



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Fortieth Session of the Executive Council
UNESCO, Paris, 18 June 2007

SUMMARY REPORT

1. OPENING

1 The Chairman, Professor David Pugh, opened the 40th Session of the Executive Council at 09.45hr in Room IV on Monday 18 June 2007. He welcomed the participants and briefly referred to the documentation for the present session of the Executive Council. The Council was convened as the Steering Committee for the 24th Session of the Assembly, in accordance with Rule of Procedure No. 12(2).

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2 **The Executive Council adopted** the Revised Provisional Agenda (document IOC/EC-XL/1 prov. rev.) as the Agenda of its 40th Session (Annex I, hereto).

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

3 The Chairman invited proposals for the task of Rapporteur. On the proposal of Mauritius, **the Executive Council designated** Mr Ariel Hernán Troisi (Argentina) as the Rapporteur for the present session.

3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 24th SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

3.1 DESIGNATION OF STATUTORY COMMITTEES

4 The Chairman reminded the Executive Council that, in the designation of the three Statutory Committees for the Assembly, it could submit proposals, in respect of their composition, but that the final decision as to that composition, including the Chairpersonship, of each Statutory Committee remained entirely with the Assembly. He then invited Member States to declare their wish to participate in the Statutory Committees, and informed the Executive Council that he would submit proposals for the Chairpersons of the Nominations and the

Resolutions Committees to the Assembly, following his discussion of this matter with the Officers and the Executive Secretary. He also indicated the need to ensure an appropriate language balance within each of the Statutory Committees.

5 Pursuant to Rule of Procedure No. 12 (2), **the Executive Council**, acting as the Steering Committee of the Assembly, **proposed** a Nominations Committee for the Assembly, with the following initial composition:

Members: Canada, Chile, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Japan, Peru, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, the USA, Venezuela.

6 **The Executive Council proposed** a Resolutions Committee for the Assembly, with the following initial composition:

Members: Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the USA, Venezuela.

7 **The Executive Council proposed** a Financial Committee for the Assembly, under the Chairpersonship of the IOC Vice-Chairman Dr Neville Smith (Australia), with the following initial composition:

Members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, Japan, Nigeria, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Tanzania, the UK, the USA, and Venezuela.

3.2 SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS

8 To ensure a smooth running of the Assembly, the **Executive Council recommended** the establishment of open-ended Working Groups on:

- "The Future of the IOC", to discuss the proposal made by the Officers (item 3.1 of the Assembly Agenda, scheduled on Tuesday 19 June)
- "The Final Version of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2008–2013" (item 4.1.2 of the Assembly Agenda, scheduled on Wednesday 20 June)
- "The IOC Ocean Sciences Programme" (item 4.2.1 of the Assembly Agenda, scheduled on Thursday 21 June)
- "The IOC Data Management Strategy" (item 4.3.6 of the Assembly Agenda, scheduled on Friday 22 June).

9 The Chairman proposed that nominations and chairpersonships for these sessional Working Groups be left to the Assembly. He suggested that the meetings of the Working Groups on the Ocean Sciences Programme and on the Data Management Strategy should be relatively short and decided in the light of developments during the Assembly itself.

10 Regarding the discussion of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy for 2008–2013, he reminded the Executive Council of the Overall Review of Major UNESCO Programmes II (Natural sciences) and III (Social and human sciences) and of the UNESCO Executive Board invitation to the IOC to transmit its comments on the recommendations of the Review by 31 July 2007 (176 EX/Dec.7)..

11 **The Executive Council recommended** that the Financial Committee take on the responsibility of addressing the question of the IOC response.

3.3 CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

12 In accordance with Rules of Procedure 8, 9 and 11.2, dealing with the preparation of the Agenda for the Assembly, two requests for supplementary items were received at the Secretariat by 19 April 2007, two months before the date of the opening of the 24th Session in the follow order:

Supplementary item 1 was proposed by Italy, based on a report on IOC progress on world ocean-bottom investigation, including the Mediterranean Sea; with an accompanying document entitled “Summary report on IHO-IOC Ocean Bottom: main investigations in progress.”

Supplementary item 2 was proposed by Sri Lanka on (i) the establishment of a Sri Lanka National Oceanographic Institute; (ii) the possibility of hosting an IOC Regional Office in this Institute; and (iii) the establishment of a regional mechanism/facility for the maintenance of oceanographic instruments.

13 A third supplementary item was proposed by Sudan on the inclusion of the Red Sea within the scope of the IOC Regional Committee for the Western Indian Ocean (IOCWIO), to be renamed IOC Regional Committee for the Western Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. This request, however, was transmitted to the Secretariat on 12 June, after the statutory deadline.

14 The Chairman informed the Executive Council that the Officers, at their meeting on Sunday 17 June 2007, thought that the Italian proposal could best be looked at in the context of the Assembly's consideration of the IOC Sciences Programme. He informed the Council that the document submitted by Italy had been prepared by Professor Morelli who has played a very active role in IOC over many years; unfortunately Professor Morelli could not participate in the 24th Session of the Assembly.

15 Regarding, the Sri Lankan proposal, the Officers recognized its multiple character and considered that it should be approached step by step; it would not be appropriate for the Assembly itself to get into the detailed attention the proposal required. The Chairman therefore invited the Executive Secretary first to discuss with the Sri Lankan delegation how the IOC might be able to help in the implementation of the Sri Lankan proposal. He also suggested that the delegation discuss with other Member States present at the Assembly the experience of these Member States in similar undertakings at the national level.

16 Regarding the Sudan proposal, the Officers, while acknowledging that it was too late to include it in the Assembly Agenda, nevertheless encouraged initial preparation for the discussion of it during the Assembly outside the Agenda.

17 Tanzania suggested that the question raised by the Sudan should also be considered by the IOC Regional Committee for the India Ocean (IOCINDIO), given the intermediate geographical situation of the Red Sea, between IOCWIO and IOCINDIO.

18 The Chairman stressed the importance of ensuring no duplication of effort between the Regional Committees in this matter.

19 As per Rule of Procedure 8 (3), **the Executive Council**, having considered the list of supplementary items and the relevant documentation, **decided** that they should be dealt with as suggested by the Officers and that the revised provisional agenda and timetable of the Assembly need not be modified.

3.4 TIMETABLE

20 The Technical Secretary, Stefano Belfiore, reviewed the Provisional Revised Timetable. **The Executive Council**, taking into consideration the inclusion of supplementary items, the reporting of sessional Working Groups and Statutory Committees in plenary and scheduled invitation of speakers, **endorsed** the Provisional Revised Timetable (IOC-XXIV/1 Add.Prov.Rev.3) for the Assembly; it is annexed to the present Summary Report.

4. RECRUITMENT OF THE IOC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

21 The Chairman informed the Executive Council that the Director-General of UNESCO extended the tour of duty of the present Executive Secretary to September 2009; however, he stressed that the Executive Council should decide whether to postpone consideration of this matter till its 42nd Session, in 2009, which might leave too little time for the necessary IOC and administrative decisions to be taken and acted upon, or to take the matter as an agenda item at its 41st Session, in June/July 2008. He invited the Executive Secretary to outline the steps required and the expended time required for this purpose. The Executive Secretary outlined the usual procedure and suggested that the process should commence in January 2009.

22 Canada suggested that, as the process of developing requirements of the position, preparing the job announcement, and reviewing the applications will take considerable time, it would be really useful to have the work descriptions and draft announcement ready for discussion at the next Executive Council.

23 The Executive Secretary informed that recruitment process allowed the use of the Executive Council at its 42nd Session (EC-XLII), preceding the 25th Session of the Assembly in 2009, as the Selection Committee following the procedures for consultations on the appointment of the Secretary IOC.

24 Given the statutory deadlines, the timeline of the process would be as follow:

December 2008	External Announcement of the Post (60days).
30 January 2009	Deadline Applications (Midnight Paris time).
1 February – 30 March 2009	<u>Pre-selection</u> Technical screening (HRM/IOC Secretariat) Selection of list of highly qualified applicants (Officers, Past Chairman, E.S. <i>ex-officio</i>).
15 March 2009	Communication of Dossiers to all Member States of IOC three months prior to the EC Session of the 15 of June.
15 June 2009	Executive Council XLII meets <i>in camera</i> to express its opinion.
16 of June 31 September 2009	Director-General decides and appoints the Executive Secretary.
1 October 2009	Newly designated Executive Secretary assumes its duties in Paris.

25 The **Executive Council agreed** with the suggestions and **instructed** the Secretariat to include this as an agenda item for the next Executive Council, and prepare the necessary documents.

5. DATES AND PLACE OF THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

26 The IOC Executive Secretary recalled the decision taken at 39th Session of the Executive Council to schedule the 41st Session: “*from Tuesday 24 June to Tuesday 1 July 2008, for a total of six working days, leaving the final decision of shortening it by one day to the IOC Officers and the Executive Secretary, taking into account the Agenda for the 41st Session of the Executive Council.*” (Report IOC/EC-XXXIX/3, para. 393). In 2009, the Executive Council will act as the Steering Committee for the 25th Session of the Assembly, meeting on the day preceding the opening of the Assembly.

6. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT

27 The **Executive Council adopted** the Draft Summary Report of its 40th Session.

7. CLOSURE

28 The Chairman closed the 40th Session of the Executive Council at 17.40hr on 18 June 2007.