This Action Paper provides the information necessary for effective participation in the discussion of the agenda items. This information includes: (i) identification of relevant documentation; (ii) identification, under each substantive agenda item, of the issue before the Executive Council and the expected decision or draft resolution when available to date; (iii) background information (if the relevant background is included in a separate document, it is issued as a working document).

This Action Paper provides also the basis for the draft summary report of the session. It is written in past tense to streamline the reporting process. A summary of the discussion that led to decisions under each agenda item will be prepared by the Secretariat and the Rapporteur and will complete the draft summary report. Draft decisions and resolutions are proposed in the document in order to focus the discussion on decisions during the discussion of each agenda item without prejudice to the prerogatives of any Member State, partner organization, Officer or the Executive Secretary.
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1. OPENING

The Chair, Mr Ariel Hernan Troisi, opened the 53rd session of the IOC Executive Council at 10:00 on Tuesday 30 June 2020 in Room IV at UNESCO Headquarters. He welcomed the new officers recently elected in the ICG/NEAMTWS. He congratulated the Commission on its 60th anniversary and delivered his personal reflections on his 12 months as Chairman of IOC and the new challenges imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic on all aspects of social and economic life, with consequences on the oceanographic activity and policy that are difficult to evaluate at this stage. The Chair expressed the wish to associate with the families that have been affected by the pandemic in the tribute the Council was paying to distinguished individuals who had participated in the work of the Commission and have passed away during the past year. The participants stood for a minute of silence to honour: Ms Paula Dunbar (US, −2020), Sidney Holt (UK, 1926–2019), and Prof. Trevor Platt (UK, 1942–2020).

2. The representatives of ___ 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: ____________.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

[Rule of Procedure 8]

<table>
<thead>
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References: IOC-XXX/3 Summary Report of the Thirtieth session of the IOC Assembly, Paris, 26 June–4 July 2019

3. The Chair reminded that the agenda of the Council mainly focused on the finalization of the implementation plan for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) with a view of its transmission to the UN General Assembly at its 75th session later in 2020. He also highlighted the necessary discussion on the IOC contribution to the Decade and the preparation of the draft IOC Medium-term Strategy for 2022–2029 (IOC/EC-53/5.1Doc(1)) and draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 (IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(2)). He informed the Council that the agenda was streamlined to issues requiring a decision of the Council. Reporting items requested by the Assembly at its 30th session in 2019 are addressed in the report of the Executive Secretary on the worked accomplished during the intersessional period (IOC/EC-53/3.1.Doc(1)).

Dec. EC-53/2(I)

The Executive Council,

I. Agenda

1. Adopts the agenda and the timetable of work as set out in documents IOC/EC-53/2.1.Doc Rev.2 and Addendum [with the following additional modifications:]
4. The representatives of __ 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: ____________.

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR
[Rule of Procedure 25.4]

Dec. EC-53/2(II)

II. Rapporteur

2. On a proposal of [country], seconded by [countries],

3. Designates _____________ of [country from electoral group III] Rapporteur for its present session to assist the Chairperson and the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the draft provisional report of the session;

2.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS
[Rule of Procedure 12]

5. The Chair invited the Executive Council to form two sessional committees, the Resolutions Committee and the Financial Committee, and invited proposals for sessional working groups. [Member States were invited to show their intention of participating in each committee and working group by show of hands. The Chair called out the names of the participating Member States in plenary. A list of participating Member States will be completed in the decision and published in the report.]

Dec. EC-53/2(III)

III. Sessional Committees and Working Groups

1. Establishes the following sessional open-ended committees and __ working groups and referred to them the following agenda items and responsibilities:

Financial Committee: to examine the financial implications of draft decisions/resolutions and prepare a resolution under items 5.1 and 5.2; under the chairship of Dr Karim Hilmi (Morocco, Vice-chair) with the following Member States participating: _____________. Ms Ksenia Yvinec provided the Secretariat support to the Financial Committee.

Resolutions Committee: to report on all draft resolutions duly presented for consideration at the session by 25th June and on the draft resolution covering financial matters drafted during the session; under the chairship of Prof. Yutaka Michida (Japan) [to be confirmed] with the following Member States participating: _____________. Julian Barbier provided the Secretariat support to the Resolutions Committee.

5. Establishes also __ sessional working groups on:

2.4 INTRODUCTION OF TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION
[Rule of Procedure 11]

IOC/EC-53/DocList Provisional List of Documents
6. The Executive Secretary introduced this item. He reviewed briefly the list of working documents and recalled that the report would be focused on decisions. He reminded the Council that the new referencing of the IOC governing bodies’ documentation that was adopted by the Assembly through Resolution XXX-3 was applied to the documentation of this session. The Executive Secretary also reminded that draft decisions were to be adopted at the end of the discussion of each agenda item. The Action Paper was intentionally drafted as a pre-report in order to streamline the reporting process during the session. Draft Resolutions were examined for adoption under agenda item 7. The complete set of adopted decisions and resolutions in all four languages would be made available at the end of the session, in line with the established UNESCO practices. Pursuant to Decisions EC-LII, Dec.3.3 and IOC-XXX/13 on organizational matters, the narrative part of the report will be drafted by the Secretariat during the session in English. The translation and the adoption of the report in four languages will be done by correspondence after the session. Member States that wished to have specific, particularly important, plenary interventions recorded, were invited to provide written records thereof using a dedicated template through an e-mail address (iocgovbody@unesco.org) set up for this purpose (IOC/EC-53/2.4.Inf.Add.).

No decision is proposed under this item. [Any changes to the timetable would be reflected in Dec. EC-53/2(II)]

7. The representatives of __ 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: ____________.

2.5 ROGER REVELLE MEMORIAL LECTURE
[IOC-XVI/Decisions]

Information: IOC/EC-53/2.5.Inf. Information on IOC Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture, 2020

8. The Chairperson of IOC introduced the Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture. He recalled that the lecture, in commemoration of the celebrated oceanographer, was devoted to a talk by a distinguished scientist whose contribution to oceanography and society was widely recognized. Mr Troisi expressed his pride in introducing ____ as the recipient of the ____ IOC Roger Revelle Medal.

No decision is proposed under this item.
3. REPORTING ITEMS

3.1 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ON THE WORK ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE THIRTIETH SESSION
OF THE ASSEMBLY AND ON BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION
[Rule of Procedure 49.1; Dec. IOC-XXX/3.2; Dec. IOC-XXX/3.3.3]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working documents:</th>
<th>IOC/EC-53/3.1.Doc(1)</th>
<th>Report of the IOC Executive Secretary on the work accomplished since the Thirtieth session of the Assembly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information:</td>
<td>IOC/INF-1385</td>
<td>Update on IOC Custodianship Role in Relation to UN SDG-14 Indicators</td>
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<td>IOC/INF-1386</td>
<td>Reports of Category 2 centre and institutes of UNESCO related to Oceanography</td>
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<td>IOC/INF-1322 Rev.</td>
<td>Update on the Status of IOC Subsidiary Bodies, 2020</td>
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9. The Executive Secretary introduced this item using a PowerPoint presentation.

10. He recalled that the focus of the Commission in the past year was on the preparation of the *Implementation Plan for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030*. IOC spared no effort in engaging all Member States, United Nations partners and key civil society stakeholders in regional and global consultations to seize this once-in-a-life-time opportunity to harness advances in ocean science to achieve a better understanding of the ocean system and deliver science-based solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Effective use of UN-Oceans consultations reinforced the collaborative approach to ensure a meaningful division of labour among the IOC’s partners in the United Nations system.

11. He highlighted the efforts deployed in all regions in order to make the most of the tremendous opportunity that the Decade represents for all Member States, and in particular for Africa, LDCs (least developed countries) and SIDS (Small Island Developing States), leaving no one behind. IOC’s regional subsidiary bodies continue to play a critical role in this regard. Specific attention was given to SIDS, as well as to the youth involvement and the value of indigenous knowledge. The 2nd International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) has engaged in various Indian Ocean related UN Decade planning meetings, aiming to ensure that the IIOE-2 is well positioned to make a tangible contribution to the Decade’s implementation.

12. Furthermore, the Implementation Plan for the Decade fosters synergies between SDG-5 and SDG-14 by focusing on the role of women in ocean science, improving global ocean knowledge and supporting informed and inclusive decision-making. The *Global Ocean Science Report* with its gender-disaggregated data will continue to serve as one of the progress monitoring mechanisms.

13. Dr Ryabinin also briefly introduced the idea and first elements of the concept for the potential future *State of the Ocean Report (StOR)*, which would present on annual basis to the world, on behalf of United Nations, a summary of key changes in the ocean state, in terms of its physical, biogeochemical, biological and ecological variables, supplemented by a strategic summary of developments with regard to integrated ocean management, such as percentage of area covered by area management tools, observations, etc. StOR would be one contribution of IOC to the Decade and would facilitate understanding of the urgent need to address issues related to ocean management towards sustainability and demonstrate progress in that direction.
14. The Executive Secretary informed the Executive Council of the active part taken by IOC’s leadership in the negotiation process on an International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) (see item 4.2). He also highlighted the significant progress was made in the development of the methodology to support Member States’ implementation of and reporting on the two SDG target indicators 14.3.1 and 14.a, for which the IOC has been assigned the custodianship role.

15. The Executive Secretary presented Member States with a non-exhaustive list of milestones: the GOOS 2030 Strategy (IOC/BRO/2019/5 rev.2), “OceanObs’19 Conference”, progress in the planning of data and information management through ODISCat and OceanInfoHub, continuing expansion of OBIS, advances in research coordination with regard to ocean carbon, near completion of the 2nd Global Ocean Science Report, advances in the work on ocean acidification, deoxygenation, harmful algal blooms, long-time series, expanding work on tsunami preparedness and new service providers, contribution to the IPCC Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, major progress in community engagement and practice of maritime spatial planning and preparations for the new phase of the Ocean Teacher Global Academy.

16. Having stressed main IOC achievements, successes, and issues during the reporting period, he then provided an update on highlights of each of the six IOC functions, including the work of the regional and technical subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and relevant UNESCO Category 2 Centres.

17. In informing Member States on the progress in relation to GEBCO, the Executive Secretary explained that, while the IOC Regular Working Group on User Requirements and Contributions to GEBCO Products has been formed through a call for membership circulated via IOC Circular Letter 2791 of 21 January 2020, the assessment to be conducted by the Working Group and subsequent report were delayed as a result of the responsible IOC staff being affected by COVID. In consultation with the IOC Chair, the Report will be brought to the IOC Assembly at its 31st session in 2021.

18. The Executive Secretary attracted the attention of Member States to an “experts’ workshop on ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction“ held by GOOS on 12–13 February 2020 (GOOS Report 246) in Paris to highlight potential concerns and potential solutions spaces to facilitate the taking of sustained ocean observations in EEZs (exclusive economic zones), and to suggest areas of work on defining or demonstrating the value and impact of the needed observations. The report of the meeting will be provided to Member States with a view to coming to consensus on a process for wide and open-ended dialogue on the solution spaces that might benefit from collective action through the IOC.

19. The Executive Secretary explained that due to the cancellation or postponement of many important events due to the Covid-19 pandemic—including the “2020 UN Ocean Conference”—the Secretariat had to explore alternative approaches to the launch of both the Draft Implementation Plan for the Decade and the 2nd edition of the Global Ocean Science Report. In this context, he also presented the main initiatives of the Secretariat to assess the influence of the pandemic on IOC’s areas of competence: surveys and assessments of impact on ocean observation and tsunami warning services, as well as the longer-term effect on investment in ocean sciences and Member States capacities to achieve the SDG target 14.a, to be measured through GOSR.

20. With regard to the Commission’s financial situation, he confirmed that the Secretariat implemented 2018–2019 workplans in accordance with the budgetary allocations and resource mobilization targets approved by the IOC Executive Council’s Resolution EC-LI.2 and developed 2020–2021 workplans in accordance with Resolution XXX-3, as presented in document IOC/EC-53/3.1(2).
The Executive Secretary concluded by pointing out that the main challenge for the Commission’s small Secretariat is the dual task to raise not only extrabudgetary resources necessary to maintain its core operational programmes but also significant additional resources to lead and coordinate the Decade preparation phase. He expressed his high appreciation of the consistent and generous support of many Member States. Belgium (Flanders), Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Sweden and United Kingdom provided financial contributions towards the preparation of the Decade Implementation Plan. Norway continued to be the main donor of non-earmarked funds to the IOC Special Account, facilitating implementation with focus on collectively agreed priorities. Belgium (Flanders), China and Australia continued to support key IOC offices and their programmes in, respectively, Ostend, WESTPAC and Perth. In addition Belgium (Flanders) renewed the UNESCO/Flanders Fund-in-Trust for the support of UNESCO's activities in the field of Science (FUST) and approved three large scale projects submitted by IOC, to be implemented between 2020 and 2022.

However, he also expressed concern that IOC programme delivery continues, to a large extent, on an unsustainable basis, with chronic understaffing and shortage of resources. A new approach to fund-raising and outreach, based on highlighting the societal benefits of IOC’s work and demonstrating the return on investment in ocean science and observation is being developed. In this context, the Executive Secretary highlighted the key role of outreach and communication, both to the Commission’s core constituencies but also to the society at large, and the increased need to invest in this area in the context of a truly inclusive and transformative approach to the Decade.

Dec. EC-53/3.1

Report of the Executive Secretary

The Executive Council,


2. Takes note of the comprehensive report of the Executive Secretary on the work accomplished, including the strategic analysis and summary assessment of programme implementation and progress in the delivery of outputs in the biennium 2018–2019, the detailed report on achievements by IOC Functions since the 30th session of the IOC Assembly (July 2019–May 2020), as well as the report on 2018–2019 budget implementation and the outline of the 2020–2021 budget;

3. Welcomes the Secretariat’s initiatives to evaluate and/or address where possible the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on ocean observations, tsunami detection and warnings and on strategic investments for ocean science;

4. Specially acknowledges the continuous support of the IOC Secretariat with respect to the development of methodologies for SDG indicators 14.3.1 and 14.a.1 (IOC/INF-1385), for which IOC is the designated custodian agency, as well as for indicators 14.1.1a and 14.2.1, for which IOC is supporting the work of UNEP; and in this context encourages Member States to mobilize support to the IOC Secretariat for the completion of the methodology related to indicator 14.1.1a on an index of coastal eutrophication, in collaboration with UN Environment;

5. Notes with interest the Executive Secretary’s proposal and initial steps to develop an “IOC State of the Ocean Report” (StOR) to reflect, on a regular basis, main findings in ocean research and observations and latest evidence on the state of the ocean and related trends, in support of the knowledge base for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
The representatives of ___ 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: ___________.

3.2 REPORTS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION GROUPS
FOR REGIONAL TSUNAMI AND MULTI-HAZARDS WARNING SYSTEMS
[Rule of Procedure 48.3]

3.2.1 Sixteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas (ICG/NEAMTWS-XVI), Cannes, France, 2–4 December 2019

Mr/Mrs X, Chairperson of the ICG/NEAMTWS, introduced this item and highlighted recent developments. During the intersessional period, the Portuguese Sea and Atmosphere Institute (IPMA) went through the ICG/NEAMTWS accreditation process and met the requirements to become the fifth Tsunami Service Provider in the NEAM region. He/she noted the continued national efforts, particularly in France, Greece, Italy and Turkey to increase awareness on tsunami hazards and preparedness in line with, and as contributions, to the World Tsunami Awareness Day, 5 November 2019.

He/she reported on the progress regarding the continued development of a new Strategy and Implementation Plan for NEAMTWS for submission to the ICG/NEAMTWS-XVII session to be held in Hamburg, Germany, in 2020. He/she also noted that Member States are now considering the possibility of implementing pilot community preparedness and recognition programmes such as Tsunami Ready.

On the other hand, there are still gaps in the seismic and sea-level network, notably in North Africa where national policies make sharing observations more difficult. This difficulty undermines in greater or lesser measures the performance of all regional tsunami warning systems.

The dates of the fourth regional tsunami exercise (NEAMWave20) were announced to be scheduled from 2 to 4 November 2020 according to the planning and organisation in progress.

Finally, he/she informed about the election by correspondence of officers to the ICG/NEAMTWS, which lead to his/her election as chairperson and the election of Mr/Ms X as Vice-Chairperson(s) of the ICG/NEAMTWS.

The representatives of ___ 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: ___________.

3.2.2 Thirteenth Meeting of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG), UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 20–21 February 2020

Mr/Mrs X, Chairperson of the ICG/NEAMTWS, introduced this item and highlighted recent developments. During the intersessional period, the Portuguese Sea and Atmosphere Institute (IPMA) went through the ICG/NEAMTWS accreditation process and met the requirements to become the fifth Tsunami Service Provider in the NEAM region. He/she noted the continued national efforts, particularly in France, Greece, Israel, Italy and Turkey to increase awareness on tsunami hazards and preparedness in line with, and as contributions, to the World Tsunami Awareness Day, 5 November 2019.

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The representatives of ___ 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: ___________.

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The representatives of ___ 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: ___________.
Dr Alexander Frolov, Chair of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG) introduced this item. He informed the Council about recent developments in Tsunami Warning and Mitigation Systems and reported on the decisions and recommendations of TOWS-WG at its 13th meeting. He reminded the Council that the working group advises on coordinated development and implementation activities on warning and mitigation systems for tsunamis and other hazards related to sea level of common priority to all ICG/TWSs since 2007.

He noted that the meeting paid much attention to issues of more timely and accurate tsunami detection, measurement, and forecasts. This activity is based on a multiscale digital coastal mapping, high density coastal observation networks, and sophisticated numerical simulations of the complex nonlinear transformation of a tsunami wave incident on the coast.

As a result, the TOWS-WG recognized that the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address and potentially fill this gap by leveraging novel sensing platforms, techniques and/or infrastructures in order to quickly detect and measure tsunamis the near-instant they form.

He informed further about outcomes of the International Symposium on lessons learnt from the 2018 Tsunamis in Palu and Sunda Strait (Jakarta, Indonesia, 26–28 September 2019), which was held in respect to the Decisions IOC-XXX/8.2 of the IOC Assembly at its 30th session (26 June–4 July 2019, Paris).

He also noted that Member States are increasingly focusing on implementing community preparedness and recognition programmes such as Tsunami Ready. They will greatly benefit from the recently published IOC guide entitled Preparing for Community Tsunami Evacuations: from inundation to evacuation maps, response plans and exercises (Manuals and Guides, 82, 2020). The guide content is based on best practice papers and presentations prepared for a programme of training workshops on how community and governments can work together to create reliable and practical tsunami evacuation maps.

Dec. EC-53/3.2

Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning Systems

The Executive Council,

1. Having considered the executive summary report of the recent session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/NEAMTWS-XVI), and the report of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG-XIII),
2. Accepts the reports by the ICG/NEAMTWS and TOWS-WG;
3. Notes with satisfaction the progress made during the intersessional period, including:
   • two exercises carried out (CARIBE WAVE 2019 and PACWAVE 2019) and regular communication tests performed;
ongoing progress in sharing the results of tsunami exercises and communication tests with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and improvements in alert message delivery rates for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS);

- several communities having achieved Tsunami Ready recognition including Omoa and Tornabe (both Honduras), Bluefields and Corn Island (both Nicaragua), and more than 10 communities in process of seeking Tsunami Ready recognition;

- the Portuguese Sea and Atmosphere Institute (Portugal) having been accredited as a Tsunami Service Provider in NEAMTWS;

- South China Sea Tsunami Advisory Center (SCSTAC) (hosted at National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center of P. R. China (SCSTAC/NMEFC)) having started full operation on 5th November 2019;

- Central American Tsunami Advisory Center (CATA) (hosted at Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER)) having started trial operation in August 2019;

- the International Symposium on lessons learnt from the 2018 Tsunamis in Palu and Sunda Strait, Jakarta, Indonesia, 26–28 September 2019;

- efforts by Indonesia to densify its national detection network in response to the Palu and Sunda Strait events;

- efforts to strengthen tsunami resilience in Makran area through UNESCAP funded project “Strengthening tsunami early warning in the North West Indian Ocean region through regional cooperation”;

I. North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connected Seas Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (NEAMTWS)

4. Endorses the accreditation of the Portuguese Sea and Atmosphere Institute (Portugal) as a fifth Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) in the NEAM region;

5. Notes the progress in planning and organising the fourth NEAMTWS exercise on 2–4 November 2020 (NEAMWave20), and encourages Member States, in particular Civil Protection Authorities (CPAs) to participate actively in the exercise;

6. Encourages Member States to explore the adaptation of community preparedness and recognition programmes such as Tsunami Ready for the NEAM region, including Tsunami Hazard and Tsunami Evacuation Maps, Plans, and Procedures (TEMPP) using IOC Manuals and Guides, 82 as the latest reference;

II. Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG)

7. Recognizes there remains a fundamental capability gap related to providing accurate, actionable tsunami forecasts to the most at-risk coastal communities. The Group has fully described this gap through a combination of peer-reviewed publications, conferences and consultations over the past two years;

8. Further recognizes that the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address and potentially fill this gap by leveraging novel sensing platforms, techniques and/or infrastructures in order to quickly detect and measure tsunamis the near-instant they form;

9. Advocates for the inclusion of a flagship initiative under the UN Decade of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development aimed at addressing the fore-mentioned capability gap in global tsunami forecast and warning services;

10. **Encourages** Member States to:

- increase and sustain technical and financial support of the tsunami and other coastal hazards warning systems in their respective regions;
- emphasize to national civil protection/disaster management agencies the role they play in strengthening the warning chain to ensure optimal community response, and stress the importance that the agencies participate in regional tsunami governance and technical forums;
- continue to strengthen tsunami awareness and preparedness in communities and among authorities through communication, evacuation planning, tsunami exercises, training, information, and piloting recognition programmes such as Tsunami Ready;
- densify sea level networks capable of Tsunami detection as well as seismic network particularly nearby tsunamigenic sources;
- implement a sample rate of 1 sample/sec. or higher on sea level gauges in order to record and transmit tsunami wave-form data from all seismic and non-seismic sources;
- recommend Member States and station operators share existing seismic, sea level, GNSS and other data types, and their meta-data, in real or near real-time to Tsunami Service Providers and National Tsunami Warning Centres for a more effective and comprehensive global tsunami early warning;
- integrate high resolution offshore bathymetry and land elevation data into a unified coastal terrain model and extend the data sharing for improved characterization of tsunami and other coastal hazards and risks, and also advocate this through International Hydrographic Organization and regional hydrographic commissions;
- register National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs) and Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs) as alerting authorities in the “WMO Alerting Authority Register” via the WMO National Permanent Representative and in follow-up to WMO circular letters;
- request their NTWCs to make public national tsunami warnings available in the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) format as an addition to their current messages, as applicable. This would allow this warning information together with other coastal hazard warnings to be widely disseminated and available on multiple platforms such as the Global Meteo Alert System (GMAS) under development by WMO;

11. **Instructs** ICGs to:

- advocate for observing and celebrating the World Tsunami Awareness Day 2020 among Member States and highlight target [e] of the Sendai Framework to Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020;
- continue the Tsunami Ready pilot activities with UNESCO/IOC recognition, including conducting surveys on Member State status, interest and feedback in the implementation of Tsunami Ready;
- enhance participation of CPAs in routine activities of ICGs;
- To discuss procedures and best practices for local source tsunami response based on the guidelines provided by PTWS and as revised by the IOTWMS (*unpublished document, released version 1 (6 April 2019)*);

12. **Extends** the tenure of TOWS-WG and its Task Teams on (i) Disaster Management and Preparedness (TTDMP) and (ii) Tsunami Watch Operations (TTTWO), with Terms of
35. The representatives of __ 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: ____________.

4. PROGRAMMATIC DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECADE ROADMAP AND DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT [A/RES/74/19; 39 C/Resolution 25; Res. XXIX-1, XXX-1]

|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| References:         | A/RES/74/19 UN General Assembly Resolution: Oceans and the law of the sea (20 December 2019)                                                                                                                                 |

36. The IOC Executive Secretary introduced this item recalling that in December 2017 the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030, responding to the proposal of IOC. The period from 2018 to 2020 is focusing on the preparation of the Decade Implementation Plan. IOC led this work through the Secretariat, with strategic advice initially by an interim group and later by the established Executive Planning Group, in close contact with Member States and reaching out to many relevant stakeholders. He recalled that the IOC Executive Council in 2018 took note of the Roadmap document (IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 3 & Corr.) as an initial guide to the steps and processes to develop a Decade Implementation Plan.

37. Preparation of the UN Decade has continued throughout the preparatory period in a highly participatory manner. Over 1,000 stakeholders participated in 11 regional planning meetings across 9 ocean basins between June 2019 and April 2020. These meetings generated comprehensive information on the scientific research and capacity development priorities for each ocean basin, and catalysed discussions between stakeholders regarding regional partnerships to advance implementation of the Decade.

38. A thematic workshop was held on the role of ocean literacy in the Decade, and Decade-related sessions and side events were held at international meetings and conferences including “OceanObs19” and the “Ocean Sciences Meeting 2020”. The Commission took an active part at the “Our Ocean conference” in Norway in October 2019 and made a Voluntary Commitment for the establishment of the Ocean Decade Alliance. The Alliance is intended as a key resource mobilization mechanism for the Decade focusing on significant voluntary commitments.

39. The “second meeting of the Decade Executive Planning Group” was held in Paris in January 2020 and provided valuable input to the drafting of the Implementation Plan.
40. A dialogue with over 25 philanthropic and corporate foundations was held in Copenhagen in February 2020 and resulted in several foundations expressing interest in supporting the Decade and in establishing formal partnership agreements.

41. An informal working group of over 40 Early Career Ocean Professionals was established to coordinate the engagement of this stakeholder category in the Decade. The group as well as the UN-Oceans Contact Group for the Decade met regularly throughout the preparatory period.

42. The “Second Global Planning Meeting”, which was originally planned for March 2020, was cancelled due to the Covid-19 situation and was replaced by two webinars where the Draft Implementation Plan was presented. The webinars gathered more than 550 participants from various horizons. The list of communications activities includes a regular presence in social media, the use of the Decade logo in a range of approved events and publications, and a Decade newsletter which have increased visibility of the Decade to a wider audience.

43. Mr Barbière, Head of the Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section and IOC focal point for the Decade, provided additional details on the preparatory phase and its consultative process.

44. The key output of the preparatory phase during this period was the zero Draft Implementation Plan for the Decade, which was released to Member States by IOC Circular Letter 2798, UN-Oceans members and key Decade partners for peer review in March 2020. The draft Implementation Plan explains the rationale for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the desired state of the ocean at the end of the Decade. It contains a framework to guide the design and implementation of actions throughout the Decade including a set of scientific objectives for the Decade. It presents the criteria and process for the endorsement of Decade Actions and the principles to guide data management, capacity development, and engagement with stakeholders. Finally, it describes the proposed governance and coordination arrangements of the Decade, including for example through the establishment of programmatic or regional Decade Coordination Offices and Collaborative Centres, the mechanisms for resource mobilization, and the process to measure progress. Based on comments received during the review period, a revised version of the draft Implementation Plan is tabled as document IOC/EC-53/4.1.Doc(2).

45. Mr Barbière recalled that the UNGA, through Resolution A/RES/74/19, inter alia requested IOC to present the implementation plan to the General Assembly at its 75th session. Following the final review of the draft Implementation Plan by Member States at this Executive Council session, the Executive Secretary would officially transmit the Implementation Plan for the Decade and an executive summary thereof in the working languages of the Commission to the UN General Assembly. It is anticipated that a dedicated Decade event will be organized at the UN in the period October–December 2020 to present the Implementation Plan.

46. He also recalled that previous UNGA resolutions related to the Decade, and in particular Resolution A/RES/74/19, inter alia requested IOC to report regularly to Member States on the Decade and its implementation. Furthermore, given that the UNGA has not defined provisions for a formal review of the Implementation Plan (e.g. by setting up a dedicated review mechanism/process), it is anticipated that the UNGA may take note of the Implementation Plan for the Decade, which would implicitly recognise the role of the IOC as the coordinating entity of the Decade in its implementation phase (secretariat and governance). He recalled the steps for finalising the Implementation Plan, with the support of the EPG, with a view to present the final version at the UNGA, and then proceeding with the establishment of the Decade Board and other governance arrangements as described in the Implementation Plan.

47. The Executive Council adopted Resolution EC-53/__ below submitted by ___.

IOC/EC-53/AP – page 12
Draft Resolution EC-53/[4.1]


The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

1. Recalling Assembly Resolution XXIX-1 proposing the establishment of an International (UN) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and Assembly Resolution XXX-1 on Progress Report on the Preparation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development,

2. Also recalling the proclamation by the UNGA at its 72nd session of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), through Resolution A/RES/72/73 (therein the Decade), and the invitation to the IOC to prepare an implementation plan for the Decade in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes, and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders,

3. Further recalling the invitation made to the IOC by the UN General Assembly through Resolution A/RES/74/19 to:
   
   (i) continue to provide information on the development of the implementation plan and present it to the General Assembly at its 75th session,
   
   (ii) regularly consult with, and report to, Member States on the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and its implementation,

5. Taking note that the zero Draft Implementation Plan circulated to IOC Member States and ocean stakeholders in March 2020 has been extensively reviewed and that suggested changes have been incorporated in the revised draft (Document IOC/EC-53/4.1.Doc(2)),


7. Welcomes the progress achieved during the intersessional period, and in particular, the outcomes of the global consultation meetings, regional workshops, as well as engagement activities with UN and non-UN ocean stakeholders;

8. Thanks the members of the Decade Executive Planning Group (EPG) for their work in support of the preparation of the Implementation Plan in accordance with the terms of reference of the group (IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 4, Appendix 1);

9. Endorses the draft Implementation Plan for the Decade subject to the integration of the suggested modifications received during the session;

10. Requests the IOC Executive Secretary, working in consultation with the EPG, to proceed with the suggested modifications and finalize the Implementation Plan in view of its presentation to UNGA at its 75th session in 2020;

11. Expresses confidence in its ability to continue coordinating the Decade during its implementation phase (2021–2030) in consultation with Member States, specialized agencies, funds, programmes, and bodies of the United Nations, as well as other
12. **Further requests** the IOC Executive Secretary:
   (i) to disseminate widely to UN and non-UN stakeholders the finalized Decade Implementation Plan and its executive summary;
   (ii) following the presentation of the Implementation Plan for the Decade to UNGA at its 75th session and adoption by UNGA of the Omnibus Resolution on Ocean and Law of the Sea at the same session, proceed with the establishment of the Decade Board and other governance arrangements as described in the Implementation Plan;
   (iii) to report back to the IOC Assembly at its 31st session in 2021 on progress;

13. **Invites** UN specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies, UN Member States, international scientific and academic organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to support the Decade, contribute to its implementation by proposing Decade Actions in accordance with the Implementation Plan;

14. **Urges** Member States and partners to:
   (i) provide voluntary financial contributions to support the work of the IOC Secretariat in coordinating the Decade including in-kind support such as staff secondments to the Secretariat;
   (ii) offer to host and fund programmatic or regional Decade Coordination Offices and Collaborative Centres as described in the Implementation Plan,
   (iii) establish national multi-stakeholder Decade coordination mechanisms with a view to stimulating national activities and international cooperation

15. **Thanks** the Governments of Canada, the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Kingdom of Belgium (Government of Flanders), Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, as well as REV-Ocean for their financial contribution to the preparatory phase of the Decade;

16. **Further thanks** the Governments of Brazil, Canada, Denmark, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Norway and Mexico as well as the Secretariats of the UN Environment Programme (Nairobi Convention, Mediterranean Action Plan, Caribbean Environment Programme), the European Commission, the Ocean Frontier Institute (Canada), the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), the National Institute of Ocean Technology (India), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), the Danish Centre for Marine Research, the Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM), the Research Council of Norway, Arctic Frontiers, the Pacific Community (SPC), the UN Global Compact, the Western Indian Ocean Science Association (WIOMSA), Velux Foundations, and the Carlsberg Foundation for their contribution to the organization of regional and global workshops during the preparatory phase of the Decade, as well as Egypt and Germany, for offering to host a kick-off conference of the Decade in 2021.

48. The representatives of ___ 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: ____________.
4.2 IOC-RELEVANT ISSUES RELATED TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT (ILBI) UNDER THE UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION

[Dec. IOC-XXX/10.1]

<table>
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<th>Working document:</th>
<th>Brief update on the UN process on an internationally legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information:</td>
<td>IOC/INF-1387 IOC Non-Paper to inform development of an internationally legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A/CONF.232/2020/3 Revised draft text of an agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

49. The Chairperson introduced this item. He reported on the recent developments related to the negotiation of a new international legally-binding instrument (ILBI) to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (the High Seas and the Area) under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). He recalled that in December 2017, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had decided, through Resolution 72/249, to organize an intergovernmental conference, scheduled over four sessions to be held over a three-year period (2018–2020), with the aim of finalizing the BBNJ legal instrument. Negotiations are to address topics identified in the package agreed upon in 2011, namely marine genetic resources— including benefits sharing, capacity building and transfer of marine technology to serve all future Parties, including developing countries, environmental impact assessments, area-based management tools, including the establishment of marine protected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

50. Mr Ariel Troisi also reported on the participation of the IOC Officers and Secretariat in the first three sessions of the Intergovernmental Conference that took place in September 2018 (BBNJ-IGC-1), March–April 2019 (BBNJ-IGC-2), and August–September 2019 (BBNJ-IGC-3) at the UN Headquarters, where IOC co-organized several side events. He stressed that many items to be negotiated under the Intergovernmental Conference touched on areas of IOC’s competency, particularly the use of the best available scientific information as the basis for management decisions and conservation policies, the potential role of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) as an effective global research data and information platform for ILBI implementation, the application of IOC Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology (TMT) (IOC/INF-1203) as a guiding principle, and the establishment of a clearing house mechanism to support capacity development and TMT. Regarding the latter, IOC is advancing with the development of clearing house mechanism for TMT and capacity development through the Ocean InfoHub project (as described under agenda item 4.3).

51. The Chair also drew the attention of the Executive Council that a draft text of the future BBNJ agreement, was released in November 2019 by the President of the Intergovernmental Conference. Under Article 51—Clearing-house Mechanism, a reference under sub-para 6 is made with regards to a potential role for IOC to manage such a mechanism. In consultation with the IOC Officers (January 2020), IOC prepared a Non-Paper (IOC/INF-1387) to: (i) highlight recent developments in IOC activities and services that align with the four key issues of the BBNJ negotiation process; and (ii) analyse the adapted and additional services that could be developed to meet the services anticipated to be needed to implement a future BBNJ agreement based on the
current draft text, including a discussion of the resources that would be needed for the development of such services. The Non-Paper is aimed at informing on-going negotiations and will be presented at a dedicated side event at BBJN-IGC-4 which was originally planned for March 2020 but was suspended due to the Covid-19 situation. At the time of drafting, the UNGA has not yet decided on a new date for the last of the four IGC sessions.

Dec. EC-53/4.2

IOC-Relevant Issues related to the Intergovernmental Conference on an International Legally Binding (ILBI) Instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and sustainable Use of Biological diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

The Executive Council,

1. Having considered Document IOC/EC-53/4.2.Doc,

2. Takes note of and welcomes the active role of the Commission at the organizational stage and in the course of the first three sessions of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC), in accordance with its mandate in areas related to marine scientific research, capacity development and the transfer of marine technology, as well as data and information management;

3. Further takes note of the revised draft text of the agreement (of 18 November 2019) and the potential role of IOC described therein in managing the future Clearing-house Mechanism for ILBI;

4. Welcomes the development of a Non-Paper (IOC/INF-1387) aimed at informing the IGC negotiations on existing and potential services IOC could provide towards the future ILBI implementation;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary, Chairperson or a designated Officer of IOC to represent the Commission in the meetings of the remaining session of the Intergovernmental Conference scheduled in 2020/2021 and respond to requests that could be made to IOC;

6. Also requests the Executive Secretary and Officers of IOC to report on developments in this area to the IOC Assembly at its 31st session in 2021;

7. Invites IOC Member States to continue supporting the role of the Commission through their preparation and statements at forthcoming meetings of the Intergovernmental Conference.

The representatives of 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: ____________.

4.3 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN DECADE BY IOC’S IODE PROGRAMME AND RELATED CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
[Dec. IOC-XXX/11.1; Dec. IOC-XXX/7.2.2.2]

Working documents: IOC/EC-53/4.3.Doc Contributions to the UN Decade by IOC’s IODE Programme and related Capacity Development activities

IOC/EC-53/4.3.Doc Add. Five-year costed proposal for the combined IOC Ocean Data and Information System and Ocean InfoHub (ODIS/OIH) Project
Dr Sergey Belov and Mr Taco de Bruin, IODE Co-Chairs, and Mr Ariel Troisi as Chair of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development introduced this item. They recalled that by Assembly Decision IOC-XXX/7.2.2, the IODE Committee had been invited to prepare a fully detailed and costed project proposal for the IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) for submission to this session of the Executive Council. In addition, the Assembly through Decision IOC-XXX/11.1 had requested the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development to prepare a detailed and costed proposal for the development of an IOC Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) for the Transfer of Marine Technology using a hybrid model of interoperable nodes as well as a central access point, to be developed in a step-wise modular approach, in collaboration with IODE and its Project Office, and taking into account the regional prototype developed as well as evolving requirements, for submission to this IOC Executive Council. Such analysis should include the possibility of expanding the IOC CHM functionalities to serve other requirements such as those emerging from the BBNJ ongoing negotiations.

They further recalled that data, information, and knowledge (digital resources) management emerged as a central issue for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030 during the stakeholder discussions held during the preparatory phase of the Decade. The Decade will require an openly accessible, usable, and collective, multidisciplinary digital representation of the world’s ocean that will provide a diverse community of stakeholders with the information needed to build a sustainable future.

As a response to this observation, the idea has grown among the sponsors of the ODIS and Ocean InfoHub projects to combine the two above initiatives (ODIS and CHM/TMT) into a new approach to accessibility and use of the ocean data and information resources through a new global architecture that would ensure the equitable participation of all user communities across all sectors that are targeted by the UN Decade. For more detail, the Executive Council was referred to document IOC/EC-53/4.3.Doc and the costed proposal of this new initiative for an initial five-year period documented in its addendum.

Funded by the UNESCO/Flanders Fund-in-Trust for the support of UNESCO’s activities in the field of Science (FUST) for a period of three years, the Ocean InfoHub 2020–2022 is proposed to lay the foundations for an inclusive ODIS/Ocean InfoHub (OIH) that will serve not only IOC programmes and activities but will also support the development of the UN Ocean Decade. The architecture of the proposed ODIS/OIH Project will rely on the establishment of eight regional nodes that will require the commitment of IOC Member States and regional subsidiary bodies to mobilize the necessary resources.

Mr Troisi, Mr de Bruin and Dr Belov concluded that all information required to start the implementation of the IOC Ocean Data and Information System linked to the IOC Ocean InfoHub and the possibility to expand the proposed system to the UN Decade level is now available for the consideration of this ambitious but essential initiative by the Executive Council.

Dec. EC-53/4.3

Contributions to the UN Decade by IOC’s IODE Programme and related Capacity Development Activities

The Executive Council,

1. Recalling Assembly Decisions IOC-XXX/7.2.2 (IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS)) and IOC-XXX/11.1 (IOC Capacity Development Group of Experts),

2. Having examined document IOC/EC-53/4.3.Doc and addendum with the costed proposal for the ODIS/OIH project contained therein,
3. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium) for funding the IOC Ocean InfoHub Project (2020–2022);

4. Welcomes the proposal for an ODIS/OIH Project, building upon the IOC Ocean InfoHub project;

5. Invites the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) to plan, in close collaboration with the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development, and start the necessary activities for the implementation of the ODIS/OIH Project as part of its 2021–2023 and 2023–2025 work plans;

6. Calls on IOC Member States, regional subsidiary bodies, as well as other UN agencies, non-UN IGOs, NGOs and private sector partners to mobilize the necessary resources to develop the ODIS/OIH Project and to collaborate actively towards the sustainability of this initiative.

58. The representatives of __ 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: ___________.

4.4 WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOINT IOC-WMO BODIES
[Resolution XXX-2]

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<td>IOC/EC-53/4.4.Doc(1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rules of Procedure of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board</td>
<td>Revised MoU on the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)</td>
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<td>IOC/EC-53/4.4.Doc(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terms of Reference of the Joint WMO-IOC Study Group on the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)</td>
<td>Working arrangements for joint IOC-WMO bodies</td>
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59. Mr Albert Fischer, Head of the Ocean Observations and Services Section, recalled IOC Resolution **XXX-2** (2019) and a parallel resolution of the 18th World Meteorological Congress creating the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board (JCB) as a high-level coordination mechanism for the two organizations. These resolutions also disbanded the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), in the context of a WMO constituent body reform. He presented the proposed Rules of Procedure of the JCB (IOC/EC-53/4.4.Doc(1)), reflecting the Collaborative Board’s multiple mandates to develop a joint collaborative strategy, to provide WMO and IOC governing bodies with strategic advice, to provide technical and scientific recommendations for WMO and IOC subsidiary bodies and programmes, and to engage in liaison with stakeholders. The disbanding of JCOMM and the incorporation of appropriate JCOMM functions into GOOS, the IODE, and the WMO Infrastructure and Services Commissions have led to new working arrangements reported in IOC/EC-53/4.4.Inf(2).

60. Also in the context of WMO constituent body reform, the four co-sponsors of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)—namely IOC, WMO, UNEP, and the ISC—have proposed the development of a Joint WMO-IOC-UNEP-ISC Study Group on GCOS with the purpose of considering the programme’s governance and structure, and to make joint recommendations to the co-sponsors. The GCOS Review (GCOS Reports, 181; 2014) recommended that the co-sponsors of GCOS consider changing the GCOS governance structure in order to strengthen the level of support, recognizing the aim of GCOS to meet the needs of climate system monitoring, for
assessing the impacts of climate variability and change and applications to economic development, as well as research leading to improved understanding, modelling and prediction of the climate system. The proposed joint study group would engage stakeholders including IOC Member States, with a view to providing recommendations for adoption by the Assembly at its 31st session in 2021.

61. Mr Salvatore Aricò, Head of the Ocean Section, introduced the revised Memorandum of Understanding on the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), as drafted jointly by the Co-Sponsors of WCRP: the IOC, WMO and the International Science Council (ISC) in document IOC/EC-53/4.4.Inf(1).

### Dec. EC-53/4.4

**Working arrangements for Joint IOC-WMO Bodies**

The Executive Council,

1. **Recalling** IOC Resolution XXX-2 (2019) creating the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board,

2. **Taking note** of the working arrangements for joint IOC-WMO bodies reported in document IOC/EC-53/4.4.Inf(1),


4. **Adopts** the Rules of Procedure of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board given in document IOC/EC-53/4.4.Doc(1);

5. **Having examined** document IOC/EC-53/4.4.Doc(2) Terms of Reference of the Joint WMO-IOC-ISC-UNEP Study Group on the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS),

6. **Adopts** these Terms of Reference as given in document IOC/EC-53/4.4.Doc(2); and

7. **Requests** the IOC Chairperson to consult with the leaders of the WMO, ISC, and UNEP with a view to harmonizing any adjustments to the terms of reference proposed in their sequential adoption by the respective bodies;

8. **Taking into account** Assembly Decision IOC-XXX/6.2 on the World Climate Review Programme (WCRP), and

9. **Having examined** document IOC/EC-53/4.4.Inf(1),

10. **Adopts** the revised Memorandum of Understanding for the co-sponsorship of WCRP, as contained in document IOC/EC-53/4.4.Inf(1).

62. The representatives of ___ 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: ____________.

### 4.5 REVIEW OF THE IOC OCEAN LITERACY PLAN OF ACTION

[Decision IOC-XXX/11.2]

Review of the IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action 2018–2021
Ms Francesca Santoro, programme specialist for Ocean Literacy, introduced this item. She reminded the Council that ocean literacy is set out within the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021). Ocean literacy has developed as a core and federating value not only to enhance the public understanding of ocean issues and communicate on the relevance of IOC programmes but also to develop innovative tools that allow citizens’ and stakeholders’ actions towards ocean sustainability. In transforming knowledge into action, Ocean literacy is instrumental in implementing the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).

Towards that end, Member States, regional and technical subsidiary bodies were requested through IOC Circular Letter 2800 to review and comment on the IOC Ocean Literacy Action Plan that was presented to the Assembly at its 30th session. An online survey was prepared to review and finalize the Action Plan with a forward looking consideration. The Action Plan also benefitted from an internal review to ensure that it is coherent with all IOC programmes. Moreover, the survey was used to collect information on the ocean literacy activities currently being implemented in different countries and regions. This information feeds a database designed as a repository of good practices with the aim of facilitating exchanges on, and promotion of, ocean literacy among Member States.

Ms Santoro presented a progress report on IOC Ocean Literacy activities, implemented both at global and regional levels, as well as in collaboration with other UNESCO Sectors and Field Offices. She informed that through the support of the Government of Sweden, it was possible to start developing a draft ocean literacy strategy for the UN Decade of Ocean Science. The process involved a series of stakeholder consultations, including an open questionnaire with over 300 respondents from across the world, and a participatory multi-stakeholder workshop held in Venice on December 2019, as well as a bibliographical review. A first pilot of an ocean literacy professional development workshop for the private sector was organized with experts in media, finance, science and representatives of NGOs. It showcased good business practices towards ocean sustainability.

Ms Santoro mentioned a few other developments, in particular the increased collaboration with OceanTeacher Global Academy e-learning platform to develop ocean literacy trainings and even more so since the Covid-19 outbreak. Through the implementation of partnerships with the private sector, and in collaboration with the UNESCO Network of Associated Schools (ASPNet), it was possible to develop an ocean literacy project for high school students. Thanks to the support of Brazil, and Italy is was also possible to publish the Portuguese and the Italian versions of the Ocean Literacy for All: A toolkit (IOC/2017/MG/80 Rev.).

Dec. EC-53/4.5

Review of the IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action 2018–2021

The Executive Council,


2. Recalling the IOC Capacity Development Strategy, 2015–2021 (IOC/INF-1332) in which ocean literacy is identified as a main activity of the strategy output 5: ‘Visibility and awareness increased’,

3. Taking into account the IOC’s progress on ocean literacy, its role in promoting the science-society-policy interface, and in implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda,
4. Also taking into account the expected role of ocean literacy in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) guided by the ongoing preparation of an ocean literacy strategy for the Decade,

5. Decides to endorse the IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action, as detailed in Document IOC/EC-53/4.5.Doc;

6. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Sweden for the financial support provided to the IOC’s Ocean Literacy activities and encourages other Member States to follow this example;

7. Welcomes the contribution of other donors, including those belonging to the private sector in supporting specific IOC Ocean Literacy activities.

67. The representatives of __ 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: ____________.

4.6 STATUS OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL INDIAN OCEAN (IOCINDIO) [Dec. IOC-XXX/3.3.4]


Information: IOC/INF-1388 Progress report on the activities of the IOC Regional Committee of the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) for the period from April 2016 to April 2020.

68. The IOCINDIO Chair, Dr M. A. Atmanand, introduced this item and presented the proposed change of status of IOCINDIO from a regional committee to a sub-commission of IOC in pursuance to Assembly Decision IOC-XXX/3.3.4. The proposal developed in document IOC/EC-53/4.6.Doc contains the mission, the objectives, budgetary implications, secretarial arrangements and the proposed terms of references of the future sub-commission, among other information.

69. Dr Atmanand made a case for the change of status by presenting updated information on the achievements of IOCINDIO. He highlighted how dynamic the region has become since its reactivation in 2016 with the establishment of two UNESCO Category-2 centres in India and Iran and two UNESCO Chairs in Oman and Qatar exclusively dedicated to oceanography and capacity development; the commitment of governments and national institutes in the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition, the regional tsunami warning system, the Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System (IOGOOS) and many other regional and international programmes. The IOC Chair considered that IOCINDIO has reached the tipping point where the region lacks the necessary regional coordination, IOC staff time and regular budgetary seed money to better support IOC programmes in the region and be a leading and sustained stakeholder of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).

70. The proposal for changing IOCINDIO into an IOC Indian Ocean Sub-commission was made for the first time in July 2008 based on the analysis of the reasons that impeded the performance of IOCINDIO as a regional committee until it became inactive. Convergent conclusions were expressed in the unpublished correspondence report entitled: Toward an Indian Ocean Sub-Commission. The same causes leading to the same effect, all existing regional subsidiary bodies became inactive without the support of a regional secretariat and seed funding for operations and activities. Moreover, all existing sub-commissions were first established as regional committees or
as an “Association” until they built regional strength, gained the trust of IOC Member States and eventually changed status.

71. Relying on the strong community feeling among Indian Ocean countries, Dr Atmanand advocated for the ability of the proposed IOC Sub-commission for the Indian Ocean to fully and efficiently support IOC programmes and benefit Member States and people in the entire Indian Ocean basin. The new sub-commission would offer Member States a wider scope for their participation in regional activities according to their interests. The boundaries of the sub-commission would encompass the existing IOCINDIO and some countries of the Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Islands States (IOCAFRIA) and the Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC).

72. In conclusion, the IOCINDIO Chairman called upon Member States of the Executive Council to recommend the establishment of the IOC Sub-commission for the Indian Ocean by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session in 2021.

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**Dec. EC-53/4.7**

**Status of the Regional Committee of the Central Indian Ocean**

The Executive Council,

1. Recalling Decision IOC-XXX/3.3.4, by which the Assembly requested: (i) the IOCINDIO Chair to prepare, with the help of the IOC secretariat, a proposal for changing the status of IOCINDIO; and (ii) the Executive Council to examine this issue at its session in 2020,

2. Having examined the proposal as contained in document IOC/EC-53/4.6.Doc and as further documented in IOC/INF-1388,

3. Also recalling Resolution XXVI-1 with its annex patterning to the Strengthening IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies and the Regional Strategy for Organisational Improvement and Resolutions EC-XLIX.1 and EC-XLIX.2 relevant to IOCINDIO,

4. Expressing gratitude to the Government of India, which hosted the Regional Planning Workshop of the Western/Northern/Central Indian Ocean countries as well as ROPME sea area for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) on 8–10 January 2020 and the preceding Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) Leadership workshop for developing the Regional Framework for Coastal Vulnerability towards the Safety, Security and Sustainable Development of Member States in the Indian Ocean, on 6–7 January 2020 in Chennai,

5. Further expressing appreciation to the IOCINDIO Member States, notably the Government of Kuwait and other partners including governmental and non-governmental national, regional and international organisations, academic and research institutions for active participation and contribution to the two above workshops,

6. Welcomes the proposed transformation of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean into the IOC Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean (IOCIO) as presented in document IOC/EC-53/4.6.Doc and as amended by its discussions;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare jointly with the IOCINDIO Officers, the funding and financial implications allowing the implementation of the proposal in line with the IOC Programme and Budget for 2022–2023; and

8. Further requests the IOCINDIO Chair, with the help of the Secretariat, to submit the revised proposal to the consideration of, and possible endorsement by, the IOC Assembly at its 31st session in 2021.
73. The representatives of 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: ___________.

4.7 PREPARATION OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 60-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE IOC
[Dec. IOC-XXX/12.5]


74. The IOC Chair introduced this item. He invited Prof. Peter Haugan (past Chair of IOC) who had accepted the invitation of the Assembly at its 30th session (Paris, 26 June–4 July 2019) to lead the planning efforts, to address the Council.

75. Prof. Haugan, reporting on this item, highlighted suggestions and plans for celebrating the 60 year anniversary of IOC.

76. The Chair then informed the Council about the Declaration issued by the Officers to mark the official start of the celebration.

77. Member States were invited to report on their planned national contributions.

Dec. EC-53/4.8

Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the IOC (1960–2020)

The Executive Council,

1. Taking note of the report by the past chairperson of IOC (IOC/EC-53/4.7.Doc),

2. Welcomes the Declaration by the Officers;

3. Invites Member States and IOC subsidiary bodies to commemorate the anniversary through national and regional activities during 2020–2021 and inform the Secretariat there about;

4. Requests the Secretariat to develop communication products (e.g. brochure, video, memorabilia, slides/posters) that can support Member States’ own efforts to celebrate the 60th anniversary at national events.

78. The representatives of 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: ___________.

5 GOVERNANCE, PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING

5.1 DRAFT IOC MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY FOR 2022–2029 (41 C/4) AND DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2022–2025 (41 C/5) [Resolution XXX-3]

IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(2) Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025
The Executive Secretary introduced this item, starting with the Draft IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029 (41 C/4). He reminded Member States that the document, already reviewed by the IOC Assembly at its 30th session in 2019, builds on the current IOC Medium-term Strategy, 2014–2021 (IOC-INF-1314), preserving the comprehensive framework of six functions for its implementation, while at the same time attempting to further clarify and sharpen the proposed vision statement and five High-Level Objectives of the Commission. The version proposed for Member States consideration in document IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(1) was revised in accordance with Resolution XXX-3 and following a review by the Officers of the Commission at their annual meeting, Paris, 13–14 January 2020. It was also subject to examination by the open-ended Intersessional Financial Advisory Group.

The Executive Secretary stressed the importance of a constructive and inclusive discussion of these preliminary proposals, both in the plenary and in the Financial Committee, with a view of guiding the future work of the Secretariat on this key document that will define the Commission’s strategy in the next eight-year period, largely concordant with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

The Executive Secretary further explained that the Secretariat’s proposed approach to the preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 is substantiated in two parts of the Document IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(2). The first part contains the IOC Strategic Results Report (SRR) 2020 designed to provide both UNESCO and IOC Member States with an analysis of the programme outcomes over the period from 2016 to 2019. The report highlights the importance of IOC achievements to UNESCO Member States and provides to IOC Member States a basis to review and reassess the programmatic objectives, including possible reorientation, reinforcement or downscaling/termination (‘lessons learned and emerging trends’). The second part of this document contains the proposal for one IOC Expected Result in the Draft Programme and Budget (C/5), in accordance with Assembly Resolution XXVIII-3, as well as the proposed guiding principles to be followed by the Secretariat in elaborating further proposals in the course of the UNESCO Programme and Budget (C/5) preparation process.

In referring to Resolution XXX-3 that invited him to ‘provide Member States with an estimate of the necessary budget to effectively operate the IOC at an optimum level, to help identify how and what additional resources might be secured’, the Executive Secretary informed the Executive Council that the Secretariat has conducted an initial analysis in response to the resolution and proposed to consider two levels of the fit-for-purpose IOC in terms of resources and staffing: the “healthy IOC” that is able to sustainably perform its current duties, and the “optimal IOC” that is able to deliver in accordance with current and anticipated future requirements of the world in terms of ocean science. The Executive Secretary briefly introduced to Member States his preliminary considerations on the two levels of IOC resources and welcomed Member States guidance as to the level of ambition they wished to set for the Commission in the context of the need to start managing the ocean sustainably and capitalize on tremendous opportunities presented by the UN Decade. This critically important guidance will inspire future drafting work of the Secretariat with regard to the Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029 and the supporting programme and budget for the first quadrennium 2022–2025.

With the IOC turning 60 years old in 2020, the IOC strategy, programme and budget for 2022–2025 require deep reflection of Member States keeping in mind IOC Statutes Articles 11.3 and 10.4. He further recalled that Article 11.3 outlines the possibility for IOC to act as a joint
specialized mechanism in the UN system and Article 10.4 allows IOC to establish additional financial arrangements for implementation of its programme of work.

84. The Executive Secretary concluded by reminding the Executive Council that the next drafts of both documents will be circulated to Intersessional Financial Advisory Group (IFAG) in the intersessional period leading to the final adoption of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2022–2029 by the IOC Assembly at its 31st session in 2021.

Dec. EC-53/5.1

Draft IOC Medium Term Strategy for 2020–2029 (41 C/4) and Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025 (41 C/5)

The Executive Council,

1. Having examined documents IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(1) and IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(2),

2. Thanks the Executive Secretary for the preliminary proposals developed by the Secretariat for the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2029 and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2025;

3. Expresses its appreciation that the document could benefit from inputs of the IOC Officers at their annual meeting, 13–14 January 2020, and from intersessional consultations through IFAG;

4. Takes note of the documents IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(1) and IOC/EC-53/5.1.Doc(2) subject to further examination by the Financial Committee with a view of formulating draft resolution for discussion and adoption in plenary.

85. The representatives of ___ 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: ____________.

5.2 REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE
[Resolution XXX-3]

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| Information:       | IOC/INF-1383        | IOC’s programmatic contribution to the Decade, 2021–2030 |

86. The Chair of the Financial Committee, Vice-Chair of IOC Karim Hilmi (Morocco), reported to the Executive Council on the results of the Committee’s examination of the items entrusted to it by the plenary in addition to the statutory ones foreseen in the Rule of Procedure 8.1(c) (IOC/INF-1166). He informed that the Financial Committee’s discussions had been extremely constructive and thanked all Member States that participated in the work of the Committee for their commitment and collaboration. He then proceeded to a detailed presentation of the draft resolution prepared by the Financial Committee for consideration by the Executive Council.
The Executive Council expressed its high appreciation to the Chair of the Financial Committee Karim Hilmi for his effective and efficient way of leading the work of the Financial Committee in a truly inclusive and collegial spirit. Once again, this constructive approach allowed the Committee to complete its challenging mandate in a very limited period of time.

**Draft Resolution EC-53/[5.2]**

**Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

*[Draft Resolution to be prepared during the session]*

The representatives of __ 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: ____________.

**6 NEXT SESSIONS OF THE IOC GOVERNING BODIES**

*[Statutes Art. 7.C.8; Rule of Procedure 8.3 & 21.2(c); Rule of Procedure 19.2]*

Dr Ryabinin reminded the Council of the decisions of the Assembly at its 30th session ([Decision IOC-XXX/12.7](#)) on the dates and duration of its next session in 2021. There was consensus among Member States of the Council on the recommendation to keep the duration of 3.5 days of the next regular session of the Executive Council (55th session) in 2022.

**Dec. EC-53/6**

**Next Sessions of the IOC Governing Bodies**

The Executive Council,

1. Recalling [Decision IOC-XXX/12.7](#) of the Assembly to hold its 31st session for a duration of 6.5 plus one Ocean Science Day, at UNESCO Headquarters, over the period from 14 to 25 June 2021, preceded by a one-day session of the Executive Council (54th session) acting as the steering committee of the Assembly,

2. Having considered potential conflicting dates with important meetings to take place in June 2021 and 2022, in particular *(to be completed)*,

3. Expressing thanks to the Member States and partners for their sponsoring of side events and services that have notably supported recent sessions of IOC governing bodies and the organization of special events such as the IOC Ocean Science Day,

4. Decides to hold the 55th session of the Executive Council for a duration of 3.5 days in June 2022.

The representatives of __ 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: ____________.
7 ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND MODALITIES FOR THE FINALISATION OF THE REPORT

91. The Chairperson thanked the Rapporteur Mr/Ms __________ from [country] for his/her excellent work in support of the work of the session.

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

93. The IOC Chair then invited the Executive Council to adopt, in plenary, the draft decisions that were still pending after discussion in plenary and ___ resolutions. Parts of the draft summary report of the discussions at the present session was presented to the Council in English only for information.

Dec. EC-53/7

Adoption of Resolutions and modalities for the finalisation of the report

The Executive Council,

1. Recalling the recommendations of the Executive Council at its 52nd session (EC-LII, Dec.3.3) on organization matters,

2. Adopts the decisions and ___ resolutions of the session;

3. Takes note of the draft summary report of the session and the compilation of the decisions adopted during the session (IOC/EC-53/Decisions Prov.);

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to circulate the narrative part of the report to Member States in the four working languages of the Commission by 31 August 2020 at the latest for its adoption by correspondence by 15 October 2020.

94. The representatives of ___ 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: ____________.

8 CLOSURE

95. The Executive Council met in plenary session during 3.5 days from 30 June to 3 July, considered ___ items on its agenda and approved ___ decisions and ___ resolutions. The plenary meeting was supported by ___ preparatory meetings, ___ meetings of sessional committees and ___ information and side events during the session. The gender ratio of Assembly Member State representatives and all participants, including speakers, was close to ___ (female:male).

96. The Chair of the Commission closed the 53rd session of the Executive Council at _____ on 3 July 2020.