IOC Circular Letter No 2589  IOC/VR/OM 12 August 2015

To : IOC Member States (Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC)
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO and National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

cc. : The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

Subject : Nomination of experts to serve on the Review Group with regard to IOC’s Role and Involvement in the GEBCO Project

This circular letter has been prepared further to Dec.6.2(II) of the IOC Assembly at its 28th session (Paris, 18–25 June 2015), to establish a Review Group with regard to IOC’s Role and Involvement in the GEBCO Project, mainly from a view point of users of GEBCO bathymetric dataset and products. In accordance with its terms of reference the review group will be comprised of representatives of IOC Member States and one expert each from the GEBCO Guiding Committee, and various IOC technical and regional Subsidiary Bodies (GOOS, GLOSS, JCOMM, IODE, TOWS-WG, IOCAFRICA, IOCARIBE and WESTPAC).

As per the Assembly Decision attached hereafter, the group will conduct the review of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) project during the intersessional period by correspondence and will produce a report in consultation with IHO for consideration and further action of the Executive Council at its 49th session in June 2016. The objectives of the group are described as follows:

(i) Generally consider IOC’s role and involvement in the GEBCO project, and specifically identify the user needs in bathymetry from the relevant IOC programmes and regional subsidiary bodies in relation to the GEBCO bathymetric dataset and products;

(ii) Consider IOC’s role and involvement in the GEBCO project, based upon needs identified under (i) above;

(iii) Recommend key elements for future governing mechanism of the GEBCO project in relation to IOC’s role and involvement.

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I therefore invite Member States to designate representatives who will serve on the review group with experts of IOC programmes and Sub-commissions. I would appreciate receiving your letters of nomination no later than **23 September 2015** by e-mail to Osamu Miyaki (o.miyaki@unesco.org).

A similar invitation to nominate experts has been sent to chairpersons of the IOC programmes and regional subsidiary bodies concerned.

Looking forward to your earliest reply, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

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**Attachment to IOC Circular Letter No 2589**

**Decision IOC-XXVIII,Dec.6.2(II)**


**IHO-IOC General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Project**

The Assembly,

[...]

**II. Review of IOC’s Role and Involvement in the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO)**

**Taking note of** document IOC-XXVIII/2 Annex 7,

**Recalling** Resolution VIII-3 on the formation of the Joint IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee (1973),

**Further recalling** that the Memorandum of Understanding, concluded in 1984 and then revised in 2000, between the IHO and IOC, includes GEBCO and International Bathymetric Charts (IBC) as activities of common interest to both organizations and their Member States,

**Considering** that bathymetry is of relevance to several on-going IOC programmes, components of programmes and mechanisms of cooperation,

**Decides** that:

(i) the IHO-IOC GEBCO project will be reviewed to consider IOC’s role and involvement in the project, mainly from a viewpoint of users of GEBCO bathymetric dataset and products;

(ii) the review will be carried out by a review group, which will be comprised of external experts nominated by IOC Member States and the chairpersons of Guiding Committee of GEBCO, GLOSS, GOOS, IODE, JCOMM, TOWS-WG, IOCAFRICA, IOCARIBE and WESTPAC, during the intersessional period by correspondence;

(iii) the report of the review will be submitted to the Executive Council at its 49th session (2016) for consideration and further action;

**Requests** the Executive Secretary to establish the review group in accordance with the terms of reference as contained in Annex 2 to this decision.
Terms of Reference of the Review Group with regard to IOC’s Role and Involvement in the GEBCO Project

(Objective)
The review group shall:

(i) Generally consider IOC’s role and involvement in the GEBCO project, and specifically identify the user needs in bathymetry from the relevant IOC programmes and regional subsidiary bodies in relation to the GEBCO bathymetric dataset and products;

(ii) Consider IOC’s role and involvement in the GEBCO project, based upon needs identified under (i) above;

(iii) Recommend key elements for future governing mechanism of the GEBCO project in relation to IOC’s role and involvement.

(Composition)
The review group shall be comprised of representatives of IOC Member States and one expert each from the GEBCO Guiding Committee, GOOS, GLOSS, JCOMM, IODE, TOWS-WG, IOCAFRICA, IOCARIBE and WESTPAC.

The experts will be appointed by the IOC Executive Secretary through nomination by the chairpersons of the said IOC programmes and regional subsidiary bodies.

The review group will elect its own Chair.

FUNCTIONS

The review group should conduct the review of the GEBCO project in line with the above-mentioned objectives, in consultation with the relevant IOC programmes and regional subsidiary bodies as well as the IHO, mainly based on a questionnaire developed by the Secretariat.

The review should be produced by the review group and submitted in draft form by its representative to the GEBCO Guiding Committee for their comments. A report should be submitted to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council (June/July 2016).

(Working arrangements)
The review group should conduct its business by electronic means.