INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Twenty-eighth Session of the Assembly

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY REPORT

Part 4

(Agenda items 3.5, 4 (decision), 7.1.3, 9.1, 11 & 12)

Unedited version as adopted on 25 July 2015 in plenary session
3. STATE OF THE IOC, ITS REGIONAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND ITS PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

3.5 REPORT OF THE IOC (2014–2015) TO THE THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO

1 The Executive Secretary introduced this item. He gave a brief overview of the highlights of this period and explained that, similarly to the report of the Executive Secretary on programme implementation, the reporting was done under the six functions identified in the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2014–2021. He brought to the attention of the Assembly that the document also gives a brief introduction on the IOC status, mission and vision, given that this will be the first report to the General Conference under the current Medium-Term Strategy.

2 The Assembly agreed that the report could benefit from an analytical section on the challenges encountered and lessons learned in the process of programme implementation over the covered period, as well as from reflecting the main outcomes and messages from this session of the Assembly.

3 The representatives of two 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: Kenya.

4 The Assembly adopted Decision IOC-XXVIII, Dec. 3.5 below.


The Assembly,
Recalling Article 3.2 of the Statutes and Rule of Procedure 49.2,
Having examined document IOC-XXVIII/6,
Requests the Executive Secretary to update, in consultation with the Officers, the current version of the report taking into account the main outcomes of the Assembly and including a section on challenges and lessons learnt; and submit the report on IOC activities (2014–2015) to the 38th General Conference of UNESCO (38 C/REP.9).

4. THE FUTURE OF IOC (continuation)

[...] Completes the report on item 4 published in Part 1 of the Draft Summary Report

5 The Assembly adopted Decision IOC-XXVIII, Dec. 4. Rev. below.

The Future of the IOC

The Assembly,
Having considered the report of the Chair of the Inter-sessional Working Group on the Future of IOC (IOC-XXVIII/2 Annex 4),
Noting the consensus reached by IOC Member States that the IOC Governing Bodies should maintain in their agendas an item and mechanism to enable Member States to continuously reflect and exchange ideas on this highly strategic and important subject,

Recognizing the financial difficulties currently faced by UNESCO and the IOC,

Expresses its appreciation to Professor Peter M. Haugan for his leadership and contribution to the work of the inter-sessional working group;

Decides that the process to be followed in order to frame the action of the governing bodies of IOC will be structured in two phases:

(i) one for immediate action by entrusting the Officers of the Commission with the mission of raising awareness on, and clarifying within UNESCO the special statutes of IOC, emphasizing its functional autonomy and its role of intergovernmental specialized mechanism within the framework of UNESCO and in cooperation with the relevant UN system organization whose interest and activities are related to its purposes;

(ii) a second phase, during the intersessional period, for in-depth consideration by Member States, with a view of ensuring to the Commission the required institutional and operational sustainability exploring, among others, the possibilities offered by Article 10 of the IOC statutes;

Requests the Officers with the support of the Executive Secretary to develop the messages adapted to specific audiences about the societal benefits of IOCs mission, programmes and activities based on the input from the sessional working group and the discussions in plenary, and to convey it clearly and explicitly in a timely fashion to UNESCO and other UN organizations;

Encourages Member States to use this common message as a reference to assist them in raising the profile of the mandate and work of the IOC and related capabilities in fostering a common national approach in intergovernmental fora;

Further requests the Executive Secretary, in close consultation with the Officers, to explore ways of increasing IOCs strategic and functional visibility using a range of communication tools, and its contribution to the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals consistent with IOCs vision and report back to the Executive Council at its 49th session;

Decides that the inter-sessional work on this subject should continue under the leadership of the IOC Officers with a view of providing a fully developed document with recommendation to the IOC Executive Council at its 49th session in 2016.

7. OBSERVING SYSTEMS AND DATA MANAGEMENT

7.1 OBSERVING SYSTEMS

7.1.3 Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)

The Co-President of the Joint IOC-WMO Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), Nadia Pinardi, introduced this item. JCOMM is a Primary Subsidiary Body of the IOC Assembly and reports under IOC Rule of Procedure 48.3.

Dr Pinardi, reported on the activities of the Commission within the framework of the evolving JCOMM Strategy, 2012–2017 (2014, version 3). The JCOMM
strategic priorities of: (i) weather and ocean forecasting; (ii) disaster risk reduction; (iii) Global Framework for Climate Services; (iv) WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) and WMO Information System (WIS) implementation; and (v) capacity development guide the activities of JCOMM, connecting science and technology to WMO and IOC Member States’ need for services and knowledge for sustainable development. Dr Pinardi informed the IOC Assembly of activities including: JCOMM’s new Cross Cutting Task Team on Integrated Marine Meteorological and Oceanographic Services for WIS (TT-MOWIS) to improve the interoperability with WIS of the near real time and delayed mode data sets of ocean observations, as well as of analysis and forecasting products; the successful transition of the JCOMM in situ Observing Programme Support Centre (JCOMMOPS) to Brest, France in March 2015; and the IOCAFRICA-JCOMM African Summer School on Application of Ocean and Coastal Data and Modelling Products.

Dr Pinardi reported on recent developments under JCOMM with regard to the establishment of a network of Centres for Marine-Meteorological and Oceanographic Climate Data (CMOCs). The Assembly was informed of the successful evaluation by JCOMM of the application of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS) in Tianjin, China to become a CMOC, and noted the adoption by WMO-CG-17 of Resolution CG-17 4.2.3(3)/1 (Designation of the Centre for Marine Meteorological and Oceanographic Climate Data—CMOC in Tianjin, China), subject to parallel approval by the IOC Assembly at this session. The Assembly thanked China for its commitment in this regard, noting the substantial benefits expected from the CMOCs to addressing the needs of IODE, GOOS and JCOMM.

The Assembly appreciated the work JCOMM does in support of all IOC High Level Objectives through its primary mandate to coordinate ocean and meteorological observation systems. Recognizing that the majority of observation networks depend on research funding and that a lack of sustained funding models for the networks continues to be a risk for the system, the Assembly called upon Member States to maintain their substantial commitments to JCOMM programmes. The Member States encouraged JCOMM to engage regional activities, such as GRAs, ODINs, RMICs, and the CMOC network, and emphasized the value to JCOMM of participation in the IIOE-2.

China welcomed the strong support of Member States for the approval of the CMOC in Tianjin, and reiterated its support for the CMOC and other regional activities.

The representatives of 7 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: Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand.

The Assembly adopted Decision IOC-XXVIII,Dec.7.1.3 below.

Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)

The Assembly,
I. JCOMM Activities

Having examined the reports of 4th Session of JCOMM and the 11th Session of the JCOMM Management Committee,

Notes with appreciation the financial and in kind support provided to JCOMMOPS by France (Ifremer, CLS, Brest métropole, département Finistère, and région Bretagne), as well as the financial support of many other Member State organizations; and urges Member States to continue their support to JCOMMOPS;

Agrees to consider an overall JCOMM programme and budget as a part of the IOC Programme and Budget resolution XXVIII-3;

Notes the formation of the JCOMM Task Team on Integrated Marine Meteorological and Oceanographic Services for WIS (TT-MOWIS);

Encourages Member States to propose experts to participate in the TT-MOWIS;

II. Establishment of a Centre for Marine-Meteorological and Oceanographic Climate Data (CMOC)

Recalling decisions by the IOC Executive Council and World Meteorological Congress:

(i) IOC EC-XLV,Dec.3.2 accepting WMO-IOC/JCOMM-4/3s Report of the Fourth Session of the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), and Recommendation 2 contained therein, including Terms of Reference for CMOCs, and mechanism for formal appointment of a CMOC,

(ii) WMO Resolution 4.2.3(03)/1 (Cg-17) Designation of the Centre For Marine-Meteorological And Oceanographic Climate Data (CMOC) In Tianjin, China,

Noting the Summary Background for New Centres for Marine-Meteorological and Oceanographic Climate Data in Tianjin, China as reported in the Report by the co-presidents,

Welcomes the proposal from China to run a CMOC at the National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS) of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), China;

Acknowledges the successful demonstration provided by the National Marine Data and Information Service, China, regarding its capability to run a CMOC, including statement of compliance and commitment in terms of CMOC capabilities and corresponding functions, in accordance with the procedures and criteria established by JCOMM, and the IOC International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE);

Approves the establishment of a Centre for Marine-Meteorological and Oceanographic Climate Data (CMOC) at the National Marine Data and Information Service (NMDIS) of State Oceanic Administration (SOA) in Tianjin, China (CMOC/China).

9. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

9.1 REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE IOC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Chair of the Intersessional Working Group for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy, Prof. Adoté Blim Blivi introduced this item. He recalled that the IOC Executive Council, at its 47th session, through Decision EC-XLVII/Dec. 6.1, had decided to reconstitute the Intersessional Working Group for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy.
Development Strategy and had instructed the Chair of the Group to submit the final draft of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy and associated documentation to this session of the Assembly.

14 He reported that in response to IOC Circular Letter, 2531 (August 2014) 36 Member States designated members to the Intersessional Working Group. A first draft of a revised Strategic Plan was circulated to the members of the Group as well as to IOC programme managers by email on 1 December 2014. This resulted in 16 responses and a revised version of the Strategic Plan. A face-to-face meeting of the Intersessional Working Group was held at UNESCO Headquarters on 16–18 February 2015. The meeting was attended by 18 participants from 13 Member States. The meeting further revised the Strategic Plan document, “IOC Capacity Development Strategy for 2015-2021” including extensive background information in annexes. In order to ensure the widest possible awareness of the document amongst IOC communities of practice, the group recommended that presentations on the Strategy be delivered at IODE-XXIII, IOCAFRIICA-III, IOCARIBE-XIII and WESTPAC-X before the Assembly.

15 A sessional working group further reviewed and revised the draft resolution and strategy document.

16 This strategic framework provides six recommendations and 13 activities detailed in numerous actions. The recommendations call for investing in people and the institutions of which they are a part, enhancing access to scientific tools and methodologies, reinforcing IOC’s capabilities to provide services to Member States, enhancing the communication between scientific and policy makers communities, expanding ocean literacy in civil society and mobilizing resources to accomplish these goals. While this framework provides general guidance on elements of an implementation plan yet to be developed, it explores venues for elevating IOC’s impact to the scale required. The conclusions identify elements of a draft work plan including conducting needs assessments to establish CD work plans, mobilizing associated resources and enhanced communication and collaboration.

17 The Assembly welcomed the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021) emphasizing that capacity development is a key function of the IOC.

18 The Assembly stressed the need to measure the effectiveness and impact of the new strategy on a regular basis in order to identify and address any weaknesses, and to further fine-tune the strategy. The secretariat was instructed to publish the IOC Capacity Development Strategy, 2015–2021.

19 The Assembly advised that implementation of the strategy should provide special attention to young researchers and their requirements.

20 The representatives of 15 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: Australia, China, France, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Tanzania, USA

21 The Assembly adopted Resolution XXVIII-2 submitted by Japan, USA, Belgium, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Portugal and India.
11. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

11.1 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE ON THE IOC DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2016–2017 (DRAFT 38 C/5)

The Chair of the Financial Committee reported to the Assembly on the results of the Committee’s review of the Report on Budget Execution 2014 and Draft Programme and Budget for 2016–2017, in accordance with Rule of procedure 8.1(c). He informed the Assembly 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 then made a detailed presentation of the work carried out by the Committee, its main conclusions and recommendations reflected in the draft resolution prepared by the Financial Committee for consideration by the Assembly.

The Assembly 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.

The Assembly adopted Resolution XXVIII-3 submitted by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, Kenya, Korea (Republic of), Malaysia, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

11.2 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 Assembly 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 38th 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 review, the governing bodies of IOC were 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 necessary.

This item was included in the agenda of the IOC Executive Council at its 47th session (1–4 July 2014). Through EC-XLVII/Decision 7.2, the Executive Council stressed ‘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’ and entrusted 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 inter-sessional working groups dealing with financial matters and the Future of IOC.

27 The IOC Chair submitted all the requested information by the deadline, following an elaborate consultative process with the Commission’s Officers and Member States, while the Secretariat provided some additional factual information, as contained in IOC-XXVIII/Inf-4.

28 The interim report of the External Auditor to the 196th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (196 EX/23.INF5) contains a number of observations and suggestions concerning the IOC that, in the Secretariat’s opinion, will require a follow-up with the external auditor’s team, following its review and discussion by the Assembly.

29 The Executive Secretary further informed the Assembly that on 16 June the External Auditor shared with the UNESCO Secretariat a draft audit report on governance for comments prior to its finalization. This provisional draft is available in French only and the external auditors have conveyed their apologies for any inconveniences this may cause. The Chair of IOC is invited to transmit comments directly to the External Auditor by 3 July 2016. The Secretariat is invited to provide comments from its perspective to indicate: (i) factual corrections and (ii) to indicate, for recommendations addressed to the Secretariat, whether there would be any difficulties in implementation. Lack of response will indicate a validation of factual content for the External Auditor.

30 The Secretariat will be working in close collaboration with the UNESCO Legal Advisor to prepare comments and will provide every support required for the formal communication from Chair on behalf of the Officers and Member States of the Commission.

31 No Member States took the floor.

32 The Assembly adopted Decision IOC-XXVIII/Dec.11.2 below.

**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 Assembly,

*Having considered* the elements of the audit and in particular the two questionnaires submitted by the Chair of IOC and the interim report of the external auditor to the 196th session of the UNESCO Executive Board,

*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;

*Entrusts* the IOC Chair and Officers, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to follow up with the team of the external auditor on behalf of the governing bodies of the Commission to ensure that all inconsistencies or recommendations that did not meet the approval of the IOC Assembly be clearly pointed out and, to the extent possible,
11.3 ELECTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Captain Javier Valladares, Chair of the Nominations Committee reported on this item. He informed the Assembly that all the nomination forms received as of Friday 18 June 2015 at 18.00 hrs by the Committee were valid and had therefore been forwarded to the Assembly as document IOC-XXVIII/NOM/WP3.

He further informed Assembly that: (i) Vanuatu and Palau – both belonging to Electoral Group IV had joined IOC since the 27th Session of the Assembly; (ii) the number of seats on the Executive Council had not changed since the 25th Session of the Assembly; and (iii) following the adoption of Resolution XXV-15 concerning the expansion of the quota of seats of Group II, the allocation of seats for Groups I and II, starting after the 25th Session of the Assembly, would be 10 seats for Group I and 3 seats for Group II; (iv) the quotas of seats for Groups III, IV and V remain unchanged.

11.3.1 Election of the Chair of the Commission

The Assembly noted that there was only one candidate for the position of Chair. Professor Peter Haugan (Norway) was therefore elected by acclamation.

11.3.2 Election of the Vice-Chairs of the Commission

The Assembly noted that there was only one candidate for each of Electoral Groups I, II, III, IV and V for the positions of Vice-Chair. The following were therefore elected by acclamation:

- Mr Stephen Peter Hall (UK) – Group I
- Dr Alexander Postnov (Russian Federation) – Group II
- Mr Ariel Hernan Troisi (Argentina) – Group III
- Dr Somkiat Khokiattiwong (Thailand) – Group IV
- Dr Ashley Johnson (South Africa) – Group V

11.3.3 Election of the Members of the Executive Council

The Assembly noted that there were 9 candidates for the remaining Member State seats on the Executive Council for Electoral Group I, and that the number of those remaining seats was 8 and consequently a ballot would be needed for Electoral Group I.

The Assembly noted that there were 2 candidates for the remaining Member State seat on the Executive Council for Electoral Group II, whereas the maximum number of those seats was 2. The candidate Member States were therefore declared elected by acclamation.

The Assembly noted that there were 8 candidates for the remaining Member State seats on the Executive Council for Electoral Group III, which was the maximum number of those seats. The candidate Member States were therefore declared...
The Assembly noted that there were 8 candidates for the remaining Member State seats on the Executive Council for Electoral Group IV, which was the maximum number of those seats. The candidate Member States were therefore declared elected by acclamation.

The Assembly noted that there were 9 candidates for the remaining Member State seats on the Executive Council for Electoral Group V, whereas the number of those remaining seats was eight and consequently a ballot would be needed for Electoral Group V.

After a ballot to elect the representatives to the Executive Council from Electoral Groups I and V, the Assembly elected:

(i) Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Portugal, Turkey, USA, to the Executive Council for Electoral Group I;

(ii) Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia to the Executive Council for Electoral Group V.

The membership of the Executive Council for the next intersessional period and the 29th Session of the Assembly is given in Annex ___ to the present report.

11.4 29TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY AND 49TH AND 50TH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Secretary introduced this item. He highlighted the fact that the present session had been scheduled over a period of six working days compared to 7,5 working days in 2013, 10 working days in 2011 and 8,5 days in 2009. Similarly the duration of Executive Council plenary sessions decreased from 7 to 3.5 working days. Budgets of governing bodies have reduced by 40% over the same period. Sponsorship of services (interpretation and catering) and side events during governing body sessions by Member States and partner organizations have become an increasingly significant financial support. Dr Ryabinin reminded the Assembly that some Member States did not want to consider hosting sessions of IOC governing bodies under the present situation.

The interim report on the current Audit of the Governance of UNESCO and Entities (item 11.2) shows that it is premature to consider that the Audit may lead to a consensus by Member States on new principles that will guide intergovernmental meetings in the future. Dr Ryabinin strongly encouraged Member States to express views on the organization of their governing bodies and future sessions in the evaluation questionnaire prepared for the present session.

Dr Ryabinin reminded the Assembly of the recommendations of the Executive Council, acting as the Steering Committee for this Assembly, on the dates of the 49th session of the Council in 2016 and duration of the 29th session of the Assembly in 2017 taking into account scheduled or anticipated dates of major international commitments of the oceanographic communities and IOC’s partners in June 2016.
The Chairman reminded the discussion under item 2.4 on the results of the Ocean Science Day that took place before this session and invited the Assembly to decide on organizing such an event at the next session of the Assembly.

A list of proposed future IOC Memorial Lectures topics was presented. The Member States were encouraged to suggest additional topics, which can be submitted to Luis Valdes for consideration by the Officers at their January 2016 and 2017 meetings.

The Assembly when considering scheduling of future governing body sessions noted that timing of the assembly vis-à-vis several subsidiary body sessions prevented some documentation from being available two months in advance. The Assembly also considered improvements to the session’s reporting procedures and other arrangements based on the comments from the floor and responses to evaluation questionnaire for the session.

The representatives of 10 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 Assembly adopted Decision IOC-XXVIII,Dec.11.4 below.

**Dates and Places of next Sessions of the Executive Council and Assembly**

The Assembly, Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 48th session (EC-XLVIII, Dec.4.), Decides to hold:

(i) The 49th session of the Executive Council for 3.5 days in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris over the period of 6–10 June 2016,

(ii) The 29th session of the Assembly for a duration of six working days at UNESCO Headquarters in June 2017, preceded by a one-day session of the Executive Council acting as the steering committee of the Assembly and an Ocean Science Day;

Calls on the Member States to consider the possibility of providing voluntary extrabudgetary contributions to allow their effective organization;

Requests the Executive Secretary to approach Members States and seek their broad input on the themes of IOC memorial lectures for subsequent consideration by the Officers of the IOC;

Invites the Executive Secretary to promote visibility thereof.

**ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS**

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee reported to the Assembly on the work of the Resolutions Committee during the session (Annex ___ to the present report).

The IOC Chair then invited the Assembly to adopt, in plenary, the draft
decision on the Future of the IOC (item 4) and resolutions that were still pending after discussion in plenary:

- Resolution XXVIII-1: Second International Ocean Indian Expedition (item 5.3)
- Resolution XXVIII-3: Financial Matters of the Commission (item 11.1)

The draft summary report of the discussions of the present session was presented in four parts to the Assembly. It was reviewed and completed during the session.

The Assembly adopted Decision IOC-XXVIII, Dec.12 below.

**Working arrangements and summary report**

The Assembly,

1. **Welcoming** the efforts since 2012 to adapt the documentation to shorten sessions of governing bodies and the formal strengthening of decisions as the core output of IOC governing body sessions with resolutions and the scope and definition of resolutions adopted by decision IOC-XXVII, Dec.6.4,

2. **Identifies** areas of further improvements for governing body session working arrangements as follows:
   (i) identify best practices of other intergovernamental organisations with a view to study how they could contribute to the future conduct of sessional and intersessional business with a view to apply these to the work of the Commission, as appropriate;

   (ii) strengthen the terms of reference of existing and future intersessional working groups in order to optimise their work and ensure active participation and contribution of IOC Member States during intersessional periods; including through the use of circular letters;

   (iii) through consultation between the Officers and the Secretariat, consider ways of rendering the Action Paper more strategic and strongly focused on the substance of the items being debated; and ensuring better reflections of national positions in the reports of IOC governing bodies;

   (iv) ensure the availability of the governing body documentation in due time and in accordance with IOC Rules of Procedures;

   (v) implement as far as possible paperless sessions of future IOC governing bodies;

3. **Adopts** the Draft Summary Report for the present session;

4. **Requests** the Executive Secretary to circulate the summary report to Member States within one month after the closure of the session and to inform the Officers of the results of the evaluation questionnaire in order to pursue the reflection on this issue.
13. CLOSURE

The Assembly met in plenary session during 6 days from 18 to 25 June 2015, considered 36 items on its agenda and approved 30 decisions and 3 resolutions. The plenary meeting was supported by some 21 preparatory meetings, 13 meetings of electoral and regional groups and 7 information side meetings during the session.

The Chairman of the Commission congratulated the incoming Chair and Vice-Chairs, and thanked the outgoing Vice-Chairs for their contributions. The Chair also thanked delegates, partners, individuals who chaired sessional committees and groups, the Rapporteur for the session and UNESCO staff and IOC Secretariat.

The Assembly congratulated the Chairman for his dedicated work to the Commission during two consecutive terms and the Executive Secretary offered him the gavel of the session.

The new Chairman, Peter Haugan, invited the elected Officers, delegates of IOC Member States and representatives of partner organizations to work actively during the intersessional period.

The Chair of the Commission closed the 28th Session of the Assembly at 15:30 on Thursday 25 June 2015.