**Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission**

*Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies*



**IOC Group of Experts
on Capacity Development**

GE-CD Working Group on the revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy

First Meeting Report

25 January 2022

**UNESCO 2022**

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1. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The session was opened by Mr Ariel Troisi, IOC Chair and GE-CD Co-Chair. He thanked everyone for attending the first meeting of the Working Group on revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy.

He invited the Working Group to review and adopt the provisional agenda, available from the website on <https://ioc-cd.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewEventAgenda&eventID=3376>. Any new items or issues proposed by the Group were noted here and discussed under Agenda item 6.

**PROPOSED: The Working Group adopted** the agenda.

2. ELECTION OF WG CHAIR

This agenda item was introduced by Johanna Diwa, IOC CD Secretariat.

As decided in its third session, the GE-CD decided to establish the Working Group on the revision of the IOC CD strategy ([Document IOC/GECD-WG/1/2.1](https://ioc-cd.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=29738)). An online correspondence sent to the Working Group members last December 17, 2021, called for nominations for WG Chair. The Group was invited to nominate and elect WG Chair.

**PROPOSED: The Working Group elected XXX** as Chair of the Working Group on revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy.

3. WG TERMS OF REFERENCE AND TIMELINE

This agenda item was introduced by Johanna Diwa.

She referred to the WG TORs and its membership which were finalized and adopted by the GE-CD through online correspondence ([Document IOC/GECD-WG/1/3.1](https://ioc-cd.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=29803)).

**IOC Working Group on the revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy**

 The IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development,

 Recognizing the importance of Capacity Development as one of the six functions of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2014–2021), 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,

 Recalling the adoption, at its 28th Session, of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021) published as IOC/INF-1332,

 Welcoming the contributions of its Member States towards capacity development at the global and regional level through financial and in-kind contributions,

 Stressing the need to share, across programmes and regions, experience and expertise in capacity development, and to coordinate efforts to increase efficiency and maximize impact,

 Noting that the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021) published as IOC/INF-1332 will expire on 31 December 2021,

 Noting further the Capacity Development Chapter of the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030),

 Establishes the IOC Working Group on the revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy with Terms of Reference as detailed in Annex I below.

**Annex I: Terms of Reference of the IOC Working Group on the revision of the
IOC Capacity Development Strategy**

Objectives

 The Working Group will

* + Prepare the Draft IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030), based upon the IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2015–2021) published as IOC/INF-1332, and taking into account the results and recommendations made by the *GE-CD Task Team relating to the revision of IOC CD Strategy,* from the following inputs:
	1. Outcomes of the 2nd IOC Capacity Development Survey (September 2020 - January 2021);
	2. Capacity Development Chapter of the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030);
	3. Consultations with IOC global and regional programmes related to Capacity Development;
	4. Consultations with UN specialized agencies, non-UN IGOs, Global and Regional organizations, programmes and projects, NGOs and private sector partners.
	+ Submit a preliminary Draft IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030) to the Group of Experts on Capacity Development during its 4th Meeting on October 2022 for its review and subsequent submission of the final Draft IOC Capacity Development Strategy (2023–2030) for adoption by the 32nd Session of the IOC Assembly.
	+ The Working Group will carry out its work via electronic means.

 Membership:

 1. The following members of the IOC Group of Experts on Capacity Development:

 BARROW, Lorraine TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

 BROWN,Bradford UNITED STATES

 EKAU, Werner GERMANY

 EVANS, Alan UNITED KINGDOM

 GONZÁLEZ-QUIRÓS, Rafael SPAIN

 KABANGI, Patrick CONGO

 REED, Allison UNITED STATES

 SAKYA, Andi Eka INDONESIA

 TROISI, Ariel ARGENTINA

 2. The following IOC CD focal points:

 KHOLEIF, Suzan EGYPT

 YAO, Koffi Marcellin COTE D’IVOIRE

 3. IOC CD Secretariat:

 DIWA, Johanna PHILIPPINES

 PISSIERSSENS, Peter BELGIUM

Ms Diwa recalled that during the 3rd session of the GE-CD, the Group agreed on the following timeline relating to the revision of the IOC CD Strategy. She invited the WG members to discuss and agree on the work flow and assignments under each task.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| vii) revise the IOC Capacity Development Strategy and prepare a proposal for submission to the IOC Assembly at its 32nd Session; | June 2023 |
| * *WG meetings for IOC CD Strategy 2023-2030*
 | *January-March 2022* |
| * *WG write inputs for consideration by the GE-CD*
 | *April 2022-June 2022* |
| * *WG prepare first draft*
 | *July 2022* |
| * *Review first draft at GE-CD-IV*
 | *October 2022* |
| * *WG revise first draft*
 | *January 2023* |
| * *Secretariat to finalize the new IOC CD Strategy 2023-2030 for submission to the IOC-XXXII Session*
 | *March 2023* |

**PROPOSED: The Working Group agreed** on the following assignments:

4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

This agenda item was introduced by Johanna Diwa.

She recalled the recommendations of the Task Team's review and summarized highlights of proposed revisions ([IOC/INF-1396](https://www.ioc-cd.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=28077)) for the consideration by the Working Group in discussing its workplan:

1. Vision Statement, Rationale and Objectives

The IOC CD Strategy’s vision statements, rationale and objectives need to be aligned with the Ocean Decade’s focus on capacity to do the science, as well as on the capacity to influence the design of the science, and participate in co-design efforts to develop solutions for sustainable development. This implies increased capacity to understand why ocean science is important for achieving the SDGs, as well as capacity development targeting a wide range of sustainable development solutions (for example, evidence based policy-making, management, innovation or technology). In this sense, the IOC Capacity Development strategy should be formulated targeting not only scientists, but also the users of knowledge such as governments, policy-makers, managers and innovators.

1. Strategic Framework

The strategic framework and the proposed approach of capacity development efforts throughout the Ocean Decade builds on that contained in the IOC CD Strategy 2015 – 2021, which itself was developed following an analysis of the capacity development plans and strategies of partner UN agencies. As such, the principles, expected outcomes and priority activities in the Ocean Decade CD chapter closely align with the outputs and activities in the current IOC CD Strategy. Nevertheless, there were several substantial elements in the Ocean Decade CD Chapter that may need to be synchronized and harmonized, without discarding current outcomes and activities that are still relevant, detect changes and reflect them in the strategy by 2030.

1. Implementation Plan

Concerning the development of an overall Implementation Plan for the IOC CD Strategy:

* As it is clearly stated in the Ocean Decade IP, the integration of natural sciences and societal disciplines into a holistic assessment of the marine environment must also be a general principle in CD strategies and initiatives. Sustainable resource management requires an understanding of the seas and our use of them via an integrated system which merges the natural and human aspects. Therefore, conceptual frameworks that integrate human and social sciences into holistic assessments of the marine environment are required;
* Clearer links between CD and global reporting needs that would enable developing countries gain access to necessary resources and training e.g. through GEF;
* History of the IOC and IOC CD Best Practice in international cooperation; strengthen the Best Practices concept in CD activities at national level;
* Since ocean observation is very expensive, successful collaboration need be introduced particularly showing the successful indicator for supporting the collaboration.

 D. Priority

Although SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs are already a priority in the IOC CD Strategy, this role has to be more specific and reinforced by:

* Strengthening the science-policy interface through the development and/or delivery of decision-making support tools and inclusive stakeholder’s engagement processes for evidence-based policy and trade-offs development, consensus building and integrated solutions.
* Encouraging policies to promote technological upgrading; strengthening science and technology and increasing investment in basic and related research facilities / institutions are central and priorities for the future sustainability of these countries.
* Strengthening and highlighting the key role of marine science, as essential to deliver the tools needed to tackle the root causes of existing vulnerabilities and to identify climate and ocean environment-related security risks faced in in coastal areas, in particular by SIDS.
* Ocean science informs coastal ecosystem restorations and, in that context, the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS should be recognized.

 E. Scope

The role of gender, of traditional and indigenous knowledge and social inclusion, in general, must be reinforced in the IOC CD Strategy. This includes:

* Helping indigenous people to collect and document their traditional knowledge scientifically, and incorporate traditional knowledge and engage in ocean science and resource management organically.
* Social inclusion. Ensuring the needs of disadvantaged social groups such as indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, older persons, youth and women are understood and addressed to remove barriers to full gender, generational, and geographic diversity, and ensure an equitable and accessible ocean for all.

**PROPOSED: The Working Group recognized** the recommendations from the Task Team and **agreed** to take the following next steps:

5. DATE OF NEXT WG MEETING

Mr. Ariel Troisi asked the Working Group to identify the dates of succeeding meetings in February and March.

**PROPOSED: The Working Group agreed to conduct the 2nd meeting on XX…**

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7. CLOSING OF MEETING

Mr. Ariel Troisi closed the meeting at **XX**.