INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Forty-seventh Session of the Executive Council
UNESCO, Paris, 1 – 4 July 2014

ADOPTED BY CORRESPONDENCE
UNEDITED COPY

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT

Part 3

(Agenda items 3.1 (part II of decision), 6.3 (decision), 6.4, 6.5, 7.1–7.3, 8 & 9)
3.1 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED 
SINCE THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY 

[to insert in the report under 3.1 in Part 2]

Since the documentation related to the proposed second revision of the Terms of 
Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Joint IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee was 
made available only a week prior to the Executive Council, some Member States expressed 
concern that they had not had sufficient time to consider the proposed revisions. Three 
sessional working sessions took place to collect initial inputs from Member States as 
reflected in document IOC/EC-XLVII/2 Annex 4 Rev.2.

Concerning section II of Decision 3.1 the representatives of 5 Member States and 2 
organizations (IHO, GEBCO) took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide 
records of their plenary intervention on agenda item 3.1 (GEBCO) for the informational annex 
to the meeting report: China, Japan, Republic of Korea, U.K.

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLVII, Dec. 3.1 (II).

EC-XLVII, Dec.3.1 (part II)

 [...] Part 2]

II.

Revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the General 
Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Guiding Committee 

Having examined document IOC/EC-XLVII/2 Annex 4 Rev.2,
Recognizing the importance of cooperation between IOC and the International 
Hydrographic Organization (IHO) in the field of bathymetry,
Encourages Member States to voluntarily contribute to the improvement of global 
bathymetric data sets and data products of the IHO-IOC GEBCO Project;
Requests the Joint IHO–IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee to continue to use the 
current terms of reference and rules of procedure in order to allow IOC Member 
States sufficient time to review the proposed changes;
Requests also the Executive Secretary to circulate the draft of the terms of reference 
and rules of procedure of the Joint IHO–IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee as 
contained in IOC/EC-XLVII/2 Annex 4 rev.2, supported by background information;
Decides to have an item on the draft terms of reference and rules of procedure of the 
Joint IHO–IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee on the agenda of the 28th Session of the 
IOC Assembly.

 [...] Part 2]

6. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS 

[items 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 in Part 2]
6.3 IOC PROPOSAL FOR THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN EXPEDITION (50th ANNIVERSARY INITIATIVE)

The Executive Council adopted Resolution EC-XLVII.1

SECOND INTERNATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN EXPEDITION (IIOE-2)

The Executive Council,

Recalling Decision IOC-XXVII/Dec.5.1.2 that agreed:

(i) it is appropriate for IOC, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System (IOGOOS), to further develop a proposal for the second IIOE in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the First International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-1),

(ii) to add the International Indian Ocean Expedition 50th Anniversary Initiative to the agenda of the IOC Executive Council at its 47th Session in 2014 in order to formalize, through a Draft Resolution, IOC’s involvement in an IIOE-2, implemented for the period 2015–2020,

Recalling further that:

(i) IOC played a major role in the implementation of the IIOE-1,

(ii) IIOE-1 could not have succeeded without substantial international and intergovernmental collaboration and coordination,

(iii) IIOE-1, in addition to the major scientific results obtained, had a substantial and long-lasting impact on ocean science and applications in the Indian Ocean region and globally,

Having examined document IOC/EC-XLVII/2 Annex 9, on the Proposal for IOC involvement in the second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2),

Considering:

(i) that a number of major scientific activities have taken place since IIOE-1, which included substantial work in the Indian Ocean, such as the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE), Joint Global Ocean Flux Study (JGOFS), and Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research (SIBER) and the Indian Ocean Panel (IOP),

(ii) the major developments in ocean observing technology, communications and research capacity since IIOE-1, making it potentially easier and more cost-effective to undertake substantial ocean observing and data processing programmes,

Recognizing:

(i) that much remains unknown about the Indian Ocean and its interactions with and influence on the global ocean and atmosphere,

(ii) the importance of translating scientific knowledge into substantive economic and social benefits to Member States, both within the region and globally,

(iii) the added value to be gained through internationally collaborative investigations, above the value resulting from individual agency and national efforts alone,
Recognizing further:

(i) the importance of the Indian Ocean in coupled ocean-atmosphere processes influencing major climate phenomena such as the monsoon, as well as meteorological, climatological and hydrological extremes, including in waves, sea level, temperatures, currents, acidification, droughts, floods, that impact directly on countries in the region and more widely,

(ii) the need to characterize the cascade of scales that link open ocean with coastal processes in the Indian Ocean,

(iii) the need to ensure that the great advances currently being made by ocean science in the Indian Ocean and beyond, and that could further be made under an IIOE-2, must be connected to societal benefits through pathways that link science to users, particularly in developing countries, using capacity development activities as a major tool,

Decides to:

(i) adopt the IIOE-2 as a major initiative of the IOC, to be undertaken jointly with SCOR and IOGOOS;

(ii) entrust the development of a research plan for the IIOE-2 to SCOR in collaboration with IOC and IOGOOS and drawing on the outputs of the Reference Group meetings as presented in Document IOC/EC-XLVII/2 Annex 9, paras 6 and 7;

(iii) establish an Interim Planning Committee (Group of Experts) (IPC) for the IIOE-2, jointly with SCOR and IOGOOS, to undertake initial planning work, based on the research plan, and to report on this work to the Assembly at its 28th session in 2015, with membership and terms of reference for the IPC as given in the annex to this resolution;

Stresses the importance of an active and adequately funded Secretariat to support the work of the IPC and subsequently the implementation of IIOE-2;

Invites SCOR and IOGOOS to join with the IOC in co-sponsoring the IIOE-2 and establishing and supporting the IPC;

Invites further other interested and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular IOC’s partner organizations, to participate in and contribute to the success of the IIOE-2 initiative;

Urges Member States to:

(i) cooperate with and contribute to the IIOE-2 planning process, including in particular through providing funding and expertise for the IPC;

(ii) develop national plans to participate in the implementation of the IIOE-2;

(iii) identify national focal points and/or bodies to oversee the implementation of the IIOE-2 at the national level, and to inform the IOC Executive Secretary of such national contacts;

(iv) consider hosting and/or contributing to the establishment and maintenance of a regional secretariat/project office for the IIOE-2;

(v) where possible, provide funding and other support to the IOC Secretariat to assist in the planning and implementation of IIOE-2;

Requests IOC’s network of Regional Subsidiary Bodies, Committees and global programmes to formulate their contribution to and involvement in the IIOE-2, in close
coordination with the IPC, and in line with the research plan, and to report on this to the IOC Assembly at its 28th Session;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to:

(i) coordinate with SCOR and IOGOOS in the establishment of the IPC as a matter of urgency;

(ii) invite Member States to nominate experts to serve on the IPC;

(iii) assist in the planning for and implementation of the IIOE-2, within the available budgetary resources.

Annex to Resolution EC-XLVII.1

Terms of Reference of the Interim Planning Committee (Group of Experts) for IIOE-2

The Interim Planning Committee (Group of Experts) is established for a period of one year, to June 2015. It will be responsible for the initial planning for the IIOE-2, including the establishment of relevant programme coordinating bodies, the development of implementation plans based on the research plan to be prepared by SCOR in coordination with IOGOOS and IOC, and the identification and securing of resources for management and implementation of the programme. In particular the IPC will:

1. Propose to the IIOE-2 sponsoring organizations (IOC, SCOR and IOGOOS) the establishment of committees to oversee the planning and implementation of IIOE-2 (such as a Scientific Steering Committee, an Implementation Committee, and possible sub-committees on key elements such as data and information management, cruise coordination and capacity development and outreach), including terms of reference and membership,

2. Arrange for and coordinate the development of implementation, data and information management, and capacity development plans for the IIOE-2,

3. Engage other interested organizations in the planning of the IIOE-2, in particular IOC partner organizations and space agencies,

4. Develop a draft budget for planning and implementation of the IIOE-2, and identify and secure the resources required for this planning and implementation, including for secretariat support, in both IOC Paris and the proposed regional secretariat,

5. Propose and oversee a mechanism for the formal launch of the IIOE-2 in 2015,

6. Work largely by electronic correspondence, but with a minimum of two face-to-face meetings, depending on the availability of funds, to establish the IPC work programme and prepare the final report to the sponsoring organizations, and

7. Report in detail on these activities to the IOC Assembly at its 28th session in 2015.

Membership

Maximum of 15 members to be appointed jointly (10 nominated by IOC, 3 nominated by IOGOOS, and 2 nominated by SCOR) by the Executive Secretary of IOC, the President of SCOR and the Chair of IOGOOS, to provide the necessary range of scientific, technological, geographical and gender balance to ensure the success of the planning process and the full engagement of Member States and relevant scientific and technological organizations. Where possible and relevant, consideration
should be given to including those experts who have already been involved in and contributed to the initial, informal IIOE-2 planning process, as members of the IPC.

Nominations for the ten IOC members of the IPC will be invited from Member States by the IOC Executive Secretary immediately following the 47th session of the IOC Executive Council, with the final selection to be made by the IOC Executive Secretary, in consultation with the IOC Officers.

Criteria for selection of the Interim Planning Committee (Group of Experts)

1. Appropriate higher qualifications in one of the marine/ocean/maritime disciplines required for IIOE-2.

2. Extensive experience in planning and implementing major marine science projects, including field-based operations, and/or in marine data and information management and/or in marine capacity development and outreach.

3. Experience in working in the Indian Ocean region.

4. Experience in identifying and securing resources (cash and in-kind) and deployment and operation of multinational large research infrastructure required to implement major marine science projects.

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Financial implications:

For the period 2014–2015 (28th Assembly): implementation will be subject to identification of extrabudgetary funding.

For the period 2015–2020, the financial implications will be identified by the IPC and submitted to the IOC Assembly for examination at its 28th Session.

6.4 INTERNATIONAL POLAR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

The Head of the Ocean Observations Section, Dr Albert Fischer, introduced this item and reminded the Council that the International Polar Partnership Initiative (IPPI) is the evolution of the concept for the International Polar Decade (IPD). The IOC Assembly at its 26th session in 2011 (Decision 6.4) requested that the IOC Executive Secretary: “(a) cooperate with the WMO and other organizations in the preparation of the IPD; and (b) arrange for IOC representation in a multi-agency Steering Group, which, when established, will lead the IPD consultative process and prepare a draft IPD Concept document;” for consultation with an IOC governing body meeting.

Mr Vladimir Ryabinin (WCRP), who acted as secretariat to the IPPI Steering Group, presented the draft IPPI Concept which was refined at the most recent IPPI Steering Group (hosted by IOC, 10–11 February 2014). He emphasized that polar regions play an important role in climatic system and biogeochemical cycles. Changes in the polar regions have very significant global implications and are anticipated to increase in the decades to come. Economic activity in the rapidly changing Arctic Ocean region is increasing. The polar environment affects the Earth system influencing weather patterns, extreme events world-
wide and economic sustainability. The understanding of physical and biogeochemical processes in these regions is limited, with the sparseness of observations seen as a major factor.

The draft IPPI Concept recognizes the existence of a wide range of common polar interests and objectives, many polar stakeholders, and therefore emphasizes an ability to accommodate bottom-up ideas from science communities and more centralized coordination needed to achieve practical results. He stressed that the draft IPPI Concept is designed to address the polar objectives of participating organizations in the most economical way by increasing coordination and the sharing of research. IOC programmes stand to both contribute to the IPPI, through research and observations; as well as benefit from the coordination of knowledge-gathering from the IPPI through meeting objectives related to science, the development of services, and improved Member State decision-making related to polar issues.

The draft IPPI Concept requires further articulation of tangible benefits and outcomes, and Member State feedback on this was sought. Other IPPI stakeholders are also being consulted with a view to presenting a final IPPI proposal for consideration by international organizations in 2015.

The representatives of 12 Member States (and one other organization) took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Australia, Canada, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Republic of Korea.

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLVII, Dec. 6.4.

International Polar Partnership Initiative

The Executive Council,

Having considered the IPPI Concept document (IOC/EC-XLVII/2 Annex 10),

Reiterates the interest of having IOC involved in the IPPI Concept development, firmly associated with existing IOC research, observation, data management, and services programmes;

Provides the following advice for improving the IPPI Concept paper:

(i) the added value of the IPPI to existing programmes should be clearly identified,
(ii) the scientific and societal value of the outputs of the IPPI should be identified,
(iii) the scope, objectives and expected results of the IPPI should be clearly identified,
(iv) it should describe the potential synergies with other polar initiatives,

Invites the IPPI Steering Group to seek active participation from other international and intergovernmental organizations relevant to the IPPI.

Requests the Executive Secretary to continue participation in the IPPI Steering Group and in shaping the IPPI proposal, and to report to the 28th session of the IOC Assembly in 2015.

Requests the Executive Secretary to work towards the IPPI being developed in close coordination and consultation with Parties to the Antarctic Treaty and related agreements, and members of the Arctic Council.

6.5 CONTRIBUTION TO UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVES (UN-OCEANS, SDG PROCESS, UN SIDS CONFERENCE)

8 The Technical Secretary, Mr Julian Barbière, introduced the IOC contribution to various ocean–related UN inter-agency activities. As the focal point within the UN system for ocean sciences, observations, services, data and information exchange and capacity development, IOC contributes to a number of UN processes, responds to the needs expressed by the UN General Assembly, and plays an active role in UN inter-agency mechanisms and activities.

9 Mr Barbière highlighted a number of UN initiatives related to the Ocean, namely: (i) UN-Oceans, the UN inter-agency coordination mechanism on ocean affairs, whose new terms of reference have been endorsed by the UN General Assembly in December 2013 through resolution A/Res/68/70; (ii) the on-going UN negotiations related to formulation of a set of the Sustainable Development Goals in the post 2015/MDG context; (iii) the preparations for the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States (1–4 September 2014) in Samoa; (iv) the IOC contribution to the UN World Ocean Assessment and its report to be released by the end of 2014; and (v) UN Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction.

10 No representatives of Member States took the floor.

The Executive Council adopted Decision EC-XLVII, Dec. 6.5.

**Contribution to United Nations initiatives**

The Executive Council,

Having considered document IOC/INF-1317,

Takes note and welcomes the active role played by the Commission in UN-Oceans, the elaboration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the preparation to the UN
Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the World Ocean Assessment, and the UN negotiations related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond national Jurisdiction;

Notes further that the financial and human resource implications of the Commission's engagement in these processes are generally being absorbed by programme budgets identified as part of the overall IOC Programme and Budget (2014–2015); and

Calls on IOC and UNESCO Member States to support IOC’s role and contributions in these processes by:

(i) Engaging in the review process of the World Ocean Assessment report;

(ii) integrating the importance of the ocean and the contribution of IOC, into their preparation and statements for the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States (1–4 September 2014) in Samoa; the further elaboration and implementation of the SDGs, including their monitoring; as well as the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond national Jurisdiction.

7. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

7.1 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Financial Committee reported to the Executive Council on the results of the Committee’s review of the Report on Budget Execution 2012–2013, Programme and Budget for 2014–2017 and Workplans 2014–2015 and the proposals of the Complementary Additional Programme of Extrabudgetary Resources for 2014–2015) in accordance with Rule of procedure 8.1(c). He informed the Executive Council that the Financial Committee had several very productive meetings and thanked the Member States that participated in its consensual in-depth discussions in the spirit of constructive collaboration. He informed that the draft resolution was prepared by the Financial Committee for consideration by the Executive Council.

The complete text of the report of the Chair on the discussions in the Financial Committee is attached to this report as Annex xx.

The Executive Council was unanimous in congratulating the Chairman of the Financial Committee for the exceptional quality of his leadership and the considerable work accomplished in a short period of time.

Grenada, supported by the United States of America, suggested that the reporting on the financial situation of the IOC could be further improved by accounting for in-kind contributions and national investments of Member States in the IOC programme areas, based on written statements provided by Member States.
The representatives of three Member States took the floor. The following Member States chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report.

The Executive Council adopted Resolution EC-XLVII.2

Financial matters of the Commission

The Executive Council,

Having examined documents IOC/EC-XLVII/2 Annex 2 Rev., IOC/EC-XLVII/2 Annex 3 Rev. and IOC/EC-XLVII/2 Annex 3 Addendum,

Confirms that the IOC budget for 2012-2013 has been executed in accordance with the approved Programme and Budget for 2012–2013 (36 C/5) and the Priority Funding Plan adopted by the IOC Executive Council in its decision EC-XLV/Dec.5.1;

Expresses great concern for the impact of the financial difficulties of UNESCO on the delivery of the IOC programmes, with the reduction of the IOC budget from US $12,026,200 in the approved Programme and Budget for 2014-2015 (37 C/5) to US $8,643,600 under the US $507 M expenditure plan for 2014-2015 (or 72% of the 37 C/5 approved);

Further expresses great dissatisfaction with the fact that the budgetary allocation to the IOC for the biennium 2014-2015 at the level of 72% of the 37 C/5 approved is not consistent with the recommendations of the 5th special session of UNESCO Executive Board (Paris, 4 July 2013) to allocate between 100% and 80% to high priority Expected Results, like those of the IOC;

Recognizes the efforts of the IOC Executive Secretary to maintain programme continuity under these challenging circumstances and the difficulty to fully implement the guiding principles adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 27th session (Resolution XXVII-2(C), Annex 2), given that the Assembly provided its recommendation on a scenario with an allocation of 86% (and not 72%) of the 37 C/5 approved budget;

Welcomes the programmatic choices of the IOC Executive Secretary;


Expresses its appreciation to the IOC Executive Secretary for the development of a Complementary Additional Programme (CAP) of Extrabudgetary Resources (Proposals for 2014-2015) contained in document IOC/EC-XLVII/2 Annex 3 Addendum;

Further expresses its thanks to Member States who have already contributed to the CAP, and;

Urges all Member States to provide voluntary contributions for the financing of the CAP, preferably to the IOC Special Account;

Further urges Member States to:

(i) continue to advocate to the UNESCO Director-General and the Governing Bodies of UNESCO the importance of IOC as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO, focusing in particular on the value that IOC
provides to UNESCO and to the sustainable development of coastal areas and islands;

(ii) support the reinforcement of the IOC in the consultation process for the UNESCO Draft Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5);

Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to:

(i) consider further reinforcement of IOC in this biennium as well as in the Draft 38 C/5 in order to address current and emerging priorities;

(ii) request the Governing Bodies of UNESCO to ensure that resources allocated to the IOC in the Draft 38 C/5 be clearly identified in the appropriation resolution;

(iii) maintain all IOC activities in a single Main Line of Action in the Draft 38 C/5 entitled “Promoting knowledge and capacity for protecting and sustainably managing the ocean and coasts”;

Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to:

(i) prepare a Draft Programme and Budget for 2016–2017 to be submitted to the IOC Assembly at its 28th Session, based on the guiding principles adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 27th session (Resolution XXVII-2(C), Annex 2), and consistent with the high level objectives defined in the IOC Medium Term Strategy for 2014-2021; and

(ii) support the work of the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group by providing timely information on the UNESCO budgetary planning process;

Further requests the Intersessional Financial Advisory Group to provide guidance to the IOC Executive Secretary in preparing the Draft Programme and Budget for 2016-2017;

Invites the Chairperson of the IOC to forward this Resolution to the Director-General of UNESCO.

7.2 SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE IOC GOVERNING BODIES IN FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT INSPECTION UNIT’S (JIU) RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE METHODS OF WORK OF UNESCO’S INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

The Executive Secretary informed the Council that an audit of the Governance of UNESCO and dependent entities, funds, and programmes, including the IOC had been initiated at the request of the UNESCO General Conference (37 C/Resolution 96). This audit has been entrusted to the External Auditor with a view to formulating governance reform and cost-saving measures for the next General Conference of UNESCO in 2015 and was addressed to the IOC governing bodies, through its chairman in May 2014. In the framework of this strategic performance review, the governing bodies of IOC are invited to “perform a self-assessment of the overall relevance of their work in relation to their specific terms of reference as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of their meetings, including the impact and utility of
"experts' time", with the IOC Secretariat limiting its role to providing factual information as is necessary. Responses to self-assessment questionnaires are expected by 2 September 2014. The documentation for the audit and its timeline were available as an information document for this session (IOC/EC-XLVII/Inf.3).

The Chairman, to whom the audit is addressed, suggested that the Officers be entrusted with this task with the advice of intersessional working groups dealing with financial matters and the future of the Commission, if any. He pointed out that the way the governing bodies organized themselves to answer the audit would also be interpreted as an element of their performance.

The Executive Council was unanimous in recognizing the importance of using the opportunity presented by the UNESCO Governance Audit exercise to communicate the key messages on which there is consensus to UNESCO Governing Bodies, in particular as regards the intergovernmental nature of the Commission and its special status as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO. It expressed concern about the extremely tight timeframe of the exercise, which presents a serious challenge in terms of inclusiveness and, therefore, legitimacy of the information to be transmitted to the External Auditors. The Executive Council invited the IOC Officers to consult extensively within their respective regional groups, soliciting the opinion of all IOC Member States and ensuring that commonly agreed high level priorities are emphasized but diverging views and nuances of opinions that may be expressed on various items are also reflected.

The representatives of 10 Member States took the floor. One Member State chose to provide records of their plenary intervention on this agenda item for the informational annex to the meeting report: Republic of Korea.

The Executive Council adopted EC-XLVII, Dec. 7.2

Self-Assessment of the IOC Governing Bodies in Follow-up to the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit’s (JIU) Recommendations Concerning the Methods of Work of UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Bodies

The Executive Council,

Having considered the elements of the audit, in particular the two questionnaires and the financial analysis table to be answered by the governing bodies of IOC,
Stresses the need that the unique role of IOC in the UN system in relation to ocean science and the scientific base for ocean management and its position as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO be reflected in any nomenclature of UNESCO's intergovernmental bodies or any other parts of the final governance review document;

Requests the Executive Secretary to seek further clarification from the External Auditor on the methodology that will be used for the assessment;

Entrusts the IOC Officers, in consultation with IOC Member States, to answer the audit on behalf of the governing bodies of the Commission taking into account advice already received from the open-ended intersessional working groups dealing with financial matters and the Future of IOC;

Reserves the right of the IOC Assembly at its 28th session in June 2015 to comment on the information related to the Commission in the interim synthesis document prepared by the External Auditor before submission of its final report by 15 July 2015, and to submit its comments on the recommendations of the audit report to the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

7.3 PREPARATION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY AND NEXT SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Secretary introduced this item. She highlighted that the duration of the governing body sessions had regularly decreased over a period of seven years: from 10 to 6 days for the Assembly and from 7 to 3.5 days for the Executive Council. Budgets of governing bodies have reduced by 40% over the same period. With reference to funding, she reminded that the next sessions of the governing bodies will be organized as required by IOC statutes and rules but with diminishing funding, a difficulty faced by all governing bodies in UNESCO. The current self-assessment of their performance as governing bodies may lead to a consensus by Member States on new principles that will guide intergovernmental meetings in the future, using available levers of change: periodicity of sessions, governance structure, funding, etc. On this line, the Executive Secretary encouraged Member States to be pro-active in this evaluation process. She also reiterated her invitation to Member States to host governing body sessions such as it is done for many IOC subsidiary bodies and to consider the possibility of providing voluntary extrabudgetary contributions. Portugal noted that this proposal, when presented in previous Governing Bodies of IOC, was not considered timely under the present situation.

She reminded the Council that the Assembly did not give clear indication of duration and dates for its next session. The Officers recommended that the Assembly should be held over six working days to be decided from 15 to 30 June 2015,
preceded by a one-day 48th session of the Executive Council. With help of delegates she then reminded of the scheduled or anticipated dates of major international commitments of the oceanographic communities and IOC’s partners over the period considered, in particular the 17th WMO Congress and 67th Executive Council (25 May –17 June 2015) and the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP) for which dates were not known.

With regard to future IOC memorial lectures, the Executive Secretary referred to the list of themes proposed by the Assembly at its last session (IOC-XXVII/Dec.6.6), to mention one additional recommendation by the Officers for the IOC Anton Bruun Memorial Lecture: Oceans and Human Health by Lora E. Fleming.

The Executive Council reiterated that in accord with previous decisions of the Governing Bodies the Future of IOC will be retained as an agenda item of the 28th Session of the Assembly.

The representatives of five Member States took the floor.

The Executive Council adopted EC-XLVII, Dec.7.3

**Preparation of the 28th Session of the Assembly and Next Sessions of the Executive Council**

The Executive Council,

Recalling Decisions 6.5 and 6.6 of the Assembly at its 27th session,

Decides to hold:

(i) the 28th session of the Assembly in 2015 for a duration of six working days from 18 to 25 June preceded by a one day 48th session of the Executive Council on 17 June, while requesting the Executive Secretary to ensure the documentation is available to Member States in accordance with the deadlines set out in Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure;

(ii) the 49th session of the Executive Council during June 2016 on dates yet to be decided;

Proposes the following themes for each of the IOC memorial lectures:

(i) IOC Anton Bruun Memorial Lecture, 2015:
    - Arctic Sea Ice (Dr Robie MacDonald)
    - Oceans and Human Health (Lora E, Fleming)

(ii) IOC N.K. Panikkar Memorial Lecture, 2015:
    - Challenger Glider Mission (Dr Scott Glenn, University of Rutgers),
    - 50th anniversary of the Indian Ocean Expedition, past and present and future,
Canadian Rangers Ocean Watch (Dr Eddy Carmack),
- Impact of IOC Capacity Building for Tsunami Warning System within a region,
- Capacity development on Harmful Algal Blooms (Prof. FUKUYO Yasuwo)
(iii) IOC Roger Revelle Lecture, 2016:
- Ocean Chemistry and Ocean Acidification (Dr Richard Feely),
- Protected Marine Areas-Malpelo, one of the UNESCO’s World Heritage marine sites (Dr Sandra Bessudo).

8. REPORT

The Chairman of the Resolutions Committee reported to the Executive Council on the work of the Resolutions Committee during the session (Annex ___ to the present report).

The IOC Chairman then invited the Executive Council to adopt, in plenary, the draft resolutions that were still pending after discussion in plenary.

The Rapporteur for the session introduced the draft summary report.

The Executive Secretary quickly reminded the Council that working arrangements had greatly evolved since 2011 to adapt to the financial crisis which required efforts from Member States. Responses to the evaluation questionnaire prove that this evolution is not to the detriment of the efficiency of the governing bodies. She concluded in encouraging even greater interaction with the Secretariat to progress on this path, conscious that we are reaching limits to the efforts possible in the present context.

The draft summary report was prepared in three parts and translated into the four IOC languages. The Executive Council was unable to complete the approval process within the time allotted for the session. Item 6 of part 2 and all of part 3 will be approved through correspondence, wherein heads of delegation will receive the drafts by email and will be expected to submit revisions within not more than three weeks following receipt.

9. CLOSURE

In concluding the session, the Chairman expressed his personal appreciation of the Executive Secretary’s support over her tenure, and thanked her for her service
to IOC on behalf of all the IOC Member States. In response to the Chair and various messages from the floor, the Executive Secretary addressed the Council with a concluding statement (Annex __).

The Executive Council met in plenary session during 3.5 days from 1st to 4 July 2014, considered 24 items on its agenda and approved 18 decisions and 2 resolutions. The plenary meeting was supported by some 13 preparatory and sessional group meetings and 8 information side meetings during the session. The Chair of the Commission closed the 47th Session of the Executive Council at 12:50 on Friday 4 July 2014.