**Decision A-33/4.7**

**IOC Contributions to UN Governance Processes**

The Assembly,

1. Having examined document IOC/A-33/4.7.Doc(1),
2. [USA]Notes [USA] the outcomes of the 1st session of the Preparatory Commission for the Entry into Force of the BBNJ Agreement (14–25 April 2025, UN Hq)), including the proposed establishment of an informal group on the technical aspects of the operationalization of the Clearing House Mechanism under this agreement; [Chile]
3. Also notes [USA] the recent developments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity such as the new process for identifying Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Areas (EBSAs);
4. Further notes [USA] the recent developments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including through the regular Ocean/Climate Dialogue organised yearly;
5. Invites IOC Member States to engage in the above-mentioned processes though relevant national coordination mechanism, as [appropriate/relevant], [USA]and to highlight the value proposition and expertise of the IOC to these ocean governance processes, particularly in the area of coordination of international ocean science processes, ocean observation and exchange of ocean data, the assessment of national and regional capacities in ocean science, the design/implementation of tailored capacity development initiatives and regional collaborative approaches, as well as science-based application for ocean management;
6. Requests the IOC Executive Secretary to continue to engage and reinforce cooperation with relevant UN organizations managing these processes, and provide technical and scientific inputs, as appropriate; [USA] [Chile: to keep original with frameworks instead of ~~mechanisms~~]
7. Encourages Member States to continue regular measurements and data collections on ocean acidification and proportion of total research budget allocated to the field of marine technology [USA] as well as the support to relevant IOC mechanisms, in particular the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network, the Ocean Acidification Research for Sustainability Ocean Decade programme, the ocean acidification [USA] data portal working groups, the *Global Ocean Science Report* and GOSR Tracker;
8. Decide to establish an ad hoc Working Group with the annexed Terms of Reference with the purpose of providing scientific and technical advice and recommendations to support the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, within the IOC mandate, particularly regarding the BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism, as well as other key areas of the Agreement, and to provide a progress report of its outcomes at the 59th Session of the IOC Executive Council and thereafter at the 34th session of the IOC Assembly. [Chile]

Annex to Decision A-33/4.7 [Chile]

**IOC Working Group on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (IOC/WG-BBNJ)**

## **1. Background and Context**

The United Nations adopted the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) in 2023. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, as a competent international organisation in relation to UNCLOS and the only UN body with a global mandate in ocean science, should play a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, particularly in areas related to marine scientific research, capacity building, and the sharing of ocean data and knowledge.

## **2. Objectives**

The IOC Working Group on BBNJ is established to provide scientific and technical advice on matters related to the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement within the IOC mandate, and in particular:

1. Develop recommendations for IOC’s potential role in the operationalization of BBNJ e.g., for area-based management tools; EIAs; capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology; and marine genetic resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;
2. Identify, in cooperation with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of legal Affairs of the United Nations acting as secretariat for the BBNJ Agreement, and promote IOC’s role and contributions towards the establishment and operation of the future BBNJ Clearing-House Mechanism;
3. Review and analyze scientific, technical, and capacity development aspects of the BBNJ Agreement relevant to the IOC;

(iv) Identify needs and modalities to be delivered though IOC mechanisms to support Member States, particularly developing countries, in capacity development initiatives relevant to BBNJ implementation, in cooperation with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of legal Affairs of the United Nations acting as secretariat for the BBNJ Agreement.

1. Propose strategies and mechanisms for enhancing data sharing and cooperation across national and regional institutions, including though IOC Regional Subsidiary Bodies.
2. Propose mechanisms for cooperation between IOC and BBNJ Agreement.

## **3. Membership, chairing and methods of work**

The Working Group shall be composed of experts nominated by IOC Member States, taking into account regional representation and relevant expertise (e.g., marine science, international law, capacity development, data management), as well as representatives from relevant IOC Programmes and Subsidiary Bodies. The Working Group will be chaired by an IOC Officers (Vice-Chair) to be identified by IOC Chairperson.

The Working Group shall conduct its work through virtual means and will work in English.