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IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XVI/2.1 Annotated Prov.
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

Sixteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XVI)
Hangzhou, China, 10-12 November 2026

Item 2.1 of the Provisional Agenda

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

This Annotated Provisional Agenda provides the information necessary to facilitate effective participation in the discussions of the agenda items.

Member States are encouraged to review the relevant working and information documents beforehand and to prepare concise, substantive interventions on the agenda items.

Ideally, the discussions are expected to result in feasible decisions or arrangements that outline future concrete actions for the next intersessional period and beyond.

1. Opening

1.1 Welcoming and Opening Remarks

1. The Sixteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XVI) will be held in Hangzhou, China, from 09:00 to 17:40 (Beijing Time, UTC+8) on 10-12 November 2026. The Session will be hosted by the Government of China, through the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and its Second Institute of Oceanography (SIO).

2. The opening ceremony will take place at 09:00 on 10 November 2026. Danhong Chen (Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, MNR), Vidar Helgesen (IOC Executive Secretary & UNESCO Assistant Director General), representative from the Second Institute of Oceanography, and Aileen Tan Shau Hwai (Chairperson of the IOC Sub-Commission) will deliver remarks. Xinchun Pan (Vice President and Secretary General of the China Oceanic Development Foundation) will deliver congratulatory remark, reaffirming the CODF's continued support for the event and the Sub-Commission's work and initiatives.

1.2 Host Country Keynote Address

3. Dake Chen, Academician, Chinese Academy of Sciences & Senior Researchers, Second Institute of Oceanography (SIO), Ministry of Natural Resources, China will be invited to deliver a keynote address entitled *"Advancing Ocean Science and Technology in the Era of Artificial Intelligence"*.

2. Organization of the session

2.1 Adoption of the Agenda

Working document	IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XVI/2.1 prov	Provisional Agenda
	IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XVI/2.1 annotated prov	Annotated Provisional Agenda (this document)

4. The Chairperson will invite Wenxi Zhu, Head of the WESTPAC Office (which also serves as the Decade Coordination Office for the region), to introduce this item. He will draw the attention of all delegations to the Provisional Agenda, which has been developed through a series of regional consultations, discussions among the WESTPAC Officers, and consultations with the IOC Paris. The Provisional Agenda was distributed together with the IOC Circular Letter No. 3077 to Member States in late June 2026. The Provisional Agenda has been revised slightly based on response from Member States.

ACTION 2.1 Member States will be invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as amended at the present session.

2.2 Conduct of the Session

Working document	IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XVI/2.1 prov. timetable	Provisional Timetable

5. The Chairperson will invite the Head of the WESTPAC Office to introduce this item. In addition to briefly reviewing the Provisional Timetable, he will draw the attention of delegations to the need to establish a statutory committee, namely the Nominations Committee. The Sub-Commission will establish the Committee accordingly.

6. The Sub-Commission will conduct its deliberations in plenary to the extent possible. Sessional Working Group(s) may be established, as necessary, to address specific items arising

from session discussions. Where appropriate, such sessional Working Group(s) may draft recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Sub-Commission.

7. The Chairperson will also draw the attention of delegations to practical arrangements for the Session, including working hours and the possibility of shortening, or even dispensing with coffee breaks to ensure the timely completion of the session agenda.

8. The Chairperson will then invite all delegations to proceed in accordance with the Revised Provisional Timetable, taking into account: (i) the Sub-Commission's decision regarding the establishment of any sessional working groups; (ii) the time required for such groups to report back to the plenary; and (iii) the time needed for preparation for the election of officers and/or the formulation of draft recommendations.

ACTION 2.2 Member States will be invited to constitute the Nominations Committee and actively participate in side events and group discussions, including the informal workshop on "IOC and the Future of Ocean," scheduled for the morning of 11 November 2026.

3. Statutory Reports

3.1 Statement of the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission

Working Document	IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XVI/3.1	Statement of the Chairperson

9. The Chairperson will deliver her statement on recent developments in the work of the Sub-Commission, share her perspectives for the future of the Sub-Commission and IOC, and present potential opportunities for the Sub-Commission's growth and collaboration within the region and globally.

3.2 Report by the Head of WESTPAC Office on Intersessional Programme Development and Implementation, including the Resource Mobilization and the Operation of the WESTPAC Office and Decade Coordination Office

Working Document	IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XVI/3.2	Report by the WESTPAC Office on Intersessional Activities

10. The Head of the WESTPAC Office will present a brief report on intersessional activities since the last Session (WESTPAC- XV), 11-13 March 2025, Tokyo, Japan.

ACTION 3.1 Member States will be invited to review the Sub-Commission's major accomplishments and challenges, including the persistent understaffed and overstretched situation of the WESTPAC Office. Member States will also provide guidance on the Sub-Commission's future development, particularly on how to sustain its current momentum, strengthen its institutional capacity, and further enhance its impacts both within and beyond the region.

3.3 Recent Developments within UNESCO, IOC, and Their Relevance to WESTPAC

3.3.1 IOC Executive Secretary's Report

Information Document	IOC/EC-59/4.2.1.DOC(1)	Update on Progress of Review of Governance and Management Processes

11. The IOC Executive Secretary will deliver his messages on the current development within UNESCO and IOC, and its impact on WESTPAC.

ACTION 3.3.1 Member States will be invited to take the floor to offer comments and observations on the ES's report.

3.3.2 IOC and the Future of Ocean

Information Document	IOC/EC-59/4.3.1.Doc(1)	Results of Phase II Consultation and Proposed Methodology for Phase III Consultation, July 2026
	IOC/INF-1555	Results on the Phase 2 Consultation, June 2026
	IOC/A-33/5.3.Doc(1)	Results on the Phase 1 Consultation, June 2025
	IOC/EC-57/3.1.Doc(4)	Consultation Process- IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Sustainable Delivery and Expansion of IOC Activities, April 2024

12. Alison Clausen, IOC Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section will introduce this agenda item. She will also introduce the informal workshop on IOC and the Future of Ocean, which is scheduled for 0900-1230, 11 November, and encourage delegates to actively part in the workshop and to contribute to the discussion of regional priorities to inform the development of IOC Medium Term Strategy (2030-2037).

ACTION 3.3.2 Member States may request the floor to seek clarification about the Consultation.

3.3.3 IOC Draft Programme and Budget for 2028-2029 (44 C/5) – Preliminary Proposal from the IOC Secretariat

Information Document	IOC/EC-59/4.4.Doc(1) Rev.2	Draft Programme and Budget 2028–2029 (44 C/5) Preliminary Proposals from the Secretariat [IOC/EC-59/4.4.Doc(1) Rev.2, 30 June-3 July 2026]

13. The IOC Executive Secretary will briefly introduce the IOC Draft Programme and Budget for 2028-2029 (44 C/5), and its latest development in UNESCO.

ACTION 3.3.3 Member States may request the floor to provide comments and observations on the draft Programme and Budget, seek clarification on matters of particular interest, and offer views and recommendations on issues relevant to the development of the WESTPAC Programme and Budget 2028-2029.

4. Strategic and Programme Development

4.1 Role of IOC in the Implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)

Information Document	IOC/EC-59/3.7.Doc(1)	Interim Report of the IOC Working Group on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (IOC/WG-BBNJ), 2026 [IOC/EC-59/3.7.Doc(1), June 2026]

14. Hansan Pak, IOC Vice Chair, will be invited to brief the Session about this agenda item. While highlighting the role of ocean science in the implementation of the Agreement, he will further propose potential activities the IOC could initiate and co-develop with Member States in the region.

ACTION 4.1 Member States will be invited to share their perspectives on potential cooperative areas, programmes and activities that the Sub-Commission could undertake to assist Member States in their implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. The efforts of the Sub-Commission will be also presented under the Agenda Item 5.2: Task Force on BBNJ implementation.

4.2 IOC Implementation of its Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (SOPM)

Information Document	IOC/A-33/4.1.Doc(1)	IOC-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (2025–2030) and Implementation Plan (2025–2027) [IOC/A-33/4.1.Doc(1), June 2026]

15. Fanny Douvere, Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management Lead, IOC will deliver a video presentation on the IOC implementation of the SOPM strategy. The SOPM Strategy also responds to the Statutes of IOC which calls inter alia for the application of ocean knowledge generated by the IOC "for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States" (Article 2, Purpose).

16. The Strategy aims are therefore to guide the contribution of the Commission across its programmes on ocean sciences, observation and data, early warning services and assessments, through the delivery of tailored science-based services, the dissemination of ecosystem-based management tools, assessment and related information products, as well as capacity development in support to sustainable ocean management.

ACTION 4.2 Member States will be invited to provide guidance on the implementation of SOPM Strategy. Additionally, Member States will also share their insights on how IOC can enhance its impacts, benefit from the work of its regional subsidiary bodies, and ensure the benefits are maximized and effectively delivered to all IOC Member States.

4.3 UN Ocean Decade Global Development

Information Document	IOC/INF-1553	Implementation of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development including Progress against the Mid-term Evaluation Action Plan [IOC/INF-1553, June 2026]

17. Alison Clausen, IOC Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section will present the latest global development about the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

4.4 The Sub-Commission's Engagement and Contribution to the UN Ocean Decade

ACTION 4.4 Member States will be invited to share their perspectives about the Decade movement and make suggestions about the Sub-Commission's effort in the development and implementation of the following Decade Actions. Member States will be also invited to consider providing human and financial resources to the DCO for the region.

4.4.1 An Overview of the WESTPAC efforts, including its hosted Decade Coordination Office

18. Wenxi Zhu will provide an overview of the engagement and effort of the Sub-Commission since 2019 in the UN Ocean Decade, highlighting the seven Decade Actions led by the Sub-Commission and the Decade Coordination Office (DCO) for the region, hosted by the Government of Thailand as an extension of the current WESTPAC Office. He will also invite relevant colleagues to brief on the WESTPAC-led UN Decade Actions, as outlined below.

4.4.2 UN21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas

Working Document	UN 21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas, including the MSP Regional Action Framework (2025-2030)
Information Document	Action framework for accelerating marine spatial planning in the Western Pacific and its adjacent areas (2025-2030)

19. Zhiwei Zhang, WESTPAC Project Coordinator from the First Institute of Oceangraphy, Ministry of Natural Resource, China, will brief the Session on the progress and key development of the WESTPAC led Decade Action UN 21: Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas.

20. In response to Member States' needs, the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC), in collaboration with a broad range of partners in the region, launched the UN Decade Action - "Accelerate Marine Spatial Planning in the Western Pacific" (UN21) at its 13th Intergovernmental Session in 2021. Building on Member States' achievements , UN 21 aims to advance and accelerate marine spatial planning (MSP) across the region, with a view to assisting Member States in achieving an ecosystem-based approach to ocean resource management, the development of a sustainable blue economy, and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

4.4.3 UN 22: Stem the Tide of Asia's Riverine Plastic Emission into the Ocean

Working Document	UN 22: Stem the Tide of Asia's Riverine Plastic Emission into the Ocean

21. Kahlida Jabeeen representing Daoji Li, WESTPAC Project Coordinator from the East China Normal University, China, will report on the progress made on the Decade Action UN 22: Stem the tide of Asia's riverine plastic emission into the ocean.

4.4.4 UN23: Accelerating Transformations in Capacity Development in the Western Pacific - Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science

Working Document	UN23: Accelerating Transformations in Capacity Development in the Western Pacific - Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs) on Marine Science Proposal for hosting the Regional Training and Research Center on Regenerative Aquaculture for Community and Ecosystems (RTRC-RACE)

22. Wenxi Zhu will introduce this agenda item by presenting the implementation of the Decade Action UN 23: Capacity development transformations through the IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centers (RTRCs).

23. Abe Woo Sau Pinn from Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (CEMACS), Universiti Sains Malaysia, will be invited to introduce the CEMACS's proposal for hosting the RTRC on Regenerative Aquaculture for Community and Ecosystems (RTRC-RACE). He will further invite all Member States to identify or nominate qualified participants into the RTRC-RACE's future planned activities.

4.4.5 UN24: Explore the Strongest Ocean Current in the Western Pacific: the 2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions (CSK-2)

Working Document UN 24: Explore the Strongest Ocean Current in the Western Pacific: the 2nd Cooperative Study of Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions

24. The Co-Chairs of the CSK-2 International Steering Group, Kentaro Ando from JAMSTEC and Xiaopei Lin from the Ocean University of China, will present the major progress made on the CSK-2 since its establishment as a programme of the Sub-Commission in April 2021.

4.4.6 UN39: Ocean Solutions in the East Asian Seas: understand the multiple stressors on coastal ecosystems and provide solutions that benefit people, nature and economy

Working Document UN 39: Ocean Solutions in the East Asian Seas

25. Aileen Tan Shau Hwai, WESTPAC Project Coordinator for UN 39, will present the newly initiated Decade Action in 2025, aimed at conducting multidisciplinary research and engaging local stakeholders to address multiple stressors in the coastal areas. The Action seeks to develop science-based solutions to restore and protect ecosystems while building resilience against ongoing environmental stressors, benefiting people, nature, and livelihoods.

4.4.7 UN 42: The WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference & UN Ocean Decade Regional Conferences (2021-2030)

Working Document UN 42: The WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference & UN Ocean Decade Regional Conferences (2021-2030)

26. Wenxi Zhu will brief on this agenda item.

4.4.8 UN 46: Collaborations for NWP Marine Ecosystem Prediction (COSMEC)

Working Document UN 46: Collaborations for NWP Marine Ecosystem Prediction (COSMEC)

27. On behalf of Toshio Suga, WESTPAC PI from WPI-AIMEC (Tohoku University and JAMSTEC), Yuntao Wang from the Second Institute of Oceanography, MNR, China will brief on the key development of this UN Decade Action.

5. Implementation of Decisions Taken at the Last Session (WESTPAC-XV, 11-13 March 2025, Tokyo, Japan)

5.1 Preparations of the 12th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference & 3rd Ocean Decade Regional Conference (20-23 April 2027, Manila, the Philippines)

Working Document Preparations of the 12th WESTPAC IMSC & 3rd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference & (20-23 April 2027, Manila, the Philippines)

28. Head of the Philippine Delegation will be invited to brief on the preparations of the 3rd UN Ocean Decade Regional Conference & 12th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference (2027, the Philippines). S/he will also invite all Member States to actively engage in and contribute to the success of this event.

ACTION 5 Member States will be invited to provide their suggestions and insights on the 12th WESTPAC International Marine Science Conference & 3rd Ocean Decade Regional Conference in 2027.

5.2 Task Force on BBNJ (2025-2027)

Working Document Task Force on BBNJ (2025-2027)

29. Wenxi Zhu will provide an overview of the Task Force's activities and major progress since its establishment pursuant to the decision adopted at the last Sesson (WESTPAC-XV, March 2025, Tokyo, Japan).

5.3 Task Force on Ocean Literacy (2025-2027)

Working Document Task Force on Ocean Literacy (2025-2027)

30. He will also brief the Session on the progress and key outcomes of the Task Force, which was established following a decision made at the 15th Intergovernmental Session of the Sub-Commission (WESTPAC-XV, March 2025, Tokyo, Japan).

5.4 Working Group on Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration with an initial focus on Mangrove (2025-2028)

Working Document Working Group on Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration with an initial focus on Mangroves (2025-2028)

31. Guangcheng Chen, Co-Chair for the Working Group from the Third Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, China will report to the Session on the WG's major progress to date, as well as its future work plans.

5.5 Working Group on Seagrass Research, Monitoring, and Conservation (2025-2028)

Working Document Working Group on Seagrass Research, Monitoring, and Conservation (2025-2028)

32. Tipamat Upanoi, Co-Chair for the Working Group from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Thailand will present an overview of the Working Group's progress and key achievements and outline its priorities and planned activities for the coming years.

5.6 Methane Fluxes and their Impacts on Climate and Ecosystem in the Indo-Pacific Region (2025-2029)

Working Document Methane Fluxes and their Impacts on Climate and Ecosystem in the Indo-Pacific Region (2025-2029)

33. On behalf of the WESTPAC Co-Project Leaders, Renat Shakirov from POI FEB RAS, Russia and Nengyou Wu, Laoshan Laboratory, China, Nadezhda Syrbu from POI FEB RAS, Russia will report to the Session on the major progress and key achievements to date.

5.7 Prediction of Marine Ecosystem Changes in the North Pacific Ocean (2025-2030) (Transformed as UN 46, presented under the Agenda Item 4.8.8)

6. Review and Gap Analysis of Regional Programmes, Projects, and Working Groups Aligned with the IOC High Level Objectives (HLOs)

34. To strengthen strategic coherence, demonstrate regional contributions to IOC's High-Level Objectives (HLOs), and identify gaps, synergies, and opportunities for future programme development, a preliminary mapping exercise was conducted. Five consolidated summaries will be presented, corresponding to the five IOC High-Level Objectives. It should be recognized that many of regional programmes and activities contribute to more than one IOC High-Level Objective. reflecting the interconnected nature of ocean challenges and the interdisciplinary character of ocean science

IOC High Level Objectives (HLOs)	Regional Priority Programme Areas (RPAs)	WESTPAC Programmes, Projects, WGs, and Task Forces
HLO 1. Healthy Ocean and sustained ocean ecosystem services	RPA 2. Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Ocean Ecosystems and Human Health, and Blue Economy	• WG on Seagrass research and restoration • WG on Mangrove research and restoration • UN 22: Asian Rivers' plastic inputs – RTRC on Marine Plastic and Microplastic • UN 46: Prediction of marine ecosystem changes in the NWP • Asian Marginal Seas • Ocean Remote Sensing • Marine toxin and seafood safety – RTRC on Marine Toxin Analysis • eDNA applications • Regional Training and Research Center on Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health (RTRC-MarBEST) • Regional Training and Research Center on Coral Reef Restoration and MPAs Management • RTRC for Coastal Contaminants Monitoring and Marine Innovative Technologies (RTRC Coast COMMIT)
HLO 2. Effective warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards	RPA 3. Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness	• Harmful Algal Blooms • eCORE-SEAS: Enhancing Coastal Resilience in the South-East Asia Seas • The efforts in ocean acidification and ocean hypoxia have been integrated into the implementation of the UN 39 Ocean Solutions.
HLO 3. Resilience to climate change and contribution to its mitigation	RPA 1. Ocean-Based Solutions to Climate Change (Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience)	• eCORE-SEAS: Enhancing Coastal Resilience in the South-East Asia Seas • UN 24: CSK-2 • NEAR-GOOS
HLO 4. Scientifically founded services for the sustainable ocean economy	Included in the RPA 2.	• UN 21: Marine Spatial Planning • UN 39: Ocean Solutions • WG on Small island research, and development (to be uploaded)
HLO 5. Foresight on emerging ocean science issues	RPA 4. Knowledge for Emerging Issues	• Methane Fluxes and their impacts • Task Force on BBNJ • Task force on Ocean Literacy
Cross-cutting: RSC governance, Session, and MS communication		• WESTPAC IGS • UN 42: Triennial International Marine Science Conference • UN 23: Regional Network of Training and Research Centers

35. Concise presentations on the progress of individual WESTPAC programmes, projects, and WG are available on the event webpage at https://ioc-westpac.org/event/westpac-xvi/

6.1 HLO 1. Healthy Ocean and sustained ocean ecosystem services

36. Aileen Tan Shau Hwai, Chair of the Sub-Commission, will provide an overview of the Sub-Commission's collective efforts and achievements in advancing HLO 1, and offer strategic recommendations for the way forward.

6.2 HLO 2. Effective warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards

37. SungHyun Nam, Vice-Chair of the Sub-Commission, will present the Sub-Commission's efforts towards the IOC HLO 2, He will also identify key gaps and emerging challenges, and offer strategic recommendations for strengthening regional cooperation, scientific and technical capacities, and preparedness for ocean-related hazards, including storm surges, harmful algal blooms.

6.3 HLO 3. Resilience to climate change and contribution to its mitigation

38. Aletta T. Yñiguez, Vice-Chair of the Sub-Commission, will present the Sub-Commission's effort in contributing to the IOC HLO 3, highlighting key achievements in advancing ocean observations, understanding climate-related impacts on marine ecosystems, and supporting climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. She will also identify critical knowledge and capacity gaps, emerging challenges and opportunities, and offer strategic recommendations for strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing ocean-based climate resilience.

6.4 HLO 4. Scientifically founded services for the sustainable ocean economy

6.5 HLO 5. Foresight on emerging ocean science issues

39. Wenxi Zhu, Head of the Office, will brief on the consolidation results for the HLO 4 and HLO 5, focusing on how the Sub-Commission's programmes and initiatives support sustainable ocean economy and anticipate emerging ocean science needs. The presentation will also explore opportunities for developing new regional initiatives, strengthening the science-policy interface, and positioning the Sub-Commission to better respond to future challenges and priorities.

ACTION 6: Member States may request the floor to make interventions, providing strategic guidance on priorities and opportunities for future programme development, taking into account evolving regional needs, emerging ocean challenges and the next IOC Medium-Term Strategy.

7. Review of the Draft Regional Blueprint

40. Alison Clausen will introduce the overall approach and process for developing a Regional Blueprint. The Regional Blueprint will identify key regional priorities, challenges, opportunities, partnerships and pathways for action to accelerate progress during the final years of the Ocean Decade. Particular attention will be given to building on existing regional strategies, frameworks and initiatives, strengthening synergies and ensuring strong regional ownership.

ACTION 7: Member States will be invited to offer advice and guidance on the overall approach and process and encouraged to engage in the process and contribute to its development.

8. Establishment of New Programme/Project/Working Group

41. Wenxi Zhu will brief the Session on the collaborative and consultative processes that the Sub-Commission has been taking during the intersessional period to identify the need for new programmes, projects, and working groups addressing common priority issues of its Member States.

42. In preparation for the present Session, extensive consultations have been conducted with relevant WESTPAC programmes, projects, working groups and partners to identify gaps and opportunities for new regional initiatives. Building on these consultations and discussions under preceding agenda items, proposals for new programmes, projects and working groups will be

presented for consideration by the Session. The Sub-Commission acknowledges with appreciation the leadership and contributions of the WESTPAC Advisory Group in fostering regional cooperation and advancing its motto, "Ocean Science for Society."

ACTION 8: Member States will be invited to assess the development of these proposed new working groups, projects, or programmes, particularly their relevance to regional priorities, expected outcomes and implementation arrangements. The Sub-Commission may adopt the proposed new initiatives, as appropriate, or provide recommendations for their further refinement and development.

9. WESTPAC Workplan and Budget for the Period 2028-2029

Working Document:	IOC/SC-WESTPAC-XVI/9	WESTPAC Workplan and Budget for 2028-2029 (*to be finalized based on discussions at the Session*)

43. Wenxi Zhu will brief on the draft workplan and budget for 2028-2029. Over the years, the Sub-Commission has adopted a collaborative approach to programme development and implementation, guided by the principle of "co-development and co-implementation."

44. Most of its activities have been supported through extrabudgetary contributions from Member States in the region, either in kind or in cash. Accordingly, the WESTPAC Workplan and Budget has traditionally served primarily as a guiding framework for international collaboration, outlining priority activities that Member States of the Sub-Commission aim to jointly promote and seek funding from various sources to support their implementation.

45. The IOC Executive Secretary may provide an update on the latest developments concerning the IOC regular budget for 2028–2029. At the time of finalizing this document, the level of regular budget resources to be allocated to the Sub-Commission for the forthcoming biennium 2028-2029 remains unclear.

Action 9: Taking into account the discussions under the preceding agenda items, the Sub-Commission will be invited to: (1) endorse the workplan for the period of 2028-2029, with the understanding that it may be adjusted to accommodate evolving circumstances and funding opportunities; and (2) assist in identifying extra-budgetary resources to support the implementation of the Sub-Commission's programme and activities.

Note: The proposed action may be further revised in light of the deliberations and decisions of the Session

10. Key Conclusions to Inform the Phase 3 Consultation Process for "IOC and the Future of the Ocean"

46. The Rapporteur(s) of the Informal Workshop on the IOC and the Future of the Ocean, held on the morning of 11 November, will be invited to present the workshop key conclusions and recommendations emerging from the discussions.

Action 10: Member States be invited to review the key conclusions, provide comments and additional inputs, and identify priority issues and recommendations to be conveyed to the Phase 3 consultation process for "IOC and the Future of the Ocean."

11. Elections of the Officers of the Sub-Commission

Information Document:	• Election Procedures

- Nomination Forms

47. The Nomination Committee will report to the plenary on the discussion results based on nominations for Chairperson and vice-Chairperson and the work that the Sub-Commission will carry out over the next intersessional term.

Action 11: The Sub-Commission will be invited to elect its Chairperson and vice-Chairpersons along these guidelines and the recommendations of the Nomination Committee.

12. Date and Place of the Next Session

Action 12: The Sub-Commission will be invited to consider the date and place of its seventh Session which was supposed to take place in late 2028.

13. Other Matters

48. The Chair may invite:

Action 13: Member States will be invited to consider the results/outcomes of the two events, and further provide guidance on the future development of the two events.

14. Adoption of Action Points and Recommendations

49. Due to time constraints during this session, the Sub-Commission will be requested to adopt the draft action points. The full executive summary will be sent to all delegation after the Session for revisions, comments, and approval by correspondence.

50. The Sub-Commission will also be invited to authorize the Head of the WESTPAC Office to submit the Executive Summary to the Thirty-fourth Session of the IOC Assembly (Paris, France, 28 June- 02 July 2027).

15. Closure

51. The representative of the host country will be invited to deliver his/her remarks. The Chairperson of the Sub-Commission will close the Session not later than 1730 hours Beijing Time), on 12 November 2026.