IOC Circular Letter No 2784
(Available in English and French)

IOC/IOC/VR/MO/fc
25 November 2019

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC

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

Subject: Revival and Reactivation of GOOS-AFRICA, the Global Ocean Observing System in Africa

During its 30th session, the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO (26 June–4 July 2019, Paris), through Decision IOC-XXX/3.3.3, accepted the Recommendation IOCAFRI<EA>ICA-V.3 of the Fifth session of the IOC’s Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (25–27 March 2019, Nairobi) to revive and reactivate GOOS-AFRICA based on the capital legacy of the GOOS-AFRICA Coordinating Committee and existing African networks. The Assembly requested the IOC Executive Secretary to organize a meeting to agree a common approach towards effective implementation of GOOS activities around the African continent.

The GOOS-AFRICA Coordinating Committee will assist IOCAFRI<EA>ICA in responding to the ocean observations requirements of Member States from the region, including contribution to the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Through this letter, I invite you to nominate a suitable expert to serve in the above-mentioned committee. We will appreciate receiving nominations not later than 20 December 2019, accompanied by a CV showing relevant expertise and experience in ocean observations and monitoring, including operational oceanography.

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The selection of the members of the Group will be made by the IOCAFRICA Officers, in consultation with the IOC Executive Secretary and the GOOS Secretariat. The first meeting of the committee is expected to take place in April 2020.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

**Enclosures (2):** Decision IOC-XXX/3.3.3
Recommendation IOCAFRICA-V.3
The Assembly,

Having examined the Executive Summary report of the 5th session of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States, Nairobi, Kenya, 25–27 March 2019 (IOCAFRICA-V/3s),

Takes note of the progress made in the implementation of the IOCAFRICA work programme 2017–2019;

Thanks the Member States who have provided support for the development and implementation of programmes of the Sub-Commission, and especially the Governments of Belgium, China, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, and Spain;

Accepts the report of IOCAFRICA-V and the recommendations therein, including the work programme for the Sub-Commission for 2019–2021;

Requests the Executive Secretary to provide support for the organization of the Pan-African Conference on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 19–22 October 2020);

Requests the Executive Secretary to organize a meeting to agree a common approach towards effective implementation of GOOS activities around the African continent;

Agrees that the regular budget for these activities will be identified as part of the overall IOC Programme and Budget Resolution XXX-3.
Recommendation IOCAFRICA-V.3

Priority for the Revival and Reactivation of GOOS-AFRICA

The IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States,

Recognising the exceptional role of the GOOS-AFRICA Coordinating Committee with a longstanding experience of mobilising human and financial capacities, which enabled the establishment of a continental framework for operational ocean observations networks in Africa over the past two decades,

Supports the outcomes and recommendations of different intergovernmental forums such as the successive IOCAFRICA Sessions and Global Regional Alliance (GRA) forums since 2013, which requested the reactivation of the GOOS-AFRICA Coordinating Committee towards a reinforced GOOS-AFRICA in close cooperation with the IOCAFRICA;

Stressed the importance of reviving GOOS-AFRICA so that it can support the Sub-Commission in responding to the ocean observations requirement of member states from the region, including contribution to the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition, and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;

Decides to reconstitute the GOOS-AFRICA Coordinating Committee;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to:

(i) Invite Member States to nominate experts to join the reconstituted GOOS-AFRICA Committee.

(ii) Identify suitable allocations of financial resources from the Regular Budget and extra budgetary of the IOC for the reactivation of GOOS-AFRICA based on the capital legacy of the GOOS-AFRICA Coordinating Committee and existing African networks.