
Resolution I (2009)

Ensuring the legacy of the International Polar Year (IPY)

The Representatives,

Recalling the Edinburgh Antarctic Declaration on the IPY 2007-2008 that was agreed at ATCM XXIX, which supports the objective of delivering a lasting legacy for the IPY, and promotes increasing collaboration and coordination of scientific studies within Antarctica;

Recalling Resolution 3 (2007) from ATCM XXX, New Delhi, urging national Antarctic programmes (i) to maintain and extend long-term scientific monitoring and sustained observations of environmental change in the physical, chemical, geological and biological components of the Antarctic environment; (ii) to contribute to a coordinated Antarctic observing system network initiated during the IPY (2007-08) in cooperation with SCAR, CCAMLR, WMO, GOOS and other appropriate international bodies; and (iii) to support long-term monitoring and sustained observations of the Antarctic environment and the associated data management as a primary legacy of the IPY, to enable the detection, and underpin the understanding and forecasting of the impacts of environmental and climate change;

Noting that at the Forty-first Session of the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (Paris 2008) several IOC Member States recommended that IOC should play a major role in the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), particularly in the development of a Southern Ocean Observing System, under GOOS, and that the IOC Executive Council decided that further consideration of the legacy of the IPY would occur at the 25th Session of the IOC Assembly (Paris, 2009); and

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration on the IPY and Polar Science adopted at the Antarctic Treaty – Arctic Council joint meeting in Washington on 6 April 2009;

Recommend that the Parties:

- Continue to focus attention on Antarctic research at the highest levels of national and international science organisations;
- Work with SCAR and COMNAP to implement Resolution 3 (2007) and maintain, extend and develop long-term scientific monitoring and scientific observations in Antarctica and the surrounding Southern Ocean;
- Develop integrated climate–ecosystem prediction capabilities for Antarctica and regional prediction capabilities for specific areas of the Antarctic;
- Identify stable long-term locations for the many networks and programmes established and strengthened during IPY;
- Provide attention and assistance to the recruitment and retention of young polar scientists within national Antarctic research programmes;
- Provide IPY data and outcomes from Antarctica as contributions to integrated climate change and environmental reviews and assessments; and
- Preserve, store and exchange reliable, accessible, long-term IPY data.