



**SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
P.O. BOX G8
HONIARA
SOLOMON ISLANDS**

TELEPHONE: (677)21141 / 28605

FACSIMILE: (677) 28705

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**STATEMENT OUTLINING THE CREDENTIALS OF SOLOMON ISLANDS
NOMINATION FOR A POSITION ON THE IALA COUNCIL**

This statement serves to outline the credentials and provide background information on Solomon Islands' candidacy for election to the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA) Council.

With an ocean area of 1.6 million km² and a growing population living on more than 300 islands scattered over this vast ocean area, achieving sustainable use and development of the ocean and its resources is an imperative for Solomon Islands as a large ocean nation. As a maritime and fishing nation, the maritime and fishing sector in Solomon Islands is providing major development opportunities, is a source of income and employment and delivers essential services to island communities.

Safety of navigation and maritime traffic facilitation is essential and an imperative for Solomon Islands to support sustainable development. The livelihood of island communities and the protection of the environment heavily rely on safe and efficient international and inter-island shipping requiring safe navigational systems and routes. As a Contracting Government of the Safety of Life At Sea (SOLAS) Convention, Solomon Islands Government (SIG) is resolved to give full effect to international convention it is a party to and provide compliant and efficient safety of navigation services. Since 1 January 2021, the Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA) is fully operational as the maritime administration of Solomon Islands responsible for implementing international agreements and applicable laws on behalf of Solomon Islands. SIMA has the mandate to provide aids to navigation services in Solomon Islands and exercise Solomon Islands membership to IALA.

As a Small Islands Developing State (SIDS) and a Least Developed Country (LDC), Solomon Islands seeks election as an IALA Council member to contribute and share its experience and strategies to improve safety of navigation in large archipelagic countries, resolve issues related to capacity and technologies and ensure the Pacific Islands' region is a safe environment for maritime shipping and trade. For that purpose, SIMA is developing into an internationally recognised maritime administration implementing a consistent and comprehensive approach to safety navigation. It includes working closely with IALA, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) to build its capacity to embrace

technologies and provide reliable information to the future S-100 standards and systems. With the support of its development partners, Solomon Islands is undertaking major developments to establish and modernise its marine aids to navigation systems, implement multibeam hydrographic surveys and in the future offer safe e-navigation to all in Solomon Islands waters.

Solomon Islands is seeking support for its election as a member of the IALA Council to advocate for safer navigation on all oceans and ensure SIDS develop safety of navigation capacity and systems supporting sustainable development and protection of the oceans.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr. Allan Lilia
Permanent Secretary