

IALA COUNCIL
4th session



8-11 June 2026
IALA HQ, France

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 29 April 2026. Some topics will be addressed in more detail under other agenda items.

The committee and panel meetings held February to 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.

A workshop on Future Radionavigation and Radiocommunication Systems, held in Edinburgh from 9 to 13 February and hosted by the Northern Lighthouse Board, and the Digital@Sea International Seminar, held at IALA Headquarters from 16 to 17 March, were both very successful and well attended.

The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation has now been ratified, approved, accepted, or acceded to by 49 States (29 April 2026). It is expected that additional States will follow shortly.

Assets and liabilities have been successfully transferred from the Association to the Organization and the Association was formally terminated on 8 January 2026.

The project for the new headquarters is progressing, and the subsidy from the French Government and the City of Saint-Germain-en-Laye has been confirmed. The date for signing the final contract and commencing the work is still pending, but it is expected to be finalized before the summer break.

The recruitment process for an Education planner for the World-Wide Academy has been successfully completed.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Membership continues to grow and the Organization has welcomed 3 new States this year, Azerbaijan, Brunei and Vanuatu further to their accession to the Convention.

As of today, the membership of IALA consists of 346 from 103 countries and territories categorized as follows:



49 Member States
45 Associate Members
174 Affiliate Industrial Members
78 Affiliate Members

This represents a net decrease of 2 members compared with the same period last year. However, this figure does not fully capture the increasing number of applications, as the organization has welcomed 14 new members since 1 January 2026. Some memberships have consolidated into Member States, as well as terminations and resignations that took effect on 1 January 2026.

The Secretariat continues to actively pursue the collection of contributions and fees. As in previous years, calls for contributions and fees were issued in September, with a payment deadline of 31 January. A reminder regarding outstanding contributions and fees was sent during the first week of March. A detailed list of outstanding debts is provided under agenda item 9.3, and a proposed list of suspensions and terminations appears under agenda item 15.3.

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

3. WORK OF THE COMMITTEES AND SUSIDIARY BODIES

The four Technical Committees — VTS, DTEC, ENG and ARM — convened successively between late February and end-April 2026 in a hybrid format, combining physical participation at IALA Headquarters with online attendance. Engagement remained strong across all four sessions, with a significant proportion of first-time participants.

Each Committee made significant progress in advancing the 2025–2027 Work Programme, with substantial outputs delivered for Council consideration and increased cross-committee coordination on shared topics, in particular cyber resilience, S-100/S-200 product specifications, the IALA Vision on Digitalisation, and Resilient PNT.

VTS Committee: The 59th session (VTS59) was held from 27 February to 12 March 2026. Key outputs included a draft Guideline on Establishing a Regulatory Framework for VTS, the revised G1089 on Provision of a VTS, a draft Guideline on VTS Digital Communications, and the revised G1185 on Safety Around Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREI). The Committee also delivered the Service Specification for UKC Digital Service 1.0 and submitted an S-212 proposal to the GI Concept Register, supporting the Organization's transition toward S-100-based maritime services.

DTEC Committee: The 6th session (DTEC6) was held from 23 March to 2 April 2026. Substantial progress was made in cooperation with IMO, IEC, ITU, RTCM and 3GPP, particularly on IMT-2030 and IP-based maritime communications. Key outputs included G1191 on Maritime Service Registry Technical Specification, the revised G1153 on Review of Emerging Technologies, a new Recommendation on the VDE Payload Format Identifier (VPFI), and a draft discussion paper on the IALA Vision on Digitalisation. A feasibility study



on a Maritime Connectivity Platform (MCP) Instance under IALA custodianship was forwarded to Council for consideration.

ENG Committee: The 22nd session (ENG22) was held from 13 to 23 April 2026. The Committee finalised the revised G1023 on Design of Leading Lights, a new draft Guideline on Public–Private Partnerships, a new draft Guideline on Maintenance of Floating AtoNs, and revisions to G1063. A major capacity-building deliverable was the comprehensive update of the Level 2 Technician Training Model Course suite (C2001-1 to C2001-10, C2005-1 and C2006-1), reinforcing the World-Wide Academy's training portfolio.

ARM Committee: The 22nd session (ARM22) was held from 20 to 30 April 2026. The Committee finalised SS0003 (Technical Service Specification for the Provision of AtoN Information to End Users) and the corresponding SD0003 Technical Service Design over IEC 63173-2 (SECOM), advancing IALA's contribution to e-Navigation service delivery. Drafts of R0126 on the Use of AIS in AtoN, R1024 on Cyber Resilience for the IALA Domain, G1182 on Cyber Resilience Specifics, and G1155-1 on the AtoN Maritime Service (MS2) were forwarded for quality assurance and membership comment, with a view to ARM23 approval.

The results of each Committee's work will be presented in more detail under their respective agenda items.

Workshop on Future Radionavigation and Radiocommunication Systems: The workshop was held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, from 9 to 13 February 2026, hosted by the Northern Lighthouse Board. It addressed the convergence of next-generation radionavigation and radiocommunication systems against the backdrop of increasing GNSS interference and AIS spoofing. Key conclusions emphasized the immediate applicability of the IMT technology family, the continued importance of physical AtoN for resilience, and the need to promote AIS authentication. Outputs include a draft revision of R1017 on Resilient PNT, comments to support the ENG revision of G1180, a draft GNSS interference reporting format, and a proposed concept index for a future World-Wide Radionavigation Services Manual.

Digital@Sea International Seminar: The Seminar, the latest in the Digital@Sea series, was held at IALA Headquarters from 16 to 17 March 2026 and was opened jointly by IALA and IHO. Organised around five thematic sessions — trust and IP-based data distribution, resilient navigation, S-100/S-200 as the backbone of resilience, AI opportunities and risks, and maritime connectivity — it brought together maritime authorities, international organizations, and industry stakeholders to build a common understanding of resilient maritime navigation. The outcomes provide direct input to the work of the DTEC, ARM and VTS Committees, in particular on the IALA Vision on Digitalization, cyber resilience, and the cross-committee coordination of digital service specifications.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

The Organization currently have 16 permanent staff members, one intern and six consultants, five work within the Academy and one in the Communications Department.



The Academy will soon welcome Mrs. Shivani Seepersad as the Education Planner. This former consultant for the Academy who lives in Trinidad and Tobago, will be moving to France and will take her position as a permanent staff member in June 2026. The Education Planner will play a key role in the management and the delivery of training sessions in close relationship with host countries, Training Organizations, participants and the Secretariat.

It has been also decided to establish in April 2026, an Executive Secretariat, composed of the Document Controller and Legal Advisor, the Head of International Relations and the Communication Manager. The Executive Secretariat serves both the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General in fulfilling the executive tasks of the Organization, especially with regards to the preparation and organisation of major events including the General Assembly, the Council, conferences and symposia.

5. COMMUNICATION

The Communication Policy has been updated to reflect changes following the Organisation's transition to IGO status. The operational description has been strengthened to improve communication processes of the Organization.

The Annual Report 2025 is scheduled for release in May, once the accounts audit has been completed.

New memorabilia have been created to strengthen the IALA brand in this new era, including cufflinks, a polo shirt, a lighthouse of the year puzzle and a 3D printed buoy trophy.

The 21st Conference and 2nd General Assembly have been formally announced by Circular Letter. A call for abstracts has also been issued and a dedicated Conference website and app are under development.

Members are reminded and encouraged to share news items via the IALA e Bulletin.

6. THE CHANGE OF STATUS PROJECT

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 49 States.

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.

The complex transition from the former IALA (the Association) to the new IALA (the Organization) has been completed with the assistance of a French Law firm and KPMG. All assets and liabilities have been transferred. The Constitution of the Association has terminated automatically as all legal formalities required under French law—initiated by the Association Council—are completed. The Association terminated officially in France on 8 January 2026.



As an intergovernmental organization, IALA will no longer hold consultative status with the IMO. Instead, our relationship will be governed by a formal agreement. The IALA General Assembly approved the draft agreement in February 2025, and the IMO Assembly has approved the agreement in November 2025.

A meeting between the IMO and IALA Secretary-Generals to discuss the agreement took place 9 March 2026.

Following the same procedure a formal agreement between IALA and IHO was agreed by the IHO Assembly in April 2026 and signed by the two Secretary-Generals on 22 April 2026.

7. NEW HEADQUATER

As reported at the General Assembly, the French Government has offered its assistance in securing a suitable location for the new IGO headquarters. This matter is urgent, as the current premises are too small to accommodate the growing number of new members joining the Organization. During the March/April Committee meetings, attendance exceeded the capacity of the plenary room, meeting facilities, and lounge areas.

The generous support has now been confirmed and on Friday 6 February 2026 the French Minister of the Sea, Mrs Catherine Chabaud, formalized this by visiting IALA for the official launch of the works on the future Headquarters in Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

Alongside the Mayor of Saint-Germain-en-Laye and departmental representatives, a commemorative plaque was unveiled to mark the French Government's support as host country of IALA.

The date for the signature of the final contract is planned before the summer break. Council will get the latest update at Council 04.



8. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The Academy has been extremely active in the first half of the year, with a number of initiatives that also require close and strengthened cooperation with numerous partners. In particular, the ongoing S-200 standard training courses, delivered through a curriculum that is continuously refined thanks to our partnership with the IHO, UKHO, and KRISO in the



Republic of Korea. In parallel, the Academy is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Level 1 AtoN Manager Model Course, in collaboration with members of the AtoN community and with support from Singapore.

A further indication of the Academy's growing recognition is the increased level of support received this year. Following the United Kingdom's contribution in 2025, the International Foundation for Aids to Navigation (IFAN) has generously agreed to raise its financial contribution.

This enhanced support has enabled the Academy to recruit a fifth permanent staff member. This additional colleague will shortly join the Education and Training Manager as Education Planner, supporting the administrative and coordination tasks generated by the Academy's high volume of training activities.

In terms of capacity building and technical missions, the Academy is proud to continue its cooperation with Iraq in 2026, supporting the country's recovery efforts, as well as with Indonesia under a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding.

As an independently funded body, the Academy's continued success relies on the generous support of its sponsors, who provide both direct and indirect funding, and on the invaluable contributions of the four IALA Committees. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all for their unwavering support.

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.