**Decision A-33/4.4**

**IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action 2026-2030**

The Assembly,

[UK]

1. Recalling the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 ([IOC/INF-1433](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000390082?posInSet=2&queryId=N-EXPLORE-e33fdfab-d872-4bdc-a424-bd6a69732431)) in which Ocean Literacy is identified as a main activity of the strategy output 5: Visibility, awareness and understanding on the roles and values of the ocean and ocean research in relation to human wellbeing and sustainable development increased,
2. Taking into account the IOC’s progress on Ocean Literacy and the role it can play as a cross-cutting element across all IOC programmes and sectors, the IOC collaborates with regional subsidiary bodies like IOCARIBE, IOCINDIO, IOCAFRICA, and WESTPAC. These partnerships aim to connect local communities with global environmental goals, share resources on climate change, and foster collaboration between educators, policymakers, and local stakeholders,
3. Considering the role of Ocean Literacy in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), and the establishment of the Decade Coordination Office (DCO) for Connecting People and Ocean under the Challenge 10, coordinated by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Italy,
4. Recognizing the significant achievements of the IOC Group of Experts on Ocean Literacy in supporting the advancement of Ocean Literacy at global, regional, national and local scales,
5. [UK]
6. Having examined the draft IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action (2026–2030) contained in IOC/A-33/4.4.Doc(1),
7. Notes document IOC/A-33/4.2.Doc(1) that contains the proposed ‘IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 Implementation Plan’ which considers priority areas of action for ocean literacy;
8. Decides to continue the work of the IOC Ocean Literacy Group of Experts with the terms of reference included in the Annex to this decision;
9. [Germany] Requests the IOC Secretariat to seek and use all available synergies with the Education Sector of UNESCO, corresponding to intersectoral Output 2.6 of 43 C/5, in implementing the Plan of Action, in particular its enhanced Priority 1;
10. [UK]
11. Encourages the Executive Secretary to explore opportunities to align the IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action for 2026–2030 with the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030 Implementation Plan through joint working of the Capacity Development and Ocean Literacy Secretariat and the respective Group of Experts; [UK]
12. Requests the Chair of the Ocean Literacy Group of Experts reports on the outputs of joint work and the mechanisms developed for alignment with the Capacity Development Group of Experts to the IOC Executive Council at its 59th Session of the; [UK]
13. Calls on the IOC Secretariat to steer the development of a Blue Schools Global Network, in collaboration with the UNESCO Education Sector and relevant partners;
14. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Sweden for the continued financial support provided to the IOC’s Ocean Literacy activities and encourages other Member States to follow this example;
15. Expresses its gratitude to the European Commission and the Prada Group for their ongoing financial contributions to the IOC's Ocean Literacy activities;
16. Agrees that the budget for these activities will be identified as part of the Resolution on Governance, Programming and Budgeting Matters of the Commission (A-33/DR.[5.4]).

Annex to Dec. A-33/4.4

**IOC Group of Experts on Ocean Literacy**

Terms of Reference

The IOC Group of Experts on Ocean Literacy (GE-OL) is composed of experts nominated by IOC Member States responding to a call by circular letter detailing the GE-CD membership. [UK]

The Group of Experts will advise on and, where applicable, will contribute to the implementation, coordination, and evolution of the IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action (IOC/A-33/4.4.Doc(1)) through:

1. improved coordination of ocean literacy activities implemented across regions;
2. identification of synergies with relevant groups, including but not limited to UNESCO Sectors, Traditional Owners, Civil Society Organizations, [Australia] international organizations, academic institutions, NGOs, relevant networks, and private sector associations;
3. support the assessment and monitoring progress of ocean literacy across Member States;
4. ensuring the coordination of the work of the Group of Experts with the Group of Experts on Capacity Development, with a particular focus on aligning the IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action 2026-2030 with the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030;
5. assisting the IOC Secretariat in developing a longer-term mechanism for coordinating ocean literacy and capacity development related priorities and actions across the IOC. [UK]

The Group of Experts will participate, with the support of the IOC Secretariat, in ocean [UK] diplomacy initiatives to advance ocean literacy and policy decisions, paying particular attention to priority groups, such as youth and SIDS;

The Group of Experts can be called upon to advise Member States and relevant stakeholders when support is required to implement and deliver ocean literacy initiatives, as appropriate.

The Group of Experts’ contributions will include, but not limited to:

1. proactively drafting position and white papers;
2. supporting the targeted use and dissemination of ocean communication strategies and toolkits, ensuring they reach appropriate audiences in ways that are contextually relevant and aligned with the Plan of Action;
3. leveraging a directory of specialists to foster collaboration between different sectors and audiences;
4. contributing to and reviewing IOC ocean literacy documents;

The Group of Experts will proactively communicate its progress, activities, and initiatives to relevant stakeholders.

The Group of Experts shall report its results to the IOC Assembly at its 34th session. [UK]