



Circular Letter 2026/02

9 January 2026

Subject: **The 2nd General Assembly and 21st Conference 2027**

To: Member States, Associate Members, Affiliate Members and sister organizations

Dear members,

The Council, at its 3rd meeting held in Mumbai from 8 to 12 December 2025 and in accordance with the Convention Article 7 and the General Regulations Article 3, has decided to convene the General Assembly during the 21st Conference in 2027.

The General Assembly.

The General Assembly will take place on the 10-11 November with Friday 12 November 2027 morning session as reserve. The draft agenda, input papers and further information will be available on the IALA web site in due time.

There will be three elections at the General Assembly:

Election of the President and the Vice President. The Secretary-General will, in accordance with the General Regulations Article 4, invite Member States to declare their candidacy for the Presidency or Vice Presidency one hundred and eighty calendar days before the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly. Candidacies will be received by the Secretariat for the following hundred and twenty calendar days.

Election of the Council. The Secretary-General will, in accordance with the General Regulations Article 5, invite Member States to declare their candidacy for the Council one hundred and eighty calendar days before the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly. Candidacies will be received by the Secretariat for the following hundred and twenty calendar days.

Election of the Secretary-General. The Council will, in accordance with the General Regulations Article 6, invite Member States to nominate candidates from among their respective nationals within a period of ninety calendar days before the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly. The list of candidates shall be closed thirty calendar days prior to the opening day of the regular session of the General Assembly.

Please note that the present Secretary-General will not be a candidate for the 2027 election.



The Council.

There will be two sessions of Council during the week of the Conference. Session 7 of the current Council will meet on Sunday 7 November 2027 in the morning, and session 8 composed of the newly elected Council shall meet on Friday 12 November 2027 in the afternoon. More details will be provided in due course.

The Conference.

The 21st Conference will take place from 8 to 12 November 2027 at the Jio World Centre, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400098, India. <https://www.jioworldcentre.com/jio-world-convention-centre>.

World-Wide Academy. The World-Wide Academy is expecting to conduct a seminar on the afternoon of Sunday 7 November, similar to what has been practiced at previous conferences.

Conference week. The conference itself will commence on Monday 8 November 2027 and continue throughout the week until Friday afternoon. The gala dinner will take place in the evening of Friday 12 November. The conference activities will be comprised of plenary sessions, smaller group sessions and panel discussions. The spouse and social programs are expected to be similar to what has been practiced at previous conferences. More information will be published on the conference website in due time.

Conference steering group. A conference steering group has been established and has commenced its work. The steering group will meet in February 2026 to decide on the overall theme of the conference as well as the draft themes of individual sessions etc.

Call for abstracts. A call for abstracts will be issued in March 2026, inviting members to contribute to the conference with papers, presentations and other types of interventions aligned with the conference theme.

Affiliate Industrial Members Exhibition: An exhibition for Affiliate Industrial Members will be held from Monday 8 to Thursday 11 November. This exhibition will provide members with the opportunity to showcase their latest innovations and equipment in Marine Aids to Navigation. Further details, including an exhibitor manual, will be circulated in due course. The Affiliate Industrial Members Group (AIMG), in conjunction with the host organizer, will be responsible for organizing the exhibition.

General Assembly of the Affiliate Industrial members. The AIMG will, in accordance with the General regulations Article 2.4 (b) and its Terms of Reference, convene the General Assembly of Affiliate Industrial Members on Tuesday 9 November 2027. There will also be an election of the AIMG on this occasion. A call for candidacy shall be circulated in due course.

India Maritime Week. The 2027 India Maritime Week event will be held at the same convention centre the same week as the conference. This event will attract thousands of visitors and will on one hand provide an opportunity for IALA delegates to visit the associated exhibition and on the other hand provide a wider audience to attend the IALA Affiliate Industrial Members Exhibition.