

Agenda Item C03-8.4.1

COMMENTS ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR IALA CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Submitted by Denmark

1. BACKGROUND

In accordance with the decision of the 3rd Session of the IALA Council (C03) and the resulting Action Item 2, Denmark respectfully submits the following comments regarding the proposed framework for IALA Centres of Excellence (ICOEs). Denmark supports the initiative to enhance IALA's technical reach and wishes to emphasize the importance of effectively integrating the work of an ICOE with that of the IALA Committees to support the inclusive and consensus-seeking nature of the organization.

Denmark notes a shift between the previous proposal for a regional presence in document C79-17.3.1 and the current ICOE concept in C03-8.4.1. The earlier document focused on regional capacity building and administrative outreach, where seconded officers would primarily assist the World-Wide Academy. The current proposal in C03-8.4.1 introduces a thematic focus that enables ICOEs to provide technical support directly to committees, including the development of for example standards and product specifications in critical fields of development.

2. DISCUSSION

As the current proposal outlines ICOE engagement in technical development and standard-setting, it is essential to ensure that ICOE activities are fully integrated into the oversight of the relevant technical committees, and that the practical work of both the ICOE and the and the respective committees is properly coordinated.

It is considered critical to establish a governance structure that supports an iterative work process between an ICOE and the relevant IALA committee and its members in order to ensure that the IALA committees remain active fora where important technical matters are debated and shaped from the earliest stages of development to the finalization of the product.

3. CONCLUSION

Denmark respectfully requests that the IALA Secretariat take the above comments in to consideration in the further work regarding the development of the ICOE framework.

Denmark looks forward to further discussing the refined framework at the 4th Council meeting.