To: IOCEA Action Addressees

cc: Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission
Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)
Other IOC Action Addressees

Subject: Sixth Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Eastern Atlantic (IOCEA), Accra, Ghana, 28–30 March 2010 [NEW DATES]

I have the honour to invite you to attend the Sixth Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Eastern Atlantic (IOCEA), which will be held from 2 to 5 March 2010 in Accra, Ghana.

It would be greatly appreciated if the names, official addresses and designations (i.e., Head of Delegation, Alternate, Representative or Adviser) of your delegates could be forwarded to the IOC Secretariat by 15 December 2009 at the latest (c/o Mr Ehrlich Desa via e-mail: e.desa@unesco.org; cc: Ms Elena Iasyreva, e-mail: e.iasyreva@unesco.org), in order to allow preparation of a comprehensive list of participants in advance of the Session.

In preparation for the session, we would like to request you to compile a short report on national oceanographic programmes: objectives, priorities, expected outcomes, national infrastructure and related capabilities, requirements etc. This will enable the linkage of such programmes to the ongoing activities of IOC.

The Provisional Agenda (Document IOCEA-VI/1 Prov.) for the Session is enclosed herewith. Further information and documents will be made available (in English and French) as soon as they are ready. The draft report, to be adopted during the Session, will be available in English only.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

[signed]

Patricio Bernal
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO
Executive Secretary, IOC

Enclosure: Provisional Agenda
Revised version in preparation
Sixth Session of the
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Regional Committee for the Central Eastern Atlantic Ocean
(IOCEA-VI)

Accra, Ghana
2–5 March 2010

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND OPENING

2. ORGANISATION AND ARRANGEMENTS OF THE SESSION
   2.1 ADOPTION OF AGENDA
   2.2 DESIGNATION OF RAPPORTEUR
   2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

3. REPORT ON INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

4. REVIEW OF CHALLENGES FACING IOCEA AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RE-STRUCTURING

5. PROGRAMME MATTERS ON IOC ACTIONS [35C/5] AND THEIR RELEVANCE FOR IOCEA

PRIORITY 1: Addressing climate change through IOC's lead role in building the knowledge base and contributions by other UNESCO scientific programmes

5.1 Mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and variability
   5.1.1. Increase the understanding of the Oceans Role in climate change and variability
   5.1.2. Climate predictions through observations and process studies at regional and global scales (contribution of GOOS – Africa, GLOSS and ODINAFRICA)
   5.1.3. Increase the understanding of the impacts of climate change and variability on marine ecosystems and their living resources
   5.1.4. Climate Change Adaptation for Africa and SIDS (project on Adaptation to Climate Change in Coastal Zones of Western Africa – ACCC)

PRIORITY 2: Support of IOC's work in improving the governance, management and protection of ocean and coastal areas

5.2 Prevention and reduction of the impacts of natural hazards
   5.2.1. Promote integrated and sustained monitoring and warning systems
   5.2.2. Educating communities at risk with respect to natural hazards impact prevention, preparedness &mitigation measures

5.3 Safeguarding the health of ocean ecosystems
   5.3.1. Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment
   5.3.2. Research & monitoring for the prevention of marine environmental degradation
   5.3.3. Capacity-development necessary for maintenance of healthy ocean ecosystems focusing on the regional needs
   5.3.4. Ocean biogeographic information system in support of marine assessment and ecosystem research
5.4 Management procedures and policies leading to the sustainability of coastal and ocean environment and resources.
   5.4.1. Regional cooperation through capacity-building and transfer of technology & measures to strengthen IOC RSBs
   5.4.2. Science for ocean and coastal resource management
   5.4.3. Decision Support Tools for improved integrated ocean and coastal area management
   5.4.4. Facilitate the development and adoption of standards

6. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES, AGENCIES AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

7. STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

8. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

9. STRATEGY OF WORK 2010-2012

10. PROGRAMME OF WORK 2010-2012

11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

12. DATE AND PLACE OF IOCEA-VII

13. OTHER BUSINESS

14. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUMMARY REPORT

15. CLOSURE