



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

**Fifty-eighth Session of the Executive Council**  
UNESCO, Paris, 24 June 2025

**PROVISIONAL SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. OPENING**

1. The Chair, Prof. Yutaka Michida, opened the 58th session of the Executive Council at 10.07 hrs in Room X on Tuesday 24 June 2025. He welcomed the participants and briefly referred to the documentation prepared for this session. He reminded delegates that the Council was acting as the Steering Committee for the 33rd session of the Assembly, in accordance with Rule of Procedure No. 53(2). The Executive Council's task was essentially to make recommendations to the Assembly on organizational matters, so that the Assembly can swiftly move on to substantive discussions.

**2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

**2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

2. The Executive Secretary introduced this item.
3. The Executive Secretary reminded the Council that the proposed agenda was simple, and that the session would therefore be concluded in the morning.

**2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR**

4. The Chair invited the Executive Council to designate the Rapporteur for the present session.
5. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-58/2.

The Executive Council,

**Agenda**

Adopts the agenda as set out in document IOC/EC-58/2.1Doc.Prov.

**Rapporteur**

Upon a proposal from Spain, seconded by Thailand, China, Colombia, and India,

Designates Prof. (Mr) Mitsutaku Makino (Japan) Rapporteur for its present session to assist the Chair and the Executive Secretary in the preparation of the summary report of the session.

### 3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 33rd SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY

#### 3.1 DESIGNATION OF SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

6. With reference to the revised provisional agenda for the Assembly, the Chair reminded the Executive Council of the role of each committee (Nominations, Resolutions and Financial) and proposed that items 3.2 (42 C/5 budget implementation and report on the financial situation of the IOC Special Account), 5.1 (Draft Programme and Budget—43 C/5), 5.2 (external assessment of governance and management processes), and 5.3 (IOC & the Future of the Ocean) be further examined by the Financial Committee after their discussion in plenary and the decisions reflected in the draft resolution to be prepared under item 5.4 (Report by the Chairperson of the Financial Committee). He reminded that the Financial Committee established at the beginning of the Assembly is open-ended and its meetings benefit from English/French interpretation.
7. He also reminded the Council that it may submit proposals on the committee chairpersonship and composition, but that the ultimate decision remains entirely with the Assembly. He invited Member States to actively participate in the work of committees. He reiterated the importance of all electoral groups being represented on the committees, particularly in the Nominations Committee, which is responsible for the proper conduct of elections under agenda item 5.5.
8. The Chair indicated that, during the Assembly, he would not read out the names of the Member States wishing to participate in various committees by show of hands during the Assembly with the exception of the Nominations Committee. Only the names of the Member States present and participating in the committees and sessional working groups were to be listed in the final report of the Assembly. Countries participating in the work of the Financial Committee will be co-authors of the draft resolution on Governance, programming and budgeting matters of the Commission that will be presented in plenary under item 5.4.
9. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/EC-58/3.1.

#### **Sessional Committees**

The Executive Council,

Pursuant to Rule of Procedure No. 53(2), the Executive Council, acting as the Steering Committee of the Assembly, recommends to the Assembly the establishment of each of the following committees:

Financial Committee: under the chairship of Mr Juan Camilo Forero Hauzeur (Colombia, Vice-chair). Ms Ksenia Yvinec provides the Secretariat support to the Financial Committee.

Resolutions Committee: under the chairship of Mr Luís Menezes Pinheiro (Portugal). Ms Alison Clausen provides the Secretariat support to the Resolutions Committee.

Nominations Committee: under the chairship of Ms Marie-Alexandrine Sicre (France, Vice-chair). Mr Bernardo Aliaga and Ms Joanna Post provide the Secretariat support to the Nominations Committee.

#### 3.2 CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

10. The Chair informed the Executive Council that, under Rules of Procedure 46 and 48.2, concerning the preparation of the agenda for the Assembly, no requests for supplementary items were received by the Secretariat by the deadline of 25 April 2025 cob (two months before the date of the opening of the 33rd session of the Assembly.)

#### 3.3 CONSIDERATION OF SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS

11. The Chair then invited Member States and the Executive Secretary to express views on the need for sessional working groups during the Assembly on any item on its agenda, by briefly explaining the rationale for the need and the scope of the work expected. No proposals were made. It was recalled that this does not prevent the Assembly and its chairperson from deciding to establish

a sessional working or drafting group as needed during the consideration of any item of the Assembly agenda.

### 3.4 TIMETABLE

12. The Executive Secretary briefly presented the revised provisional agenda and timetable for the Assembly and the main side events recorded on the Assembly webpage. Vidar Helgesen then referred to the Ocean Science Day (OSD) on 30 June in the same room II as the plenary session of the Assembly, but with a different setting. The OSD and the plenary meetings of the Assembly would be live-streamed. The Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude to the sponsors of several events, which will provide useful information for the session, as well as to the sponsors of the coffee breaks and receptions who will be acknowledged during the session and on the online calendar. The Executive Secretary informed Member States that the Assembly would unfortunately have to change its plenary room on 2 and 3 July and move to a smaller room XI in order to accommodate other important UNESCO events held at the same time. Participants who would not be able to find a seat in room XI will be able to follow the live broadcast of the plenary sessions during on both days in room XII.
13. The Executive Secretary then expanded on the draft resolutions received before 20 June and the volume of documentation prepared for the Assembly session. He emphasized that all draft decisions were available in the Action Paper together with a substantial presentation of each agenda item. Two draft resolutions were received on the implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (item 4.8) and on Strengthening the IOCAFRICA Secretariat (item 3.3.1). He recalled that the draft resolution on Governance, programming and budgeting matters of the Commission (item 5.4) would be prepared during the session by the Financial Committee. Decisions are adopted at the end of the discussion of each agenda item while resolutions are adopted under item 6 at the end of the Assembly session. A summary of adopted decisions and resolutions will be made available at the end of the session in all languages, as customary. The complete narrative report will be prepared by the Secretariat in English only during the session and made available in all languages soon after the session for review by correspondence. The Executive Secretary invited delegations willing to amend any decisions to send amendments preferably two hours before the discussion of the item by email to [iocgovbody@unesco.org](mailto:iocgovbody@unesco.org).
14. The Chair invited Member States to comment on the timetable and organizational matters of the session.
15. One Member State expressed the desire to move forward some items on the timetable of the Assembly to let Member States consider their amendments and consult their capitals.
16. In response, the Executive Secretary proposed to publish the amendments received on the Assembly webpage as they are received so that delegates have time to read them well in advance of the discussion.
17. The Executive Council approved the proposal and made no changes to the provisional Timetable for the Assembly session and adopted Decision IOC/A-33/3.4.

#### **Timetable for the 33rd session of the Assembly and organizational matters**

The Executive Council,

Accepts the provisional timetable for the 33rd session of the Assembly as set out in document IOC/A-33/2.1Doc Add. Prov. Rev. and corresponding Agenda.

#### **4 DATES AND PLACE OF THE 59TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND PROPOSAL FOR DATES AND PLACE OF THE 34TH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

18. The Chair invited delegates to share information on the main events/conferences to be considered when choosing the dates for the next sessions of the Council and the Assembly, to be held respectively in June 2026 and June 2027, in line with the established practice. He also reminded that the IOC Officers at their annual meeting in January 2025 recommended that the tradition of having an IOC Ocean Science Day be continued at the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly.
19. One Member State reminded the Assembly to take into account the dates of WMO governing body sessions, as delegates and members of the IOC Secretariat usually participate in them.
20. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/A-33/4.

##### **Dates and places of next sessions of the Executive Council and Assembly**

The Executive Council,

Having discussed the planning of the next sessions of the IOC governing bodies to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in 2026 and 2027,

Recommends to the Assembly to identify the most optimal period of five days in June/early July 2026 for a 3.5-day session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Executive Council and a period of 10 days in June/July 2027 for a 6.5-day session of the 34<sup>th</sup> Assembly, preceded by a one-day session of the Executive Council and including the Ocean Science Day.

#### **5. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT**

21. The IOC Chair introduced this item.
22. The Executive Council adopted Decision IOC/A-33/5.

##### **Report**

The Executive Council,

Having considered and adopted all decisions on its agenda in plenary session,

Invites the Executive Secretary to publish the decisions adopted before the start of the Assembly and to publish this summary report during the Assembly session.

#### **6. CLOSURE**

23. The Chair closed the 58th session of the Executive Council at 11:45 on 24 June 2025.