**Decision A-33/4.2**

**Implementation Plan for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy, 2023-2030**

The Assembly,

1. Recalling the adoption, at its 32nd session, of the *IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030)*, and an accompanying outreach and communications plan,
2. Recognizing that capacity-building is a core Purpose of the IOC, as included in IOC Statutes, [UK]
3. Also recognizing the importance of Capacity Development as one of the six functions of the *IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2022–2029)*, enabling all Member States to participate in, and benefit from, ocean research and services that are vital to sustainable development and human welfare on the planet,
4. Appreciates the work of the GE-CD Working Group and Task Team in putting together the draft implementation plan for the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030;
5. Having examined document IOC/A-33/4.2.Doc(1), [UK]
6. Notes document IOC/A-33/4.4.Doc(1); [UK]
7. Also notes that the remit of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 and its Implementation Plan include elements of ocean literacy; [UK]
8. Adopts the Implementation Plan of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023-2030;
9. Decides to continue the work of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development with the terms of reference included in the Annex to this decision; [UK]
10. Encourages the Executive Secretary to explore opportunities to align the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 Implementation Plan with the IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action for 2026–2030 through joint working of the Capacity Development and Ocean Literacy Secretariat and the respective Group of Experts; [UK]
11. Requests the Chair of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development reports on the outputs of joint work and the mechanisms developed for alignment with the Ocean Literacy Group of Experts to the IOC Executive Council at its 59th session; [UK]
12. Strongly encourages IOC primary subsidiary bodies (global programmes and regional subsidiary bodies) to take the following actions:
    1. develop programmatic and regionally relevant capacity development workplans based on the implementation plan, and the IOC CD biennial needs assessments survey conducted in close collaboration with regional subsidiary bodies;
    2. mobilize resources in order to reinforce the Secretariat staffing of the regional subsidiary bodies, and global programmes;
    3. catalyze capacity development through global, regional, and national programme development, including projects prepared in consultation with Member States with a view to raise extra-budgetary resources; and
    4. strengthen collaboration and communication between its global programmes and regional subsidiary bodies, through a central IOC CD global coordination unit, ensuring more effective support for actions contributing to (i), (ii) and (iii) above;
13. UrgesIOC Member States to:

(i) identify needs and new opportunities to participate in, and benefit from, reinforced partnerships through the IOC to achieve their capacity development goals based on their regional priorities;

(ii) appoint and actively engage national CD focal points to participate and facilitate the implementation process of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 Implementation Plan;

(iii) mobilize the knowledge, personnel, infrastructural and financial resources to support IOC’s catalytic role in helping Member States achieve these goals; and

(iv) raise the visibility of IOC’s unique niche in capacity development.

1. Decidesto continue the role of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development and to revise its Terms of Reference as in the annex to this decision.

Annex to Dec. A-33/4.2

**IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD)**

Terms of Reference

The IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD) is composed of experts nominated by IOC Member States responding to a call by circular letter detailing the GE-CD membership.

The IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development (GE-CD) is responsible for the following tasks:

* + - 1. assist global and regional programmes with the implementation of capacity development needs assessments in a consistent manner;
      2. also assist global and regional programmes with the development of programmatic and regionally relevant capacity development workplans based on the IOC CD Strategy and related needs assessments, building on ongoing activities and making use of existing training and education facilities;
      3. provide advice to global and regional programmes on the implementation of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 and on relevant methods and tools to improve the quality and impact of CD efforts;
      4. advise the IOC CD Secretariat on the design and implementation of the IOC biennial CD survey in close collaboration with the regional subsidiary bodies, possibly including the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework detailing implementation impact monitoring/metrics/indicators, also taking into account other methods such as regional reviews, science conferences, global CD forums, etc.;
      5. ensure coordination of the work of the Group of Experts with: *Global Ocean Science Report* and CD aspects of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, including the Capacity Development Facility; and the Group of Experts on Ocean Literacy; [UK]
      6. guide the further development and promotion of the Ocean CD-Hub by highlighting linkages of CD activities and collaboration opportunities between users and providers and among other global, regional and national organizations;
      7. provide advice to Member States on the promotion of visibility and reach of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030 to assist with the planning and implementation of their capacity development efforts;
      8. report results to the Assembly at its 34th session;
      9. ensure the coordination of the work of the Group of Experts with the Group of Experts on Ocean Literacy, with a particular focus on aligning the IOC Ocean Literacy Plan of Action 2026–2030 with the IOC Capacity Development Strategy 2023–2030; [UK]
      10. assist the IOC Secretariat in developing a longer-term mechanism for coordinating capacity development and ocean literacy related priorities and actions across the IOC. [UK]