



IALA POLICY ADVISORY PANEL

REPORT OF THE 61ST SESSION OF THE IALA POLICY ADVISORY PANEL (PAP)

11 May 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 61st session of PAP was held online on 11 May 2026.

Key outcomes included:

- PAP members noted the results from the 2026 first half committee season.
- Recognition of ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement in the document approval process to maintain quality and participation.
- Agreement to consider further the use of AI transcription and meeting-assistant tools by members, with the Secretariat to implement a consistent approach and proposed guidance.
- The PAP noted the inter-committee liaison activity.
- The PAP noted the increasing international focus on GNSS-independent solutions, including eLoran, and that related topics are included in the ENG Committee work programme.
- The PAP noted the call for papers deadline as the 31 August for the IALA Conference and encouraged members to submit abstracts.
- The PAP noted that further guidance on definitions will be considered at a future meeting.

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Report of the 61st Session of the Policy Advisory Panel

GENERAL

PAP61 was held virtually 11 May 2026, with Phil Day as Chair and Thomas Southall as Secretary.

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

1.1. WELCOME BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

The PAP were warmly welcomed by the Deputy Secretary-General.

1.2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda (input paper PAP61-1.2.1) was approved. The approved agenda is provided in ANNEX A.

1.3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Francis Zachariae - Secretary-General, Michelle Cousquer - ENG Vice-Chair and Tiago Silva Benavente - LAP Vice-Chair.

1.4. REVIEW OF INPUT PAPERS

PAP members noted the input papers for the session.

2. OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2.1. FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMITTEE SEASON

The PAP noted reports from the Committee Chairs on the outcomes of the recent committee meetings and observed that a productive committee season had been achieved, with a significant volume of documentation progressed across all Committees.

The Panel noted that multiple recommendations and guidelines had been developed, revised or advanced towards approval, supported by active intersessional task group work.

The PAP noted that the ARM Committee reported progress on AIS documentation, including restructuring into a recommendation supported by a guideline, with several documents nearing completion and a liaison note to be submitted for consideration at the next meeting. The VTS Committee reported submission of several new and revised guidelines for approval, the establishment of six intersessional task groups and the submission of multiple liaison notes. The ENG Committee reported progress on guidance relating to leading lights, ongoing revision of model courses and the establishment of a new Working Group on sustainability. The DTEC Committee reported development of a recommendation and multiple guidelines, preparation of a discussion paper on digitalisation, consideration of a potential new Working Group on mobile telecommunications technology subject to terms of reference. The LAP Committee reported that its scheduled meeting in April had been postponed due to insufficient agenda items and rescheduled for September.

The Panel discussed a decline in engagement with the post-meeting approval process. The PAP noted that that attendance at final sessions during committee weeks has reduced in some committees. The PAP further noted suggestions to improve engagement, including greater use of approval activities during physical meetings, grouping documents for review in subsequent sessions and adjustments to meeting structures to encourage participation throughout the week.

It was noted that Chairs and Vice-Chairs should continue to encourage participation in the approval process and that the ongoing development of the quality assurance procedures should be monitored with a view to improving engagement and maintaining document quality.

PAP members noted the result from the 2026 first half committee season.

Recognition of ongoing efforts to strengthen engagement in the document approval process to maintain quality and participation.

2.2. PARTICIPANTS' USE OF AI TRANSCRIPTION AND MEETING-ASSISTANT TOOLS

The Panel discussed the use of AI transcription and meeting-assistant tools during committee meetings and noted that such tools have begun to be used by members, in some cases without prior notification.

It was recognised that these tools may provide benefits to individual members, including transcription and translation support. However, concerns were raised regarding transparency, data handling and the recording of discussions, particularly within working group sessions where recording is not normally undertaken.

There was agreement that the use of such tools should be subject to the knowledge and consent of members. Any use of audio or video recording, transcription or similar technologies should therefore be clearly declared in advance, with members given the opportunity to object.

Reference was made to a provisional position applied in one Committee, whereby recording or transcription in any form is permitted only with the prior consent of all concerned.

The need for a consistent approach across Committees was noted, together with the requirement for further consideration.

It was agreed that the Secretariat should review the matter and develop a proposed approach for consideration at a future meeting.

Agreement to consider further the use of AI transcription and meeting-assistant tools by members, with the Secretariat to implement a consistent approach and proposed guidance.

2.3. INTER-COMMITTEE LIAISON

The Panel received an overview of inter-committee liaison activity and noted that a total of 22 liaison notes had been prepared during the recent committee sessions.

It was noted that the liaison notes covered a broad range of technical topics, including resilient PNT, AIS documentation, cyber security, digitalisation, sustainability and model courses.

Reference was made to specific topics requiring further coordination, including AIS documentation, S-100 security considerations and digitalisation strategy, all of which will require continued collaboration between Committees and, where appropriate, engagement with external organisations.

The PAP noted the inter-committee liaison activity.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3.1. ELORAN WORK ITEM

The Panel noted ongoing international interest in GNSS-independent PNT solutions, including eLoran, driven by the need to improve resilience.

It was noted that several administrations, including France, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom, are actively progressing developments in this area, with plans for infrastructure deployment already under consideration.

Reference was made to the absence of a single coordinating international body for this technology and the potential role of the Organization in supporting the development of guidance and documentation, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.

The Panel noted that eLoran-related topics have been included in the work programme of the ENG Committee, subject to approval by Council.

It was further noted that additional work may be required at international level, including the development of performance standards and coordination with other relevant organizations.

The PAP noted the increasing international focus on GNSS-independent solutions, including eLoran, and that related topics are included in the ENG Committee work programme.

3.2. COMMITTEE DINNERS

The Panel noted that the Secretariat has previously provided informal assistance to Committees in arranging committee dinners, drawing on local knowledge and experience.

It was observed that some challenges were encountered during the recent committee season, including differing expectations regarding organisation and responsibility.

Considering this, it was indicated that the Secretariat will no longer take an active role in organising such events.

Members were encouraged to make their own arrangements where appropriate. Reference was also made to alternative approaches adopted by some Committees, including smaller group dinners and the use of broader social events during committee weeks.

3.3. CONFERENCE - CALL FOR PAPERS

Reference was made to the call for papers for the IALA Conference, with the deadline for submission of abstracts noted as the 31 August 2026. The Panel were encouraged to promote the call within their networks and to support the development of a strong technical programme through the submission of contributions.

The PAP noted the call for papers deadline as the 31 August for the IALA Conference and encouraged members to submit abstracts.

3.4. DICTIONARY

The Panel discussed the treatment of definitions within committee outputs and noted the need for greater clarity and consistency in the use of definitions and their integration with existing resources. It was agreed that this matter will be considered further, with additional guidance to be provided at a future meeting.

The PAP noted that further guidance on definitions will be considered at a future meeting.

Action item:

That the Secretariat add an agenda item for the Dictionary at PAP62.

4. CLOSING OF MEETING

4.1. REVIEW OF KEY OUTPUTS FROM THE MEETING

There were none.

4.2. REPORT OF THE MEETING

The final report was approved by correspondence.

4.3. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

PAP62 and the Conference Steering Group will meet at HQ on 7 – 11 September 2026.

5. CLOSING OF MEETING

The Chair thanked members for their engagement and noted with appreciation the work of the Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs in delivering a productive and successful committee season.

6. LIST OF ANNEXES TO THE REPORT

- 1 Agenda
A copy of the agenda is at ANNEX A.
- 2 Participants
A list of participants is at ANNEX B.
- 3 Input papers
A list of input papers is at ANNEX C.
- 4 Output papers
A list of output papers is at Annex D
- 5 Liaison notes
List of inter-committee liaison notes is at ANNEX E

ANNEX A AGENDA



61st Session of the Policy Advisory Panel (PAP61)

The 61st session of the Policy Advisory Panel will be held on 11 May online, commencing at 12:00 UTC.

In accordance with the Convention Article 9.1, the Policy Advisory Panel will support the aims and objectives of the Organization by:

- a) Proposing the meeting dates of all Committees for a given year for approval by the Secretary-General at least one year in advance, for notification to all participants through the IALA website.
- b) Considering and advising the Council and the Secretariat on policy and strategy matters concerning the development and harmonisation of Marine Aids to Navigation systems, with specific emphasis on the Strategic Vision.
- c) Co-ordinating the work of the Committees and providing a forum for Committee Chairs to share progress, challenges and operations to provide a collegiate delivery of the various work plans with the Secretariat.
- d) Carry out such other work as the Council may from time to time require.

Agenda

1 Welcome and Opening Remarks

1.1	Welcome by Deputy Secretary-General	OFE	
1.2	Approval of agenda	PD	Approve
1.3	Apologies and introductions	TS	Note
1.4	Review of input papers	TS	Note

2 Operational and Administrative Matters

2.1	Feedback from the committee season	PD	Discuss
2.2	Participants use of AI transcription and meeting-assistant tool	TS	Discuss
2.3	Inter-committee liaison	MJ	Discuss

3 Any other business

3.1	eLoran work item	OFE	Note
3.2	Committee dinners	TS	Note

4 Closing of meeting

4.1	Review of Key Outputs from Meeting
4.2	Report of the meeting
4.3	Date and venue of next meeting



ANNEX B LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PAP	Chair	Phil Day guttorm.tomren@kystverket.no
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ANNEX C LIST OF INPUT PAPERS

Meeting	Agenda Item	Input Paper Title	Source
PAP61-	1.2.1	Provisional Agenda	Secretariat
PAP61-	2.3.1	List of intercommittee liaison notes	Secretariat



ANNEX D LIST OF OUTPUT PAPERS

Meeting	Agenda Item	OUTPUT PAPERS
PAP61-	4.2.1	Report of PAP61



ANNEX E LIAISON NOTES

Sender	Recipient(s)	Subject / Topic	Annexes / Attachments	Notes
ARM22-10.1.1	All Committees	Revision of STCW (IMO Model Course 7.03 future revision)		Awareness: committees may function as needed
ARM22-10.1.2	ENG	Review and update of R1017 Resilient PNT	ARM22-10.1.2.1 WP R1017 Resilient PNT post-ARM22	Response to ENG request
ARM22-10.1.3	ENG	Impact of Offshore Windfarms on RACON performance		Connected with ENG22-9.2.2.2 (Racons LN)
ARM22-10.1.4	PAP	Review of AIS Documentation	10.1.4.1 R0126 Use of AIS in AtoN; 10.1.4.2 Draft Guideline	
ARM22-10.1.5	All Committees	Review and Harmonization of the IALA Dictionary	10.1.5.1 Amended Definitions for IALA Dictionary; 10.1.5.2 Amended Definitions for NAVGUIDE 2023	Cross-committee dictionary alignment
ARM22-10.1.6	All Committees	Marking of Restricted Areas	10.1.6.1 Draft Guideline on Marking of Restricted Areas	
ARM22-10.2.4	PAP	Update on cyber security actions by ARM		
ARM22-10.2.5	All Committees	Cyber Resilience documents	10.2.5.1 R1024 DRAFT Revised Cyber resilience for the IALA domain. 10.2.5.2 G1182 DRAFT Revised Cyber resilience specifics from an IALA perspective	
DTEC6-15.2.2	ENG, ARM, VTS	S-100 security threats / vulnerability		Members requested to note
DTEC6-15.3.3	VTS	Discussion Paper for IALA Vision on Digitalization (response/thanks)		Response to VTS59-12.4.1
DTEC6-15.3.5	VTS	Request for AI use cases		Response to DTEC6-6.2.2.5; revised use case structure offered
ENG22-9.2.1.1	ARM	AtoN SIDs (LoCAN) project		
ENG22-9.2.2.2	ARM	Racons (incl. annexes)	Annexes on Offshore Windfarms RACON impact	Response to GLA R&D input held as WP awaiting ARM approval
ENG22-9.2.2.3	ARM, VTS, DTEC	Recommendation R1017 Resilient PNT (Ed.2.0 review request)	9.2.2.3.1 Annex WP R1017 Ed 2.0	
ENG22-9.2.3.1	WWA	Proposed revision of IALA L1.1 2D Lighthouse Model Course Syllabus		Heritage module syllabus update
VTS59-12.1.6	ARM	NAVGUIDE 2023 — suggested amendments	12.1.6.1 Annex (suggested amendments)	Received at ARM22 as ARM22-6.2.1
VTS59-12.2.2	DTEC	Digitalization of Waterways (G1178 response)		Response to VTS59-7.2.7
VTS59-12.2.3	DTEC	AI from an IALA perspective (G1178)		Response to VTS59-7.2.6



Sender	Recipient(s)	Subject / Topic	Annexes / Attachments	Notes
VTSS59-12.2.4	DTEC	MCP — operational IALA MCP instance (response)		Response to VTSS59-7.2.3
VTSS59-12.2.5	DTEC and ARM	Maritime Resource Name (MRN)		
VTSS59-12.2.7	ENG	Sustainability Working Group		Response to VTSS59-7.2.9
VTSS59-12.4.1	DTEC	Digitalization Vision (consolidated VTS response to DTEC discussion paper)		Response to VTSS59-7.2.5 (DTEC5-15.3.4)

