IOC Circular Letter No 2797
(Available in French, Spanish, Russian)

IOC/VR/pbo
16 March 2020

To : Official National Coordinating Body for Liaison with the IOC in States Members of the IOC Executive Council
Executive Heads of Organizations part of UN-Oceans
Executive Heads of Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations cooperating with the IOC

cc. : Other IOC Member States
The Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

Subject: Invitation to the 53rd Session of the IOC Executive Council, Paris, 30 June–3 July 2020, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

"The Executive Council shall exercise the responsibilities delegated to it by the Assembly, acting on its behalf in the implementation of the decisions." (Rule 21)

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the IOC Chairperson Mr Ariel H. Troisi, to invite Member States of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO that are members of its Executive Council together with organizations cooperating with and contributing to the work of the Commission to attend the 53rd session of the Executive Council at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Other IOC Member States are welcome as observers.

The session is scheduled over three and a half days from Tuesday 30 June until Friday 3rd July till 1.00 p.m. in the meeting room IV at UNESCO Headquarters. Please bear in mind that the holding of the session is regularly assessed in the light of the recommendations of the French authorities and the emergency measures UNESCO is taking in an attempt to stop the spread of Covid-19. I invite you to regularly check the webpage of the session for updates.

The provisional agenda and timetable for the session have been prepared in consultation with the Officers of the Commission during their meeting in January 2020. The endorsement of the Implementation Plan for the UN Ocean Decade (2021–2030) before its transmission to the UN...
General Assembly, the preparation of the draft IOC Medium-term Strategy for 2022–2029, and the preparation of the 60th anniversary of IOC are among the salient items on the agenda. Some reporting items requested by the Assembly at its last session will be addressed in my report under item 3.1 and in specific information documents as detailed in the Action Paper.

I remind you that draft resolutions should be presented by one or more Member States in accordance with document IOC/INF-1315 no later than 72 hours before the opening of the session. Considering that draft resolutions should also be made available in the working languages of the Commission 72 hours before the opening, the deadline for submitting DRs is set for Thursday 25th June for practical reasons, with the exception of the Draft Resolution on Programme and Budget to be submitted during the session. A form for the transmission of DRs is attached. The documentation will consist primarily of an Action Paper containing draft decisions/resolutions and the text proposed for inclusion into the draft report. The information and documentation for the session will be only available on-line at http://www.ioc-unesco.org/ec53.

In view of the technical nature of some agenda items, it would be very much appreciated if consideration could be given to the inclusion in government delegations of representatives conversant with the subject matter of the session. I also invite Member States to give due consideration to gender balance in the composition of their delegations.

Registration for the session. For security reasons and organizational purposes it is particularly important that IOC Members States and partner organizations first notify the Secretariat of the complete list of their delegation with names of designated representatives, alternates and advisers for the session by order of precedence, with copy to their Permanent Delegation to UNESCO when relevant. In addition, personal contact detail of all participants to the session, including members of permanent delegations, should be registered on the dedicated online registration platform not later than 9 June 2019 at https://ioc-registration.civigo.net. If you need further information, please contact the Secretariat (c/o Patrice Boned, p.boned@unesco.org). Additional information will be posted on the session webpage.

Formalities for visa applications when required by French authorities should start in your country as soon as possible and no later than one month before the planned date of arrival. If specifically requested in the registration form, the IOC Secretariat, through the service of Protocol of UNESCO, will prepare notes to the French Consulate in your country to support your request. For more information on formalities please visit: https://france-visas.gouv.fr/.

The list of events and their locations will be displayed on the Executive Council webpage. I kindly invite you to contact the Secretariat as soon as possible would you like to organize a side event, prepare a brief communication event, and even sponsor or contribute financially to a social event or coffee/tea services. Such contributions will be visibly acknowledged. Administrative modalities should be discussed with the secretariat as early as possible (c/o Ms Virginie Bonnet, v.bonnet@unesco.org).

The IOC Secretariat looks forward to welcoming you in Paris.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures:
Revised provisional agenda and Timetable for the session
Transmission form for Draft Resolutions
List of IOC Member States member of the Executive Council, 2019–2021
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

Fifty-third Session of the Executive Council
UNESCO, Paris, 30 June–3 July 2020

REVISED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. OPENING

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION
   2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
   2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR
   2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS
   2.4 INTRODUCTION OF TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION
   2.5 ROGER REVELLE MEMORIAL LECTURE

3. REPORTING ITEMS
   3.1 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY AND ON BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION
       [Rule of Procedure 49.1]
   3.2 REPORTS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION GROUPS FOR REGIONAL TSUNAMI AND MULTI-HAZARDS WARNING SYSTEMS
       [Rule of Procedure 48.3]
       3.2.1 Sixteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS-XVI), Cannes, France, 2–4 December 2019
       3.2.2 Thirteenth Meeting of the Working Group on Tsunamis and other Hazards related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG), 20–21 February 2020, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris
4. PROGRAMMATIC DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECADE ROADMAP AND DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
[39 C/Resolution 25; Res. XXIX-1, XXX-1]

4.2 IOC-RELEVANT ISSUES RELATED TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT UNDER THE UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION
[Dec. IOC-XXX/10.1]

4.3 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN DECADE BY IOC’S IODE PROGRAMME AND RELATED CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
[Dec. IOC-XXX/11.1; Dec. IOC-XXX/7.2.2.2]

4.4 WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOINT IOC-WMO BODIES
[Resolution XXX-2]

4.5 SECOND REPORT OF IOC REGULAR WORKING GROUP ON USER REQUIREMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEBCO PRODUCTS
[Dec. EC-XI/4.5; Dec. IOC-XXX/9.1]

4.6 REVIEW OF THE IOC OCEAN LITERACY PLAN OF ACTION
[Decision IOC-XXX/11.2]

4.7 STATUS OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL INDIAN OCEAN (IOCINDIO)
[Dec. IOC-XXX/3.3.4]

4.8 PREPARATION OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 60-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE IOC
[Dec. IOC-XXX/12.5]

5. GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

5.1 DRAFT IOC MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY FOR 2022–2029 (41 C/4) AND DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2022–2025 (41 C/5)
[Resolution XXX-3]

5.2 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE
[Resolution XXX-3]

6. NEXT SESSIONS OF IOC GOVERNING BODIES
[Statutes Art. 7.C.8; Rule of Procedure 8.3 & 21.2(c); Rule of Procedure 19.2]

7. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND MODALITIES FOR THE FINALISATION OF THE REPORT

8. CLOSURE
### PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday 29 June</th>
<th>Tuesday 30 June</th>
<th>Wednesday 1 July</th>
<th>Thursday 2 July</th>
<th>Friday 3 July</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.00 - 10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Deadline for the submission of draft resolutions: Thursday 25 June</td>
<td>Financial Committee (II)</td>
<td>Financial Committee (IV)</td>
<td>Resolutions Committee (II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00 - 11.30</td>
<td>1. Opening</td>
<td>2. Organization of the Session (2.1 – 2.4)</td>
<td>4. Programmatic Developments (4.1 UN Decade Roadmap &amp; Implementation Plan)</td>
<td>4.5 Working Arrangements for Joint IOC-WMO Bodies</td>
<td>5.2 Report by the Chair of the Financial Committee</td>
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<td>11.30 - 11.45</td>
<td>IOC Officers Meeting</td>
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<td>11.45 - 13.00</td>
<td>3.1 (Cont’d)</td>
<td>Replies of the Executive Secretary to the debate</td>
<td>4.1 (Cont’d)</td>
<td>4.7 Status of IOCINDIO</td>
<td>7. Adoption of Resolutions and Modalities of the Summary Report</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>4.8 Preparation of the Commemoration of the 60-Year Anniversary of the IOC</td>
<td>8. Closure</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.00 - 15.00</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
<td>Resolutions Committee (I)</td>
<td>Financial Committee (III)</td>
<td>Resolutions Committee (III) (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00 – 16.30</td>
<td>5. Governance, Programming and Budgeting (introduction)</td>
<td>3. Reporting Items (Cont’d)</td>
<td>4.2 BBNJ</td>
<td>5. Governance, Programming and Budgeting</td>
<td>5.1 Draft MTS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.2 Reports on Early Warning Systems and Preparedness for Tsunamis</td>
<td>3.2.1 ICG/NEAMTWS-XVI</td>
<td>4.3 IODE and CD Contribution to the UN Decade</td>
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<td>16.30 - 16.45</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<td>16.45 – 18.00</td>
<td>3.2.2 TOWS-WG-XI</td>
<td>4.4 Report of the WG on User Requirements and Contributions to GEBCO Products</td>
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<td>2.5 Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture</td>
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<td>After 18.00</td>
<td>Reception</td>
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DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMISSION FORM

With reference to the revised guidelines for the preparation and consideration of Draft Resolutions (IOC/INF-1315), a draft resolution is a proposed text submitted by one or several Member States to a Governing Body with a view to its adoption by the Governing Body concerned during the session to which the draft resolution is presented for consideration under the adopted agenda.

The deadline for submission is: **25 June 2020 at 10 a.m.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Draft Resolution proposal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agenda item:</td>
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<td>Title:</td>
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<td>Submitted by:</td>
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The attached Draft Resolution fulfils at least one of the following criterion (tick for the relevant one(s)):

- Reflect major policy, programmatic, external relations, financial and institutional decisions
- Approve or modify the Commission’s programme and budget
- Take action on formal Recommendations made to the Commission by any recognized entities concerned with the oceans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budgetary implications and source of financing:</th>
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<th>Position:</th>
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Date and time received by the IOC Secretariat: ________________________________

**Screening by the Resolutions Committee:**

**Screening by the Financial Committee:**
The **IOC Executive Council** shall consist of up to 40 Member States, including those Member States of which the elected chairperson and the five Vice-chairpersons are nationals.

**List of current States members of the IOC Executive Council (39)**
elected at the 30th Session of the IOC Assembly (Paris, 26 June–4 July 2019)

*(List as of 3 July 2019)*

### Electoral Group I (10 seats)

1. Canada  
2. France  
3. Germany  
   Vice-Chairperson: Ms Monika Breuch-Moritz *(2nd term)*  
4. Greece  
5. Italy  
6. Portugal  
7. Spain  
8. Sweden  
9. Turkey  
10. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

### Electoral Group II (3 seats)

1. Bulgaria  
2. Russian Federation  
   Vice-Chairperson: Dr Alexander Frolov *(1st term)*  
3. vacant seat

### Electoral Group III (9 seats)

1. Argentina  
   Chairperson: Mr Ariel Hernan Troisi *(1st term)*  
2. Brazil  
   Vice-Chairperson: Mr Frederico Antonio Saraiva Nogueira *(1st term)*  
3. Chile  
4. Colombia  
5. Grenada  
6. Mexico  
7. Peru  
8. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
9. Uruguay

### Electoral Group IV (9 seats)

1. Australia  
2. China  
3. India  
   Vice-Chairperson: Dr Satheesh Chandra Shenoi *(1st term)*  
4. Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
5. Japan  
6. Pakistan  
7. Philippines  
8. Republic of Korea  
9. Thailand
Electoral Group V (9 seats)

1. Côte d’Ivoire
2. Egypt
3. Kenya
4. Kuwait
5. Madagascar
6. Morocco Vice-Chairperson: Dr Karim Hilmi (1st term)
7. Oman
8. Senegal
9. South Africa