

**THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR (IPY) 2007-2008**

The Executive Council,

**Noting:**

- (i) the call by the ICSU Executive Council for an International Polar Year in 2007/2008, and the endorsement of this concept by the Fourteenth World Meteorological Congress through WMO Resolution 34(Cg-XIV),
- (ii) the recommendation by the Chairpersons of the five scientific programmes (IOC, IGCP, IHP, MAB and MOST), to the Director-General and the 32nd session of the General Conference, that UNESCO be involved in the proposed International Polar Year,
- (iii) the intention for ICSU and WMO to form a Joint Organizing Committee to take over responsibility for the further development of IPY 2007-2008,

**Recalling** the usefulness of the International Year of the Ocean as a means of promoting the development of oceanography nationally and internationally,

**Recognizing:**

- (i) the significant role of the oceans in the polar regions, not least as engines driving the circulation of global deep waters and hence influencing climate across the world,
- (ii) the potentially vital role to be played by the IOC through its programmes in participating in the IPY and facilitating access to ocean data from polar regions,

**Instructs the IOC Executive Secretary to:**

- (i) inform ICSU and WMO of IOC's interest in joining the proposed ICSU WMO Joint Organizing Committee;
- (ii) develop a plan for IOC's participation in the science initiatives of the IPY, including ways in which the IOC-led efforts may be integrated with the different programmes and projects being developed under the IPY;
- (iii) discuss the eventual creation of a group of experts, in collaboration with the co-sponsors of the IPY, to coordinate polar ocean science beyond 2008; and
- (iv) report on these matters to the 23rd Session of the Assembly.

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Financial Implications : none