

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of Unesco)

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE INTER-SECRETARIAT
COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES RELATING TO OCEANOGRAPHY
FAO, Rome, 25-27 July 1983

APPRAISAL OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF ICSPRO,
BY THE CHAIRMAN IOC

The Twenty-second Session of ICSPRO resulted in a number of recommendations that provide useful guidance to the Member Organizations for future collaboration on selected topics of common interest where the Commission, as a joint specialized mechanism, could assist in implementation. Among these discussions centred around the questions of information management, updating of LEPOR and the furthering of regional co-operation in marine scientific research and related aspects.

Regarding information management, the Committee re-affirmed the importance of the role of information in facilitating co-ordination of programmes between the Members of ICSPRO, as well as in providing better services to Member States. It was decided that regular meetings of Information Management Officers would be held between Sessions of ICSPRO to study ways and means by which the present arrangements could be improved.

Discussions on the updating of LEPOR led to a recommendation that after further study of the report on Ocean Science for the Year 2000, an inter-agency expert group be convened in 1984, to ensure the issuance of a final document for transmittal to the IOC Assembly in 1985 and thence to ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly later that same year.

Regional co-operation in marine science was recognized by the Committee as being a subject which merits more analysis in order to ascertain the types of co-operation which could strengthen concerted action at the regional level. This subject will be considered in greater detail at the Twenty-third Session of ICSPRO.

During the Session, the Chairman of IOC drew attention to the fact that the Commission, as stated in para 395 of the Summary Report of the Twelfth Session of the IOC Assembly, attaches the greatest importance to an active and effective ICSPRO, particularly in regard to its role in the development of co-operation amongst the Members of ICSPRO and in their use of the Commission as a joint specialized mechanism.

The Committee recognized that such an approach contributes to the mutual strengthening of common aspects of the work of IOC and of the participating Organizations and thus to the optimization of the ways and means available to them for the implementation of their respective programmes.

The Committee was not able to discuss adequately co-operation with UNEP since a UNEP observer, for the second consecutive session, did not attend.

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Twenty-second Session of the Inter-Secretariat
Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography
FAO, Rome, 25-27 July 1983

SUMMARY REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY REPORT		Page
1.	OPENING	1
2.	ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS	1
3.	REVIEW OF THE MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE IOC ASSEMBLY	1-3
4.	MARINE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT	3-4
5.	TRAINING, EDUCATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE MARINE SCIENCES, AND RELATED ASPECTS	5-6
6.	REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN MARINE SCIENCE	7
7.	IMPLICATIONS OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA FOR COLLABORATION AMONG THE ORGANIZATIONS MEMBERS OF ICS-PRO	7-8
8.	CONCERTED ACTION FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT IN MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST IN THE MEDIUM-TERM PLANS	8-10
9.	CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	10
10.	PREPARATION FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION	10-11
11.	DATES AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION	11
12.	ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT	11
13.	CLOSURE	11
ANNEXES		
I	AGENDA	
II	LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	
III	OPENING ADDRESS BY DR. A. LINDQUIST, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, FAO FISHERIES DEPARTMENT	

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Session was opened by Dr. Armin Lindquist, Officer-in Charge, FAO Fisheries Department, who also served as Chairman. His welcoming address is found as Annex III. The Committee was informed of the inability of IMO to send a Representative, and of IAEA and UNEP to send Observers. The List of Participants is found as Annex II.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Agenda, as given in Annex I, was adopted.

3. REVIEW OF MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE IOC ASSEMBLY

3.1 GENERAL SUMMARY

The Secretary of ICSPRO gave a brief overview of the decisions made at the Twelfth Session of the IOC Assembly. He recalled the statement made by the Chairman of the Commission that the IOC has entered a new phase whereby it is evolving from the planning and conceptual stage to one of implementation of concrete operational programmes at the global and regional levels.

The Secretary drew attention to those decisions taken by the Twelfth Session of the IOC Assembly which were of direct relevance to Organizations Members of ICSPRO, informing participants that FAO is considering co-sponsorship of the new IOC programme on Ocean Science in Relation to Living Resources (OSLR) and that the UN(OETB) has decided to co-sponsor the programme on Ocean Science and Non-Living Resources (OSNLR). He also noted the steady progress being made in established co-operative programmes such as IGOSS with WMO. He reported on the negotiations underway with UNEP for co-sponsorship of GIPME and MARPOLMON as recommended by the Assembly.

In summarizing other decisions of the Assembly, the Secretary highlighted those which figured as items on the Agenda of the present Session and which demonstrated the response of IOC to its responsibilities as a joint specialized mechanism of the Organizations Members of ICSPRO on matters concerning marine science, ocean services and related aspects of training, education and mutual assistance.

The development by IOC of a Comprehensive Plan for a Major Assistance Programme to Enhance the Marine Science Capabilities of Developing Countries is an example of a programme of potential benefit to those Organizations. Ocean use and management are inevitably linked to adequate trained manpower and necessary infrastructure in marine science and should be based on sound national ocean policy which is an important element of the Plan. In a like manner, the strengthening of the structures of IOC, through the establishment of Regional Sub-Commissions, could serve the interests of other organizations in the regional implementation of certain aspects of their programmes.

Turning to ocean services, he noted that the Commission was taking measures to strengthen its programme in marine information. He hoped IOC would gradually be in the position of assuming responsibility for a number of information activities on behalf of the Members of ICSPRO and thus to provide common services to them as part of the Commission's responsibilities under the ICSPRO Agreement. He drew particular attention to the need to develop and maintain relevant information files in order to support the issuance of Marine Science Country Profiles which would be useful both to the Members of ICSPRO and the marine scientific community as a whole.

The Secretary also reported on the results of inter-agency co-operation through the JOA Logistics Committee in the organization of the Joint Oceanographic Assembly (Halifax, August 1982). He was pleased to report that more than 100 applications for travel grants had been evaluated and that the support from Members of ICSPRO had enabled 20 scientists from developing countries to attend the Assembly. In addition, Unesco had organized a highly successful seminar for scientific journalists and had contributed to the publication of the JOA Proceedings. Finally, with the support of FAO and Unesco/IOC, an on-line demonstration of ASFIS was presented at JOA and the basic display is now available for use at other meetings.

The Chairman of the Commission stressed that the role of IOC as a joint specialized mechanism, first set down in 1969 by the ICSPRO Agreement, has evolved considerably during the past decade. Now that the Commission, which would soon be celebrating its 25th anniversary, has reached a stage of maturation whereby its programme is being implemented in the major oceanic regions through the concerted action of 110 Member States, he felt that IOC was even better prepared than in the past to offer its services to the Organizations Members of ICSPRO in a number of fields of vital mutual interest.

During the ensuing discussions, the Committee agreed that the current needs of Member States called for a more pragmatic approach which would result in specific programmes responding to their urgent needs in marine science, ocean services and related aspects. While recognizing that development of certain programmes is inevitably a long process, particularly due to the shortage of resources, the Committee felt that the concerted efforts of the Organizations Members of ICSPRO in fields of mutual interest could eventually accelerate this process and provide better services to Member States. The Committee concurred that the successful implementation of programmes depends upon sufficient means and that collective efforts should continue to be made by all Members of ICSPRO to muster the required support.

The Committee expressed its satisfaction regarding the results achieved by the JOA Logistics Committee, and the contribution that this support had made to the success of the Joint Oceanographic Assembly.

3.2 UPDATING OF LEPOR

Particular emphasis was given to the subject of updating the Long-term and Expanded Programme of Oceanic Exploration and Research (LEPOR) which the Secretary introduced by referring to paras. 235-244 of the Summary Report of the Twelfth Session of the IOC Assembly (Document SC/MD/73). He reminded participants of the developments which had led to this decision, referring to the responsibility entrusted to IOC by UN General Assembly Resolution (XXIII)2414 to ensure the periodic review of LEPOR.

The Representative of the UN recalled that LEPOR had been developed in 1968 prior to the establishment of the new ocean regime. The present situation was quite different and, in his opinion, it was essential that the international community be made more fully aware of the fact that an adequate scientific basis was essential to the rational use and management of marine resources and, consequently, to the future implementation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. He concluded by saying that the enlarged area of national jurisdiction would be of much greater benefit to Member States if they were to acquire the necessary scientific and technological capabilities which would allow them to benefit from and assume their responsibilities under the new ocean regime.

The Committee concurred that the follow-up of the Convention should be considered within the context of scientific and economic considerations concurrently with the legal ramifications. The Committee endorsed the updating of LEPOR and agreed that it was particularly timely that the revised version be prepared for submission to the UN General Assembly through appropriate channels within the next two years.

Having agreed on the principle of undertaking the project, participants considered various alternatives as to procedures and timing.

The Committee decided that:

- (i) The report on Ocean Science for the Year 2000 as well as other appropriate background material, would be circulated by the Secretary of ICSPRO to Member Organizations, inviting their comments and proposing an outline which would be followed in synthesizing these comments and issuing a revised version of LEPOR.
- (ii) Members of ICSPRO would forward by December 1983 their suggestions to the Secretary of ICSPRO who will ensure the issuance of a consolidated document for transmittal to the Organizations Members of ICSPRO at least one month prior to the Twenty-third Session of the Committee.
- (iii) A progress report will be presented to the Seventeenth Session of the IOC Executive Council, including proposals for the convening, tentatively scheduled for September 1984, of an inter-agency expert group which would meet with representatives from the Organizations Members of ICSPRO and other concerned UN organizations, to produce a final document which would be transmitted to the Thirteenth Session of the IOC Assembly in February 1985 and thence to ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly later that same year.

4. MARINE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Representative of FAO introduced this item by reviewing the relevant documents that had been issued since the last Session, namely: Report of the Ad hoc Meeting of ICSPRO Information Management Officers, Rome, 25-26 January 1982 (Document IOC/INF-528); Structure and Workplan of the IOC with Special Reference to the Information and Data Services (Document IOC/INF-520); Report of the Ad hoc Consultation on Marine Information

Management, Paris, 2 June 1983 (Document IOC/IODE-Cons.MIM/1/3); Report of the Ad hoc Informal Planning Meeting on Future ASFIS Development and Support, Paris, 31 May - 3 June 1983 (Document IOC/INF-537).

He noted that these consultations had provided valuable guidance which IOC would be using as a basis for the formulation of its future policy in marine information management, a subject which would be a major item for discussion at the Eleventh Session of the IOC Working Committee on International Oceanographic Data Exchange (IODE) to be held in New York, 9-18 January 1984.

He drew attention to certain aspects of these reports which addressed the information concerns of the Organizations Members of ICSPRO and upon which the present Session might wish to make specific recommendations. In doing so, he emphasized the importance of information to efficient co-ordination between Members of ICSPRO, as had been pointed out at the Twenty-first Session of ICSPRO. There were obvious mutual benefits to be incurred by all Members through the provision by IOC of common services in the field in information which would relieve them of certain responsibilities and, at the same time, increase the efficiency of the system as a whole.

In reviewing the results of the Ad hoc Meeting of ICSPRO Information Management Officers, the Committee concluded that the report, and in particular Annex IV, "Recommendations for Improved Co-ordination of Information Activities", in a large measure had responded to the mandate given to the group by ICSPRO at its Twenty-first Session.

The Committee agreed that, although FAO had taken the lead in developing the ASFIS register system, the responsibility for ensuring its maintenance, either directly or indirectly, should progressively be transferred to IOC, in view of its role as a joint specialized mechanism for co-ordination of marine scientific affairs in the UN system.

The Committee recognized that the development of information systems was an expensive undertaking and that an immediate transfer of functions was not realistic. The Committee was of the opinion that IOC should be given the means to increase its staff and funding in order to assume these new information responsibilities, particularly in view of their importance to the development of Marine Science Country Profiles. However, it was hoped that FAO, in view of its long experience in the field, would be willing to advise IOC as to the initial steps to be taken towards achieving the goal of establishing a viable information system within the IOC Secretariat.

The Representative of FAO responded positively to this request.

Regarding the desirability of reinforcing the co-ordination of information between Members of ICSPRO, the Committee also endorsed the view of the Ad hoc Informal Planning Meeting on Future ASFIS Development and Support that regular meetings should be held of ICSPRO Information Management Officers, based upon the precedent of the ad hoc meeting held in 1982. The Committee agreed that such a group should be established under ICSPRO and that the first regular meeting of Information Management Officers should be convened by IOC before the Twenty-third Session of the Committee.

5. TRAINING, EDUCATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE MARINE SCIENCES,
AND RELATED ASPECTS

5.1 PREPARATION OF MARINE SCIENCE COUNTRY PROFILES

The Secretary introduced this Item by explaining that the Marine Science Country Profiles (MSCP) were intended to be a means by which the wealth of information regarding the current situation of marine science and related aspects at the national level could be synthesized in order to assist Member States to evaluate their needs and priorities in ocean affairs. Marine Science Country Profiles are also intended to provide the required background information for the formulation of technical assistance projects under the Comprehensive Plan. He recalled that FAO had an established system for issuing similar information related to fisheries and that the IOC endeavour was being developed in close collaboration with FAO to benefit from their experience and to ensure the desirable complementarity of effort. Other Members of ICSPRO might wish to participate in the project, within their specific fields of competence, in order to broaden the base of available information.

He noted that the Marine Science Country Profiles were a good example of how IOC could offer common services to the ICSPRO partners and that concerted action of the Members in this project would serve to produce comprehensive analyses of the structure and scope of marine scientific institutional arrangements and related aspects at the national level.

The Representative of FAO, referring to the experience of his Organization in this subject area, stressed that a distinction must be made between information which changes at a rapid rate and thus must be computerized and that which is essentially an analysis of such information. He noted that the development and maintenance of information systems was a considerable undertaking, but one which was of definite benefit at both the Secretariat level as well as to Member States and funding agencies.

The Representative of the UN stated that his Organization would be interested in participating in the development of MSCPs if the subject areas covered included related economic and technological aspects.

In responding to the concern expressed by the Unesco representative that the project, while of great potential value, would require additional funding and staff for its implementation, the Secretary recognized the budgetary implications and stated that IOC hopes to generate support for this activity in part through extra-budgetary funds expected to be mobilized in support of the Comprehensive Plan once the pilot phase, presently being funded under the regular programme, had been completed.

The Committee expressed its interest in the proposed Marine Science Country Profiles and requested the Secretary to keep Members informed of future development so that interested organizations could participate as the project evolved.

5.2 OPTIMIZATION OF THE USE OF RESEARCH VESSELS

In introducing this Item, the Secretary drew attention to the current situation where in many regions, for example, the North and Central-West Indian Ocean, there is either a lack of adequate research vessels or cases where existing vessels cannot be fully used for a number of reasons. He announced that, with the funding support of the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD), IOC will convene a Workshop on the

Optimization of the Use of Research Vessels in 1984. The purpose of the Workshop is to analyse the current situation and develop guidelines which would lead to the improvement at national level, and on a regional and inter-regional basis of the use of research vessels by interested Member States. A basic document for the Workshop will be an updated and comprehensive register of research vessels which FAO has kindly offered to prepare in collaboration with IOC. A questionnaire on the subject is now in the final stages of preparation and will be distributed jointly by IOC and FAO in September 1983.

The Representative of WMO concurred with this view, noting that the gathering of data such as those required by IGOSS could often be done as a secondary service by vessels whose primary purpose was of a different operational nature.

The Committee noted that this project was of interest to all Members as the improved use of common services such as research vessels would be beneficial to all programmes related to oceanography and to its application.

The Committee recognized the value of issuing and maintaining, within ASFIS, a register of research vessels and felt that the planned Workshop would draw attention to the need to maximize the use of research vessels in order to make the best use of these facilities which represent a considerable investment.

5.3 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR A MAJOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME TO ENHANCE THE MARINE SCIENCE CAPABILITIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Secretary, in introducing this Item, referred to the concern expressed by the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea that "unless urgent measures were taken the gap between the industrialized and developing countries in marine science and technology will continue to grow". He reminded participants that the Conference had urged competent international organizations to muster all possible support to assist Member States in benefiting from and assuming their responsibilities under the new ocean regime. The Unesco/IOC Comprehensive Plan for a Major Assistance Programme to Enhance the Marine Science Capabilities of Developing Countries had been developed to respond to these concerns. He drew attention to IOC Resolution XII-8, by which the Plan had been approved by the IOC Assembly and which had requested that the Organizations Members of ICSPRO make parallel efforts to support its implementation.

There was consensus that the current needs of Member States to improve their marine scientific capabilities, including aspects related to the programmes of Members of ICSPRO, was a critical issue and that the current world economic crisis required that Members of ICSPRO use available organization funds as effectively as possible, taking advantage of any opportunity to consolidate their efforts and avoid harmful duplication.

The Committee recognized the desirability of improving the flow of information between Members, bearing in mind that many essential assistance projects implemented by an individual Organization may have either immediate or long-term implications to projects of other Organizations. The Committee noted that set procedures for information exchange on field programmes were needed, particularly on projects having a bearing on research and ocean use. The Committee decided that this requirement be discussed at the meeting of ICSPRO Information Management Officers, with particular attention being given to the feasibility of developing a register or other vehicle of information which could be easily up-dated and accessed.

6. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN MARINE SCIENCE.

The Secretary introduced this Item by recalling the study made on regional co-operation in marine science (Document IOC/INF-407 rev.) which had been discussed at the Nineteenth Session of the Committee. Referring to the complementarity between those regional organizations dealing with science and management of ocean resources and uses or the protection of the marine environment, he noted that the problems of co-ordination were particularly complex at the regional level and that in certain regions the proliferation of organizations dealing with marine science had led in some instances to considerable difficulties in the planning and executing of projects.

He informed participants of the decision made by the Twelfth Session of the IOC Assembly to create a new category of subsidiary body, namely Regional Sub-Commissions, the first of which (IOCARIBE) had been established for the Caribbean and adjacent regions through IOC Resolution XII-16. Noting that these IOC regional subsidiary bodies offer an intergovernmental forum for discussion by Member States of programmes on ocean sciences and services, as well as of related TEMA activities, which are of interest to Organizations Members of ICSPRO, he suggested that Members might wish to use these fora for the purposes of certain of their own programmes.

The Committee expressed the view that the study was a useful document which should now be followed up by an analysis of the links and modes of co-operation amongst the various regional bodies. Such an analysis would be a general overview of the types of co-operation which are both feasible and desirable and would form the basis for guidelines to encourage more concerted action at the regional level. This would represent the second and third phases of the original study. The Committee agreed that such a study should be presented, if ready, at its Twenty-third Session.

IOC accepted the responsibility for the preparation of the study through consultants and will circulate an outline of the study to the Members of ICSPRO for their comment.

7. IMPLICATIONS OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA FOR COLLABORATION AMONG THE ORGANIZATIONS MEMBERS OF ICSPRO

The Secretary introduced this Item. He referred to the relevant decisions of the IOC Assembly by which it had expressed satisfaction of the work accomplished by the Ad hoc Task Team to Study the Draft Convention on the Law of the Sea and Any Future Text Developed by UNCLOS, and the Implications for the Commission (LOSI). He announced that the Third Session of the Task Team would be held during the first half of 1984 and that, in accordance with guidance from the Assembly, it will devote special attention to programmes, budgeting and structural aspects. Representatives from Organizations Members of ICSPRO would be welcome.

The Representative of the UN recalled that the Convention provides for the discharging of certain functions to competent organizations, but that this would constitute a legal mandate only when the Convention was ratified. Nevertheless, the practice of States, from a practical point of view, had already created a de facto situation whereby nations have assumed enlarged areas of jurisdiction. This requires that the Members of ICSPRO be prepared, during this transitional phase, to assist Member States in working within the

new ocean regime as had been called for in the Resolution adopted by the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea on "Strengthening of national infrastructures in marine science, technology and related ocean services". As an example, he also noted that although the establishment of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf would only take place upon entry into force of the Convention, work related to its mandate was another area where some organizations could enlarge their activities.

Noting the present emphasis being given by Member States to the legal and political aspects of the new ocean regime he expressed the hope that this would not over-shadow the fundamental responsibilities for both Member States and international organizations to prepare themselves for the technical and scientific requirements which would emanate from implementation of the Convention.

The Secretary clarified that the work of LOSI had been predicated upon an analysis of the implications of the new ocean regime, to a certain extent regardless of the eventual time at which the Convention would enter into force. He concurred that the practice of States is already contributing to the establishment of the new ocean regime. He felt that much could be done that would be of benefit to Member States even prior to ratification. He added that the Unesco/IOC Comprehensive Plan for a Major Assistance Programme was indeed intended to respond to the UNCLOS resolution referred to above.

The Representative of WMO, while agreeing that the Convention would have a strong impact on ocean affairs, pointed out that each Organization had its own programme which could be adjusted in light of the Convention but would not necessarily be dictated by it.

The Committee recognized that it would be desirable for the specialized agencies and IOC to be invited to the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority.

The Committee agreed that all efforts should be made to increase awareness of the role of science and technology in ensuring that the new ocean regime will fulfill the aspirations of States and of the international community.

8. CONCERTED ACTION FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT IN MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST IN THE MEDIUM-TERM PLANS

The Representative of Unesco introduced this Item and gave a brief resume of the marine science component of the Unesco Medium-Term Plan for 1984-89 and that of the Draft Programme and Budget for 1984-85, drawing attention to the proposed increase in resources for IOC of about 25 percent which had already received strong support at the recent session of the Unesco Executive Board. She reminded participants that the Twenty-first Session of ICSPRO had recommended that Member Organizations take advantage of the opportunity provided by the formulation of their Medium-Term Plans to identify problems of common concern which require concerted action within the ICSPRO context.

The Secretary recalled that the previous Session had also encouraged the identification of activities directly related to the IOC programme in the respective programmes of the Organizations concerned and noted with satisfaction that this had indeed been done in a number of cases, for example by the UN(OETB) and WMO. He felt, however, that it would be useful to include

as an annex to the report of the present Session relevant extracts from the programmes of the Organizations to demonstrate clearly the spectrum of programmes related to IOC activities.

A wide range of views was exchanged, some participants noting that established procedures for comment on the Medium-Term Plans already existed at the Agency level and others emphasizing the importance of appropriate co-ordination when implementing the programmes of work and budget.

The Representative of Unesco reminded the Committee that one of the conclusions of the recent Cross-Organizational Programme Analysis (COPA) in Marine Affairs had been that the reciprocal reporting by the Organizations Members of ICSPRO of each other as collaborating in specific projects had been exceptionally high compared with other UN Organizations involved in the study. In her view this was a most positive indicator of the strong links which have been built-up over the years. These existing arrangements could be further strengthened by increasing the systematic flow of information among the Members on activities such as meetings, missions to Member States and extra-budgetary projects.

The Representatives of FAO and the UN gave examples of close collaboration on specific projects, but felt that concrete proposals as to how this co-operation could be systematized were desirable.

The Representative of FAO drew attention to the fact that a simple mechanism for mutual information exists in the form of the staff members outposted from the various Members of ICSPRO to IOC. For example, in the case of FAO, a professional staff member is serving in the IOC Secretariat and, now, secretarial assistance is again provided. WMO and IMO have similar arrangements and those professionals mentioned above transmit the views of their parent bodies and likewise inform these Agencies of matters of importance to them. Possible improvement could be made by reviewing the present terms of reference.

The Secretary pointed out that even apparently bilateral arrangements between Agencies can often have multilateral implications, for example, the support which fishery research vessels can provide to IGOSS and the value of IGOSS data products to fishery activities. He stressed the importance of the ICSPRO concept and expressed the view that the increased use of IOC as a joint specialized mechanism would serve to enhance the work of all Member Organizations, based upon an identification of those matters which called for concerted action.

The Chairman of IOC emphasized that the present economic difficulties affecting many States and the resulting budget constraints under which international organizations are operating makes co-operation within the framework of the ICSPRO Agreement even more important. He further noted that IOC welcomes any measures aimed at the enhancement of the ICSPRO Agreement based on the identification of mutual needs of participating organizations.

In this context the Chairman of IOC thanked, on behalf of the Commission, the Organizations Members of ICSPRO for the support provided by them to the Commission, especially through the secondment of staff to the Secretariat and other forms of support. He expressed the hope that in view of the expected increase in the work of the Commission in the coming years, Members of ICSPRO will find it possible to increase their support in a way commensurate with the benefits derived from the use of the IOC as an instrument for discharging certain of their responsibilities in the field of marine sciences and related aspects.

The Committee agreed that co-ordination could be further improved by increased communication of information on activities at all levels and requested that concrete suggestions be developed by the planned meeting of ICSPRO Information Management Officers for presentation to the Twenty-third Session of the Committee at which time special attention should be given to the question of programme and budget.

9. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Secretary introduced this Item, informing the Committee that Memoranda of Understanding had been signed between IOC and IAEA, and IOC and ICES, and that negotiations were under way with UNEP, IHO and ICSEM. He drew attention to IOC Resolution XII-21 regarding the relationship between the IOC and UNEP and reported that the paper on the subject presented by IOC to the UNEP Governing Council in May 1983 had been most favourably received. Nevertheless, there was still room for improvement.

The Committee noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the negotiations with IAEA and ICES.

The Committee noted again with regret the absence of a UNEP Observer at the present Session as this rendered more difficult an appropriate exchange of views which was most vital in the light of the high level of UNEP's activities through the Regional Seas programmes which are of great significance for the Organizations Members of ICSPRO.

10. PREPARATIONS FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

The Secretary introduced this Item by referring to the guidelines set down at the Twenty-first Session regarding enhancing implementation of the ICSPRO Agreement, namely:

- (i) A meeting at the technical level before sessions of the IOC Executive Council, with a view to allowing the preparation of action by IOC and the Member Organizations in a timely manner;
- (ii) Operational policy meetings, at the level of ADGs/ASGs or equivalent), after each IOC Assembly to determine specific lines of collaboration; and
- (iii) Occasional meetings, when required, of the Executive Heads of ICSPRO Member Organizations to decide major orientations in policy matters concerning ICSPRO.

He further noted that, in addition to the value of ICSPRO as a means of exchanging information and improving co-ordination on matters of common interest, certain basic policy issues should be addressed to increase operational efficiency.

The Representative of FAO pointed out the importance of periodic reviews of the way by which the ICSPRO Agreement has been implemented with a view to enhancing its application, which should be focussed on the identification of mutual needs and how ICSPRO can contribute further to these needs.

The Committee agreed that the Agenda of the next Session should include the following items:

Updating of LEPOR

Marine information management

Regional Co-operation in Marine Science

The Secretary noted that the preparation of background material on these subjects would require considerable staff time and consultancy resources. While making every effort to ensure that the studies requested by the Committee would be prepared in due time, he might be obliged to depart from the anticipated calendar.

In expressing his satisfaction with the work of the Committee, the Chairman of IOC said that he felt that the wise decision of the United Nations General Assembly to establish ICS-PRO can now be fully appreciated. Decisions taken by the Committee in recent years have demonstrated its essential role in the co-ordination of programmes in marine sciences and related aspects. He emphasized that this role is even more important now that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea has been signed. In concluding, he encouraged the Members of ICS-PRO to continue their combined efforts so that the United Nations System, through the IOC, could provide the best possible services to Member States.

11. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

Bearing in mind the difficulties of some Members in arranging travel for short periods, the Committee decided that the Twenty-third Session should be held no later than April 1984, if possible in conjunction with another meeting and preferably in Paris.

12. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT

The Committee adopted the Summary Report of the Session.

13. CLOSURE

The Chairman closed the Twenty-second Session of the Committee at 12:30 on 27 July 1983.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. OPENING
2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
 - 2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - 2.2 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION
3. REVIEW OF THE MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE IOC ASSEMBLY
 - 3.1 GENERAL SUMMARY
 - 3.2 UPDATING OF LEPOR
4. MARINE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
5. TRAINING, EDUCATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE MARINE SCIENCES, AND RELATED ASPECTS
 - 5.1 PREPARATION OF MARINE SCIENCE COUNTRY PROFILES
 - 5.2 OPTIMIZATION OF THE USE OF RESEARCH VESSELS
 - 5.3 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR A MAJOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME TO ENHANCE MARINE SCIENCE CAPABILITIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
6. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN MARINE SCIENCE
7. IMPLICATIONS OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA FOR COLLABORATION AMONG THE ORGANIZATIONS MEMBERS OF ICSPRO
8. CONCERTED ACTION FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT IN MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST IN THE MEDIUM-TERM PLANS
9. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
10. PREPARATION FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION
11. DATES AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION
12. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT
13. CLOSURE

ANNEX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX III

OPENING ADDRESS BY DR. A. LINDQUIST
OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, FAO FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director-General, Mr. Edouard Saouma, I have the honour to welcome you to the Twenty-second Meeting of the Inter-secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography.

At the last meeting, the Twenty-first, in May 1981 in Paris, a number of substantial items have been discussed, such as an evaluation of ICSPRO, the role of information, the need of country profiles in marine sciences, the work of the data officers and other items. An Ad hoc meeting of ICSPRO Data and Information Officers took place in Rome, 25-26 January 1982. On my own part, it will be a pleasure to experience the work of this Committee, which I am attending for the first time.

The ICSPRO Agreement says that the objective is to contribute to the development of effective forms of co-operation between the organizations substantially concerned with oceanographic programmes and thus to avoid duplication and overlapping in planning and implementation of an expanded programme of international co-operation in marine science, as desired by the international community.

It is quite obvious that such co-operation must be based on real needs. I am sure that during our deliberations we will find where collective agency action is needed and where discussions have to continue.

The Agenda of this meeting covers a wide spectrum of topics and it is to be expected that after two years since the last meeting, there will be a considerable flow of information during these days. However, nearly all of us participated in the last Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and we are, therefore, reasonably well informed about the items discussed there. This will give us an opportunity to concentrate our work on those items which really need discussion and action.

Finally, I wish to draw your attention to the efforts FAO is making for a rational use of the living resources of the sea. During this year a number of working groups have met and discussed aspects of fishery science and management and development, as preparation for the forthcoming meeting of the Committee on Fisheries, which at the same time is the technical phase of the World Conference on Fishery Management and Development. Fishery science is important in this connection and detailed information on the preparations were given at an Informal Ad hoc Inter-Agency meeting here in Rome, on 23 and 24 May 1983.

I wish you a very successful meeting.