

IOC Officers Meeting, 20–21 January 2026

UNESCO-IOC Headquarters, Paris

Rooms 1.002 & IOC meeting room

Meeting webpage: <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4863>

AGENDA – SUMMARY

IOC Officers: IOC Chair, Yutaka MICHIDA

Vice Chairs: Ms Allison D. REED (Group I); Dr Atanas PALAZOV (Group II); Capt. Carlos ZUÑIGA ARAYA (Group III); Dr Hansan PARK (Group IV); Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA (Group V) and Ariel TROISI (former IOC Chair)

IOC Staff: Vidar HELGESEN, Executive Secretary; Julian BARBIÈRE, Head IOC/MPR & Ocean Decade Coordinator (DCU), Bernardo ALIAGA, Head IOC/TSR; Karen EVANS, Head IOC/OSS; Joanna POST, Head IOC/OOS; Wenxi ZHU, Bangkok – IOC/WESTPAC; Ibukun J. ADEWUMI, Nairobi – IOCAFRICA; Lorna V. INNISS, Cartagena de Indias – IOCARIBE; Xenia YVINEC, Head IOC/EO/AO; Alison CLAUSEN, IOC/MPR/DCU; Chloé LEGRAND, Consultant Communication (item 8.2.3 only); Patrice BONED, IOC/EO/AO; Elena IASYREVA, IOC/EXS.

Invitee(s): Mizue IIJIMA (JAMSTEC, assistant to IOC Chair); Jasna HARO (Chilean Navy Hydrographic, and Oceanographic Service (SHOA) in support of Group III Vice-Chair); Suzan El Gharabawy (National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Alexandria (NIOF)) in support of Group V vice-chair, Ana PERSIC, CAB

Tuesday & Wednesday 20–21 January 2026	Lead	Comments
Opening by the Chair & introduction	Chair	
Adoption of the agenda for the Officers meeting, logistical details	Chair, Vidar	https://oceanexpert.org/event/4863#agenda . Two items proposed on the draft provisional agenda for EC-59 were not discussed: Warning & Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards, and GLOSS Implementation Plan 2026–2030
Strategic overview by the Executive Secretary	Vidar	The Executive Secretary mainly introduced Governance, Programming and Budgeting issues detailed below.
Logistics of the 59th Session of the IOC Executive Council	Vidar, Xenia, Patrice	<p>Draft Agenda approved + 3.5 day timetable (Tuesday 30 June–Friday 3 July):</p> <p>Item 3.7 (BBNJ) has been brought forward to Wednesday 1 July.</p> <p>The Officers' pre-session meeting will be held in person on Monday 29 June, p.m.</p> <p>The IFAG pre-session meeting will be held online 2 weeks before the Council.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for Rapporteur • Proposals for Chairs of Committees • Working groups 	Chair	<p>Actions: Vice-Chair A. Palazov will seek a Rapporteur from Group II.</p> <p>Resolutions Committee: Luis Pinheiro (Portugal). Alison Clausen, Secretary of the ResCom.</p> <p>Financial Committee: Vice-Chair Carlos Zuñiga (Chile). Xenia Yvinec, Secretary of the FinCom.</p> <p>No sessional working group was proposed at this stage.</p>
• IOC R. Revelle Lecture, 2026	Chair, Head of IOC/OSS	60 mn with interpretation + Q&A

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		<p>The lecture is to address marine geology, geological oceanography, and institutional co-operation in these fields and in general, at the national and international levels. See the R. Revelle Memorial Lecture Information document.</p> <p>Action: IOC Vice-Chairs will consult their group and submit candidates to the Secretariat by 10 February.</p> <p>The Heads of OSS and TSR will consult each other and make proposals by the same deadline</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Side events 		<p>Proposals are expected after the invitation to the EC is out.</p>
Ocean data & observations – Update on key agenda items	Joanna	<p>Powerpoint presentation: Ocean data & observations (covers all sub-items below).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GOOS Governance reform 		<p>Document: GOOS Reform final deliverable Item on EC-59 agenda</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GLOSS Implementation Plan 2026-2030 	Bernardo	<p><i>Not discussed.</i> Item on EC-59 agenda</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an IOC Data Architecture 	Joanna	<p>Powerpoint presentation: Ocean data & observations Item on EC-59 agenda</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WMO-IOC Joint Collaborative Board 	Joanna VC Carlos	<p>Powerpoint presentation: Ocean data & observations Item on EC-59 agenda</p>
IOC and BBNJ	Julian VC Hansan	<p>Powerpoint presentation: IOC & 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 Item on EC-59 agenda</p>
Joint work of Group of Experts on Capacity Development and Ocean Literacy	Karen	<p>Powerpoint presentation: Joint work on Capacity Development and Ocean Literacy: Groups of Experts and IOC Secretariat planning Item on EC-59 agenda</p>
Warning and Mitigation Systems for Ocean Hazards	Bernardo	<p><i>Not discussed.</i> The ICGs are the only major subsidiary bodies reporting to EC-59 this year. The reporting process will be reviewed to take account of the forthcoming reduction in the duration and improved efficiency of the sessions of the governing bodies.</p>
Governance, Programming & Budgeting	Vidar, VC Carlos, Xenia, Alison	<p>Later during the meeting, the Chairs of the IOC major Subsidiary Bodies are invited to join the discussion online.</p> <p>PowerPoint: Online meeting with Subsidiary Bodies Chairs & Co-chairs (incl. key reflections during the Officers meeting regarding efficiency and effectiveness in IOC Governance and presentations of Programme and Budget 2026-2027, Review of the working methods of IOC Governing Bodies, new IOC Communications Strategy, IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation Process and Draft P&B for 2028-2029).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on the Programme & Budget 2026-2027 (Draft 43 C/5) 	Vidar, Xenia	<p>Powerpoint: Update on the Programme & Budget 2026-2027 (Draft 43 C/5) Item on EC-59 agenda</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Governance & Management Processes: Update on progress and next steps 	Vidar	<p>Powerpoint: Review of the working methods of IOC Governing Bodies Document : Guidelines for the structure and responsibilities of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission (Section B of the IOC Manual) Item on EC-59 agenda</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the working methods of IOC Governing Bodies 	Vidar	<p>Document: IOC Governance Efficiency Powerpoint: Review of the working methods of IOC Governing Bodies</p> <p>Action: The IOC Secretariat will update the discussion paper that was presented to the Officers based on consultations with the Officers and present to the next IFAG meeting (18/02/26). On the basis of consultation with IFAG a revised version of the discussion paper will be shared with the Officers. IOC Officers will consult within their electoral groups and provide feedback to the Secretariat by 13/04/26. Item on EC-59 agenda</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New IOC Communications Strategy 	Julian, Chloé	Powerpoint: New IOC Communication Strategy Item on EC-59 agenda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IOC Secretariat implementation plan to deliver on Medium term strategy 2022-2029 	Vidar	Powerpoint: IOC Secretariat Implementation Plan to deliver on Medium Term Strategy 2022-2029 (Secretariat delivery of MTS 2022 – 2029 through operationalization of Results Framework)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation Process: Phase II report and proposal for Phase III 	Alison	Powerpoint: IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Phase II consultation process . <p>Action: The IOC Secretariat will facilitate interviews of the IOC Chair and Officers with the consulting team carrying out the consultation and organize online regional consultations with Member States to seek their input to the process. Item on EC-59 agenda</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision for strengthening IOCAFRICA and other IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies 	Vidar	Reference was made to this process in the previous agenda item. The consultation process for IOC and Future of the Ocean will collect data and information to inform reporting to the 59 th Session of the Executive Council on this issue.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Programme & Budget 2028–2029 (Draft 44 C/5) – Preliminary Proposals by the Secretariat 	Vidar, Xenia	Powerpoint: Draft Programme & Budget 2028-2029 (Draft 44 C/5) – Preliminary Proposals by the Secretariat Item on EC-59 agenda
<i>Officers Private meeting</i>		

See photos next page

