Subject: Designation of members of the Intersessional Working Group for the Development of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy

In 2013 at its 27th session the IOC Assembly established by Decision 5.5.1 an Intersessional Working Group for developing an IOC Draft Strategic Plan for Capacity Development (IOC Circular Letter, 2496). The Group worked by email and had a face-to-face meeting on 10-11 December 2013. The document, prepared as a result of the work, was introduced to the IOC Executive Council at its 47th session in July 2014 when a sessional working group discussed the document further. It was agreed that more work would be required to produce a comprehensive strategic plan that would be able to cover the full term of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy, 2014-2021.

By Decision 6.1 (annexed hereafter) the Executive Council decided to reconstitute the Intersessional Working Group for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy under the chairmanship of Prof. Adoté Blivi with a view to re-submitting the final draft of the Capacity Development Strategy and associated documentation to the IOC Assembly for adoption at its 28th session in 2015.

Through this letter I invite you to designate or re-designate member(s) of this intersessional working group not later than 15 September 2014 to p.pissiersens@unesco.org. The email should include the name(s), full address and email address of the designated experts.

As indicated in Decision 6.1 the group will work mostly by e-mail (or other electronic means) but will also meet once, depending on the availability of extra-budgetary funding.

.../...
The Group will start its work on 15 September 2014 and will provide progress reports to the IOC Sub-Commissions that will meet prior to the 28th session of the IOC Assembly: IOCAFRICA (8-10 October 2014), IOCARIBE (April 2015), WESTPAC (May 2015) as well as to intergovernmental Technical Committees (e.g. IODE, March 2015; IPHAB, April 2015).

I am counting on your support and look forward to productive work of the Group.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC

Enclosures (2):
IOC-XXVII, Dec. 5.5.1 – Development of a New Capacity Development Strategy (2013)
Development of a New Capacity Development Strategy

The Assembly,

Taking note of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 whereby the UNSD recognizes the importance of building the capacity of developing countries to be able to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and their resources,

Having examined document IOC-XXVII/2 Annex 10,

Decides to set up an Intersessional Working Group for Developing a Draft Strategic Plan for Capacity Development with the annexed Terms of Reference;

Agrees that the regular budget for these activities will be considered as part of the overall IOC Programme and Budget resolution XXVII-2;

Requests:
(i) the Executive Secretary to include the Strategic Plan for Capacity Development as an item on the Agenda of the Executive Council at its 47th session in 2014; and
(ii) Member States to consider funding and supporting the activities leading to the formulation and adoption of the Strategic Plan for Capacity Development.

Annex to IOC-XXVII, Dec. 5.5.1

Draft Terms of Reference for the Intersessional Working Group for the Development of IOC Capacity Development Strategic Plan

PURPOSE
The Intersessional Working Group will develop a Capacity Development (CD) Strategic Plan for IOC. This plan will then be implemented through partnership with Member States, donors, UN Agencies, global financial institutions and the private sector.

TERM
The Intersessional CD Strategy Group will be constituted at the 27th IOC Assembly and will operate until the 47th IOC Executive Council in 2014.

FUNCTIONS
(a) Review documents given below to identify the relevant components that should be considered in an IOC CD strategy along with an outline of the strategy document

- IOC-XXVII/2 Annex 10 – Development of a New Capacity Development Strategy (2013);
- IOC/INF-1313 – Baseline Study for an Assessment of National Capacities and Needs in Marine Research, Observation and Data/Information Management (2013);
- IOC/INF-1211 – IOC Principles and Strategy for Capacity Building (2005);
IOC/INF-1276 – Empowering Developing Countries to Sustainably Use Their Coastal Resources (Self Driven Capacity Building) Closure Report of the SIDA Funded Project (2010);


IOC/ABE-LOS VIII/8 – Practices of States in the Fields of Marine Scientific Research and Transfer of Marine Technology: an update of the 2005 analysis of Member State responses to Questionnaire No 3 (2008);

IOC/INF-612 – UNESCO/IOC Comprehensive Plan for a Major Assistance Programme to Enhance the Marine Science Capabilities of Developing Countries (1985);

Documents produced by IOC subsidiary bodies and sister organisations;

Other documents relevant to this exercise.

(b) **Incorporate elements arising from the following considerations**

- Recent UN Conference outcome documents, especially Rio +20’s Outcome document “The Future we Want” and resolutions requesting actions in capacity development;
- The present High Level Objectives of IOC and its mandate as well as existing IOC programmes;
- Lessons learned from previous CD plans of IOC (Success stories and implementation problems);
- Gaps identified through prior assessments and surveys of capacities and needs requirements;
- Regional priorities as identified through the different IOC sub-commissions and relevant bodies and other IOC regional subsidiary bodies;
- Existing capacity development initiatives of Member States, other UN agencies and competent international organisations, for example, POGO and SCOR, with a view to developing partnerships, create synergies and avoid duplication;
- The problem faced by developing countries in not being able to retain qualified staff because of inadequate research infrastructure;
- Gender Equality, Priority Africa, SIDS and LDCs;
- The regional requirement for capacity as priorities may not be global.

(c) **Identify**

- IOC’s existing CD strengths and IOC’s unique intergovernmental CD niche
- The essential elements/pillars of IOC’s CD draft strategy (IOC-XXVII/2 Annex 10), consistent with IOC’s Medium Term Strategy, that will complement international CD partner development contributions;
- The need for a consistent level of extra-budgetary funding;
- Priorities for actions in relation to available resources focussing on specific geographical areas and specific science areas for effective and efficient capacity development, and informed by IOC’s regional bodies;

(d) **Prepare a report for consideration of the 47th IOC Executive Council in 2014**
COMPOSITION

- The Vice-Chairperson of the IOC for Group V, Prof. Adoté Blim Blivi will serve as Chairperson and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Commission, Dr Mitrasen Bhikajee will be the Technical Secretary of the Intersessional Working Group;
- The Working Group will be open to all IOC Member States;

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

- The Working Group will conduct the majority of its business by electronic means;
- If appropriate, the Chairperson may convene a meeting in time, and for a long enough period, to prepare a report prior to the commencement of a session of the Executive Council;
- The Group will provide a report on all its activities to the 47th session of the Executive Council;
- Relevant documents would be made available before the Group meeting, in due time; and
- The Group will follow procedures for IOC Subsidiary Bodies, seeking to formulate its conclusions and recommendations through consensus.
EC-XLVII, Dec. 6.1
(adopted by the IOC Executive Council at its 47th session, Paris, 1-4 July 2014)

IOC Capacity Development Strategy

The Executive Council,

Having considered document IOC/EC-XLVII/2 Annex 7,

Takes note of the “Draft Capacity Development Strategy” presented in the document;

Decides to reconstitute the Intersessional Working Group for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy, with the Vice-Chairperson responsible for capacity development as Chairperson, and with the Terms of Reference as annexed to this decision;

Instructs the Chair of the Intersessional Working Group for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy to submit the final draft of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy and associated documentation as referred to in the Annex to this decision to the IOC Assembly for adoption at its 28th Session in 2015;

Requests:

(i) the Executive Secretary to include the Draft Strategic Plan for Capacity Development on the agenda of the IOC Assembly at its 28th Session in 2015;

(ii) Member States to consider funding (as necessary) and supporting the activities leading to the formulation and adoption of the final version of the Capacity Development Strategy.

Annex to EC-XLVII, Dec. 6.1

Terms of Reference for the Intersessional Working Group for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy

PURPOSE

The Intersessional Working Group will develop the final draft of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy and associated documentation. This strategy will then be implemented through partnerships with Member States, donors, UN Agencies, global financial institutions and the private sector.

TERM

The Intersessional Working Group for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy, constituted at the 47th IOC Executive Council in 2014, will operate until the 28th Session of the IOC Assembly in 2015.

FUNCTIONS

(d) To organize a review of the draft of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy document, as submitted to the 47th Session of the IOC Executive Council (2014), by IOC Sub-Commissions, Regional and Technical Committees and other (relevant) subsidiary bodies of the IOC, to seek their advice and input to further improve the document.

(e) To identify, through consultations with the IOC Member States and IOC Sub-Commissions, Regional and Technical Committees and other (relevant) subsidiary bodies of the IOC and major programmes, elements of a draft work plan to be considered subsequent to the adoption of the Strategy.
Prepare a document for consideration by the 28th IOC Assembly in 2015 including the final draft of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy and preliminary elements of a draft work plan.

**COMPOSITION**

- The Vice-Chairperson of the IOC for Group V, Prof. Adoté Blim Blivi will serve as Chairperson;

- The Working Group will be open to all IOC Member States, IOC Secretariat members responsible for IOC Sub-Commissions, Regional and Technical Committees and other (relevant) subsidiary bodies of the IOC.

**WORKING ARRANGEMENTS**

- The Working Group will conduct the majority of its business by electronic means;

- The Chairperson may convene a face-to-face meeting, funded by Member States and/or extra-budgetary funding;

- The Group will follow procedures for IOC Subsidiary Bodies, seeking to formulate its conclusions and recommendations through consensus.