



Our ref.: 22924/2018/CER/IOC/EC-51

17 August 2018

Annex: 1 (available in English, French, Russian and Spanish only)

Subject: Outcomes of the IOC 51st Executive Council on the Joint WMO-IOC Consultation Group on the reform of JCOMM

Dear member of the Executive Council,

I would like to inform you of some key outcomes of the fifty-first session of the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, which I attended on 4–6 July 2018 in Paris.

Among the items on the agenda before the IOC Council was the review of WMO recommendations concerning the governance review of WMO-IOC co-sponsored programmes, in particular the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM). Under that agenda item I illustrated the intent of the proposed WMO reform to revise WMO constituent bodies, as well as their structure and working practices, to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the use of the resources of WMO Members with a minimal level of bureaucracy and without disrupting partnerships.

The IOC Council expressed appreciation of the intent behind the proposed reform of WMO structures and support to the proposed Joint WMO-IOC Committee on Oceanography and Meteorology (JCOM) as a suitable approach to enhance the cooperation between WMO and IOC, while noting the need to ensure that the technical cooperation that already exists within JCOMM is not affected and actually strengthened through a more direct interaction between the proposed new WMO technical commissions and IOC subsidiary bodies.

Through decision IOC/EC/5.1, herein annexed, the IOC Council endorsed WMO proposal to establish a Joint WMO-IOC Consultation Group on the Reform of JCOMM as recommended by WMO Executive Council decision 58 (EC-70).

In this regard, the IOC Council introduced some amendments to the terms of the reference of the Joint Consultation Group of which I am fully supportive: the joint examination of the proposal for a transition to JCOM, the mapping of functions of JCOMM to JCOM to ensure continued functioning of all operational matters, the development of a revised proposal and a recommendation for the way forward, as well as the need to ensure regional balance among the representatives of Members/Member States in the Joint Consultation Group.

To initiate implementation of the recommendations of the WMO and IOC Council and launch the Joint Consultation Group, I am planning a consultation with IOC Chairperson and both Secretariats in early September.

To: Members of the WMO Executive Council

cc: Prof. Peter Haugan, IOC Chairperson  
Dr Vladimir Ryabinin, IOC Executive Secretary

Finally, on the occasion of the IOC Council, I discussed with the United Nations Special Envoy for the Ocean, Mr Peter Thomson, the organization of a high-level dialogue on oceans at the eighteenth Congress, as recommended by decision 54 (EC-70), noting the opportunity to focus on marine science priorities to inform the anticipated Ocean Conference to be held in Lisbon in 2020 and the launch of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) the following year.

I look forward to a renewed cooperation between WMO and IOC and a strengthened focus of WMO on ocean issues.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(D. Grimes)  
President of WMO

## **EC-LI/Decision 5.1 Rev.**

From the Drafting group: Italy, Germany, Portugal, Argentina, Colombia, Russian Federation, Italy

### **IOC Recommendations regarding the proposed reform of the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)**

The Executive Council,

1. Recognizing the success of the cooperation between IOC and WMO in JCOMM and the achievements in terms of bridging oceanographic and marine meteorological observations, data management and service systems,
2. Recognizing further the need to develop and implement state-of-the-art technologies and competencies in response to expanding and evolving needs of users of marine data and products,
3. Noting the importance of research and capacity development to support observations, data management and services, including information services aimed at setting global and national policy,
4. Noting the need for a restructuring of JCOMM that will increase the connection between IOC specific groups and WMO reformed structures,
5. Noting the 70th WMO EC Decision EC-70/16.3(5)/1 titled WMO-IOC Consultation on the Reform of JCOMM,
6. Noting IOC/EC-LI/2 Annex 11 Rev. and IOC/INF-1359,
7. Noting with appreciation the intent behind the proposed reform of WMO structures, to improve efficiency and delivery,
8. Noting the involvement of IOC Officers and Executive Secretary in WMO discussions regarding reforms that touch on the co-sponsored bodies JCOMM, GCOS, GOOS, and WCRP,
9. Emphasising the importance of continued and enhanced cooperation between oceanography and meteorology, and between IOC and WMO, to ensure a coherent and compatible earth-systems approach to observations, data management, forecast systems and the development of appropriate services,
10. Decides to establish a joint IOC-WMO consultation group with the terms of reference provided in the annex to the present decision.

Annex to EC-LI/Dec.5.1

#### **Joint WMO-IOC Consultation Group on the Reform of JCOMM**

##### **Terms of Reference**

- (i) Examine the proposal for the transition to a Joint WMO-IOC Committee for Oceanography and Meteorology (JCOM),
- (ii) Consult WMO Members and IOC Member States,

- (iii) Propose terms of reference for a JCOM,
- (iv) Identify working arrangements and sponsorship for all bodies presently in JCOMM, the relationship between existing co-sponsored programmes (GCOS, GOOS, WCRP) and the proposed JCOM, and any other jointly undertaken work,
- (v) Identify and map all technical functions from the current JCOMM to the proposed JCOM, to insure the full functioning of all operational matters.
- (vi) Develop a revised proposal and a recommendation for the way forward, to be submitted to both the 18th WMO Congress and the 30th IOC Assembly for decision.

### **Membership**

- (a) For WMO:
  - (i) Representatives of Members (equal number to IOC) appointed by the President,
  - (ii) Representatives of JCOMM (marine meteorology) and the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS);
- (b) For IOC:
  - (i) Representatives of Member States (equal number to WMO) consistently selected by the IOC Chairperson in consultation with vice chairs, to ensure balanced geographic representation,
  - (ii) Representatives of JCOMM (oceanography) selected by the JCOMM Co-presidents in consultation with the chairs of the JCOMM programme areas;
  - (iii) Representatives of International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) and the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG);
- (c) Representatives of co-sponsored programmes (GCOS, GOOS, WCRP) as proposed by the programmes.

### **Working procedures**

The group will be expected to work primarily by electronic means.

Two co-Chairpersons representing the meteorological and oceanographic communities will be selected by the group.

The co-Chairpersons, in consultation with the group, may wish to invite other experts (as needed) to participate in the work of the group.