EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. OPENING

The Chair, Professor Peter Haugan, opened the 50th Session of the Executive Council at 10.00 h in Room IV on Tuesday 20 June 2017. He welcomed the participants and briefly referred to the documentation prepared for this session, which can be found on the IOC web site (http://ioc-unesco.org/ec-50). He informed the Council that, in accordance with Rule of Procedure No. 12(2), the Council was acting as the Steering Committee for the 29th Session of the Assembly.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Executive Secretary introduced this item.

The Executive Council met during half a day and resumed its work later in the afternoon to adopt the summary report of this session. A meeting of the open-ended working group on governance and working method (item 5 of this agenda) was scheduled in the same room with full interpretation in the afternoon before the Executive Council resumed its work and adopt its report.

EC-L, Dec. 2.1

Agenda

The Executive Council adopts the agenda as set out in document IOC/EC-L/1 Prov.

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

The Chair invited the Executive Council to designate the Rapporteur for the present session.

Australia proposed, and India seconded, Sergey Travin ([Russian Federation) as Rapporteur for the present session. Sergey Travin accepted this invitation.
EC-L, Dec. 2.2

Rapporteur

The Executive Council designates Sergey Travin (Russian Federation) Rapporteur for its present session to assist the Chair and the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the summary report of the session. Thomas Gross will be the editor of the report for the Secretariat.

3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 29th SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

3.1 DESIGNATION OF STATUTORY COMMITTEES

The Chair reminded the Executive Council of the role of each committees (Nominations, Resolutions and Financial) and proposed that some items be furthered examined by the Financial Committee after their discussion in plenary.

He also reminded the Council that it could submit proposals on committees chairpersonship and composition, but that the ultimate decision remains entirely with the Assembly. He invited Member States to consider participating in the work of committees and declare their wish to participate in the Nominations and the Resolutions Committee at the beginning of the Assembly.

The Financial Committee is open-ended and its meetings would have English/French interpretation. The Chair reminded the Executive Council that the Financial Committee will be facing an unusually heavy workload this year. In addition to the customary items under its purview, it will be considering the IOC External Audit recommendations’ follow-up, the draft recommendations from the Subgroup 2 of the UNESCO General Conference Working Group on Governance and the update to the introduction of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy.

Chairman Haugan indicated that, during the Assembly, he would not read out the names of the Member States wishing to participate in the various Committees by show of hands during the Assembly with the exception of the Nominations Committee. Only the names of the Member States present and participating in the Committees and sessional working groups were to be listed in the final report of the Assembly.

EC-L, Dec. 3.1

Sessional Committees

1. Pursuant to Rule of Procedure No. 12(2) the Executive Council, acting as the Steering Committee of the Assembly, recommends to the Assembly the formation of each of the following committees:

- Financial Committee: under the chairship of Ariel H. Troisi (Argentina, Vice-chair). Ksenia Yvinec provides the Secretariat support to the Financial Committee.

- Resolutions Committee: under the chairship of Terry Schaeffer (USA). Julian Barbière provides the Secretariat support to the Resolutions Committee.

- Nominations Committee: under the chairship of Sang-Kyung Byun (Republic of Korea). Thorkild Aarup and Salvatore Aricó provide the Secretariat support to the Nominations Committee.
3.2 CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

10 The Chair informed the Executive Council that, under Rules of Procedure 8, 9 and 11.2, dealing with the preparation of the agenda for the Assembly, no request for a supplementary item had been received at the Secretariat by 21 April 2017 (two months before the date of the opening of the 29th session.)

3.3 SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS

11 The Chair invited Member States to propose sessional working groups by briefly explaining the scope of their work expected during the Assembly session.

12 Ariel Troisi, Vice Chair, elaborated the need for a Working group on IOC relevant Issues related to BBNJ Prepcom.

EC-L, Dec. 3.3

Sessional Working Groups

The Executive Council,

1. Having examined the revised provisional agenda for the 29th session of the Assembly,

2. With no prejudice to decision of the Assembly and its chair on establishing a sessional working group as needed during the discussion of any agenda item,

3. Recommends to the Assembly the establishment of the following working group at the beginning of its session under agenda item 2.3:
   - a sessional working group on the IOC relevant Issues related to the United Nations Preparatory Committee on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Prepcom) – item 9.2: under the chairship of Ariel Troisi (Argentina) with the following Member States participating:[to be completed by the working group] ______________. Julian Barbière and Ward Appeltans provide the Secretariat support to the group.

3.4 TIMETABLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

13 The Chair briefly presented the provisional timetable for the Assembly and the main side events recorded on the Assembly webpage. He elaborated on day-2 of the Assembly, Thursday 22 June, dedicated to item 4 (IOC and Future of the Ocean), with a discussion panel on the proposed international decade of ocean science for sustainable development. Prof. Haugan presented the IOC A. Bruun and N.K. Panikkar Memorial Lectures, 2017 (IOC-XXIX/Inf.2). The Executive Secretary reminded the Council of memorial observances for the late Prof. Mario Ruivo to be included in the programme of 22 June.

14 The IOC Executive Secretary was invited to expand on the documentation, the draft resolutions received by 16 June and some arrangements due to the holding of other major events at Headquarters during the Assembly.

EC-L, Dec. 3.4

Timetable for the 29th session of the Assembly

The Executive Council,
1. **Taking into consideration** the comments made by the Officers, the need to accommodate time for the reporting of sessional working groups and committees in plenary and scheduled invitation of speakers,

2. **Accepts** the provisional timetable for the 29th session of the Assembly as set out in document IOC-XXIX/1 Add. Prov. Rev.


The Chair reminded the Council that the Assembly and the Executive Council did not give clear indication of duration and dates for their next session. The Officers recommended that the Assembly should adopt the same scheme as for the current biennium. The benefit of a one-day scientific forum in connection with the 30th session of the Assembly could be considered.

The Executive Secretary explained constraints on proposals for dates, including conflicting meetings conducted in partnership with PICES, ICES and FAO on 4-8 June, and WMO Executive Council on 20-29 June, and accordingly proposed 2-6 July 2018 for the 51st session of the Executive Council, and June/July 2019 for the 30th session of the Assembly.

**EC-L, Dec. 4.**

**Dates and places of next sessions of the Executive Council and Assembly**

The Executive Council,

1. **Taking into account** both the level of funding provided for the organization of the IOC governing body sessions in the next C/5, and the new programming cycle of UNESCO,

2. **Considering** the experience gained during the 2016–2017 biennium,

3. **Recommends** to the Assembly to carefully consider the items to be on the agenda of the 51st session of the Executive Council during its work so that it fits in a session of a duration not longer than four consecutive working days;

4. **Recommends** also to the Assembly to identify any potential calendar conflicts with important meetings or cultural days over the period 2-6 July 2018 for the 51st session of the Executive Council and a period of six working days preceded by a one-day session of the Executive Council over a period to be decided in June/July 2019 for the 30th session of the Assembly.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS ON GOVERNANCE, WORKING METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE COMMISSION**

The Chair introduced this agenda item and reminded the Council of the recent developments since the General Conference of UNESCO established at its 38th session an open-ended working group on governance, procedures and methods of work of the governing bodies of UNESCO (38 C/Resolution 101) under the chairmanship of the President of the General Conference Mr Stanley Mutumba Simataa. He referred to the IOC Circular Letter 2670 dated 8 May 2017 on 'Follow-up to decisions of the 49th session of the IOC Executive Council' Part 1 and the IOC webpage where the documentation on this matter is posted: [http://www.ioc-unesco.org/governance](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/governance).
Two sub-groups have been established by the open-ended working group to consider respectively:

- “Structure, composition and methods of work of the Governing Bodies (General Conference and Executive Board)”; Sub-Group 1 (2016) co-chaired by Norway and Philippines, and

This item (governance, procedures and methods of work) was included in the agenda of the IOC Executive Council at its 49th session in June 2016. A document IOC/EC-XLIX/2 Annex 10, prepared by the Secretariat, explores general governance issues including additional ways of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of preparing and organizing the work of the IOC governing bodies. The document was examined by the sessional working group on the 'Future of IOC', co-chaired by the IOC Chair Peter M. Haugan and Vice-Chair Ariel H. Troisi. The sessional working group benefitted from a presentation by the UNESCO working group co-chairs from Norway and the Philippines, who clarified the context and scope of this exercise. The ensuing exchange of views was highly constructive and informative, concluding with a consensus on the value of continuing this dialogue with a view of ensuring that the IOC specific role and status within UNESCO is adequately addressed.

However, in further addressing this issue under item 6.2 of its agenda, the Council regretted that the relevant working document IOC/EC-XLIX/2 Annex 10 on the UNESCO Governance audit and its draft decision were not discussed in plenary. In particular, there was some discussion on the approach and timeline for preparing a contribution to the work of the General Conference Working Group on this issue. A consensus was reached on extending the consultation on this issue to all Member States during the intersessional period and on reporting the results to the 50th session of the Executive Council preceding the Assembly and the Assembly at its 29th session, 21–29 June 2017.

During the intersessional period, the President of the UNESCO General Conference addressed a letter to the IOC Chair, requesting him to provide some input and a response to a questionnaire to be examined by the Sub-Group 2. This document was reviewed by the Sub-Group 2 at its meeting on 28 February 2017, resulting in some general and IOC-specific recommendations as detailed in the meeting informal summary pending the outcome of another Sub-Group 2 meeting on 9 June 2017.

The main emerging IOC specific recommendations (based on the preliminary draft of 12th June 2017) could be summarized as follows:

- More balance in use of working languages, especially for documentation.
- Consider establishing the same six Electoral Groups, like other International and Intergovernmental Bodies in UNESCO.

In pursuance to decision EC-XLIX/6.2(II), the item was included in the draft agenda of the 50th session of the IOC Executive Council. In order to ensure a broad and inclusive consultative process, IOC Circular Letter 2670 was sent to all IOC Member States inviting them to prepare for and actively participate in the open-ended Working Group on Governance to take place on 20 June 2017 afternoon, following the initial exchange of view in plenary.

In order to provide further clarification on the Sub-Group 2 agenda and process, Mr Jesus Enrique G. Garcia II, Deputy Permanent Delegate of the Philippines and Sub-Group 2 co-chair, briefly addressed the Executive Council. Following his presentation, representatives of nine Member States took the floor, seeking clarification of points of Mr Garcia’s presentation.
Reflecting on the points made by delegates, the Chair confirmed that he had kept close contact with the developments in Sub-group 2 and appreciated the openness and good communication with the Sub-group 2 co-chair about the emerging draft recommendations. Recognizing the preliminary character of the recommendations that could be relevant to the IOC, the chair would await the outcome of the discussions among IOC Member States before suggesting a way forward in the short and longer perspective.

The Executive Secretary also recognized the collegial and productive atmosphere of the work of Sub-group 2. The contribution from the IOC Officers and Secretariat was given due consideration by the Sub-group. The Executive Secretary emphasized the need for very effective governance of IOC and that any recommendations for its improvements should come from the need to improve the functioning of the Commission as a functionally autonomous part of UNESCO. In that connection, he mentioned that seeking uniformity in governance solutions is secondary to seeking their efficiency. The need for efficient governance of IOC is also associated with the importance of decisions and actions that are going to be taken in United Nations in relation to the 2030 Agenda and the developments related to protection and sustainable use of biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction as examples. Ocean science is central for such decisions. This stimulates IOC to take active part in the work of Sub-group 2 and seeks useful IOC-tailored recommendations on further improving its governance and practices.

The IOC Open-ended Working Group met on 20 June, chaired by Vice-chair Ariel Troisi, and discussed draft recommendations from the UNESCO working group on governance, sub-group 2 (Co-Chairs’ Draft document Rev.1 as of 12 June 2017). It exchanged views on points of particular relevance to the IOC. The Chair of the IOC Open-ended Working Group reported discussions and main conclusions of the group to the Assembly under agenda item 3.2.3 (IOC-XXIX/2 Annex 4). This was intended to guide the more in-depth examination of this item by the sessional Financial Committee, with a view of reporting back to the plenary under item 11.1 and elaborating a proposal within the Draft Resolution on the Financial Matters of the Commission for adoption by the Assembly.

EC-L, Dec. 5.

Follow-up to the recommendations on governance, working methods and procedures of the Commission

The Executive Council,

1. Having considered the informal summaries of the UNESCO General Conference Working Group on Governance Sub-group 2 (Structure, composition and methods of work of UNESCO’s international and intergovernmental bodies) of 28 February and 9 June 2017, (Co-Chairs’ Draft document Rev.1 as of 12 June 2017);

2. Takes note of the best practices recommended by the UNESCO General Conference Working Group on Governance Sub-group 2;

3. Thanks the Co-chair of the UNESCO General Conference Working Group on Governance Sub–Group 2 for providing to it his guidance and insights into the process;

4. Thanks also Vice-Chair Ariel H. Troisi for accepting the task of chairing the IOC open-ended working group on governance and working methods and invites him to report on its discussions to the Assembly under agenda item 3.2.3; and

5. Requests the Assembly and its sessional Financial Committee to develop, as appropriate, the IOC response to draft recommendations of the UNESCO General Conference Working Group on Governance Sub–Group 2 (38 C/Resolution 101).
6. **ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT**

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<td>The Executive Council,</td>
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<td>6. <strong>Having considered</strong> the draft summary report of the session (IOC/EC-L/3s prov.) presented to it in plenary session at 17:35 on 20 June 2017,</td>
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<td>7. <strong>Adopts</strong> the summary report of its 50th session as the Executive Council recommendations to the Assembly at its 29th session.</td>
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7. **CLOSURE**

28 The Chair closed the 50th session of the Executive Council at 17:40 on 20 June 2017.