EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 48.3, ICG/IOTWS, as a Primary Subsidiary Body of IOC, is required to report to a Governing Body on its sessions.

The IOC Assembly at its 25th Session will be invited to consider this Executive Summary.

The Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS-VI) was held in Hyderabad, India, 7–9 April 2009. The session was attended by 70 delegates from 11 Member States in the Indian Ocean region, 3 Observer States and 9 UN agencies and other organisations.

The ICG reviewed the progress made during the intersessional period, noted reports and recommendations from its Working Groups and adopted the Guidelines for "Tsunami Risk Assessment and Mitigation for the Indian Ocean: Knowing Your Tsunami Risk - and What to Do About it" as submitted by Working Group 3. The ICG received an update on the nomination of Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFP) and Tsunami National Contact (TNC): 25 out of 28 countries have made either complete (15) or partial (10) formal nominations.

The ICG decided to hold the Indian Ocean Wave'09 Exercise on 14th October 2009.

The ICG decided to adopt revised Terms of Reference for the Steering Group and decided to establish a Task Team to review the Working Group Structure and Terms of Reference and to consider restructuring of the Working Groups, reporting to the Steering Group. The Task Team will be chaired by the Vice Chairman, Mr Rick Bailey, and comprise the Chairpersons of all Working Groups, and external experts as appropriate, The Working Chairs and Vice-Chairpersons were invited to continue until the next Session of the ICG/IOTWS.

The ICG decided to reconstitute the Regional Tsunami Watch Provider (RTWP) Coordination Group as the RTWP Task Team, reporting to Working Group 5.
The ICG elected its Officers for the next two-year term commencing at the end of the Session. Dr Jan Sopaheluwakan (Indonesia) was elected as Chairman, and Mr Rick Bailey (Australia) and Dr Shailesh Nayak (India) were elected as Vice Chairpersons.

The ICG decided to hold its Seventh session in March or April 2010 and accepted the kind offer from Indonesia to host it. The ICG extended its deep appreciation to the Government of India, the Director and personnel of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) for the excellent host arrangements for its Sixth Session.

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS) adopted the following:

Recommendation ICG/IOTWS-VI.1

TASK TEAM ON BIOTOXIN MONITORING, MANAGEMENT AND REGULATIONS

[…] Urges Member States to note the impact of vandalism to deep ocean and other monitoring stations on the tsunami detection capacity of the IOTWS,

Encourages the Working Groups to meet jointly during inter-sessional time for better coordination,

Encourages Working Group 5 to define tsunami watch products and to evaluate them along with the Interim Advisory Service to enhance the current service level,

Encourages Member States to update the list of Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) and inform the Secretariat of all changes,

Requests that the Executive Secretary urgently develop a web site that provides for:

- Member States’ ability to review and update data concerning TNCs consistent with the UNESCO/IOC rules established for such processes
- Member States’ ability to review and update information concerning TWFPs consistent with the UNESCO/IOC rules established for such processes
- Access to be password-protected and accessible by all TNCs and TWFPs
- Timely distribution of official IOTWS and other ICG documents
- Member States’ ability to publish and access documents and information that may be of relevance to the international tsunami community;

Further requests the Executive Secretary to provide to IOTWS Member States a schedule and plan within 60 days from this date for carrying out this request,

Further requests that the Executive Secretary prepare a report on the implementation of ICG/IOTWS decisions, recommendations, and requests during the intersessional period for presentation to the Member States at the seventh session of the ICG/IOTWS,

Decides to:

1. Adopt the revised Terms of Reference of the Steering Group (Annex I),
2. Reconstitute the RTWP Coordination Group as the RTWP Task Team that shall report to Working Group 5,

3. Establish a Task Team to review the Working Group Structure and Terms of Reference, to consider restructuring of the Working Groups, reporting to the Steering Group within six months from this date. The Task Team will be chaired by the Vice Chairman Rick Bailey and comprise the Chairpersons of all Working Groups, and external experts as appropriate,

4. Continue the current Working Groups and invite the current Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons to continue until the next session of the ICG/IOTWS,

5. Designate Mr Ken Jarrott (Australia) as Chairman and Dr M.A. Atmanand (India) as Vice-Chairman of Working Group 2 and Ms Irina Rafliana (Indonesia) as Chairperson of Working Group 6,

6. Adopt the Guidelines for “Tsunami Risk Assessment and Mitigation for the Indian Ocean: Knowing Your Tsunami Risk - and What to Do About it” as submitted and welcomes the completion of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Hazard Map by Working Group 3 and congratulates the Working Group 3 for their excellent work;

Thanks the Government of India for kindly hosting the 6th Session of the ICG/IOTWS, and

Accepts with appreciation the kind offer of Indonesia to host the 7th Session of the ICG/IOTWS in Yogyakarta in March/April 2010.

Annex to Recommendation ICG/IOTWS-VI.1

Terms of Reference of the IOTWS Steering Group

The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System,

Having considered the intersessional meeting report of the Steering Group,

Recalling the establishment of the Steering Group for the ICG/IOTWS at the Third Session of the ICG/IOTWS in Bali, Indonesia in August 2006,

Noting the requirement for ongoing coordination and advice on the implementation of the IOTWS in the intersessional period, including strategic direction and planning, monitoring of implementation and coordination of Working Group activities,

Decides that:

(i) the ICG/IOTWS Steering Group shall continue and will exercise the responsibilities delegated to it by the ICG/IOTWS, acting on its behalf in the implementation of the decisions of the ICG/IOTWS;

(ii) the membership of the Steering Group will be as follows:
   a. Elected Officers (ICG/IOTWS Chair and Vice Chairpersons)
   b. Working Group Chairs and Vice Chairpersons
   c. Other representatives by invitation of the ICG/IOTWS Chairperson;
(iii) the ICG/IOTWS Steering Group will act in an advisory capacity to the Chairperson of the ICG/IOTWS during the inter-sessional period;

(iv) the Steering Group shall hold at least one meeting during the interval between ICG/IOTWS sessions. It will also meet immediately prior to the opening date of the next ICG/IOTWS meeting. At this session the Steering Group may propose in addition to the composition of the Elections and Recommendations Committees other sessional Working Groups. It will discuss issues to be raised and discussed at the ICG/IOTWS Meeting to facilitate successful outcomes;

(v) the Steering Group shall coordinate and integrate the work of ICG/IOTWS in the inter-sessional periods, as implemented through the various working groups and task teams, including but not limited to:

a. Provide strategic advice on sustainability and implementation of the IOTWS
b. Help the Secretariat to maintain and update the IOTWS Implementation Plan
c. Develop a strategy for funding IOTWS activities
d. Monitor performance of the IOTWS.