IOC Circular Letter Nº2643  
(Also available in French)

IOC/VR/JA/KY/JB/pbo 26 September 2016

To: Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC

Cc: Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission  
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States  
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States  
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

Subject: Follow-up to the 49th session of the IOC Executive Council: Transmission of the finalized IOC Complementary Additional Programme of Extrabudgetary Resources (Proposals 2016-2017) and the 2016 Audit Report on the IOC by the External Auditor of UNESCO

At its 49th session (Paris, 7-10 June 2016), the IOC Executive Council adopted a number of important decisions to improve the IOC efficiency and effectiveness in the context of the new sustainable development agenda.

In addition to programme- and project-specific decisions, the Executive Council endorsed the preliminary proposals by the Secretariat for the next quadrennium programme and budget (39 C/5, 2018-2021) based on the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the SAMOA Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Climate Agreement, as the four pillars of work of the Commission for the current Medium-Term Strategy period.

In this context, in its Resolution EC-XLIX.2, the Executive Council invited the Director-General of UNESCO ‘to ensure a visible and substantial inclusion of the Commission’s programme and budget in the Draft 39 C/5, under IOC’s own designation and outside Major Programme 2 (Natural Sciences), consistent with the intergovernmental nature and functional autonomy of IOC within UNESCO’.

The wording of a single IOC Expected Result for 2018-2021 was adopted as follows: ‘Science-informed policies for reduced vulnerability to ocean hazards, for the global conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, and increased resilience and adaptation to climate change, developed and implemented by Member States, towards the realization of Agenda 2030’.

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In the same resolution the Executive Council expressed appreciation for the development by the Secretariat of the project proposals to be funded by extrabudgetary resources in 2016-2017 (Complementary Additional Programme) and requested the Secretariat to develop two additional proposals in support of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) and the implementation of the Draft Communications Advisory Report for the IOC of UNESCO (2016-2020). With this letter I have pleasure to bring to your attention the full CAP of extrabudgetary resources (29 proposals in 2016-2017) with the total amount of $ 18 M.

The purpose of the CAP proposal for IOCINDIO is to support the efforts made by Member States in the region and the Secretariat in revitalizing the regional committee during the current biennium, notably the organization of a scoping workshop and the sixth session of IOCINDIO prior to the next IOC Assembly session in June 2017. This is an important call to implement Council Resolution EC-XLIX.1 and ensure a strong IOC presence in a region where several international scientific initiatives take place. Furthermore, the mobilization of Member States for the proposal will send a clear indication for sustaining the activity of the committee within the next IOC Programme and Budget. Mr Justin Ahanhanzo of the Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section (IOC/MPR) at Headquarters will act as the liaison officer for IOCINDIO (j.ahanhanzo@unesco.org).

It is also my pleasure to announce the launch of the new “IOC Capacity Development Fund (CDF)” as an additional mechanism to the IOC Complementary Additional Programme (CAP) for 2016-2017. The Fund offers Member States the opportunity to contribute financially to small-scale IOC projects (up to US$100,000) and short-duration activities that have a specific focus on capacity development. These are usually training courses, workshops, travel grants and similar activities that have a direct impact on human resources development. The list of proposals for which IOC is seeking donors can be consulted on the IOC Capacity-development website launched last April (http://www.ioc-cd.org) under the section “Fund proposals”. The consolidated reporting on the implementation of the activities covered by the Fund will be provided to IOC Governing Bodies, in accordance with the financial regulations of the IOC Special Account.

I would also like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the audit report on the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) conducted by the UNESCO external auditor in April 2016. The short and long versions of the report are now submitted for the examination by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 200th session, 4-18 October 2016 (respectively, documents 200 EX/20 Part II and 200 EX/20 INF.2). The attached Document 200 EX/20 Part II contains the comments of the Director-General and a preliminary plan for implementation of the audit recommendations. The IOC Secretariat will be preparing a number of documents in follow-up to the audit recommendations for review and decision by the IOC Assembly in June 2017.

The Executive Board of UNESCO will also examine the preliminary proposals by the Director-General for 2018-2021 programme and budget (document 200 EX/13, in three parts), which I invite you to consider with attention.

I would like also to take the opportunity of this circular letter to send my appreciation to Member States of the Executive Council who contributed to the adoption of the report of the 49th session by correspondence. The report is available at http://www.ioc-unesco.org/EC49.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary
Enclosures: Finalized IOC Complementary Additional Programme of Extrabudgetary Resources (Proposals 2016-2017). English only