Dec. A-31/3.5.6 **[AMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON IOCINDIO STATUS]**

**Status of the Regional Committee of the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)**The Assembly,

1. Having examined the proposal for changing the status of IOCINDIO into an IOC Sub-Commission, as a follow-up to Decision IOC-XXX/3.3.4, by which the IOC Assembly at its 30th session requested the IOCINDIO Chair to prepare, with the help of the IOC Secretariat, the said proposal,
2. Thanks the former IOCINDIO Officers, notably, the Chair (India) and the Vice-Chairs (Kuwait and Bangladesh) and the IOC Vice-Chair for Group IV (India), for their sustained efforts and commitments to IOC in general and IOCINDIO in particular;
3. Expresses gratitude to the Government of India for its offer made through the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), under the auspices of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, to provide in-kind support for the operation of a Regional Secretariat for IOCINDIO, initially for a period of 5 years or until such time permanent arrangements are put in place by the Commission, whichever is earlier;
4. Thanks the IOCINDIO and IOC Member States and other partners that supported and contributed to the reactivation of the Regional Committee;
5. Welcomes the IOCINDIO-VIII Recommendation for changing the status of IOCINDIO into an IOC Sub-Commission and the responsive views of Member States, following the provisions of the IOC Manual (IOC/INF-785) with the Guidelines for the Structure and Responsibilities of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission (Chapter 5 of Part 1 of the Manual) and its section 5 on Sub-Commissions;
6. Decides to pursue further towards the establishment of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Indian Ocean, taking into account the proposal for changing the status of IOCINDIO into an IOC Sub-Commission, as a framework to improve coordination of IOC Member States in the region and to ensure implementation of IOC programmes in the Indian Ocean with a view to presenting a draft resolution to Assembly of IOC at its 32nd Session;
7. Decides to undertake the remaining steps towards establishment of the IOCINDIO Sub-Commission through an intersessional Working Group in order to complete the work on: terms of reference; determination of the geographic scope; programme of work; the proposed projects and funding support; and mechanisms for coordination with adjacent Sub-Commissions; etc.
8. Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(i) establish an open-ended intersessional Working Group and invite interested Member States to participate in the working group;

(ii) work closely with the Government of India through INCOIS to finalise appropriate arrangements for the establishment of the Regional Secretariat for IOCINDIO;

(iii) report to the Executive Council, at its 55th session, on the status of implementation of this decision.