



Assembly 33 – Financial Committee

Vidar HELGESEN, IOC Executive Secretary



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2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Proposed items for discussion:

1. 2024-2025 budget implementation
2. IOC Programme & Budget for 2026-2027 (Draft 43 C/5) – new IOC Results Framework
3. External Assessment of IOC Governance & Management Processes
4. IOC & the Future of the Ocean Member States consultation – phase 1

2024-2025 budget implementation

Key elements at year end 2024:

- Total approved integrated budget framework (IBF) of \$48.1M
- 42% (\$20.2M) solid year 1 execution rate
- Voluntary contributions (VC) 56% of IBF
- Resource mobilization targets achieved, incl. significant increase of commitments at year end 2023
- VC varies across functions and regions

Restricted distribution



IOC/A-33/3.2.Doc(2)

Paris, 10 April 2025
Original: English

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Thirty-third Session of the Assembly
UNESCO, Paris, 25 June –3 July 2025

Items 3.2 and 5.4 of the Provisional Agenda

REPORT ON 2024–2025 (42 C/5) BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

Summary

This report provides an overview of the implementation of the 2024–2025 budget as at 31 December 2024, including updates on voluntary contributions mobilized, budgetary gap filling by function and staffing situation.

Voluntary contributions (VC) include:

- Cash contributions to the IOC Special Account
- Cash contributions to specific projects/Funds-in-Trust (FITs)
- Additional cash contributions (AC) intended to directly reinforce an existing regular programme budget line
- In-kind contributions.

All financial information in this report is aligned with the authoritative reporting presented to the UNESCO Executive Board at its 221st session. The reference currency in this document is the US dollar. All incurred expenditures are shown at the United Nations operational rate of exchange (UNORE).

Proposed decision: This document is part of the report of the IOC Executive Secretary to the Assembly. It will be further examined by the statutory sessional open-ended Financial Committee and the decision reflected in the Draft Resolution that the Financial Committee will submit for adoption by the Assembly under item 5.4 in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Revised guidelines for the preparation and consideration of draft resolutions (IOC/INF-1315).

2024-2025 budget implementation

2023 Decision of UNESCO Executive Board (216 EX Decision 44) and General Conference (42 C/5 Appropriation Resolution) - **IOC share of UNESCO budget at 3%**

UNESCO management actions implemented in March-May 2025 in view of uncertainty re future financing

UNESCO needs to anticipate a potential overall budgetary deficit of \$75M

IOC regular budget reduced by some **3.8M** (activities & staff savings), or **5%** of the overall deficit

Main impact on GOOS, IODE & regional capacity development workplans. Staff recruitment on pause.

Negotiations underway but need to prepare for the worst-case scenario and define priorities

2024-2025 budget implementation

Interim measure agreed on 19 May to release:

- 322.5K on regular budget activity lines :

GOOS	100K
IODE	50K
IOCAFRICA	100K
CD	38K
ASSEMBLY	34K
- 93K on regular budget staff cost recovery – to support IODE and GOOS
- 116K on USSA 2023 – to support IOCARIBE and HQ

Reduction on regular budget still >1M higher than the 3% decision implies

2024-2025 budget implementation

If case of no further funds release we will only be able to deliver the following rates of non-staff regular budget execution at year end 2025:

Function A: Ocean Research	58%	IOCAFRICA	65%
Function B: Observing System	70%	IOCARIBE	69%
Data & Information Management	62%	IOC WESTPAC	61%
Function C: Early Warning Systems	77%	IOCINDIO	55%
Function D: Assessment & Information for Policy	34%		
Function E: Sustainable Management & Governance	85%		
Function F: Capacity Development	64%		
Contribution to UNESCO IP2 through Ocean Literacy	52%		
Operating costs & other contributions	94%	IOC OVERALL	70%

2026-2027 Programming & Budgeting – Draft 43 C/5:

2 ZNG scenarios and 1 ZRG (light) scenarios available currently:

- Both ZNG absorb additional costs approved by the 220th session of the Board (220 Decision/17)
- Both result in nominal allocation reduction for all sectors and services, including IOC
- IOC budgetary allocation is maintained at 3% of the total UNESCO regular budget

Regular budget for IOC:

ZNG Option 1 - \$20.7 M

ZNG Option 2 - \$21.0 M

ZRG (light) - \$21.9 M (vs 42 C/5 - \$21.1M)

Draft 43 C/5

- ✓ No changes to regular budget staff establishment = no new posts
- ✓ Increase in UNESCO standard costs: +\$1.1 M

	42 C/5		Draft 43 C/5					
			ZNG 1		ZNG 2		ZRG	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Non-Staff	9.0	43%	7.5	36%	7.7	37%	8.6	39%
Staff	12.1	57%	13.2	64%	13.2	63%	13.2	61%
Total	21.1		20.7		21.0		21.9	

Draft 43 C/5 – IOC proposal for staff increase

PROPOSED NEW 43 C/5 POSTS:

- ✓ **Additional staff costs of 768K to be absorbed across the board**
- ✓ **Targeted at strengthening IOCARIBE & WESTPAC and reinforcing HQ capacity to support and deliver**

Additional cost detail:

\$

National Officer - IOCWESTPAC	147,682.50
National Officer - IOCARIBE	152,775.00
Programme Assistant - Tsunami Resilience Section	193,443.71
Administrative Assistant - Operational Support Unit	193,443.71
Science Communication Officer (upgrade of existing)	81,297.00
TOTAL	768,641.92

COMPARISON OF BUDGETARY SCENARIOS

Regular budget	42 C/5		Draft 43 C/5									
			ZNG 1		ZNG 2		ZNG 2 initial IOC		ZRG		ZRG initial IOC	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Non-Staff/Activity	9.0	43%	7.5	36%	7.7	37%	7	33%	8.6	39%	7.9	36%
Staff	12.1	57%	13.2	64%	13.2	63%	14	67%	13.2	61%	14	64%
Total	21.1		20.7		21		21		21.9		21.9	

Draft 43 C/5

Full alignment
with IOC Medium-
Term Strategy
& Resolutions
A-32/4 & EC-57/2

- ✓ ZNG 1 – across the board non-staff regular budget reduction to 83 % of 42 C/5
- ✓ ZNG 2 – across the board non-staff regular budget reduction to 86% of 42 C/5
- ✓ Targeted funding for SIDS under UNSG Early Warning for All initiative
- ✓ ZRG – Functions B and F (GOOS, IODE, CD & RSBs) maintained at 42 C/5 level (100%)

Other functions at 86% of 42 C/5

IOCAFRICA at 98% of 42 C/5 (\$ 918K)

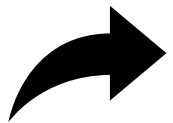
Work with Member States and UN partners to increase the understanding of ocean-related risks and to implement effective multi-hazard early warning systems

Draft 43 C/5

UNESCO Executive Board - 221 EX/Decision 20:

Decides, in view of the fact that the working assumptions in the Draft Programme and Budget for 2026-2029 (43 C/5) may change before the 222nd session of the Executive Board, to postpone its recommendation on a budget scenario to the 222nd session of the Executive Board

Agrees to review its decision at an extraordinary session, if necessary



Assembly resolution on the 43 C/5 will once more need to provide guidance 'resilient to the unknown'

Importance of having a strengthened mechanism for Member State consultation in intersessional period - governance review

43 C/5 Programming & Budgeting

UNESCO Executive Board - 221 EX/Decision 20:

Bearing in mind that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is established as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO, with the IOC Assembly being the principal organ under the IOC Statutes,

Invites the Executive Secretary of the IOC to submit the sections relating to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in Volumes I and II of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2026-2029 (43 C/5) to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session and to forward the recommendations of the IOC Assembly to the General Conference at its 43rd session;

43 C/5 Programming & Budgeting

Working document IOC/A-33/5.1.Doc(1)REV

Part I – IOC part of the UNESCO 221 EX/20

Part II – IOC draft text for the Assembly

with a **new IOC Results Framework**

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IOC/A-33/5.1.Doc(1) Rev.

Paris, 25 April 2024

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Thirty-third Session of the Assembly
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Items 5.1 and 5.4 of the Provisional Agenda

**DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2026–2027 (DRAFT 43 C/5)
FIRST BIENNIUM OF THE 2026–2029 QUADRENNIUM**

Summary

Introduction

Part I – Draft Programme and budget 2026–2027 as presented as part of UNESCO's draft 43 C/5 to the 221st session of the UNESCO Executive Board (221 EX/20)

Part II – Detailed IOC workplan proposal based on Member States' guidance in IOC Resolutions A-32/4 and EC-57/2

Decision proposed is referenced Dec. A-33/5.1 in the Provisional Action Paper IOC/A-33/AP Prov.



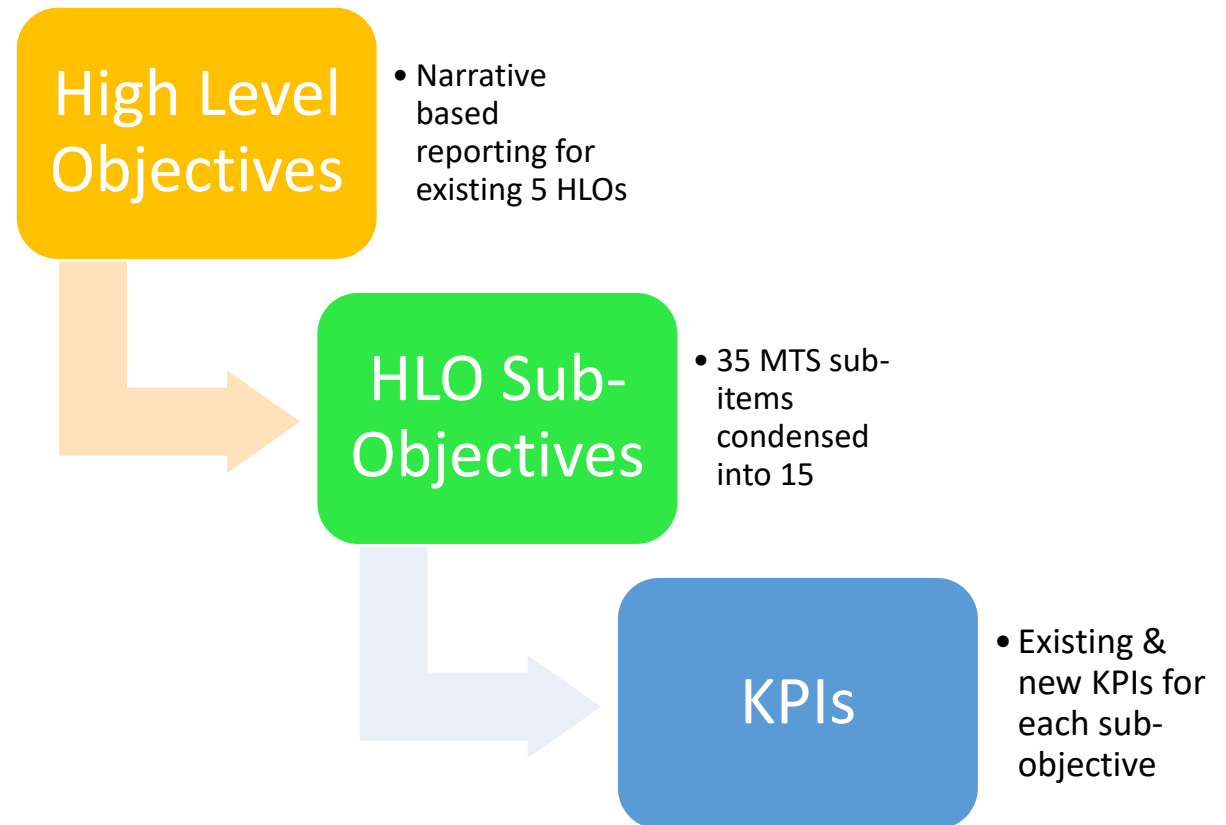
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43 C/5 Programming & Budgeting

- New IOC Results Framework, distinct from UNESCO 43 C/5
- Aligned with the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (MTS)
- Alignment of programming and budget process with IOC governance cycle
- Monitor progress towards achievement of the MTS from 2026 – 2027 by tracking status, gaps and needs in relation to IOC support to Member States
- Presented to IFAG on 16 April 2025
- Will be further refined based on discussions at the Assembly and next phases of 'IOC and Future of the Ocean' Member State consultation process



43 C/5 Programming & Budgeting

High Level Objectives	Sub-Objectives		
1. Healthy ocean and sustained ocean ecosystem services	1.1 Enhanced observations and data for increased understanding of ocean vulnerability to multiple stressors	1.2 Enhanced access to scientific knowledge adapted to regional and national needs to inform sustainable management of ecosystems	1.3 Enhanced application of best practices, tools and approaches for ecosystem-based management
KPIs & targets	<p>Number of Member States routinely collecting and managing FAIR EOY data on biodiversity and ecosystems through GOOS, ODIS and OBIS</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 100</u></p> <p>Increase in the number of open-access biodiversity datasets in OBIS available to Member States</p> <p><u>Target 2027: Increase of 700</u></p>	<p>Number of global and regional assessment methods and products addressing ocean ecosystems and vulnerability to multiple stressors, disaggregated by IOC-led or IOC-contributions</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 3</u></p> <p>Number of Member States making use of ODIS to discover and access ocean data and information</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 50</u></p>	<p>Number of Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (incl. Marine Spatial Planning) guidelines / tools specifically addressing ecosystem-based management approaches, biodiversity issues and/or multiple ocean stressors</p> <p><u>Target 2027 for MSP: 5</u> <u>Target 2027 for SOP: 2</u></p> <p>Number of capacity development initiatives provided to Member States to fulfil national commitments related to biodiversity under multilateral agreements including CBD and BBNJ</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 5</u></p>
2. Effective warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards	2.1 Improved ocean observations and data to underpin models and forecasting for ocean hazards	2.2 Increased access to data and information products for coastal planning and hazard mitigation	2.3 Enhanced deployment of regionally or nationally adapted decision support tools including multi-hazard early warning and mitigation systems
KPIs & targets	<p>Number of Member States engaged in advancing ocean observations and managing FAIR data required for monitoring tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards through GOOS and ODIS</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 134 (tsunami-geophysical), 94 (Africa 12, SIDS 14) (hydrometeorological hazards), 25 (ocean stressors)</u></p>	<p>Number of Member States conducting ocean research aimed at supporting forecasting and early warning systems for tsunamis and other ocean-related and coastal hazards, including sea level rise, marine heatwaves, ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms and pest species</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 20 (tsunami), 20 (hydrometeorological hazards), 10 (sea level rise, 25 (ocean stressors)</u></p>	<p>Number of Member States supported to pilot or implement tsunami and other IOC supported EWS, including through capacity development initiatives</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 100 (Africa 15; SIDS 20)</u></p> <p>Number of communities recognized as Tsunami Ready</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 200 communities in 48 MS (5 Africa MS, 21 SIDS MS)</u></p>

3. Resilience to climate change and contribution to its mitigation	3.1 Enhanced observations and data for increased scientific understanding of the ocean dimension in climate change	3.2 Enhanced access to scientific knowledge on impacts of climate change on the ocean and on ocean-based climate solutions	3.3 Enhanced application of fit for purpose tools for Member States to integrate ocean issues in National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions
KPIs & targets	<p>Number of Member States routinely collecting and managing FAIR EOY data on climate through GOOS or ODIS</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 80</u></p> <p>Number of Member States supported with capacity development for collecting and managing observations related to climate change trends including ocean acidification and sea level rise</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 100 (Africa 15; SIDS 29)</u></p>	<p>Number of Member States engaged in ocean climate research networks including ocean acidification, deoxygenation and blue carbon</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 115 (Africa 29, SIDS 21)</u></p>	<p>Number of Member States supported to integrate ocean issues in Nationally Determined Contributions or National Adaptation Plans, including through capacity development initiatives</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 5</u></p>
4. Scientifically founded services for the sustainable ocean economy	4.1 Enhanced evidence base on the societal and economic return on investment in ocean science and ocean science infrastructure	4.2 Enhanced dissemination of relevant scientific knowledge to marine industries and economic actors	4.3 Enhanced application of fit for purpose knowledge-based sustainable ocean planning and management tools
KPIs & targets	<p>Number of knowledge products, case studies, analyses contributing to the evidence base on societal, environmental and economic return on investment in ocean science and ocean science infrastructure, disaggregated by IOC-led or IOC-contributions.</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 5</u></p> <p>Number of MS contributing information to the Global Ocean Science Report relating to investment in ocean science and ocean science infrastructure</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 75 (Africa 21, SIDS 10)</u></p>	<p>Number of partnerships / networks with private sector actors related to ocean science, data cooperation and co-design of knowledge</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 5</u></p>	<p>Number of Member States engaged in and supported by IOC-led activities on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (incl. Marine Spatial Planning) , including through capacity development initiatives</p> <p><u>Target 2027 for MSP: 125; Africa = 32; SIDS = 22)</u> <u>Target 2027 for SOP: 20</u></p>

5. Foresight on emerging ocean science issues	5.1 Improved capacity and processes to anticipate and prioritize emerging ocean science and technology issues	5.2 Enhanced dissemination of scientific understanding of priority emerging ocean science issues	5.3 Improved ability to account for and respond to priority emerging issues in decision making
KPIs & targets	<p>Number of Member States, including through GOOS Regional Alliances, undertaking planning or risk assessment processes for ensuring observation systems are adaptable to emerging science and technology issues</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 5</u></p>	<p>Number of global and regional assessment products addressing emerging ocean science issues disaggregated by IOC-led or IOC-contributions</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 3</u></p>	<p>Number of capacity development initiatives delivered on emerging ocean science issues</p> <p><u>Target 2027: 2</u></p>

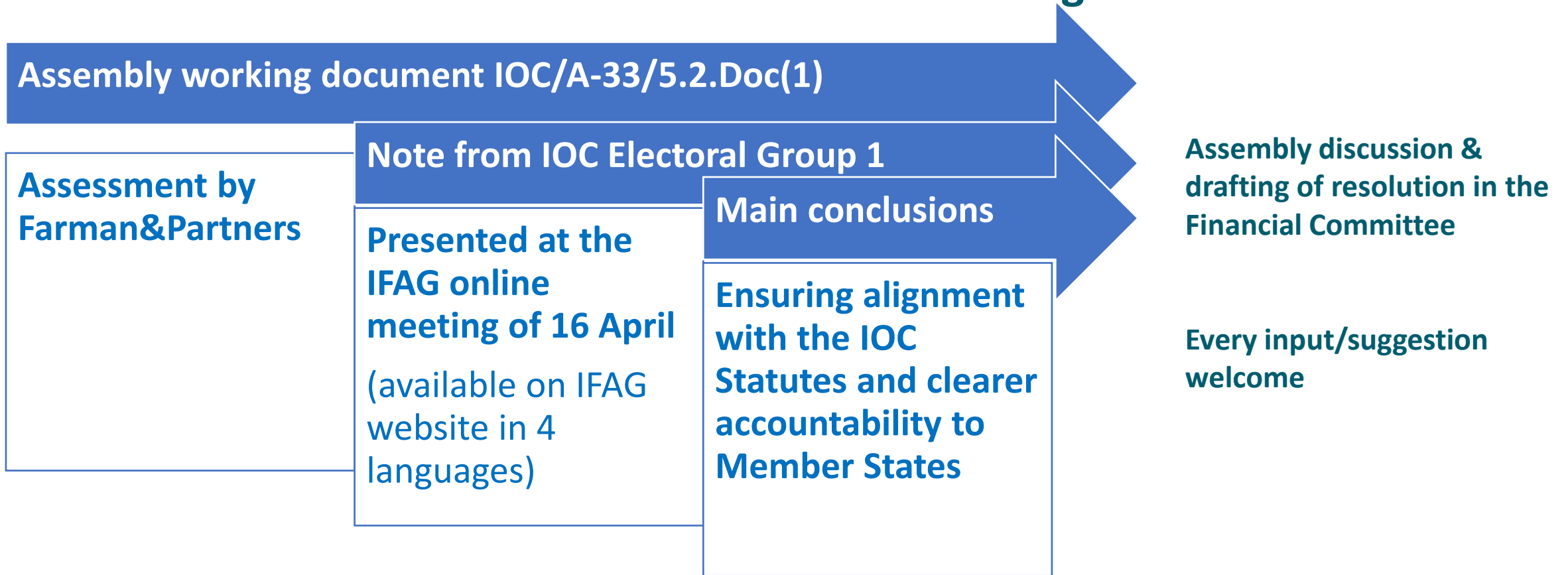
New Results Framework

IOC/A-33/5.1.Doc(1)REV

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IOC Assembly – 33: Governance

External Assessment of IOC's Governance & Management Processes



IOC Assembly – 33: Governance – proposed adjustment to C/5 planning cycle

	Nov-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26
UNESCO	43 GENERAL CONFERENCE - GUIDING PRINCIPLES		UNESCO CONSULTATIONS/DG PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS (NARRATIVE)						UNESCO BOARD: DECISION & GUIDANCE ON C/5
IOC		IOC OFFICERS MEETING	MEETINGS OF IOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES - YEAR 1 OF BIENNIUM						
			EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION PREPARATION						
			IFAG MEETING		IFAG MEETING	IOC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL			
	Nov-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Aug-27	Sep-27	Oct-Nov 2027
UNESCO	SECRETARIAT PREPARES FULL FLEDGED C/5		SPRING UNESCO BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON C/5						UNESCO BOARD RECOMMENDATION/ GENERAL CONFERENCE
IOC	IFAG MEETING	IOC OFFICERS MEETING	IFAG MEETING	IFAG MEETING		IOC ASSEMBLY			
	SECRETARIAT PREPARES FULL FLEDGED 44 C/5		ASSEMBLY DOCUMENTATION PREPARATION						

GOAL & METHODOLOGY

GOAL: Identify the most underserved Member States needs across 3 issues (Sustainable Ocean Planning, UN Conventions and Frameworks and Sustainable Ocean Economy) and identify which of these under-served needs are the most problematic:

METHODOLOGY:

- In depth interviews completed with 15 Member States, UN bodies, and private sector actors
- Regional focus group or plenary discussions in RSB meetings
- Discussions in SOPM Working Group
- Survey of IOC Member States (59 responses)
- Presentation for discussion at Assembly
- To be followed by Phase 2 (2025 – 2026) and Phase 3 (2026 – 2027) of the consultation process

IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation Phase 1: Summary of Initial Findings

MEMBER STATE SELF IDENTIFIED NEEDS

- **Main messages:** need for increased access to and interoperability of data; expanded, sustained observing and monitoring coverage; and increased support to Member States to generate and apply scientific knowledge in areas where gaps persist
- **Common themes emerged:** strengthened action in a small number of core areas will lead to multiple benefits
- **Priority needs in science, knowledge, capacity & infrastructure:** marine biodiversity, nutrient pollution and HAB, physical oceanography, DRR/EWS including in spatial planning, MPA planning cf. BBNJ preparedness, climate resilient SOP and spatial planning
- **Cross cutting issues requiring increased support:** science -policy interface through timely and relevant synthesis and assessment, broader application of ocean literacy across society, sustained capacity development, sustained investment models for ocean observations, practical toolkits and resources, industry engagement
- **Regional differences exist** and will necessitate tailored analyses in next phases of the Consultation

IOC and the Future of the Ocean Consultation Phase 1: Summary of Initial Findings

NEXT PHASES OF CONSULTATION

- **Phase 2 (2025 – 2026) - Supply Side Assessment:** What role(s) could IOC play – alone and in partnership – to meet the needs identified in Phase 1? Proposed steps in methodology:
 1. *Identify priority global and regional issues based on Phase 1 and alignment with other ongoing processes (SOPM Strategy, Ocean Decade MTE)*
 2. *Analyse existing / future IOC potential activities for priority issues*
 3. *Map service providers within and outside UN system for priority issues*
 4. *Analyses of options and scenarios for added-value of IOC at global and regional levels including case studies to look at practicalities of operationalisation*
- **Phase 3 (2026 – 2027) - Integrated Assessment:** What are the priority activities where IOC can have the most impact and what does this look like in tangible terms for forward planning including partnerships and resources ? Method to be defined during Phase 2.

Results to inform biennium planning and development of next Medium-Term Strategy



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