



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Thirty-third Session of the Executive Council
20-30 June 2000

ACTION PAPER

This Action Paper provides the information necessary for an effective discussion of the agenda items. This information is presented in the form of extracts developed in a consolidated, easily available form. It contains references to other background materials and relevant Resolutions required for decision making. For each agenda item, an attempt has been made to identify the main issues and matters requiring policy decisions.

The blank right-hand pages are to allow participants to make notes, if they so wish.

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1. OPENING

1 The Chairperson, Prof. Su Jilan, will call the Executive Council to order at 10:00 on Tuesday 20 June 2000.

2 In his opening address the Chairperson will greet participants and touch on some subjects that are of special importance in the context of the agenda of the session.

3 The Director-General of UNESCO will address the Council with the words of welcome and present his views on the development of IOC after the adoption of the revised Statutes of the Commission by the UNESCO General Conference in November 1999, in light of new demands and needs in ocean research, resources exploitation, management and protection.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4 The Provisional Agenda (Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/1 Prov.) was distributed under IOC Circular Letters CL/1638-1639 to IOC Member States and CL/1640 to Organizations. Some modifications were made to the provisional Agenda at a later stage and Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/1 Prov. rev. was distributed by IOC Circular Letter CL/1649.

5 The Executive Council will be requested to adopt the Agenda of the session bearing in mind that the agenda of the Executive Council should be focused on matters requiring decisions.

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

6 The Assembly will be requested to designate a Rapporteur for the session under Rule of Procedure No. 25(3).

2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF INTRASESSIONAL COMMITTEES

7 The Executive Council will work in plenary as far as possible. Discussion of individual agenda items in plenary should concentrate on policy issues and actions requesting decisions by the Executive Council including those based on draft resolutions.

8 However, where deemed necessary, sessional drafting groups may be set up to deal with specific questions arising from the discussion of particular agenda items.

9 The Executive Council will be invited to establish a Technical Review Committee for Resolutions with the composition proposed by the Executive Council.

2.4 INTRODUCTION OF TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

10 The Executive Secretary will review the arrangements for the Session and introduce the Provisional Timetable (Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/1 Add. Prov. Rev.) and present the Provisional List of Documents (Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/4 Prov. Rev.).

11 The Executive Council will be invited to provide comments on those documents and suggest, if necessary, modifications.

12 The basic working documents for the session are the Action Paper (this document) and its Annexes as well as the reports and recommendations from the subsidiary regional and technical bodies requiring decision and guidance of the Executive Council.

13 Information and guidelines for participants were provided in Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/Inf-1 in advance of the Session.

2.5 ROGER REVELLE MEMORIAL LECTURE

14 The Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture will take place in the evening of Wednesday 21 June 2000. The lecture will be given by Dr Peter Brewer of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, USA on *Scientific questions regarding the possible disposal of CO₂ in the deep ocean*. All participants are kindly invited to attend the lecture, which will be followed by a brief discussion. Summary of the lecture will be annexed to the Summary Report.

3. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE 20TH SESSION OF THE IOC ASSEMBLY

3.1 RESULTS OF THE 30TH SESSION OF UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE

15 The 157th Executive Board and the 30th General Conference of UNESCO took place between October 5 and November 17, 1999.

16 In the preparation to these meetings and in response to the IOC Assembly Recommendation, the Executive Secretary IOC informed by Circular Letter No. 1624 the competent national authorities of the requirements of the IOC programme and budget in order to obtain their support during the discussion of the programme.

17 The Executive Secretary will report on the deliberations and main decisions adopted by the two UNESCO governing bodies that are directly relevant for the working of the IOC. Special attention will be given to the adoption of the revised IOC Statutes and the Programme and Budget for 2000-2001 (30 C/5). Among other things the General Conference invited "*the Director-General to ensure geographical balance of staff in the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and in particular the recruitment of African Scientists*" and called upon "*the IOC Assembly to initiate a system that will allow the equitable participation of scientists from developing countries on the Commission's Executive Council*" (30 C/5, Section II.2.4, par. 02240).

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

18 The Executive Council will **acknowledge** actions taken by the Secretariat in receiving support of the UNESCO General Conference to the revised IOC Statutes; **note** modifications to the text of the UNESCO Programme and Budget for 2000-2001 and **recommend** the ways of implementing the views of the General Conference on geographical balance of staff in the Secretariat and on developing countries representation at the IOC Executive Council.

3.2 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET EXECUTION

19 The Executive Secretary will present the progress report on the Programme making reference to the 1999 Annual Report and Addendum and giving the main lines of the new strategy of UNESCO.

20 Mrs C. Grignon-Logerot, Senior Administrative Officer will provide an overview of the current status of revenue and expenditure from the IOC Regular Programme and the IOC Trust Fund special account, as of 1 June 2000 (Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/2 Annex 1).

21 The progress made and the limitations encountered on programme implementation will be analyzed in the context of limitations of the approved 2000-2001 biennial programme and budget.

22 The Executive Secretary will then inform the Council on staffing situation.

23 Information provided in this presentation will later be referred to under Agenda Item 9, in terms of any adjustments that might be required for 2000-2001.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

24 The Executive Council will **note** the progress report and **provide advice** on the possible ways of overcoming difficulties in funding and staffing. The Executive Council may **consider** establishing a sessional drafting group for Agenda Item 9.

3.3 REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

25 The IOC Assembly at its 20th Session "*requested the Ad hoc Study Group for DOSS-2 to complete its mandate, in particular to recommend changes to the rules of procedure, and report back to the 33rd Session of the Executive Council*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 48).

26 Following the guidance provided by the IOC Officers at their meeting in January 2000, and taking into account the brief period of time before the Executive Council Session, the Executive Secretary invited past Chairperson Geoffrey Holland, acting as a Consultant, to undertake the task of proposing an updated draft of the IOC rules of procedure on the basis of the revised Statutes of IOC adopted by the 30th General Conference of UNESCO in November 1999. It is envisaged that a sessional group will review this draft of the revised rules of procedure (Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/2 Annex 2) during the Executive Council in order to have them ready for approval by the next session of the IOC Assembly.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

27 The Executive Council will **consider** the first draft of the proposed changes to the rules of procedure and **recommend** actions for completing the document well in advance of the next session of the IOC Assembly in order to make it ready for adoption by the IOC Assembly in 2001.

3.4 EXTERNAL EVALUATION TEAM REPORT

28 The external evaluation of IOC was requested by the General Conference of UNESCO as part of the overall evaluation programme of UNESCO. The members of the Team were appointed by the UNESCO Director-General in March 1999 and the same month the IOC Deputy Executive Secretary was appointed as a Coordinator of the teamwork. The general goal of the independent external evaluation of IOC was to provide an "*objective view of the capacities and capabilities of IOC as an intergovernmental organization and a dedicated UN mechanism for carrying out the mission assigned to the Commission by its Statutes*".

29 The Team completed its work in the first quarter of 2000 and presented the findings in the form of a report to the UNESCO Director-General in March 2000.

30 A member of the Team will inform the Executive Council about the evaluation process. The External Evaluation Report will be available as Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/2 Annex 3.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

31 The Executive Council will **note** the results of the work of the External Evaluation Team, **establish** the priority and **identify** follow-up actions for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the final report of the Team.

4. PROGRAMME MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

4.1 OCEAN SCIENCES

4.1.1 Oceans and Climate

32 (i) The First International Conference on the Ocean Observation System for Climate (18-22 October 1999, St. Raphaël, France) was convened by the joint GCOS-GOOS-WCRP Ocean Observation Panel for Climate and the Upper Ocean Panel of CLIVAR. (The published Proceedings of the Conference will be available to delegates for consultation). The Conference enjoyed 22 co-sponsors and formulated a statement (Document IOC/INF-1137) which contains a vision on the future of oceanography and ocean observations where "*the core needs of research and the long-term needs of operational applications are met by a viable sustained effort [using a] strategy [...] based on global integrated networks, of high quality but cost-effective, with timely and efficient distribution of data and products to the participants.*"

33 Mr Alexiou, an IOC Secretariat Staff, will brief the Executive Council on the results of the Conference and the implications to Member States of implementing a global observing system for ocean climate research and operational needs.

34 (ii) The 20th Session of the IOC Assembly was informed that the IOC-JGOFS Advisory Panel on Ocean CO₂ would be completely reconstituted in recognition of the fact that JGOFS had completed its observational phase, and to reflect the new priorities that are dominating the ocean CO₂ issues of today.

35 Mr Alexiou will address the Executive Council on these issues and present new Terms of Reference for the IOC-SCOR Advisory Panel on Ocean CO₂ as contained in Document IOC/INF-1136.

36 (iii) The Executive Secretary representing IOC as one of the co-sponsors of the WCRP participated in the appointment of a new Director of the WCRP Office located within the WMO Headquarters. After interviewing the four top-running candidates, the Committee selected Dr. David Carson from U.K. The new Director will be invited to address the Executive Council on his vision for the WCRP.

37 (iv) Under the same agenda item, Dr P. Brewer of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) who is invited to deliver the R. Revelle Memorial Lecture, will address the Executive Council on CO₂ disposal in the deep Ocean. Much planning is currently taking place internationally for implementing such an alternative and the prospect of large-scale environmental modification by such disposal or by large-scale experimentation is a matter for intergovernmental concern. Background to this issue is provided in Document IOC/INF-1133. A Draft Resolution will be submitted for adoption.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

38 The Executive Council will:

- (i) **note** the deliberations of the St. Raphaël Conference and **recommend** the ways the IOC Member States can support the implementation of the conclusions contained in the Conference Statement;
- (ii) **endorse** the Terms of Reference of the IOC-SCOR Advisory Panel on Ocean CO₂ and **identify** ways for helping the Panel to realize them;
- (iii) **consider** and **comment** on the presentation of the new WCRP Director and **encourage** further facilitation of cooperation among the WCRP partners;
- (iv) **approve** a draft resolution instructing the Executive Secretary IOC to take the CO₂ disposal matter up with the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) prior to the next Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (October 2000), so that the question of CO₂ disposal in the Oceans can be brought to the attention of the Parties at that meeting.

4.1.2 Census of Marine Life

39 The Census of Marine Life (CML) is a developing programme, sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, which aims to investigate the range of life in the oceans. Since 1997, a series of workshops have been held to explore the feasibility of conducting a global census of marine life. The Oceanography Society recently published a special issue of the journal *Oceanography* dedicated to the Census of Marine Life, which reported on these workshops (*Oceanography*, Vol.12, No.3). The workshops themes reported in *Oceanography*, included the use of advanced technology for identifying and assessing populations of marine life; new information systems to handle the vast amounts of taxonomic data arising from such an exercise; and methods for prioritizing areas of the ocean to be surveyed. A secretariat for the Census of Marine Life has now been established at the US Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE), and an international steering committee has also been established. CORE and the steering committee will work with the oceanographic community to prepare a report outlining plans for a possible 8-10 year life of the Census of Marine Life.

40 Dr N. Cyr, IOC Consultant, will introduce this item for discussion and Dr Jesse Ausubel from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and a member of the Steering Committee of the CML will be invited to address the Executive Council.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

41 The Executive Council will **note** progress on the Census of Marine Life and **advise** the Secretariat on the IOC's future involvement in this programme.

4.1.3 Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) Programme

42 The Fifth Session of the IOC Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB) was held in Paris, 22-24 November 1999. The Executive Council will be presented with the main conclusions, resolutions, recommendations, and the 2000-2001 workplan for the HAB Programme with a view to endorse them. The HAB Workplan is within the regular programme budget, which has been adopted, and is consistent with extrabudgetary resources, which have been identified. The Summary Report of the meeting (IOC/IPHAB-V/3) will be available for the Executive Council. Mr H. Enevoldsen, IOC Consultant, will present the document for review and adoption. A Draft Resolution will be submitted for adoption.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

43 The Executive Council will **review** and **approve** the Summary Report and **adopt** Recommendations; **consider** the Draft Resolution on HAB for adoption.

4.1.4 Marine Science Inputs to Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM)

44 By Resolution XX-3 of the IOC Assembly, a group of experts on Sub-Marine Groundwater Discharges (SGD) in the Coastal Zone was established with the following terms of reference:

- (i) *to draft a basic plan for a SGD Project in the context of ICAM in close collaboration with LOICZ, the GOOS Coastal Panel, the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme and Programme on Environment and Development in Coastal Regions and Small Islands, and SCOR / LOICZ WG-112;*
- (ii) *to prepare an intercalibration programme to resolve existing measurement problems and develop new techniques as appropriate; and*
- (iii) *to report progress to the Thirty-third Session of the IOC Executive Council and submit the draft plan and programme to the Twenty-first Session of the IOC Assembly.*

45 The group of experts on SGD meeting was convened in Paris (2-4 February 2000) under the auspices of IOC and prepared a proposal for an intercalibration programme. The Technical Secretary or the Chairperson of the Expert Group will present the results of the meeting as contained in document IOC/INF-1140.

46 The Technical Secretary will report on major on-going ICAM activities such as the follow-up of the International Workshop on Coastal Mega-Cities, which focused on the theme of "Challenges of Growing Urbanisation of the World's Coastal Areas" held in Hangzhou, China from 27-30 September 1999.

47 In the framework of the IOC-IGU Cooperation, a joint project "Oceans 21" has been established in 1999. The Executive Council will be informed of the developments and planned activities, and will be requested to approve the development plan of the project, as presented in Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/2 Annex 4.

48 The IOC advisory Group of Experts on ICAM last met in October 1998. Two years later, it is time to reflect on the achievements and limitations of the programme. The Technical Secretary will propose to the Executive Council to convene the second advisory group of experts meeting during the intersessional period with the objective to harmonize its position and role within the redefined Ocean Science Programme and to provide guidance to the Executive Secretary on future directions for its development.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

49 The Executive Council will **consider** a proposal for the intercalibration programme on the Submarine Groundwater Discharges for its endorsement; **approve** the development plan of the "Oceans 21" project in view of its implementation jointly with IGU; **consider** the need to convene an advisory group of experts meeting on ICAM during the intersessional period.

4.1.5 Restructuring the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME) Programme and Strategic Plan

50 The existing framework for the implementation of the GIPME programme was outlined in IOC Technical Series No. 25 published in 1984. This document was the first formal statement regarding the purpose, objectives and structure of this IOC Programme since the publication in 1976 of the foundation document entitled *A Comprehensive Plan for the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment and Baseline Study Guideline*, which was published as IOC Technical Series No. 14.

51 Specification of the objectives and strategic design of the Health of the Oceans Module (HOTO) of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) was completed in 1996 (IOC/INF-1044). HOTO is the GOOS module that monitors the condition of the ocean, its resources and amenities, in the context of concerns about environmental degradation.

52 During the 19th Assembly of the IOC in 1997, Resolution XIX-4 was adopted that fundamentally changed the manner of implementation of the GIPME Programme and clarified the relationship between GIPME and the Health of the Oceans (HOTO) Module of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS). This decision justified a detailed re-evaluation of scientific activities within the GIPME programme, particularly its objectives and *modus operandi*, to provide guidance to those involved in GIPME and in associated IOC activities such as GOOS, most specifically HOTO.

53 A progress report was given to the 20th Session of the IOC Assembly regarding the restructuring of GIPME. The Assembly "*stressed the importance of health sensitive indicators for coastal applications, adoption of an interdisciplinary approach to the issue of eutrophication, and the requirement for GIPME to provide the scientific underpinning to the implementation of HOTO as specified in Resolution XIX-4*" and "*emphasized the need to expedite the restructuring of GIPME and, to this end, prepare for the Thirty-third Session of the IOC Executive Council concrete steps for the implementation of the new structure taking full account of regional interests*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 91 and 93).

54 Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/2 Annex 5 gives the results of a re-evaluation of the scientific activities within the GIPME programme, both in the context of new perspectives of damage and threats to the marine environment, its resources and amenities, and scientific advances made in the last two decades. This document has been prepared by the Chairperson of GIPME, Dr J.M. Bewers, in consultation with several scientists, including several experts long involved in GIPME, and others representing a community of individuals having interests in marine environmental protection.

55 The document takes into account additional reasons for reviewing the existing framework for the implementation of the GIPME programme at this time. In the 24-year period since the original design of the GIPME Programme was issued, much has changed in the field of marine pollution. These changes are the result not only of improved scientific understanding of the oceans and the mechanisms by which contaminants enter, circulate and are removed from the marine environment, but also the result of altered perspectives on threats to the ocean.

56 Dr M. Bewers will present the GIPME re-evaluation.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

57 The Executive Council will **review** the re-evaluation document on the GIPME Programme and **approve**, as appropriate, the proposed scientific activities; **provide** further

guidance to the Member States and instructions to the Executive Secretary for further actions to be taken, and guidance on identifying resources.

4.1.6 Review of the Framework of the IOC's Existing Ocean Sciences Programmes

58 The 20th Session of the IOC Assembly requested the Executive Secretary IOC "*to form an ad hoc group of appropriate experts to (i) review the framework of the existing ocean sciences programmes of the IOC in the light of new developments and requirements in ocean science; (ii) identify a new paradigm or new approaches for the IOC to meet the evolving aspects of interdisciplinary ocean science, in the context of bringing benefits to the Member States; and (iii) report to the Member States by the Thirty-third Session of the IOC Executive Council*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 115).

59 The *ad hoc* review panel was established and a meeting was planned in Paris from 29-31 May 2000. A progress report on the work of the review panel will be given by Dr G. Grice, Senior Science Advisor to the Executive Secretary IOC.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

60 The Executive Council will **note** the progress on the review of the framework of the existing Ocean Sciences programmes of IOC and **provide** further guidance to the Member States and instructions to the Executive Secretary for further actions to be taken.

4.2 OCEAN SERVICES

4.2.1 Ocean Data Exchange Policy

61 At its last Session in 1999, the IOC Assembly adopted Resolution XX-11 entitled *Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy*.

62 The Resolution noted the existing agreements on the principles of global data management and exchange among different international and regional organizations, and considered the need for detailed technical arrangements regarding data and information to be developed in accordance with varying requirements in the different programmes. The Resolution instructed:

"the Executive Secretary IOC to establish an ad hoc Working Group on Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy, including the two co-chairpersons of JCOMM and the Chairperson of IODE, and other experts to review existing agreements and practices, both within and outside IOC, with regard to the exchange of oceanographic and related environmental data and products, with a view to proposing to the next session of the Assembly:

- a) *a restatement of the general IOC principles and policy with regard to oceanographic data exchange; and*
- b) *a statement of recommended practices and the required institutional arrangements for the operational exchange of oceanographic data."*

63 The *ad hoc* Working Group on Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy was established and met in Paris on 15-17 May 2000. The First Vice-Chairperson of IOC will inform about the progress made by the *ad hoc* Working Group and will present a draft statement of the Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy as developed by the Group (Document IOC/INF-1144).

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

64 The Executive Council will **note** the progress of the *ad hoc* Working Group, **comment** on the draft policy statement, and **recommend** further action to be taken by the *ad hoc* Working Group in order to report the final results and recommendations to the next session of the IOC Assembly in 2001.

4.2.2 Disaster Preparedness: Tsunami and Storm Surges

65 IDNDR came to an end on 31 December 1999. During all the years of IDNDR IOC was responding to the *Decade* objectives in many different ways, especially in the area of tsunamis, storm surges and "El Niño" mitigation, research and preparedness by creating and improving early warning systems, implementing capacity-building efforts and providing expert knowledge.

66 (i) The IOC Assembly at its 20th Session agreed "*that international organizations should strengthen their interdisciplinary cooperation in disaster prevention and mitigation*" and further "*supported the view expressed by the IDNDR Regional Meetings that the United Nations System should ensure the continuation of the function of coordination of natural disaster mitigation activities at the international level.*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 161 and 163).

67 Dr I. Oliounine, former Deputy Executive Secretary IOC, will inform the Assembly of the UNGA decision regarding the post IDNDR strategy in disaster reduction and of the new UN mechanisms established to coordinate the efforts of international agencies and Member States in enabling communities to become resilient to natural hazards and to proceed from an approach of protection against hazards to the management of risk.

68 The 31st Session of the Executive Council by Resolution EC-XXXI.3 instructed "*the Executive Secretary IOC to consider ways to strengthen support to the IDNDR related activities...*" and encouraged "*Member States, particularly those concerned with the tsunami and storm surges disasters, to contribute to the IOC Trust Fund...*" This call for support was re-emphasized by the 20th Session of the IOC Assembly which "*requested the Executive Secretary IOC to increase staff and funding resources needed for a successful implementation of the programme*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 164).

69 Dr I. Oliounine will inform of the progress made in implementing these instructions and requests.

70 (ii) In response to the instruction given to the Executive Secretary IOC by the 31st Session of the IOC Executive Council, the 17th Session of the ICG/ITSU was successfully implemented in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 4-7 October 1999.

71 The Chairperson of the ICG/ITSU, Dr F. Schendele (France) will inform the Executive Council of the efforts of Member States in improving all aspects of the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific based on a long-term guidance contained in the *Master Plan for the Tsunami Warning System* published in 1999 (IOC/INF-1124). He will highlight the progress achieved in bringing the experience of the ICG/ITSU to other tsunami prone areas of the world. The Summary Report of the Session and Recommendations will be presented to the Executive Council for approval (IOC/ITSU-XVII/3).

72 (iii) The 31st Session of the IOC Executive Council adopted Resolution EC-XXXI.3 by which, under Part C, decided "*to support the project proposal on Storm Surges for the Northern part of the Indian Ocean taking into account comments made by the IOC Member States, WMO and those of the GOOS Coastal Module Panel;*" and instructed the Executive

Secretary IOC to "*ensure IOC's leading role in organizing in 1999 a meeting of the representatives of Member States, international organizations and funding agencies in order to identify a plan of the project support and implementation...*"

73 The IOC, WMO, IHP (UNESCO) meeting took place in New Delhi, India, from 22-26 October 1999 with the participation of the representatives of eight Member States from the northern part of the Indian Ocean. The meeting made few amendments to the text (IOC/INF-1131) and the representatives of Member States approved and undersigned the plan of action for the pre-project period and resolutions.

74 The former First Vice-Chairperson of the IOC, Dr A.E. Muthunayagam (India) will present Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/2 Annex 6 and report on the progress achieved in the project implementation.

75 A Draft Resolution will be submitted for adoption.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

76 The Executive Council will:

- (i) **provide guidance** to the Member States and instructions to the Executive Secretary on the ways of establishing close cooperation with the Inter-Agency Task Force and a secretariat established by the ECOSOC in Resolution 1999/63. This will help to realize the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and to assist the Task Force in implementing its functions by providing knowledge, expertise and complementary actions;
- (ii) **note the progress** achieved by the ICG/ITSU, review the development of the programme, approve the Summary Report and Recommendations of ITSU-XVII with special consideration of decreased resources available for the programme implementation;
- (iii) **take note of the progress** in the storm surges proposal implementation, to endorse the plan of action and to consider adopting a resolution urging Member States concerned to commit necessary resources in kind or in fund and inviting funding organizations and agencies to provide funds for the project implementation.

4.2.3 General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO)

77 A comprehensive review of the GEBCO Programme on ocean mapping will be presented by the Chairperson of the Joint IOC-IHO Guiding Committee for GEBCO, Sir Anthony Laughton.

78 The Summary Report of the last Guiding Committee meeting, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in June 1999, will be available for Member States as document IOC-IHO/GEBCO-XVII/3. A GEBCO Officers Meeting, combined with a meeting of the GEBCO Digital Sub-Committee, will be held in Copenhagen in May 2000 and an executive summary will be presented.

79 Two particular issues have arisen from the meetings.

80 (i) A paper expressing concern on the long-term future of GEBCO was tabled by the Chairperson at Halifax. Most of the contributors to the project are volunteers and many are ageing. There are not adequate resources to support the work necessary to generate the global bathymetric database needed for the twenty-first century. Proposals will be presented as to how to improve Member States' commitment for the programme.

- 81 (ii) The celebration of the Centenary of the initiation of the GEBCO Programme will be held in Monaco in 2003, which will include a conference on the shape of the ocean floor. The Principality of Monaco is giving active support to the celebration. IOC has already passed a Resolution (XX-5) in which Members agreed to provide assistance with the Conference. Details of this assistance are now required.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 82 The Executive Council will be requested to:
- **adopt** the Comprehensive Report of the 17th session of the Joint IOC-IHO GEBCO Guiding Committee and take note of the short report of the 12th GEBCO Officers Meeting,
 - **review** the implementation of the GEBCO programme and provide advice to Member States and the Executive Secretary on its further strengthening,
 - **identify** additional funds (\$5000 per year for two years) for the support of the Centenary Conference in Monaco.

4.3 OPERATIONAL OBSERVING SYSTEM

4.3.1 Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and Related Matters

- 83 Dr C. Summerhayes, Head of the Operational Observing Systems (OOS) Section of IOC and Director of the GOOS Project Office will introduce this item and will highlight the main achievements in the programme implementation as spelled out in the IOC Annual Report. *GOOS News* No. 8 of December 1999 will be available as an information document. Further information about GOOS can be obtained on the GOOS Website at <http://ioc.unesco.org/goos>.

- 84 The following documents will be available to the Members of the Executive Council which report progress in various kinds of GOOS activity: (i) IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU/GSC-II/3; (ii) IOC-WMO-UNEP/I-GOOS-IV/3; (iii) GCOS-GOOS-WCRP/OOPC-IV/3; (iv) Workshop Report 152; (v) Workshop Report 158; (vi) IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU/AG-IOCARIBE-GOOS-I/3; (vii) IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU/C-GOOS-III/3; (viii) IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU/LMR-GOOS-II/3.

- 85 He will report on the actions taken by the GOOS Project Office and Member States in meeting the requirements of resolutions of the 20th Session of the IOC Assembly and will emphasize the importance of the partnership approach for an Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS-P) uniting several UN agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, and for the Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO) involving the major oceanographic institutions of the world (Document IOC/INF-1139). IGOS is developing through themes, with the *Oceans Theme* to be the first. It focuses on setting out the main challenges for remote sensing and *in situ* observation of the oceans, and for the integration of these observations into comprehensive models from which accurate forecasts and predictions can be made. POGO is meant to assist in the development of GOOS, as well as providing a forum within which the directors of major oceanographic institutions from all parts of the world can interact.

- 86 As part of the presentation on GOOS, the attention of the Executive Council will be drawn to the plans of the space agencies to address the need for continuity of certain ocean observations, specially for the high accuracy radar altimeter missions needed to continuously observe the global ocean and to understand short- to long-term changes to ocean circulation. These measurements are now considered as essential components of GOOS, which will

integrate them with other satellite and *in situ* data into models to produce a wide range of products tailored to user requirements. Whilst the future looks secure for the next five years with Jason-1, a firm decision is needed in the very short term to secure continuity through Jason-2 measurements in the GODAE timeframe. To this end CNES, NASA, NOAA and EUMETSAT are discussing a cooperative approach for transitioning to a fully operational satellite service starting with Jason-2.

- 87 Under this agenda item the Executive Council will also be reminded of Resolution EC-XXXI.4 on *Vandalism of Oceanographic Equipment at Sea* and information will be provided on the progress achieved.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 88 The Executive Council will **note** progress achieved in meeting GOOS goals; **provide** guidance to Member States and GOOS Project Office on programme development and coordination; **recommend** further actions with the aim of developing appropriate legislation on the vandalism of buoys; **make specific proposals** to assist the programme by providing additional staff and financial resources; and **urge** Member States to increase their contribution to GOOS implementation and to GOOS international coordination as requested in Assembly Resolution XX-7. The IOC is also asked to **note and endorse** the recommendations for Ocean observations as set out in the *Oceans Theme* document (Document IOC/INF-1134); and the plans of CNES, NASA, NOAA and EUMETSAT who are collectively planning to ensure the long-term continuity of precision altimetry observations through the Jason programme (Document IOC/INF-1143).

4.3.2 Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)

- 89 This agenda item will be introduced by the Director of the GOOS Project Office. He will refer to Resolution XX-12 by which it was decided "*(i) to establish a Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) to replace the existing Joint IOC/WMO Committee for the Integrated Global Ocean Services System (IGOSS) and WMO Commission for Marine Meteorology (CMM) with terms of reference as given in the Annex to this Resolution; (ii) that JCOMM will become the reporting and co-ordinating mechanism for the DBCP and GLOSS and for other appropriate existing and future operational ocean related activities within IOC*".

- 90 The Assembly further instructed "*the Executive Secretary IOC, in consultation with the Secretary-General of WMO, the President of CMM and the Chairman of IGOSS, to establish procedures and a timetable for the transition to JCOMM, as well as a firm agreement on financing and Secretariat support for the new body.*"

(i) JCOMM

- 91 In November 1999 WMO and IOC advised their Member States about the formation of JCOMM, and asked them to formally nominate technical experts to serve as members of it. Procedures and a timetable for transition to JCOMM were established at the first JCOMM-TRANS meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, 19-23 July 1999 (Document JCOMM Meeting Report No. 1). Financial matters will be considered by JCOMM-TRANS-II on 14-16 June 2000, and the first full meeting of JCOMM will take place in July 2001 in Iceland.

- 92 Another issue which will be brought to the attention of the Executive Council is related to the Arctic operational observations and services dealt with earlier by one of the specialist groups of the WMO Commission on Marine Meteorology (CMM). To consider the

way forward, the JCOMM-TRANS group organized a meeting of polar experts, who met in Geneva, 6-8 December 1999. A report will be available as Document IOC/INF-1138. The group of experts recommended replacement of the initial CMM Arctic group by a joint WMO-IOC/JCOMM Working Group on Polar Seas and other Sea Ice Regions (POSSIR). Creation of this group would make redundant planning of the IOCSOC operational activities and should be taken into account under Agenda Item 4.4.5 when future of the IOC Regional Committee for the Southern Ocean will be discussed.

(ii) SOOP and DBCP

93 The SOOP, originally a product of IGOSS, will be managed by JCOMM. Information about SOOP is available on the new SOOP Website (<http://www.brest.ird.fr/soopip>).

94 The programme would gradually withdraw from an areal sampling when the Argo float programme is implemented, and would at the same time ramp up its effort in line (transect) sampling. This will improve contributions in terms of *in situ* eddy-resolving data sets and in terms of the provision of high quality, high resolution repeat data, with no significant resource implications. The change seeks optimum complementarity for the upper ocean sampling system envisaged for the future, and addresses the goals of both GOOS and CLIVAR.

95 The 3rd Session of the SOOP Implementation Panel took place in San Diego, USA, 28-31 March 2000 and considered needs for and ways of the SOOP revision. Mr Y. Tréglos of the GOOS Project Office will bring the conclusions of the meeting to the Executive Council.

96 He will continue with reporting on the progress of DBCP, which in future will also report to JCOMM.

97 The new reporting procedures necessitate some minor changes to the DBCP's Terms of Reference, which are submitted to the Executive Councils of IOC and WMO for formal approval.

98 The DBCP at its 15th Session (26-29 October 1999, Wellington, New Zealand) noted with considerable concern the likely loss of important atmospheric pressure data from the Southern Oceans that would result from the decision by the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) of NOAA not to purchase and deploy SVP Barometer drifters, in particular in the Southern Ocean. The DBCP recommended that the meteorological services concerned should consult together and with other interested agencies, perhaps by way of the DBCP Forum, with a view to developing a common position and jointly work towards a resolution of the problems.

99 In May 1999, DBCP Internet forum (<http://www-dbcpl.cls.fr>) was opened to facilitate debate on technical issues and to exchange information among buoy operators or actors.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

100 The Executive Council will be asked to:

- (i) **approve** the formation of the JCOMM Interim Management Committee that was set up at the JCOMM-TRANS meeting in St. Petersburg and the procedure adopted at this meeting that the past President and Chairperson of IGOSS and CMM should be the interim co-presidents of the JCOMM Interim Management Committee during the JCOMM planning process;
- provide** guidance on the most appropriate mechanism for coordinating operational activities in polar regions;

- (ii) **note** the above information about SOOP and DBCP, and **consider** the proposed revision of SOOP and DBCP, particularly a Draft Resolution that contains DBCP revised Terms of Reference.

4.3.3 Global Sea-Level Observing System (GLOSS)

- 101 The IOC Assembly at its 20th Session "*supported the proposal for a panel of experts to assist in the design of the global tide gauge network required to meet the climate objectives of GOOS and CLIVAR*" and "*stressed the need for the rescue of historical sea level data...*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 229 and 230). The progress in the programme implementation will be presented by Dr Thorkild Aarup, Technical Secretary of GLOSS. Among other things he will inform the meeting that a GLOSS Science Subgroup for Climate was established, and that a working group dealing with the GPS control of tide gauge benchmarks was reorganized into a joint IGS-PSMSL-GLOSS-IAG-IAPSO Group to avoid duplication of effort by different interested bodies.
- 102 With the formation of JCOMM, GLOSS will formally report to JCOMM. This development requires some changes to the GLOSS Terms of Reference. The proposals as agreed by the GLOSS Group of Experts will be presented to the Executive Council for adoption.
- 103 The following documents will be available to members of the Executive Council: IOC/GE-GLOSS-VI/3; IOC Training Course 54.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 104 The Executive Council will **note** the progress achieved in the programme implementation and **consider for adoption** a draft resolution containing the revised Terms of Reference of the Group of Experts on GLOSS.

4.3.4 Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

- 105 The IOC is one of the four co-sponsors of GCOS, along with WMO, UNEP and ICSU. Whereas GOOS has the Intergovernmental Committee for GOOS as well as the GOOS Steering Committee, thus providing a means for GOOS to receive attention at high levels within governments, GCOS has no intergovernmental mechanism of its own and reports directly to the WMO Congress and to the IOC Assembly. The UNFCCC-COP-IV (December 1998) recognized the continuing deficiencies in observing systems for climate and invited agencies responsible for the *Climate Agenda* to initiate an intergovernmental process to improve global observing systems for climate. In October 1999, the UNFCCC-COP-V repeated the invitation to the Secretariat of the GCOS to assist and facilitate the establishment of an appropriate intergovernmental process. The WMO-IOC-UNEP-ICSU Steering Committee for GCOS, at its 8th session (Geneva, 9-12 February, 1999), began the process of investigating the means through which it could be overseen by an intergovernmental process. Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/2 Annex 7 sets out the status of this investigation. The document prepared by GCOS on behalf of the organizations involved in the *Climate Agenda*, including IOC and GOOS, for the 11th Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice for the UNFCCC (as part of the COP-V meeting in Bonn, 25 October - 5 November 1999) is also available as information document IOC/INF-1135.
- 106 Mr Alan Thomas, Director of the GCOS Office has been invited to report progress on this activity to the IOC Executive Council and to introduce a Draft Resolution on GCOS.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

107 The Executive Council will **note** the continuing decline in observing systems and **urge** Member States to take steps to remedy the deficiencies in the observing systems so that GOOS and GCOS will be able to provide the information required for accurate forecasting of climate change on seasonal to inter-annual time scales; **urge** Member States to ensure that strong linkages are developed between the national agencies represented at the IOC and those represented at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, where there is a difference between the two, to ensure that a coherent and integrated approach to global observations is taken at the national level; **consider and approve** the Draft Resolution on GCOS.

4.4 REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

4.4.1 IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

108 In response to Resolution XX-16 the Third Session of the IOCINDIO Regional Committee was convened in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran from 21-23 February 2000, preceded by the Regional Workshop on ICAM and Marine Pollution. The Executive Summary Report will be available for the meeting as IOCINDIO-III/3s.

109 Among the issues discussed at the third session was the in-depth consideration of the programme implementation adopted by IOCINDIO-II with emphasis on the storm-surge programme, marine pollution studies and coastal zone management. The establishment of the IOC Regional Office in Perth with the main objective to promote GOOS activities in the Indian Ocean facilitated interest to the operational oceanography and the presentation on GOOS in the Indian Ocean led to very interesting and constructive discussions.

110 One of the policy issues considered by IOCINDIO-III was the establishment of the Regional Support Office.

111 By Resolution XX-16 the Executive Secretary IOC was instructed "*to consult the Member States of the region to facilitate the establishment of an IOCINDIO Regional Support Office, with the Terms of Reference annexed to this resolution, after the endorsement of the proposal by the Third Session of IOCINDIO*". IOCINDIO-III discussed the proposal of India for the Regional Support Office, commented on the Terms of Reference approved by the IOC Assembly and considered financial applications.

112 Mr J. Barbière, the IOCINDIO Technical Secretary, will present the Summary Report of IOCINDIO-III and Recommendations contained therein for adoption (IOCINDIO-III/3s).

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

113 The Executive Council will **review** the IOCINDIO activities, **approve** the executive summary report and **adopt** the recommendations of IOCINDIO-III, **provide advice** to Member States on the priorities and **identify** resources for the regional programme implementation.

4.4.2 IOC Regional Committee for the Central Eastern Atlantic (IOCEA)

114 In Resolution XX-16, the IOC Assembly noted "*with regret that no action was taken to ensure the establishment of [a] regional Secretariat [...] and to appoint a permanent staff member...*". The Assembly further urged the Executive Secretary IOC to "*assist in establishing a regional office in consultation with the Member States of the region*".

- 115 IOCEA-V was held in Dakar in April-May 2000 back to back with the ODINAFRICA (Ocean Data and Information Network in Africa) planning meeting. Implementation of ODINAFRICA as well as of RECOSCIX-CEA was enabled through the support provided by the Government of Flanders (Belgium).
- 116 The Chairperson of the IOCEA Regional Committee or the IOCEA-V Technical Secretary will report on the IOCEA-V Session and present the Recommendations of IOCEA-V for adoption. The Executive Summary Report of the session will be available as IOCEA-V/3s. He will introduce the IOCEA work-programme and follow-up actions, specially regarding PACSICOM and GOOS-AFRICA.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 117 The Executive Council will **consider** the Recommendations of the IOCEA-V for adoption and **make specific proposals** on assistance for the implementation of the work programme; **consider** ways and means in support of the establishment of a Regional Project Office, the establishment of a Regional Data Centre and institutional mechanisms for cooperation with other UN Organizations, such as FAO, UNEP and UNIDO, which have activities in the region.

4.4.3 IOC Regional Committee for the Cooperative Investigation in the North and Central Western Indian Ocean (IOCINCWIO)

- 118 During the 20th Session of the IOC Assembly the Delegate of Kenya stressed the need to reinforce the coordination with and within the IOCINCWIO region. Recalling the recommendation of the 19th Session of the IOC Assembly, he reiterated the offer of Kenya to host a small Project Office, to be located at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) in Mombasa. He added that Kenya would be in a position to support part of the cost of the proposed Office. The Assembly adopted Resolution XX-15 by which it endorsed the proposal for an initial period of two years after which according to the Rules of Procedure, the issue, including the Office location, would be reviewed at IOCINCWIO-V. The Assembly further invited Member States and donors to support the operation of the proposed office.
- 119 In response to IOC Resolution XX-15 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been established between the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) and IOC. Within the framework of this MOU, an IOCINCWIO Project Office has been established at KMFRI on 8 February 2000 for an initial period of two years. IOC is providing support to the Office through (i) Local Consultant (P-3 level); and (ii) support for operational expenses of the Office. KMFRI provides support through (i) provision of office space and infrastructure; and (ii) two local support staff.
- 120 Mr P. Pissierssens, Head of the Ocean Services Section of IOC and Technical Secretary for Africa-related activities will inform on the details of the progress achieved in the implementation of Resolution XX-15; he will present the main programme of the IOCINCWIO Project Office and its Terms of Reference. The main responsibilities of the Office is to assist in the planning and implementation of the ODINAFRICA Programme and its projects.
- 121 The project proposal "Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa - Second Phase" (ODINAFRICA-II), developed and endorsed by eighteen African Member States, has been submitted to the Government of Flanders. The Executive Council will be informed on the decision of the donor and on the progress achieved.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

122 The Executive Council will **take note** of the establishment of the IOCINCWIO Project Office, and **provide guidance** for its further development and functioning, with special attention to its funding and Terms of Reference; **note** the decision of the donor with regard to the ODINAFRICA-II Proposal and **provide guidance** on the further development and implementation of the Project.

4.4.4 Caspian Sea

123 By IOC Resolution XX-19 entitled *IOC Activities Related to the Caspian Sea*, the Executive Secretary IOC was instructed "*to take necessary actions for the organization of a Regional Conference with the objective to develop a plan of action for the protection of the Caspian Sea environment and identify a mechanism for co-ordination of the on-going and planned activities in the Caspian Sea region*".

124 Dr I. Oliounine, former Deputy Executive Secretary IOC, will inform the Executive Council of the results of the International Seminar on Organization of the IOC-UNESCO project "Floating University" in the Caspian Sea (22-23 November 1999, Astrakhan, Russia) attended by experts from all Member States of the region (Document IOC/INF-1141). He will present the decisions of this meeting and among them the establishment of an Operational Centre for the project implementation supported by all participants. He will provide the Executive Council with the summary of the efforts made by other international organizations in the Caspian Sea protection, research and monitoring.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

125 The Executive Council will **note** the international activities in the region and **recommend** on the institutional mechanism of cooperation with the international agencies implementing IOC-related projects; **provide guidance** to the Executive Secretary on the further actions required for the implementation of IOC Resolution XX-19.

4.4.5 Other Regions

(i) IOC Regional Committee for the Southern Ocean (IOCSOC)

126 Dr M. Tilzer, Chair of IOCSOC, will be invited to make a presentation.

127 Given recent developments within IOC, some changes from the IOCSOC recommendations of 1996 appear necessary. Since the last meeting of IOCSOC, there have been considerable changes within the IOC, not least the rapid development of GOOS, as well as the creation of JCOMM. One result has been to place the responsibility for considering all the operational ocean activities worldwide, including those in the Southern Ocean, under the GOOS Steering Committee (GSC). JCOMM will provide the institutional platform in which the recommendations of the GSC for Southern Ocean and other operational activities will be considered and implemented.

128 In addition, the Southern Oceans Committee has had difficulty in achieving high priority in the past, because of its uniqueness among the IOC regional bodies. Other regional bodies have Member States with many closely shared priorities and reasons for day-to-day cooperation on ocean issues. One of the reasons for creating IOCSOC was to address the scarcity of data in the Southern Ocean, through the cooperation of researching nations. It is now timely to reconsider what specific results an IOCSOC could deliver and their respective schedules. Depending on these deliverables, possible changes to, or restructuring of, IOCSOC

may be needed, especially recognising that GOOS and JCOMM will cover operational requirements from now on (see also 4.3.2 above). This may require changes in the Terms of Reference of IOCSOC.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 129 The Executive Council will **note** the need for a re-evaluation of the role of IOCSOC, and **consider** what its new Terms of Reference should be.
- (ii) Mediterranean Sea
- 130 IOC continues its efforts towards establishing an integrated approach to the development of research, operational oceanography and services across the Mediterranean, including MedGOOS, MedGLOSS and data exchange under IODE. These efforts encompass a strong component in training, education and mutual assistance.
- 131 As part of the drive to develop a coordinated programme for the Mediterranean, all Mediterranean nations have been encouraged to draw together under the MedGOOS umbrella their interests in operational oceanography (see also 4.3.1 above). All Mediterranean nations with the exception of Monaco, attended a MedGOOS meeting in Rabat in November 1999 to discuss the benefits of applying the *GOOS Principles* in the Mediterranean.
- 132 In pursuit of developing partnerships with authorities of the Mediterranean coastal regions active in promoting environmental protection and sustainable development, an international meeting was held between the policy-makers of the French Region 'Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur' and the policy-makers of nine Mediterranean countries (Avignon, 20-21 October 1999). The meeting discussed and agreed on the basic elements of the cooperative efforts that are needed between the marine and coastal area research community and the actors of socio-economic development. The meeting in particular produced a series of recommendations for training and public awareness activities.
- 133 At its 20th session, the Assembly instructed the Executive Secretary IOC to: "*(i) take appropriate actions for the development of a Science Plan for the Unified Mediterranean Programme, in association with MedGOOS, GLOSS (MedGLOSS) and the Mediterranean ICAM, to be followed by a stakeholders meeting to assess the financial requirements of the Programme; (ii) ensure that duplications in research themes and area coverage are avoided, and (iii) report the results of these actions to the Thirty-third Session of the IOC Executive Council.*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 337).
- 134 This request of the Assembly as regards the development of a science plan has not been completed because of the limited funding available for the second half of 1999. However, the process for the formulation of a science plan for a unified Mediterranean Programme has been initiated and is presently underway.
- 135 Dr Umit Unluata, Head of the Ocean Sciences Section of IOC will report on the various Mediterranean cooperative efforts realized since the 20th Assembly and on the progress in and plans for the unified Mediterranean Programme development.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 136 The Executive Council will **note** the developments towards creating a unified approach to Mediterranean marine scientific affairs, and **urge** Member States to support the further development of research, operational oceanography and services across the Mediterranean in an interdisciplinary and unified manner.

4.4.6 Policy on Regional Programmes, Offices and Staffing

- 137 The Executive Secretary will introduce this agenda item with reference to Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/2 Annex 8.
- 138 IOC has a long standing policy of supporting the regional implementation of the Programme through the establishment of Regional Subsidiary Bodies (*Sub-Commissions* and *Regional Committees*). Two Sub-Commissions and six Regional Committees are currently active. Many other mechanisms for regional implementation, in the form of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with different organizations are also operating.
- 139 Through the adoption of Resolutions, in the most recent sessions of IOC Governing Bodies, regional groups of Member States have stressed the need to support the work of Regional Committees by the establishment of units of the IOC Secretariat in the regions (e.g. Resolution XX-15, IOCINCWIO and XX-16, IOCINDIO).
- 140 At the same time, the 156th Executive Board of UNESCO adopted a very comprehensive set of requirements for establishing new UNESCO offices in the field, and for evaluating their performance (156 EX/Decision 5.1 is appended to IOC/EC-XXXIII/2 Annex 8).
- 141 Recently, following the offer and support of Member States (Australia and Kenya) IOC has established two Project Offices in Perth and Mombasa. The Perth Office serves a specific Programme, GOOS, in the Indian Ocean and South Pacific Region. The Mombasa office serves the ODINAFRICA Project in the IOCINCWIO Region.
- 142 In both cases the Project Offices were established:
- with substantial support from the host country, and the additional cost (usually the salary of one professional) being partially funded by extrabudgetary resources of the Project or Programme;
 - within functioning national agencies, that provide administrative support and an appropriate working environment;
 - for a given period of time, since they have built-in “*sunset clauses*”, established by the duration of the Project. (In the case of Perth, since GOOS is a long-term Programme, an explicit “*sunset clause*” of 3 years was established, after which and previous an evaluation of the results, the decision to continue or to suspend the operation of the office will be adopted);
 - without committing a permanent UNESCO/IOC Staff post.
- 143 It is proposed as a general policy *to privilege the use of Project Offices as the main mechanism to support the Regional implementation of the Programme, instead of de-centralised permanent units of the Secretariat*. Such a policy would be better adapted to the level of resources available to the Commission.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 144 The Executive Council will be asked to:
- **endorse** the use of Project Offices, as the privileged mechanism to support the work of IOC’s regional subsidiary bodies and **request** the Executive Secretary to produce guidelines for the establishment of Project Offices, with the view of amending the *Guidelines for the structure and responsibilities of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission* (Section 5 of document IOC/INF-785, *IOC Manual*, Part I), to reflect this policy.

- **request** the Executive Secretary to prepare a review of the terms of reference, workplans and level of extrabudgetary support received in the last six years (1994-2000) by the existing regional subsidiary bodies and to report the results of this analysis to the 21st Assembly.

5. CAPACITY BUILDING IN MARINE SCIENCES, SERVICES AND OBSERVATIONS: TEMA

(i) TEMA

- 145 At its 20th Session the IOC Assembly got acquainted with a new secretarial mechanism to coordinate IOC/TEMA efforts. The Assembly "*proposed to use the next Executive Council to evaluate the advancement of the agreed upon mechanism through a report submitted by the Secretariat on the advances in the implementation*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 391).
- 146 During the intersessional period the Secretarial IOC/TEMA Management Group was established comprising the Heads of the three IOC Sections of programmes: Sciences, Operations and Services and chaired by the Executive Secretary.
- 147 Mr V. Scarabino, Coordinator of TEMA, will inform about the progress achieved by the Group and on a new approach in funding TEMA activities and providing middle- to long-term training. He will sum up TEMA efforts implemented in 1999 within different IOC programmes and report on cooperation with other organizations in the field of mutual assistance and capacity building.
- 148 At the 20th Session of the IOC Assembly "*it was proposed that in order to implement the tasks of the internal management group and the external advisory groups effectively, a clear definition of a workplan and time schedule should be made*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 386).
- 149 The Assembly also "*expressed a need for a survey, among Member States of their needs and contributions to capacity building in order to consider them in meeting regional demands*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 384).
- 150 The Coordinator of TEMA will present Document EC-XXXIII/2 Annex 9 containing a workplan and time schedule and informing of the actions taken to develop external advisory groups and organize the survey requested by the Assembly.
- 151 The Council may consider the establishment of a sessional group on TEMA, taking advantage of the presence of the Chairpersons of regional bodies and other technical committees, to evaluate the development of the programme.
- ### (ii) Training-Through-Research (TTR) Programme
- 152 The Assembly also "*reiterated the importance of the Training-through-Research (TTR) concept and recommended that the Floating University cruises be continued as an effective means to offer 'hands-on' training to young scientists*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 389).
- 153 Dr A. Suzuymov, staff member of UNESCO/SC/CSI and one of the animators of the TTR programme and Floating University cruises will report on the implementation of the programme.
- 154 From 1993 to 2000 two Floating University cruises have been arranged annually in the Baltic, Black Sea, Mediterranean and North Atlantic regions. Today a new proposal has been

developed for a Floating University cruise in the Caspian Sea and an interest was expressed to extend the TTR concept to South America and Southeast Asia.

- 155 Taking into account limited resources (in funds and staff) available within IOC for the implementation of the TTR programme and Floating University cruises, the Executive Council will be invited to provide guidance on the actions to be taken in order to have the programme continuing.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

156 The Executive Council will:

- (i) **note** the progress achieved in TEMA, (a) **comment** on the efforts of the IOC/TEMA management group, (b) **review and endorse** as appropriate, the workplan and time schedule of TEMA coordinating mechanism as presented in Document EC-XXXIII/2 Annex 9, (c) **provide guidance** on the composition of external advisory groups and (d) on the conduct of the needs survey;
- (ii) **advise** on the approach to be taken for keeping the TTR programme and Floating University cruises implemented with the IOC activities.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS RELATED TO UNITED NATIONS (UN) CONVENTIONS

6.1 PROGRESS ON THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN ASSESSMENT REPORT

157 As requested by the 31st Executive Council and the 20th IOC Assembly, IOC, SCOR and SCOPE held a joint workshop in Potsdam, Germany from 2-6 October 1999 to assess the state of marine science and its contributions to sustainable development, to assist in developing strategies for investment in marine research, development and operations in support of sustainable development and the advancement of marine science and technology over the next 20 years. The fruits of the workshop will appear as a book.

158 Dr C. Summerhayes, Director of the GOOS Project Office will summarize the workshop discussions and introduce Document IOC/INF-1132 where the proposed publication process, schedule and the book contents are presented.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

159 The Executive Council will **note** progress and **approve** as appropriate the plans to publish the proceedings and the synthesis for policy-makers.

6.2 IOC AND THE UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)

160 The 20th Session of the IOC Assembly recommended "*to facilitate the organization of the first meeting of ABE-LOS in early 2000*" (IOC-XX/3, par. 419). By 28 January 2000, 43 IOC Member States have designated 80 experts to take part in ABE-LOS activities.

161 The IOC Officers Meeting held from 16-18 January 2000 in France requested the Executive Secretary to identify the issues to be included for the discussion of the group taking into account those contained in Document IOC/INF-1114, in IOC Resolution XX-6 of the Assembly and in ODAS-related materials. It was also recommended that the IOC Secretariat will consult Member States prior to establishing the meeting agenda.

162 Mrs D. Beye, IOC Consultant, will inform the Council of the progress achieved in implementing these recommendations.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

163 The Executive Council will **recommend** steps to be taken to organize the ABE-LOS first meeting and **provide advice** on the meeting agenda.

7. COOPERATION WITH UN AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

7.1 REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION – SUB-COMMITTEE ON OCEANS AND COASTAL AREAS (ACC-SOCA)

164 The ACC Sub-committee on Oceans and Coastal Areas (ACC-SOCA) is the Task Manager of Chapter 17 of *Agenda 21*. IOC presently chairs the ACC-SOCA and has been the secretariat of the Sub-committee since its establishment in 1993.

165 ACC-SOCA held its eighth session at the GPA Headquarters in The Hague during 19-21 January 2000. The report of the meeting is available to the Executive Council as an information document.

166 The report covers, among others, progress on UN Atlas of the Ocean; status of implementation of the Global International Water Assessment (GIWA); status of implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA); creation of the new open-ended informal consultative process on oceans affairs by the UN General Assembly, and participation in RIO+10 in relation to oceans and coastal areas.

167 The Executive Secretary IOC will introduce the document with a focus on the main findings of the meeting.

168 The discussions of ACC-SOCA on the role of the Sub-committee in consultative process on oceans held prior to its first meeting will be presented under Agenda Item 7.2.

169 The IOC Officers at their meeting in January 2000 invited the Executive Secretary to investigate with the Director-General of UNESCO the revitalization of ICSPRO and the possibility of using this agreement as part of the process identified for discussion at the forthcoming UN General Assembly open-ended informal consultative process meeting on ocean affairs.

170 The Executive Secretary will bring this matter to the attention of the Executive Council and inform on the results of the consultations he had with the Director-General and representatives of other ICSPRO agencies in this respect.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

171 The Executive Council will **review** the information given and **provide guidance** on the role of IOC in implementing joint activities within ACC-SOCA, on cooperation with GIWA and GPA and on contribution to RIO+10 Conference including identification and provision of necessary resources; **provide advice** on the future of ICSPRO and on the need for the revision of its Terms of Reference in order to respond more effectively to the new needs in ocean management.

7.2 REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA) OPEN ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS MEETING ON OCEAN AFFAIRS

- 172 The Executive Council attention will be drawn to the UN General Assembly's decision at its 54th session to establish, "*consistent with the legal framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the goals of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, an open-ended informal consultative process in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs by considering the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced*" (GA Resolution A/54/L.32).
- 173 In its decision, the General Assembly underlined, in particular, the importance of the participation of ACC-SOCA in the consultative process and of its inputs to the report of the Secretary-General on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. The meeting of the consultative process is planned to take place for one week each year. The first meeting will be held during 30 May– 2 June 2000 and will be attended by the Executive Secretary IOC.
- 174 The Executive Secretary will inform on the results of the discussion and present main conclusions of the meeting.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- 175 The Executive Council will **note** the results of the first Consultative Process Meeting; **discuss** potential role of IOC in the follow-up of this process and **provide advice** to Member States and the Executive Secretary with respect to the upcoming discussion of the recommendations of this meeting during the "Ocean and Law of the Sea" Agenda Item in the UN 55th Session of the General Assembly.

8. MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMMES IN UNESCO AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE

(i) Multidisciplinarity

- 176 There is a growing recognition that among UNESCO's environmental and social sciences programmes there are inherent linkages and cause-and-effect relationships since they address specific aspects of ecosystems that increasingly have to be approached in a holistic manner.
- 177 In recognition of the need to advance knowledge on the integrated nature of global environmental problems, the Chairpersons of the five UNESCO scientific programmes decided in their joint statement to the 30th General Conference (October-November 1999, Paris) "*to develop joint demonstration projects in specific locations which lend themselves to an integrated approach from research and training to policy implementation. Possible locations include, inter alia, large river basins and extensive wetlands, biosphere reserves, world heritage sites, and coastal mega-cities.*"
- 178 In line with this decision a planning meeting with the participation of IOC, MAB (Man and the Biosphere Programme), IHP (International Hydrological Programme) and the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO, WMO and some other international organizations was organized in Nijnii-Novgorod, Russian Federation from 3-6 May 2000 to

analyse the scope of the future demonstration project for the Volga River and Caspian Sea basins, define an initial methodological approach and lay down a framework for further action.

179 Dr I. Oliounine, former Deputy Executive Secretary, will inform participants of the results of this meeting where representatives of different disciplines such as, hydrology, meteorology, ecology, oceanography, and social sciences were able to exchange views and develop a common approach to the project formulation.

(ii) Follow-up to the World Conference on Science (WCS)

180 The Conference, organized jointly by UNESCO and ICSU, took place in Budapest (Hungary) from June 26 to July 1, 1999. The two major documents endorsed in Budapest were the *Declaration On Science And The Use Of Scientific Knowledge* and *The Science Agenda - Framework For Action* (available to the members of the Executive Council as a single information document). These documents as a result were endorsed by the 30th General Conference of UNESCO and by the General Assembly of ICSU.

181 Furthermore, the General Conference of UNESCO stressed the need of providing a significant and vigorous follow-up, in order to assure that Member States and the organization as a whole can benefit from such a large effort and investment.

182 Several elements of *The Science Agenda*, relate directly to IOC's current Programme. For example, the Conference stated that:

*(29) National, regional and global environmental research programmes should be strengthened or developed, as appropriate, by governments, concerned United Nations agencies, the scientific community and private and public research funding institutions. These research programmes should include **programmes for capacity-building**. Areas requiring special attention include the freshwater issue and the hydrological cycle, **climate variations and change, oceans, coastal areas, polar regions, biodiversity, desertification, deforestation, biogeochemical cycles and natural hazards**. The goals of the existing international global environmental research programmes should be vigorously pursued within the framework of Agenda 21 and the action plans of the global conferences. Cooperation between neighbouring countries or among countries having similar ecological conditions must be supported in the solution of common environmental problems.(...)*

(30) All components of the earth system must be monitored systematically on a long-term basis; this requires enhanced support by governments and the private sector for the further development of the global environmental observing systems. The effectiveness of monitoring programmes depends crucially on the wide availability of monitored data(...)

*(34) All countries should emphasize **capacity-building in vulnerability and risk assessment, early warning of both short-lived natural disasters and long-term hazards of environmental change**, improved preparedness, adaptation, mitigation of their effects and integration of disaster management into national development planning. It is important, however, to bear in mind that we live in a complex world with an inherent uncertainty about long-term trends. **Decision-makers must take this into account and therefore encourage the development of new forecasting and monitoring strategies**. The precautionary principle is an important guiding principle in handling inevitable scientific uncertainty, especially in situations of potentially irreversible or catastrophic impacts.(...)*

*(64) Governments, in cooperation with the agencies of the United Nations system and international scientific organizations, **should strengthen international scientific advisory processes as a necessary contribution to intergovernmental policy consensus-building at regional and global levels and to the implementation of regional and international conventions.***

*(65) All countries should protect intellectual property rights, while recognizing that access to data and information is essential for scientific progress. In developing an appropriate international legal framework, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in cooperation with relevant international organizations, should constantly address the question of knowledge monopolies, and the World Trade Organization (WTO), during new negotiations of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), should incorporate into this Agreement tools aimed at financing the advancement of science in the South with the full involvement of the scientific community. **In this regard, the international programmes of ICSU and the five intergovernmental scientific programmes of UNESCO should play a catalytic role by, inter alia, improving the compatibility of data collection and processing, and facilitating access to scientific knowledge.***

183 In order to increase effectiveness, it is necessary to define a clear, targeted way to the follow-up to some of these issues.

184 TEMA, as a transversal programme element that involves the three Sections of IOC: *Ocean Sciences, Operational Observing Systems and Ocean Services*, offers a natural way to focus efforts in capacity building.

185 Consistently the governing bodies of IOC have been calling for the strengthening of the TEMA programme, as a way to bridge the ever increasing gap of science and technology between developed and developing countries and also to generate an endogenous ocean science and technology capacity in all its Member States.

186 It is suggested that as a follow-up to the World Conference on Science, UNESCO/IOC, being the intergovernmental specialized Ocean Science agency, could lead an effort to enable governments to increase their use of available ocean science and technology. Beyond the classical interventions based purely on more training and education, such an effort also requires help in the design of the appropriate institutional framework to generate the demand and provide the required scientific advice. These efforts should be focused through the IOC's TEMA Programme.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

187 The Executive Council will:

- (i) **note** information about the development of the demonstration project for the Volga River and Caspian Sea basins and **provide guidance** on cooperation with UNESCO programme and other international organizations;
- (ii) **give advice** on the proposal to use TEMA as a means of focussing follow-up to the WCS and on the design of an appropriate institutional framework to generate demand and provide advice.

9. PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2000-2001

188 Through Resolution XX-25, *inter alia*, the 20th Session of the IOC Assembly:

Decided "*that the IOC Programme and Budget for 2000-2001 should be based upon two main lines of action as spelled out in Section II.2.4, paras 02241-02242 of the Draft UNESCO Programme and Budget 2000-2001 (Draft 30 C/5):*

- (i) *reducing scientific uncertainties about coastal and oceanic processes;*
- (ii) *meeting the needs of ocean-related conventions and programmes;*

Requested *that the Director-General include within the Draft 30 C/5 proposals for the maintenance of the level of funding received by IOC in the 29 C/5 Programme and Budget and adjusting the budget contained in the draft 30 C/5 accordingly;*

Requested *further the Director-General to consider an increase in financial support provided to the IOC to enable it to respond more effectively to the above needs of Member States, particularly of developing countries in their efforts to mobilize international funding;*

Requested *the transfer of an additional US\$493,000 in staff allocation from UNESCO to the IOC to fulfil the needs of regional Member States to maintain support of the IOCARIBE and WESTPAC Secretariats;*

Urged *UNESCO Member States, through their national representatives, to actively support the IOC programme proposals when the Draft 30 C/5 is being considered by the UNESCO Executive Board and the General Conference;*

Urged *Member States to continue and increase their support to the IOC through direct and in-kind contributions;*

Submitted *to the 30th UNESCO General Conference the Programme Resolution contained in the Annex;*

Authorized *the Executive Council IOC to approve at its Thirty-third Session any adjustments to the programme and Budget that might be required in the light of resources and expenditures."*

189 The 157th Executive Board of UNESCO approved the *zero nominal growth budget* of the two alternatives presented. The General Conference of UNESCO endorsed the Budget proposed by the Executive Board with minor adjustments. The IOC allocation in their approved budget is US\$ 2,960,000 for programme implementation plus US\$ 3,666,300 for staff costs. This budget corresponds to what was proposed in the UNESCO Draft Programme and Budget 2000-2001 (30 C/5) and presented during the 20th Session of the IOC Assembly.

190 The IOC Draft Programme and Budget for 2000-2001 was based upon anticipated resources provided by UNESCO as well as those from other sources, notably contributions made by Members States and other sources to the IOC Trust Fund (US\$ 4,000,000). Excluding staff costs, the forecast balance, as shown during the Assembly in Document IOC-XX/2 Annex 10 and in the 30 C/5, is approximately 40% Regular Programme, 60% Trust Fund. The expected extrabudgetary resources provided for the programme implementation are greater than the resources provided by UNESCO.

191 Taking into account the elements noted above, the Executive Secretary undertook an initial formulation of detailed planning for 2000 with the members of the Secretariat, based

upon the forecast found in the Document IOC-XX/2 Annex 10 and made adjustments recognising that:

- The only contributions to the IOC Trust Fund received from the Members States to date have been earmarked for specific purposes;
- Funding provided by UNESCO is made available through a six-month allotment process, with only 20% of the biennium allocation for the first semester of 2000.

192 This level of funding requires the postponement of some activities until further resources are made available, and limits the implementation of the IOC Programme.

193 The Executive Secretary will lead a detailed discussion of this issue.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

194 The Executive Council will **advise** the Executive Secretary of any measures required to adjust the IOC Programme and Budget for 2000-2001 and **express its views** regarding further measures that might be taken to ensure stability in IOC planning and implementation.

10. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

195 The Executive Secretary will report on the arrangements for the sessions recalling the dates proposed during the last Assembly, i.e. the two-week period beginning on July 2, 2001, and informing the Executive Council of the difficulty to bring those dates forward by one or two weeks because of the dates of the Executive Board of UNESCO.

196 Under this agenda item, the Executive Council will also be invited to consider possible themes for the Bruun Memorial Lecture(s) on the basis of proposals made by Member States.

11. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND SUMMARY REPORT

197 The Executive Council will adopt the draft Summary Report (Document IOC/EC-XXXIII/3 Prov.) and Resolutions of the Session, in accordance with Rule of Procedure 49.

12. CLOSURE

198 The Chairperson will be requested to close the Session by 13.00 on Friday 30 June 2000.