlich Desa and IODE, taking into account GOOS report No.106, to mainstream capacity building into all GOOS activities.*

Decision: I-GOOS stressed the importance of the continued promotion of GOOS as the ocean component of GEOSS, its leadership role in open ocean and coastal planning, and emphasized the need for: (i) continuity, sustainability, and for the development of in-situ and satellite instruments; (ii) access to real-time in-situ data for hazard monitoring; and (iii) data exchange, particularly satellite data.

**Action 12.** *François Gérard and Mary Altalo to work to influence any IOC Assembly resolution on GEOSS to ensure GOOS is well recognized.*

#### 4.3 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

The Board agreed that the next board meeting would be held following the GSSC-XI meeting, probably in Paris, in spring 2008.

## 5 CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the facilities and preparation of the documents. All present thanked the Chair for his stewardship of the meeting. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 14h.

## 6 LIST OF ACTIONS

- ACTION 1.** GSSC CHAIR TO INFORM DETLEF STAMMER, WITH CC TO GPO DIRECTOR, THAT DETLEF IS INVITED TO LEAD THIS EFFORT FOR COMPLETION IN 2008. DEADLINE: 1 JULY 2007..... 2
- ACTION 2.** GPO DIRECTOR TO WORK WITH DETLEF STAMMER TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT. DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 2008 ..... 2
- ACTION 3.** GPO TO PUBLISH A 'BENCHMARK' GOOS REPORT BASED ON THE NATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS SUBMITTED AS PART OF THE I-GOOS-VIII NATIONAL REPORTING EXERCISE. DEADLINE: 1 JANUARY 2008. .... 2
- ACTION 4.** MARY ALTALO, ASSISTED BY GPO, PERTH AND RIO REGIONAL OFFICES, TO PREPARE A FIRST DRAFT 'SUMMARY FOR POLICY MAKERS'. DEADLINE: BOARD MEETING-IV, SPRING 2008. .... 2
- ACTION 5.** GPO TO PREPARE A LETTER TO THE GRAS INFORMING THEM THAT THE GRC IS NOW RECOGNIZED (INCLUDING THE TOR) AND TELL THEM TO RUN THE 4TH FORUM IN GUYAQUIL, ECUADOR. DEADLINE: 1 AUGUST 2007..... 3
- ACTION 6.** GPO TO INVITE GRC CHAIR (ONCE CHOSEN) TO I-GOOS BOARD MEETINGS. .... 3
- ACTION 7.** CHAIR TO CONTACT CONCERNED MEMBER STATES AND PREPARE A PLAN. DEADLINE: MARCH 2008. .... 3
- ACTION 8.** GPO TO INCLUDE THIS REQUEST AS AN ACTION FOR THE GRC IN THE LETTER BEING SENT TO GRAS (SEE ACTION 5) ..... 3
- ACTION 9.** GPO TO CALL A MEETING OF PICO, PREFERABLY JUST PRIOR TO THE GSSC. DEADLINE: SPRING 2008 ..... 4
- ACTION 10.** GPO TO WAIT FOR ASSEMBLY BUDGET RESULT AND THEN ADJUST THE BUDGET CREATIVELY AS REQUIRED..... 4
- ACTION 11.** KOUADIO AFFIAN TO WORK WITH EHRLICH DESA AND IODE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT GOOS REPORT NO. 106, TO MAINSTREAM CAPACITY BUILDING INTO ALL GOOS ACTIVITIES..... 4
- ACTION 12.** FRANCOIS GERARD AND MARY ALTALO TO WORK TO INFLUENCE ANY IOC ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON GEOSS TO ENSURE GOOS IS WELL RECOGNIZED. .... 4



ANNEX I

**AGENDA**

**1 OPENING AND WELCOME**

**2 INTRODUCTION**

*2.1 REVIEW OF I-GOOS BOARD II ACTIONS*

**3 PREPARATION FOR I-GOOS VIII**

**4 FOLLOW-UP TO I-GOOS VIII**

*4.1 REVIEW AND COMPLETION OF GOOS DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR IOC ASSEMBLY XXIV*

*4.2 INTERSESSIONAL ACTIONS FOR THE BOARD*

*4.3 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION*

**5 CLOSURE OF THE SESSION**

**6 LIST OF ACTIONS**



ANNEX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Albert FISCHER  
Candyce CLARK  
Justin AHANHANZO





ANNEX III

**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

ABE-LOS	Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea
EuroGOOS	European GOOS
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
GPO	GOOS Project Office
GRA	GOOS Regional Alliance
GRAND	
GRASP	GOOS Regional Alliance in the South Pacific
GRC	GOOS Regional Council
GSSC	GOOS Scientific Steering Committee
I-GOOS	IOC-WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for GOOS
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO)
IOCARIBE	IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IODE	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MedGOOS	Mediterranean GOOS
NEAR GOOS	North East Asian Regional GOOS
OCEATLAN	Regional Alliance for the Upper Southwest and Tropical Atlantic
PICO	Panel for the Integrated Coastal Observation
SEA-GOOS	South East Asian GOOS
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization