

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL
OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION**
(of UNESCO)

**WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION**

**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME**

**INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR
SCIENCE**

IOC-WMO-UNEP Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System (I-GOOS) Board Meeting
9 – 10 March 2006
Paris, France

**I-GOOS BOARD
DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The I-GOOS board was established in 2005 by IOC resolution XXIII-5. The board is not a subsidiary body of the IOC in its own right. Rather it “*serves to provide guidance and advice on the implementation of the decisions of I-GOOS to the Chair during the inter-sessional period*”. Thus, any and all substantive decisions or actions taken by the board are taken on behalf of, and as interim decisions of, the Intergovernmental Committee for GOOS (I-GOOS). No decision of the board can remain valid beyond the date of the next occurring full I-GOOS meeting without explicit endorsement by I-GOOS. The ensuing I-GOOS decision, not that of the board, will in all instances remain the decision of record.

The I-GOOS board will:

- (i) Provide a fast and flexible intra-sessional decision-making mechanism on behalf of I-GOOS for the use of the Chair and the GPO director;
- (ii) Provide guidance and advice on the implementation of the decisions of I-GOOS to the Chair and GPO during I-GOOS inter-sessional periods.

The I-GOOS consists of the chair and four vice chairs of I-GOOS as well as the chair of the GOOS Scientific Steering Committee (GSSC) as an ex-officio member. The director of the GOOS Project Office (GPO) or his designee serves as technical secretary for the group. GOOS Sponsor agencies, currently the IOC, WMO, UNEP and ICSU, are invited to send observers to attend board meetings. No other guests or observers attend. Planning, organization and secretarial support for meetings of the board is provided by the staff of the GOOS project office (GPO). Minutes of the board are kept by the GPO in electronic working document format only and are not published in any GOOS or IOC report series.

The language of the board is English only. The group meets at least twice per intra-sessional period. As national representatives, the I-GOOS chair and vice chairs must obtain national support to cover their attendance and will in no event be provided with funding from the budget of the IOC secretariat. The GPO will cover all other expenses for the meeting, including travel for the GSSC chair and technical secretary.

Invitation to the meeting of this *ad hoc* group will be by email. A quorum consisting of the chair, 3 of the 4 vice-chairs, the ex-officio member and technical secretary is required to establish a meeting of the board. Decisions of the board may be obtained by the GPO through email and are considered valid if a quorum is determined to be in favour. In the event that quorum cannot be guaranteed to attend, meetings are not held.

In the event at least one meeting of the board is not held during a given intra-sessional period the board will immediately cease to exist and may not be reformed until such time as there is an explicit decision of a governing body to do so. The board may be terminated at any time by explicit decision of I-GOOS, the IOC executive council or the IOC assembly.