IOC Circular Letter No. 2244 Rev.1  
(Also available in French, Russian and Spanish) 

Paris, 11 October 2007

To: Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC Member States
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States

cc.: IOC Chair and Vice-Chairs
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

Subject: Election of members to the "Working Group on the Future of IOC"

At the 24th Assembly, 19 to 27 June 2007, Paris, France, Member States decided to establish an intersessional "Working Group on the Future of the IOC", "with the specific mandate of identifying emerging challenges and opportunities for the reinforcement of the roles, capabilities and status of the IOC and proposing options in accordance with the terms of reference contained in Annex 1 to [Resolution XXIV-1 - attached]". Through the same Resolution Member States decided that the sessions of the Group shall be composed by the IOC Officers and "a maximum of two (2) representatives of each Electoral Group of IOC Member States selected in accordance with the Rules of Procedures (Appendix II)".

Further to Circular Letter 2238 dated 25 July 2007, on the "Working Group on the future of IOC", please find below the list of Member States having expressed interest — by 15th September 2007 — in joining "Working Group on the Future of IOC", sorted by Electoral Groups. Since the list of candidates is already closed, and as for Group II there are only two candidates, the representatives of Group II will be Croatia and the Russian Federation.

An election is required for selecting the representatives for Groups I, III, IV and V. I therefore kindly invite all IOC Member States to vote through correspondence to select the representatives of those Groups who will be working on behalf of the IOC Member States. To that end, a ballot paper containing the list of Member States having all expressed interest by 15th September 2007 in joining the "Working Group on the Future of IOC", sorted by Electoral Groups is attached hereto.

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1 IOC CL 2244 Rev. replaces IOC CL 2244 sent by email on 5 Oct. 2007. Only the ballot paper marked IOC CL 2244 Rev. will be deemed valid for the vote.

2 Since the mailing of IOC Circular Letter 2244 on 5 October 2007, the Secretariat acknowledged receipt of the withdrawal of Italy and the candidature of Brazil through a letter dated 30 August 2007.
Each voting Member State is allowed to vote for two Member States from each of the four Electoral Groups requiring voting. The first two most voted Member States within each electoral group will be retained as the elected representatives of the Electoral Group. The Secretariat will act as certifying body.

Only ballots submitted under a cover letter carrying the signature of the representative of the Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC or the Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States will be accepted. Votes through email should be addressed to p.bernal@unesco.org, copied to b.aliaga@unesco.org with "Future of IOC" in the subject line.

Looking forward to your earliest reply, not later than 30th November 2007, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Patricio Bernal
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO
Executive Secretary, IOC

Enclosures:

- List of Member States having expressed interest by 15th September 2007 in joining the "Working Group on the Future of IOC", sorted by Electoral Groups
- IOC Resolution XXIV-1
- Revised Ballot paper
Annex 1:

List of Member States having expressed interest by 15th September 2007 in joining the "Working Group on the Future of IOC", sorted by Electoral Groups

Group I
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
United States of America

Group II
Croatia
Russian Federation

Group III
Argentina
Brazil
Cuba
Ecuador
Peru

Group IV
India
Japan
Pakistan
People's Republic of China
Republic of Korea

Group V
Cameroon
Ghana
Senegal
South Africa
Annex 2:  
Resolution XXIV-1

WORKING GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF IOC

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

Recalling the reports of the ad hoc Study Group on Measures to Ensure Adequate and Dependable Resources for the Commission’s Programme of Work (IOC/FURES-III/3) and the ad hoc Study Group for Development, Operations, Structure and Statutes, entitled “Quo Vadis IOC?” (IOC/DOS-III/3) and the recent documents “We have a problem” (IOC-XXIII/2 Annex 8) and “The Future of IOC: a Proposal by the Officers to the Member States, June 2007” (IOC-XXIV/2 Annex 2),

Noting the benefits arising from the use of the ocean and coastal zones, concerned however, by the growing challenges faced by the international community arising from, inter alia, climate variability and change, marine environmental degradation and pollution, habitat and biodiversity losses and natural hazards,

Recognizing the complexity of integrated ocean and coastal management and the increased pressures on the ocean and the coastal zones,

Recalling the need to enhance public awareness of these matters and to increase the visibility of the role of IOC in addressing these issues,

Further recalling the UN conventions and instruments that have a bearing on the mandate of IOC: inter alia the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 57/141, 58/240, 60/30 and 61/222,

Recognizing that the 50th anniversary of the Commission, in 2010, presents an opportunity to reinforce the role and capabilities of IOC in addressing such challenges and mandates,

Being aware that the public and governments need to understand the challenges facing the global and coastal oceans and the constraints, under which the Commission operates, reflected in the statement in Annex 1 to the present resolution,

Calls on the Officers of the Commission, in collaboration with the IOC Executive Secretary, to coordinate consultations with IOC Member States, IOC Subsidiary Bodies, competent UN bodies and other competent international organizations and bodies dealing with ocean issues, in order to ascertain their views on what role IOC should play to contribute to the effective coordination of ocean affairs in the relevant intergovernmental fora and on how IOC could be reinforced in order to carry out effectively its mission as set out in Article 2, paragraph 1, of its Statutes;

Requests the Member States to provide inputs to the above-mentioned consultations;

Decides to establish an intersessional Working Group on the Future of the IOC, open to all Member States, with the specific mandate of identifying emerging challenges and opportunities for the reinforcement of the roles, capabilities and status of the IOC and proposing options in accordance with the terms of reference contained in Annex 2 to the present resolution;

Also decides that the IOC Executive Council at its 41st Session (2008) shall:

(i) include in its agenda an item on the future of IOC, in order to consider the report and conclusions of the intersessional Working Group;

(ii) submit conclusions to the Assembly at its 25th Session (2009);
(iii) seek, as appropriate, for consideration of the Assembly, the necessary legal advice, including the examination of the Working Group’s conclusions by the UNESCO Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs and by the IOC Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea (IOC/ABE-LOS) at its 9th Meeting (2009), with the legal advice to be provided at least three months before the beginning of the 25th Session of the IOC Assembly.

Annex 1 to Resolution XXIV-1

Statement of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
prepared at the 24th Session of the Assembly

Preamble

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO was established in 1960 and now has the mandate to "promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States." (Article 2 of the Statutes)

As it nears the completion of its fifth decade since its establishment as an intergovernmental body with functional autonomy within UNESCO, it is timely to review the role that it has played in promoting successful global and regional programmes to underpin the wise governance of the ocean and coasts.

Challenges

The ocean and coasts are experiencing increasing demands upon their renewable and non-renewable resources, including, for example, marine transportation, recreation, and coastal development, all of which produce great benefits to the marine community and society at large. However these benefits are not without their impacts and related challenges. The increased awareness and expectations of society for scientific knowledge and information, and the importance of providing scientific information for policy-decisions in wise governance for the sustainable use of ocean resources, adds a new dimension to the role that the Commission must play in the future. The necessity of this new role is further enhanced in the context of the special challenges posed by climate change, sea-level rise, and the accelerating degradation of the marine environment simultaneously with attendant habitat and biodiversity losses, and the large loss of lives and livelihoods from marine-based natural hazards. This has led to a growth in both the extent and number of tasks which the IOC has undertaken, including a significant role in the coordination of ocean sciences, observations and services, as reflected in the current and future Medium-Term Strategy. This growth has coincided with a period in which there has been a significant decline, in real terms, of the resources available to the IOC to conduct its work. The Commission further appreciates that these challenges must be met with a much greater focus at national and regional levels in a more holistic fashion, if it is to be successful in preserving the ocean heritage for future generations. That we must preserve the ocean environment is unarguable – without a living ocean, we risk losing a liveable planet.

Mechanisms

The Commission therefore recognizes the urgent necessity to reinforce the role and capabilities of IOC, by examining structural, financial and legal mechanisms to allow it to continue its unique contribution to ocean affairs. As the recognized entity within the UN system for science dealing with the oceans, the Commission requires adequate resources and a recognized voice at senior levels of government and amongst other specialized agencies. It will reinforce its links with relevant organizations of the UN system, namely UNESCO and its traditional partners. It must be better equipped to deal with the interdisciplinary nature of ocean science and services and capacity-
development both at global and regional level demanded by increasingly complex interactions, to have the capabilities necessary to acquire and share knowledge and data, and the capacity to provide assistance in these relevant domains of ocean affairs. IOC will undertake consultations and explore intersessionally the most appropriate responses to these issues through the mechanisms established by the present resolution.

Annex 2 to Resolution XXIV-1

Terms of Reference of the Working Group on the Future of IOC

Objectives:
- **Further pursue** the initial study by the Officers, with a view to better identifying challenges and evaluating opportunities and needs for intergovernmental collaboration in oceanographic activities, in light of the mission of IOC, taking into account the mandates of other UN and other international organizations dealing with relevant aspects of ocean affairs,
- **Evaluate** those challenges and opportunities taking particularly into account the results-based criteria of feasibility, relevance, sustainability, continuity and impact,
- **Analyse** options for institutional mechanisms and financial requirements to respond to the above identified challenges and opportunities, and
- **Present** a written report for discussion by the IOC Executive Council at its 41st Session (2008).

Membership and participation:
- IOC Officers,
- A maximum of two (2) representatives of each Electoral Group of IOC Member States selected in accordance with the Rules of Procedures (Appendix II),
- The sessions of the Group will be open to participation of all IOC Member States at their own expense.

Mechanisms:
- The Group will be co-chaired by two individuals nominated by the IOC Officers,
- The Group shall conduct its work through meetings and electronically,
- The Group shall meet once in the beginning of 2008 to generate a draft document for discussion,
- The final document for discussion shall be submitted to the IOC Secretariat three months prior to the 41st Session of the Executive Council to ensure its timely translation and distribution to Member States in accordance with the relevant IOC Rules of Procedure,

The Executive Secretary shall circulate the final document for comments from Member States two months before the 41st Session of the Executive Council.
Annex 3:

Ballot paper containing the list of Member States having expressed interest —by 15th September 2007— in joining "Working Group on the Future of IOC", sorted by Electoral Groups. Each voting Member State is allowed to vote for two Member States from each Electoral Group
### Electoral group I

Among the candidates of this group, please mark **one** cross against **two** countries only.

- [ ] Portugal
- [ ] Spain
- [ ] Sweden
- [ ] United States of America

### Electoral group III

Among the candidates of this group, please mark **one** cross against **two** countries only.

- [ ] Argentina
- [ ] Brazil
- [ ] Cuba
- [ ] Ecuador
- [ ] Peru

### Electoral group IV

Among the candidates of this group, please mark **one** cross against **two** countries only.

- [ ] India
- [ ] Japan
- [ ] Pakistan
- [ ] People’s Republic of China
- [ ] Republic of Korea

### Electoral group V

Among the candidates of this group, please mark **one** cross against **two** countries only.

- [ ] Cameroon
- [ ] Ghana
- [ ] Senegal
- [ ] South Africa

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*This ballot paper will be considered as void if there are more than two crosses under any electoral group.*

*Ce bulletin de vote sera considéré comme nul s’il présente plus de deux croix par groupe électoral.*