

Resolution EC-XXXIX.8

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION GROUP
FOR THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEM**

The Executive Council,

Noting:

- (i) Resolution XXIII-12, Resolution XXIII-13 and Resolution XXIII-14, establishing, respectively, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS), the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, and the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation System in the North-eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Connecting Seas;
- (ii) the report of the 20th session of the International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (ITSU-XX) Viña del Mar, Chile, October 2005), IOC/ITSU-XX/3;

Recalling that:

- (i) the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (ITSU) provides a comprehensive tsunami warning and mitigation service which covers the Pacific Ocean and all adjacent seas,
- (ii) the ITSU is a coordinated network of regional, sub-regional and national systems and capacities,
- (iii) the International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC) was established by the IOC through Resolution IV-6 (1965) and hosted by the United States of America in Honolulu, Hawaii,
- (iv) the North West Pacific Tsunami Advisory Centre (NWPTAC), hosted by Japan in Tokyo, was established in 2005,

Recognizing:

- (i) the long experience of the ITIC as the primary provider of information and expertise for technology transfer, training and capacity-building for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific, in conjunction with the IOC Secretariat,
- (ii) the long experience of the Richard H. Hagemeyer Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) in Hawaii as the primary operational centre for the Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System in the Pacific,

Acknowledging with appreciation the continuing strong support of Chile, Japan and the United States of America for the operation of NWPTAC, the PTWC, the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre (ATWC) and ITIC,

Recalling the IOC commitment to an open, free and unrestricted sharing of tsunami-relevant real-time observational data in accordance with the UNESCO/IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy and without prejudice to the sovereignty of Member States,

Stressing that all Member States should make every endeavour to exchange with other Member States:

- (i) seismic, sea-level and other data relevant to tsunamigenic events in or near real time,
- (ii) national assessments and warnings of tsunamigenic events and of tsunamis in a timely manner,

Emphasizing the importance of the role of the communication media in reporting this information responsibly,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretariat of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) for its guidance and support, and to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for contributing its infrastructure and technical support,

Decides:

- (i) to rename ITSU to be the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS);
- (ii) to establish an Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the PTWS, with terms of reference as given in the Annex to this resolution;
- (iii) that the IOC shall provide the Secretariat of the ICG/PTWS;
- (iv) that ITIC will continue to act as the primary provider of information and expertise for technology transfer, training and capacity-building for the PTWS;

Requests NWPTAC and PTWC to continue to provide interim tsunami advisory information for the South China Sea region, at least until the next meeting of PTWS;

Reaffirms that PTWS should be part of a global network of warning and mitigation systems for tsunami and other ocean-related hazards;

Welcomes and accepts the generous offer of the United States of America to continue to support the ITIC and **instructs** the IOC Executive Secretary to establish ITIC as a programme office of IOC;

Agrees that, to facilitate durability, the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System should continue to utilize or build on, where possible, existing organizations and institutions and complement existing warning frameworks, within a multi-hazard framework where appropriate;

Invites all Member States and other countries, international and regional organizations to provide financial, technical and other kinds of assistance for the PTWS, including voluntary contributions to the IOC Tsunami Trust Fund, in order to assist the Commission in the effective provision of Secretariat services for the ICG/PTWS;

Further invites Member States, including Member States of the PTWS, to encourage countries in the Pacific that are not already participating in the PTWS, to join the IOC and PTWS, and in

doing so, Member States should clarify to them the benefits that accrue from membership of the PTWS, which does not require any set annual financial contribution;

Invites WMO and ISDR to coordinate appropriately with IOC, to ensure that tsunami warning and mitigation activities are mutually consistent.

Required funding (2006–2007):

UNESCO Regular Programme Budget as available within the amount identified in MLA 2 (ITSU) of IOC Resolution XXIII-16

Annex to Resolution EC-XXXIX.8

**Terms of Reference of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group
for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS)**

The ICG will be established as a subsidiary body of the IOC and will report to, and seek guidance from, the IOC Assembly.

Objectives:

1. To identify the needs and coordinate the activities of the PTWS;
2. To organize and facilitate as appropriate the exchange of seismic, sea-level and other data in or near real time and information required for the interoperability of the PTWS;
3. To support the national tsunami warning and mitigation services;
4. To promote the sharing of experience and expertise related to tsunami warning and mitigation for the Pacific Ocean and adjacent seas;
5. To promote tsunami research;
6. To promote the establishment and further development of national tsunami warning and mitigation capacities in accordance with standard protocols and methods;
7. To develop, adopt and monitor implementation of work plans of the PTWS, and to identify required resources;
8. To promote implementation of relevant capacity-building, resilience-building and emergency management, including high levels of public awareness;
9. To liaise and coordinate with the ICGs for other tsunami warning and mitigation systems and to facilitate best practices;
10. To liaise with other relevant organizations, programmes and projects;
11. To promote the implementation of the PTWS within a multi-hazard framework;
12. To develop and promote best practices in tsunami warning and mitigation;
13. To keep under constant scrutiny the status of the system and how it satisfies the needs;

14. To arrange for liaison among the various national contact points and tsunami warning centres;
15. To maintain a current list of operational focal points and facilities for the PTWS and make it available on request to all Member States;
16. To maintain a list of those countries that are members of PTWS and a list of those countries that are not members, and make this available on the IOC PTWS website;
17. To initiate and support training activities to enhance and enrich tsunami warning and mitigation in the Pacific Ocean and adjacent seas.

Membership of the ICG/PTWS:

- Member States of the IOC within and bordering the Pacific Ocean and adjacent seas;
- Observers from other IOC Member States.
- Invited observers from other organizations (including NGOs), programmes and projects, in accordance with the IOC rules and procedures.

Officers of the ICG/PTWS

- A Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons, who will be elected in accordance with the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the IOC,
- Past Chairperson,
- Director of the PTWC,
- Director and Associate Director of the ITIC.

Resolution EC-XXXIX.9

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE TWENTIETH AND TWENTY-FIRST SESSIONS OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI
WARNING AND MITIGATION SYSTEM (ICG/PTWS)**

The Executive Council,

Noting the summary report of the International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (ITSU-XX) (Viña del Mar, Chile, 3–7 October 2005), and the Executive Summary Report of the Twenty-first Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS-XXI) (Melbourne, 1–5 May 2006),

Expresses its appreciation to Chile and Australia, respectively, for hosting the meetings;

Endorses the Summary Reports, Resolutions and Recommendations of ITSU-XX and ICG/PTWS-XXI;

Decides to postpone the planned ITSU Programme Review, originally focussed solely on the Pacific, until such time as a full review of the IOC tsunami programme is carried out;

Notes with satisfaction the successful conduct of the Exercise Pacific Wave 06;

Expresses its appreciation to Australia, Japan and the USA for their leadership in the organization and conduct of Exercise Pacific Wave 06.

Required funding (2006–2007)

UNESCO Regular Programme Budget as available within the amount identified in MLA 2 (ITSU) of IOC Resolution XXIII-16

Resolution EC-XXXIX.10

**MAIN LINES OF ACTION FOR THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET
FOR 2008–2009**

The Executive Council,

Noting Articles 1.2, 10.1 and 10.4 of the IOC Statutes,

Recalling:

- (i) the emphasis placed in Resolutions A/RES/56/12 and A/RES/57/141 on Oceans and the Law of the Sea adopted, respectively, by the 56th and the 57th Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, on the role of the IOC as a focal point for developing appropriate interactions in the field of marine science,
- (ii) the participation of the IOC in the UN/OCHA Flash Appeal: Indian Ocean Earthquake – Tsunami 2005,

Stressing the unique role of the IOC as the competent international organization dealing with ocean science, services and capacity-building at global and regional levels, and also acting as the ocean arm of UNESCO,

Noting with appreciation that:

- (i) the IOC has benefited in the past from the allocation by UNESCO of an 'incompressible' budget for its established level of Regular Budget-supported activities and the creation in the 33 C/5 of an additional professional post for the Ocean Observations and Services Section, and
- (ii) the increasing interest in IOC activities and especially its important role in the work related to the establishment of the Tsunami Warning System around the globe, has attracted substantial supplementary support from Member States, notably through contributions to the IOC Special Account,

Reiterating its concern that, as a result of the increasing responsibilities of the IOC in global and regional ocean issues, the resources available to IOC will remain below the level needed to sustain the work of the Commission, notwithstanding the significant extra-budgetary contributions,