To: Official National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with the IOC in the Member States of IOC Electoral Group V

c. Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States (Electoral Group V)
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States (Electoral Group V)
IOC and IOCAFRICA Officers

Subject: Invitation to a “Forum on Sustained Ocean Observations and Services in IOC Group V (Africa and Arab countries)”, 11–13 April 2015, Nairobi, Kenya

Action required: To nominate one or two experts to the Forum, preferably no later than 20 March 2015

You may recall that the IOC Executive Council at its 45th session (Paris, 26–28 June 2012) decided, through EC-XLV/Decision 4.2 (The Future Needs for Intergovernmental Coordination and Governance for Sustained Ocean Observations & Services) “to establish an inter-sessional consultation of all Member States and coordinated by a Vice-Chair to identify scientific and technical issues within the IOC mission and mandate, in order to improve IOC’s activities in the area of sustained ocean observations and services”.

To this end, we would like to inform you that the “Forum on Sustained Ocean Observations and Services in IOC Group V (Africa and Arab countries)” will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, 11–13 April 2015 under the leadership of IOC Vice Chairman for Group V, Prof. Adoté Blim Blivi. This forum is organized before the Third Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA-III, 13–15 April) and after the Second Sino-African forum on Marine Science and Technology (9–10 April). This forum is sponsored by the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) with the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

The forum will focus on:
  - Taking stock of current status of ocean observations and services in Group V;

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Prof. Adoté Blim BLIVI
Chef de Recherche
Head of CGILE
Ministère de l’Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche
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TOGO
- Identifying ocean observation and forecasting requirements that contribute to human, economy and environmental security in Group V;
- Elaborating elements of a core ocean observation and forecasting system, delivering societal benefits for Group V; and
- Enhancing opportunities for collaboration in the development of operational oceanography for Group V.

The agenda for the forum is as follows:

**Saturday 11 April 2015 – Reports from the Participants**

1. Current status of national operational oceanography for ocean observations and services in IOC Group V (including relevant national and regional programmes)
2. Experiences in developing operational oceanography in other regions

**Sunday 12 April 2015 – Study tour**

**Monday 13 April 2015 – Discussion among the participants**

3. Future perspectives of operational oceanography in Group V including capacity development and collaboration
4. Strategic recommendations on implementing operational oceanography to Member States of Group V and IOC

The results of the Forum will be presented to the third session of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (13–15 April 2015, Nairobi, Kenya).

Similar Forums/workshops have already been held as follows:

(i) Operational Oceanography of IOC for Group II (20-22 March 2012, Varna, Bulgaria)
(ii) Forum on the Present Status of Sustained Ocean Observations and Services in Caribbean and Latin America Countries (Group III) (6-8 March 2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
(iii) Forum on Charting the Future of Sustained Ocean Observations and Services in Indo-Pacific Ocean Countries (Group IV) (26–28 November 2013, Bangkok, Thailand).
(iv) The Role and Scope of the IOC in Marine Science and in the Global Ocean Observing System (Group I) (26-27 May 2014, Utrecht, The Netherlands)

We invite you to identify a maximum of two Heads, or representatives, of marine scientific or meteorological institutes/academic faculties, or operational agencies in your country, to attend the Forum using the attached application form. The completed forms should be sent, preferably no later than **20 March 2015**, to Mr Mika Odido, Technical Secretary of IOCAFRICA ([m.odido@unesco.org](mailto:m.odido@unesco.org)) with a copy to Mr David Kirenga ([d.kirenga@unesco.org](mailto:d.kirenga@unesco.org)) and Ms Jiae Shin ([j.shin@kiost.ac](mailto:j.shin@kiost.ac)). The selection priority in attending the Forum should be given to experts who have authority over a functional entity with manpower/ equipment/ infrastructural resources, especially with the authority to present the current status of ocean observation and services in your country and perspectives of development thereof. Financial assistance, regrettably except flight ticket, would be provided for the selected participants of the Forum.
We take this opportunity to thank you once again for your cooperation and look forward to the active participation of suitable experts from your country in this Forum.

Yours sincerely,

[signed] [signed]

Adoté Blim Blivi Ms Flavia Schlegel
IOC Vice Chairman for Group V Executive Secretary (ad interim)

Enclosure: Nomination form
Application for attending a “Forum on Sustained Ocean Observations and Services in IOC Group V (Africa and Arab countries)”, 11–13 April 2015, Nairobi, Kenya

NOMINATION FORM

The Government of ……………………………………………………………………… proposes the nomination of the following expert to participate in the Forum:

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□ Other, please specify  

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<th>Experience of strategic planning, policy formulation and/or marine scientific research, observations</th>
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☐ Participation of the expert is financially supported by a national authority:

______________________________________________________

Date: .......................................................... (Signature of IOC National Focal Point)
Please return the completed form with your Curriculum Vitae, by e-mail to the following address before 20 March 2015:

Dr Mika Odido
IOCAFRICA Office at UNESCO
Nairobi, Kenya
E-mail: m.odido@unesco.org

with a copy to:
Mr David Kirenga
IOCAFRICA Office at UNESCO
Nairobi, Kenya
E-mail: d.kirenga@unesco.org

and
Ms Jiae Shin
IOC Chairman’s Office
Ansan, R. O. Korea
E-mail: j.shin@kiost.ac