



## 6.1 - REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

### 1. GENERAL

This document provides a general update on various matters related to the governance and operations of IALA as of 15 May 2025. Some topics will be addressed in more detail under other agenda items.

The committee and panel meetings held in March and April were highly successful and conducted in a hybrid format. Participation was substantial, underscoring that the current headquarters is too small to comfortably accommodate the Committees.

The General Assembly in Singapore, held from 17–21 February 2025, was a success, with over 400 participants. All papers were approved, and the governance structure of the intergovernmental organization (IGO) is now in place.

The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation has now been ratified, approved, accepted, or acceded to by 39 States. It is expected that additional States will follow shortly.

The recruitment process for a Documents Controller and Legal Advisor, as well as an Administrative Assistant, has been initiated, with a view to them starting their roles after the summer break.

### 2. MEMBERSHIP

The transfer of memberships to the IGO was successfully completed.

As of today, the membership of the new IALA from 101 countries and territories comprises 351 members, categorized as follows:

- 39 Member States
- 53 Associate Members
- 179 Affiliate Industrial Members
- 80 Affiliate Members

This represents a net increase of five members compared to the same period last year. However, the Council should note that this figure does not fully reflect the growing number of applications, as the organization has welcomed 17 new members since 1 January 2025.



This net growth is partially offset by membership consolidations into Member States and by terminations or resignations that took effect on 1 January 2025.

The Secretariat continues its active efforts to collect contributions and fees. As in previous years, invoices are issued in September, with a payment deadline of 31 January. A recent reminder regarding outstanding contributions was sent out during the first week of May. A detailed list of debts and suspended membership rights is provided under agenda item 9.4.1.

The decision to remove the Republic of Congo from the membership list due to non-payment was previously postponed, as they informed IALA of their ratification in December. However, since the instrument of ratification has yet to be deposited, it is now proposed that the Republic of Congo be removed from the membership list.

Further details on membership will be presented under the relevant agenda items.

### 3. WORK OF THE COMMITTEES AND SUSIDIARY BODIES

The ARM, DTEC, ENG and VTS Committees convened in March and April 2025 in a hybrid format, combining physical presence at IALA Headquarters with online participation. This ensured broad accessibility and sustained high levels of engagement, with participation figures comparable to previous sessions.

Each committee delivered important progress. The ARM Committee advanced work on S-200 and finalized the revised edition of S-201 and guidelines on Quality Management Systems for AtoN providers. The DTEC Committee adopted new and updated guidance documents on VDES authentication, signal measurement, and Maritime Service Registry (MSR), while also advancing discussions on SECOM, AIS, and NAVDAT. The ENG Committee focused on sustainability, completing updates to documents on marine light performance and IoT protocols for visual AtoN, and reviewed heritage-related guidance. The VTS Committee delivered updated Technical Service documents on traffic clearance and route exchange, completed initial service specifications and designs under the S-212 framework, and continued the development of MASS-related guidance and training content.

A workshop on VTS competent authorities, hosted by the Italian Coast Guard in January 2025, gathered 74 participants from 32 countries. It addressed legal and institutional responsibilities for VTS implementation and emphasized the need for harmonized frameworks, enforcement mechanisms, and recognition of training standards. The findings will support the development of future IALA guidance.

The results of each committee's work will be presented under their respective agenda items.

### 4. ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

The IALA and WWA staff currently consist of 15 full-time employees and seven consultants—six in the Academy section and one in the Communications section.

Two new recruitments are planned, bringing the total workforce to 17 by 2025:



- A Document Controller and Legal Advisor, who will play a key role in the quality control process and provide legal advice to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat.
- An Executive Assistant, responsible for a variety of clerical tasks to support the administrative team, including event organization, handling official correspondence, and serving as Executive Secretary to the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General.

The first role is a newly created position within the Technical Department, while the second replaces an Administrative Officer who resigned in 2024.

## 5. COMMUNICATION

Following the establishment of the new Organization, several key tasks have been completed to align communication with the updated structure.

Templates have been revised, and new processes implemented to enhance overall efficiency. Members have been kept informed throughout the preparations for the inaugural General Assembly and the development of plans for the new headquarters.

The Organization's media outreach has expanded significantly, gaining momentum in parallel with these major milestones.

The Secretariat Communication Group has resumed its activities and now consists of Audrey, Gerardine, and Alisa.

## 6. THE CHANGE OF STATUS PROJECT- TRANSITION PERIOD

The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation entered into force on 22 August 2024 and has been ratified, approved, accepted, or acceded to by 39 States. The Secretariat is currently managing the transition period between the establishment of the new organization and the dissolution of the Association.

To support this process, the Secretariat has appointed a French law firm to provide legal assistance throughout the transition period, up to the completion of the Association's winding-up. The firm is assisting with the administrative formalities required under French law for the transfer of rights, interests, assets, and liabilities to the IGO.

The Headquarters Agreement was adopted by the General Assembly on 18 February 2025 and signed by the French Government on 4 March 2025. Its provisions, including those relating to privileges and immunities, entered into force through Decree No. 2025-196 on 28 February 2025.

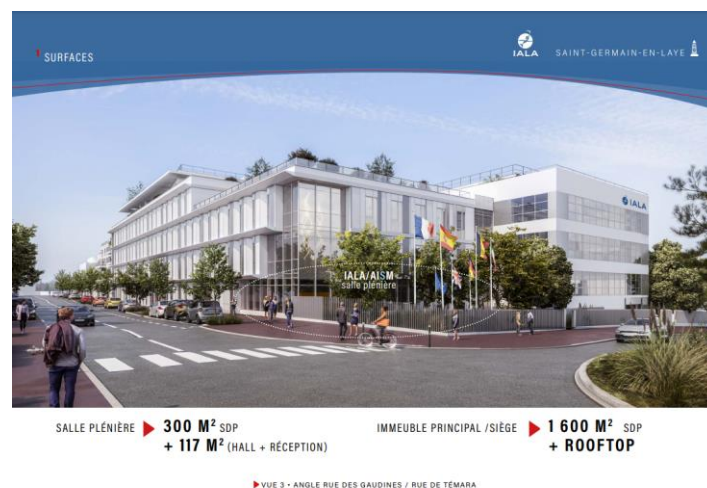
Most of the formalities related to the transfer of assets and liabilities, including those concerning staff, have been completed. The final remaining asset, the building at 10 rue des Gaudines, is scheduled for transfer to the IGO in the second half of 2025.

The Constitution of the Association will be terminated automatically once all legal formalities required under French law—initiated by the Association Council—are completed. It is anticipated that a final online meeting of the Association Council can be held later this year.

## 7. NEW HEADQUARTER

As reported at previous Council meetings, the French Government has offered its assistance in acquiring a suitable locations for the new IGO headquarters. This process is urgent, as the current headquarters is too small to accommodate the growing number of new members joining the Organization. During the March/April Committee meetings, attendance exceeded the capacity limits of the plenary room, meeting facilities, and lounge areas.

Negotiations are ongoing between the Secretariat, the French Government, the city of Saint-Germain-en-Laye and the Paris Region. At the time of this report, a final decision of the government is still pending. If a decision is reached before the summer break, the new facilities will be ready for the Committee season in the second half of 2026.



## 8. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The World-Wide Academy continues to flourish under the leadership of the Dean and the newly appointed Academy Board, chaired by Admiral Tsuguo Awai of the Japan Aids to Navigation Association.

The Academy has been a successful, with an increasing level of activity and growing recognition from coastal States and partner organizations. Last year, the Academy achieved record figures, notably training a total of 281 individuals through close collaboration with Accredited Training Organizations in various countries. In addition, it conducted several significant technical missions in Indonesia. Already this year, two major highlights have been the technical needs assessment mission carried out in Iraq in April, and the successful S-100/S-200 data product specification training organized last February, made possible with the great support of the Republic of Korea.



The Academy owes its continued success to the generous support of its sponsors, who provide both direct and indirect funding, and to the invaluable assistance of the four IALA Committees.

The Dean will provide a more detailed briefing under the relevant agenda item.

**9. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO**

Note the information provided in the report.