IOC Circular Letter No. 2256
(Available in English only)

To: United Nations Programmes and Agencies and other international organisations cooperating with the IOC

cc: Members of the Working Group on the Future of IOC
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

Subject: FUTURE OF IOC OF UNESCO.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO would like to consult your Organisation, to ascertain your 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: "The purpose of the Commission is 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".

More precisely, we are looking for a statement formally adopted by Member States of your organisation, in order to properly inform our Member States about their views on the above issues. Should you have a question on this process please do not hesitate to contact the IOC Secretariat for further details. A response before June 20th 2008 would be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Javier Valladares
Chairman of IOC