1. OPENING

The Chair, Mr Sang-Kyung Byun, opened the 45th Session of the IOC Executive Council at 10:00 on Tuesday 26 June 2012. He then announced three new IOC Member States since the last Assembly: Saint Kitts and Nevis; Montenegro, Honduras and Kiribati.

The Chair then asked participants to stand for a minute of silence to honour distinguished individuals who had participated in the work of the Commission and had passed away during the past year: Dr Ariel González (Argentina), Prof. Dr Mikhail Ivanov (Russian Federation), Dr Alejandro Rodríguez (Nicaragua), Prof. Makoto Terazaki (Japan), Prof. Masaki Kawabe (Japan), and Dr Jacob Van der Land (the Netherlands).

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair informed the Executive Council of a change to the Provisional Agenda proposed by the Officers of the Commission at their meeting on Sunday 24 June 2012. The title of agenda item 4.2 was changed from “The Future Needs for Intergovernmental Coordination and Governance for Sustained Observation and Services” to “The Future Needs for Intergovernmental Coordination and Governance for Sustained Observation and Services and the Future of the Commission.” The agenda was adopted as amended. (Decision EC-XLV/Dec.2.1)

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

The Chair invited the Executive Council to designate a Rapporteur to assist in the preparation of the Draft Summary Report for the present session.

Following consultations with Member States the chair proposed that vice-Chair Frederico A. Saraiva Nogueira (Brazil) serve as Session Rapporteur, which was approved by the Council. (Decision EC-XLV/Dec.2.2)
2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF INTRASESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The Chair invited the Executive Council to form two statutory sessional committees: the Resolutions Committee and the Financial Committee and invited proposals for sessional working groups.

The Executive Council did not establish the Resolutions Committee, as no Draft Resolutions were received at the secretariat by the given deadline.

The Executive Council established the Financial Committee under the chairship of IOC Vice-Chairperson Dr Peter Haugan (Norway). The Secretariat staff members responsible for supporting the work of the Financial Committee were Stefano Belfiore and Xenia Yvinec. Two agenda items were referred to the Financial Committee: 5.1, Funding Plan for 2012–2013, and 5.2, Draft IOC Medium-term Strategy for 2014–2021.

In addition to the establishment of the regulatory sessional committees, the Executive Council established a Working Group on Operational Oceanography (item 4.2 of the agenda). (Decision EC-XLV/Dec.2.3)

The Executive Council agreed that this Committee would work in English.

2.4 INTRODUCTION OF TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

The Chair invited the Executive Council to adopt the Provisional Timetable (document IOC/EC-XLV/1 Add. Prov.) taking into account: (i) any Executive Council decision to constitute sessional committees and working groups; (ii) the time likely to be required by those groups to report, if requested to do so, to the plenary; (iii) the timely preparation of the Draft Summary Report and Resolutions in all the Commission’s working languages; and (iv) the need to benefit from the interpretation service available.

The Chair stressed the fact that the Commission was also striving to streamline the reporting of the session as presented in information document IOC/EC-XLV/Inf.1.

The Chair informed the Executive Council that those Member States wishing to submit formal statements to be included in the Informational Annex of Individual Member State Interventions to the Summary Report should e-mail them to: IOC_interventions@unesco.org.

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.2.4.

3. STATUTORY REPORTS

3.1 REPORT BY THE CHAIR ON THE STATE OF THE COMMISSION

The Chair, Mr Sang-Kyung Byun, pursuant to Rule of Procedure 51.2, reported on his and the other Officers’ activities since the 26th Session of the IOC Assembly.

The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the Informational Annex to the meeting report: India, Malaysia and Republic of Korea.

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.3.1.
3.2 REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

18 Pursuant to Rule of Procedure 49.1, the Executive Secretary reported on programme implementation, including Subsidiary Bodies, since the 26th Session of the Assembly and provided an update on the financial situation of UNESCO and IOC.

19 She reported on the execution of the budget for 2011–2012.

20 Considering that the appointment of the Executive Secretary will end in November 2013, she proposed a timeline for the recruitment process for the next Executive Secretary.

21 Based on a decision of ICG/CARIBE-EWS-VII, the Executive Council was invited to extend the area of responsibility of the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CARIBE-EWS) to the West Atlantic including Greenland, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.

22 The Chair presented to the Executive Council Decisions 3.2(I), 3.2(II), 3.2(III), 3.2(IV) and 3.2(V) related to the Report by the Executive Secretary, and invited the Executive Council to discuss adoption of the Decisions.

23 The Executive Council approved Decision EC-XLV/Dec.3.2 (I to V).

24 The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the Informational Annex to the meeting report: Argentina, Canada, Japan, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Turkey, United States of America and Uruguay (Observer).

4. GENERAL POLICY

4.1 FOLLOW-UP TO RIO+20


26 The Executive Council approved Decision EC-XLV/Dec.4.1.

27 The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the Informational Annex to the meeting report: Brazil and Republic of Korea.

4.2 THE FUTURE NEEDS FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINED OCEAN OBSERVATIONS & SERVICES AND THE FUTURE OF THE COMMISSION

28 The Chair presented the technical report on the scoping of operational oceanography [IOC XXVI, Decision 4.7] and deliberations of the ex-Chairs workshop on the Future of IOC and Operational Oceanography (Varna, Bulgaria, 19 March 2012). A proposal was tabled to evaluate the possibility of developing a legal instrument, possibly an oceanographic data convention, to strengthen and define IOC’s role in UNESCO of coordinating the needs of global operational oceanography (sustained observations and operational services).

29 The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.4.2.
The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the Informational Annex to the meeting report: Bulgaria, Canada, India, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and South Africa.

4.2.1 IOC Support Centre for the Ocean data portal

The Co-chair of IODE, Mr Ariel Troisi, informed the Executive Council of the offer of the National Oceanographic Committee of the Russian Federation to establish a facility in Obninsk to support the IODE Ocean Data Portal development.

In relation to Decision 5.4 on the IOC Manual, the Executive Council was invited to acknowledge the offer of the Russian Federation.

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.4.2.1.

The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the Informational Annex to the meeting report: India, Malaysia and Republic of Korea.

4.3 REVIEW OF IOC/ABE-LOS

The Vice-Chair for Regions and the Law of the Sea, Prof. Adoté Blim Blivi, presented the IOC/ABE-LOS Review and the Analysis of the Questionnaire on the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on Law of the Sea [IOC XXVI, Decision 4.8 and Resolution XXVI-4].

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.4.3.

The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the Informational Annex to the meeting report: Japan and Republic of Korea.

4.4 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AD HOC ADVISORY GROUP FOR THE OCEAN SCIENCES SECTION

The Vice-Chair for Ocean Sciences, Dr Atanas Palazov, reported on the conclusions of the Ad hoc Advisory Group for the IOC Ocean Sciences Section and its contribution to the Draft IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2013–2021 [IOC XXVI, Decision 8.1].

On this occasion, the Vice-Chair for Ocean Sciences provided an update on the practical plan of action describing IOC/ICAM regional and global implementation, prepared as an information document based on the inputs received by IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies [IOC XXVI, Decision 8.2].

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.4.4.

The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the Informational Annex to the meeting report: Canada, India, Japan, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America.
5. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

5.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE FUNDING PLAN FOR 2012–2013

The Executive Secretary and the Vice-Chair for Programme and Budget, Prof. Peter Haugan, on behalf of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group presented a report on status of IOC budget and a priority funding plan for 2012-2013.

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.5.1.

The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the Informational Annex to the meeting report: Republic of Korea and United Kingdom.

5.2 INTRODUCTION TO THE DRAFT IOC MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY FOR 2014–2021

The Executive Secretary and the Vice-Chair for Programme and Budget, Prof. Peter Haugan, on behalf of the Ad hoc open-ended working group to develop a draft of the Medium-term Strategy for 2014–2021 presented an initial concept of the Draft IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2013–2021 [IOC XXVI, Decision 4.7].

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.5.2.

The following Member State chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the Informational Annex to the meeting report: Japan.

5.3 INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDELINES FOR DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The Vice-Chair for Programme and Budget and and Chair of the Intersessional Open-ended Working Group for the revision of the guidelines for the preparation and consideration of draft resolutions, Prof. Peter Haugan, will report on the conclusions of the Working Group.

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.5.3.

5.4 IOC MANUAL

The Executive Secretary proposed an addition to document IOC/INF-1193 (2005), Guidelines for the Establishment of Decentralized Offices, with the introduction of a new subsection 2.4 for the category of ‘Partnership Centre’, as a direct contribution by Member States to activities of the Commission, as well as with an amendment to section 2.1.7 on ‘IOC Project Offices’. The document will be renamed Guidelines for the Establishment of Decentralized Offices and Partnership Centres [IOC XXVI, Decision 9.3.2].

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.5.4.

The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the Informational Annex to the meeting report: India, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

5.5 PREPARATION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.5.5.
5.6 PREPARATION OF THE NEXT SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLV/Dec.5.6.

6. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT

The Chair took the decision to defer adoption of the draft Summary Report to be completed by correspondence. The Executive Secretary was instructed to distribute the draft report to Heads of Delegations of the IOC Executive Council. No decision was adopted on the proposed format of this summary report.

7. CLOSURE

Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, was invited by the chair to deliver a closing speech. The Director-General reiterated her strong interest in the IOC and emphasized that the IOC programmes are important to all UNESCO goals.

The Chair thanked Director-General, and acknowledged her call for action to the Member States in this difficult time for UNESCO and the IOC.

The Executive Secretary thanked the Executive Council for its active debate. She thanked the Rapporteur for his kind words and the Officers and staff for their hard work.

The Chair stressed the importance of giving priority to science over the legal and political aspects of the work of the Commission. He welcomed UNESCO’s strong support for the Commission and thanked the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat, particularly Stephano Belfiore and Patrice Boned, for their hard work.

The Chair declared the 45th Session of the Executive Council closed at 18:25 on 28 June 2012.