DRAFT RESOLUTION IOC-XXVI/DR.(4.2)
Submitted by Barbados, China, Colombia, Mauritius, South Africa, Togo and USA
Agenda item 4.2

STRENGTHENING IOC REGIONAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

1. Recalling Resolution XXV-2, which established an Open-ended Intersessional Working Group to conduct an objective and comprehensive assessment of IOC’s regional activities and prepare a report that includes a regional strategy for organizational improvement and recommendations on implementing the new strategy,

2. Recalling further Resolution EC-XLIII.3, which re-affirmed the need to reinforce the existing IOC Secretariats of Regional Subsidiary Bodies (RSB) and requested the IOC Executive Secretary to:

   (i) allocate resources for implementation of activities in the regions,

   (ii) improve communications between IOC and its Regional Subsidiary Bodies and between regional and global programmes, and

   (iii) explore, in consultation with Member States, the establishment of supporting facilities in the regions where needed,

3. Having considered the report of the Open-ended Working Group on IOC Regional Activities (IOC-XXVI/RSB/3s) and the Status of IOC Regional Activities (IOC/INF-1281),

4. Recognizing that the establishment of the positions of IOC Regional Liaison Officer and of IOC Coordinator for Africa will improve the linkage between IOC’s regional and global programmes and the coordination of IOC’s activities in Africa,

5. Reaffirming the importance of IOC’s Regional Subsidiary Bodies and IOC Decentralized Offices as mechanisms for the implementation of the Commission’s activities in the regions,

6. Acknowledging the limited resources available to the Commission,

7. Adopts the Regional Strategy for Organizational Improvement, attached to this Resolution;
8. **Requests** the Executive Secretary to implement the Strategy and in particular to conduct an assessment of how IOC decentralized offices are currently assisting Regional Subsidiary Bodies and make recommendations to optimize IOC overall regional programme delivery and resources;

9. **Urges** Member States to:

   (i) actively participate in Regional Subsidiary Bodies, as appropriate;

   (ii) integrate relevant elements of their national programmes into IOC regional activities; and

   (iii) provide financial and in-kind support for the implementation of activities in the regions, including the secondment of staff.

---

**Annex to Draft Resolution IOC-XXVI/DR.(4.2)**

**Regional Strategy for Organizational Improvement**

The regional strategy for organizational improvements includes: efficiencies through better integration, potential consolidation of regional resources, streamlined operations, enhanced cooperation with the UN and with other appropriate regional organizations on issues of common interest, and other elements to promote implementation of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy at the regional level.

The following characteristics that were identified as contributing to the success of the Sub-Commissions for CARIBE and WESTPAC will form the basis for the strategy:

   (i) Secretariat support and dedicated staff who are able to provide liaison between the Member States, organizations and institutions in the regions,

   (ii) willingness of Member States in these regions to contribute both in-kind and cash toward the implementation of activities,

   (iii) clearly identified priorities and programmes that Member States can participate in or contribute to. These should link with relevant ongoing national activities.
The IOC will:

- establish mechanisms, such as secondments and shared Secretariat functions between the IOC Secretariat and the individual Member States concerned, to provide regional secretariat resources to support Regional Subsidiary Bodies, with the goal of establishing dedicated staff in all regions,

- define and implement focused regional priorities that provide leadership roles for Member States and ensure their engagement in the programmes,

- establish periodic meetings and enhanced communication to foster regional collaboration,

- develop regional and global fund-raising strategies to identify sources of catalytic seed funding.

Member States should integrate relevant elements of their programmes with IOC regional and global priorities, and the IOC will utilize regional programmes as a key tool in achieving its global programme objectives.

The following specific actions for consolidation of regional resources will be implemented in the next IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2014–2019):

- create capacity-building networks in each region through collaboration between the IOC Secretariat and the Member States concerned, based on the unique strengths and requirements of the Member States,

- create three new UNESCO Chairs in the next UNESCO Medium-Term Plan to enhance capacity-building,

- enhance IOC programme integration to produce higher impact outcomes at global and regional levels.

The IOC will partner with other relevant regional programmes and activities to enhance marine scientific capabilities in the regions. This collaboration will include other UN agencies, the LME projects and other regional programmes.