



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات
政府间海洋学委员会

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**Subject: Explanatory Memo to IOC Member States for JCOMM-4, Yeosu, Republic of Korea;
23 – 31 May 2012**

By agreement between WMO and IOC, this fourth session of JCOMM is being conducted in accordance with WMO regulations regarding sessions of Technical Commissions. Some of the regulations may be unfamiliar to representatives of IOC-UNESCO Member States and are detailed below.

JCOMM is an intergovernmental body and its sessions are intergovernmental meetings. In addition, JCOMM is one of the WMO "constituent bodies", for which WMO has special rules.

Prior to a session of such a body, each WMO Member (the WMO equivalent of "Member State" for IOC-UNESCO) is requested to communicate to the Secretary-General of WMO the names of the persons composing its delegation to the session (mainly to allow the Secretariat to get an idea of the number of participants in the session). Besides this recommended communication, a letter giving these particulars and signed by, or on behalf of, an appropriate governmental authority of the WMO Member shall be sent to the Secretary-General of WMO or handed to his representative at the session and shall be regarded as appropriate credentials for the participation of the individuals named therein in all activities of the Commission.

All participants in the session must be provided with such credentials. Each IOC-UNESCO Member State must therefore comply with this rule, at the very least by communicating to the Executive Secretary of IOC-UNESCO the names of the persons composing its delegation to the session, through a letter signed by, or on behalf of, an appropriate governmental authority of the IOC-UNESCO Member State.

To : Member States of IOC

cc. : Permanent Delegates/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
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Officers of the IOC and Major Subsidiary Bodies

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In addition, WMO rules require that one person from each delegation be nominated "principal delegate" (i.e. head of delegation). As this is a joint Technical Commission, the head may be a member of either the oceanographic or meteorological community. Therefore it is highly recommended that, prior to the submission of the names and credentials of delegations to the session, national consultations take place between relevant oceanographic and meteorological agencies/organizations, with a view to a single, coordinated submission of a national delegation being made to the Executive Secretary of IOC-UNESCO and the Secretary-General of WMO. In any case, it must be understood that only a single head of any national delegation will be accepted at the session. This is of particular relevance, for example, in the election of officers of the Commission, where only a single vote will be allowed per national delegation.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Wendy Watson-Wright
Executive Secretary, IOC
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO