To: Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC Member States
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States

cc.: IOC Officers
Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC Member States
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Officers and Secretaries of the IOC Regional Sub-Commissions and Committees

Subject: Consultations for UNESCO on the Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2011–2012 (Draft 36 C/5)

The IOC would like to inform its Member States that in accordance with Resolution 35 C/107 (General guidelines for the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013) of the 35th General Conference of UNESCO (6–23 October 2009), the Director-General of UNESCO has started the consultation process for the preparation of UNESCO’s Draft Programme and Budget for 2012–2013 (36 C/5). The IOC Secretariat would like to gather momentum to bring ocean priorities high on UNESCO agenda for the next biennium and calls on its national contacts to forward their national ocean priorities to the attention of their national commissions.

The consultation process is based on responses to a questionnaire (http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis/cgi-bin/ulis.pl?database=ged&mode=e&sc1=1&sc2=1&by=3&look=ioc&req=2&no=187756) addressing in particular:

I. Africa and Gender Equality – UNESCO’s two global priorities
II. Priorities for UNESCO’s action at global, regional and national levels
III. Delivering the programme

The consultations with National Commissions on issues addressed in questionnaire and related programming matters are carried out nationally or in a clustered way by Field Offices and then regionally according to the following schedule:

- Arab States: 10–14 May 2010, Rabat, Morocco
- Asia and the Pacific: 21–24 May 2010, Changwon, Republic of Korea

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Europe and North America: 5–8 June 2010, London, United Kingdom
Africa: 21–25 June 2010, Kampala, Uganda
Latin America and the Caribbean: 5–7 July 2010, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Each consultation adopts a report – including recommendations – which will be submitted to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 185th session (5–21 October 2010).

The deadline for the submission of written comments on the questionnaire by governments, IGOs and NGOs is 15 July 2010.

A draft 36 C/5 will be issued by mid-March 2011 for a decision and recommendation by the 186th session of the Executive Board (26 April–12 May 2011), while the 36 C/5 will be finally adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session in October–November 2011.

The preparation of the UNESCO Draft Programme and Budget 2011–2012 (Draft 36 C/5) is intended to contribute to the overarching and strategic programme objectives of the Medium-Term Strategy (34 C/4).

Through Resolution XXIV-2, the IOC Assembly at its 24th Session, adopted the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2008–2013, based on four High-Level Objectives:

1. Prevention and reduction of the impacts of natural hazards
2. Mitigation of the impacts and adaptation to climate change and variability
3. Safeguarding the health of ocean ecosystems
4. Management procedures and policies leading to the sustainability of coastal and ocean environment and resources

In the current UNESCO Programme and Budget 2010–2011 (35 C/5) these high-level objectives have been incorporated into one Main Line of Action (4): Strengthening the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and broadening the scope of its activities for the benefit of all Member States: improving governance and fostering intergovernmental cooperation to manage and protect oceans and coastal zones.

IOC obtained essential support from its Member States and UNESCO in the preparation of the current Programme and Budget (35 C/5).

In the light of the work for the preparation of the draft IOC Priorities and Programme and Budget for 2012–2013, IOC Member States and regional Subsidiary Bodies will also consider the role of the Commission in the 2012–2013 cycle of the UNESCO Programme and Budget (36 C/5) at the 43rd session of the IOC Executive Council (agenda item 9.2) scheduled from 8 to 16 June 2010 and will provide recommendations in this regard to the Director-General.

[signed]
Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO