LAP15-20.2

Draft Convention text for creation of iala as an igo

**Development of the Convention for IALA as an International Organization – Version 16 September 2015**

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| **Item** | **Text of Convention by Article** | **Reference** | ***Comments by CoS1***  ***Comments by LAP15*** |
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| 1 | Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA) | Vienna Convention Art 1(a) |  |
| 2 | Preamble  The States party to this Convention, hereafter referred to as the Contracting Parties:  RECALLING that the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities was established on 1st July 1957 following a conference of national lighthouse authorities held in Scheveningen, Netherlands;  NOTING that the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities was renamed the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities by its General Assembly in Hamburg, Germany in 1998;  RECOGNISING the role of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities in the improvement and continued harmonisation of marine aids to navigation for the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels;  IN FURTHERANCE of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended;  CONSIDERING that the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities is formed as an association under French law; and  CONSIDERING FURTHER that the Contracting Parties agree that the will of Governments to develop, improve and harmonise marine aids to navigation for the benefit of the maritime community and the protection of the environment is best coordinated by one responsible international organisation;  HAVE AGREED as follows: | Vienna Convention Art 31  UNCLOS – see also Art 21.1 and 43  Vienna Convention Art 2(i) |  |
| 3 | Article 1  Establishmentof the International Organization  1. The International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigationis hereby established as an international organization and shall be known as IALA (herein after ‘the Organization’).  2. The Organization shall have its seat in France unless otherwise decided by the General Assembly.  3. The official languages of the Organization shall be English, French and Spanish. The working language of the Organization shall be English.  4. The operation of the Organization shall be as set out in the General Regulations.[[1]](#footnote-1) | Constitution Arts 1, 6  EFI Art 1  IHO Art XII  IHO Art XI |  |
| 4 | Article 2  Aims  1. The Organization shall have a consultative and technical nature.  2. The aims of the Organization are to:   1. foster the safe and efficient movement of vessels through the improvement and harmonisation of marine aids to navigation worldwide and by other appropriate means; 2. bring together governments, services and organisations concerned with the regulation, provision, maintenance or operation of marine aids to navigation and allied activities at sea and on inland waterways;[[2]](#footnote-2) 3. promote access to technical cooperation on all matters related to development and transfer of expertise, science and technology in relation to marine aids to navigation; 4. encourage and facilitate the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning marine aids to navigation; 5. provide for the exchange of information among governments and intergovernmental organizations on matters under consideration by the Organization.   3. For the purposes of this Convention the term ‘Marine aids to navigation‘ means a device, system or service, external to a vessel, designed and operated to enhance safe and efficient navigation of all vessels and/or vessel traffic. | Constitution Art 2  IHO Art II  UNCLOS Art 266  Constitution Art 1 | *Out of IMO and UNCLOS scope. Noted at IMO LEG, not discussed. In the current Constitution. Leave it open for discussion at diplomatic level.* |
|  | Article 3  Functions of the Organization   1. The functions of the Organization, to achieve the aims referred to in Article 2, are to: 2. provide for the drafting of [conventions], standards, ,recommendations, guidelines and manuals or other suitable instruments and to commend these to governments, intergovernmental organizations and members as appropriate; 3. consider and make standards, recommendations, guidelines and other documents that may be remitted to it by members, by any organ or specialised agency of the United Nations or by any other intergovernmental organization; 4. provide mechanisms for consultation and exchange of information including about the activities of Contracting Parties and members and recent developments; 5. develop international cooperation by promoting close working relationships and assistance between its Contracting Parties and members; 6. facilitate assistance to governments, services and other organizations requesting help with marine aids to navigation, whether technical, organisational or training; 7. organise conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops and other events relevant to its work; and 8. liaise and cooperate with relevant intergovernmental, international and other organisations, offering specialised advice where appropriate. | Article added by EX LAP 1  WMO Art 2 (Purpose)  EFI Art 2 | *If IALA wants to make conventions in the future, the legal advice is to keep it in the Convention text. Can be deleted according to diplomatic decisions. Policy decision.* |
| 5 | Article 4  Membership   1. The Organization shall be comprised of Contracting Parties and other members as described in 4.3. 2. Any Contracting Party may claim Associate membership for a territory or group of territories for which it has responsibility and which is legally responsible for the regulation, provision, maintenance and/or operation of marine aids to navigation, by notification in writing to the Secretary-General of the Organization. 3. Members shall include, and the General Regulations may make provision for all matters related to associate and affiliate members. 4. Each Contracting Party shall pay a membership contribution to the Organization on an annual basis in the amount determined in accordance with in Article 7.6(e) and Article 10. 5. Contracting Party and other member contributions shall be due and payable in accordance with the General Regulations. 6. Failure to make contributions when such payment becomes due may result in Contracting Parties being charged interest, the rate of which will be determined by the Council. 7. Any Contracting Party which is two years in arrears in making contributions shall, after notification, be denied the rights and benefits conferred on Contracting Parties by this Convention until such time as the outstanding contributions have been paid. 8. No Contracting Party or member shall be liable, by reason of its status or participation in the Organization, for acts, omissions or obligations of the Organization. | Constitution Art 5.1  EFI Art 4  IHO Art XV | *Consider if Contracting Parties must be members of the UN.*  *Associate members to be territories or groups of territories and current IALA national members transferred in accordance with article 18.*  *Affiliate members to be associate and industrial members of the current IALA.*  *Honorary membership is not appropriate in the context of IGOs.* |
| 6 | Article 5  Structure of the Organization   1. The Organization shall have as its organs: 2. the General Assembly; 3. the Council; 4. Committees and other subsidiary bodies necessary to support the Organization’s activities; 5. the Secretariat.   2. There shall be a President and a Vice President of the Organization elected in accordance with Article 7.  3. Where decisions of the General Assembly or Council cannot be reached by consensus, the following provisions shall apply:  (a) Only Contracting Parties have voting rights, which will be executed by the representative designated by each National Member;  (b) Except where otherwise specified, decisions are taken on a simple majority of the votes cast.   1. The General Regulations shall detail the Rules of Procedure that will apply for each organ. | Constitution Art 7-9  WMO Art 4, IHO Art IV  WMO Art 8(h)  IHO Art VI  EFI Art 6.3  WMO Art 8(d) | *General comments on Article 5*  *Rules of Procedure for Committees will be needed, and will be incorporated into the General Regulations.* |
| 7 | Article 6  The General Assembly   1. The General Assembly is the principal decision-making organ of the Organization and attendance shall be open to all members. 2. Each Contracting Party shall designate one of its delegates, preferably the head of a national authority legally responsible for the regulation, provision, maintenance or operation of marine aids to navigation, or his or her representative as its principal delegate at the General Assembly. 3. Regular sessions of the General Assembly shall take place at least once every four years as set out in the General Regulations. 4. Extraordinary sessions shall be convened whenever one third of the Contracting Parties give notice to the Secretary-General that they desire a session to be arranged, or at any time if deemed necessary by the Council, after a notice of ninety days. 5. A majority of the Contracting Parties excluding any Contracting Party denied by Article 4.7, shall constitute a quorum for the sessions of the General Assembly. 6. The General Assembly shall operate in accordance with this Convention and the General Regulations. 7. The General Assembly shall: 8. Decide the overall policy and the strategic vision of the Organization; 9. Determine the General Regulations of the Organization and the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, Council, Committees and other subsidiary bodies of the Organization; 10. Elect Council in accordance with Article 7; 11. Determine and review the financial arrangements of the Organization; 12. Consider the reports and proposals put to it by any Contracting Party, the Council or the Secretary-General; 13. Adopt standards; 14. Make recommendations to Contracting Parties and members on matters within the scope of the Organization; 15. Decide on any other matters within the scope of the Organization; and 16. Delegate, where appropriate and necessary, responsibilities to the Council. | Constitution Art 7  WMO Art 7(b)  IHO Art VI  IHO Art VI  WMO Art 10  WMO Art 12  See for example  IHO Art V  WMO Art 8  EFI Art 7  WMO Art 23(b) | *Consider if it is up to the Contracting Party to decide on its representative(s). LAP advice based on other relevant Convention texts. Not binding.* |
| 8 | Article 7  The Council   1. The Council is the executive organ of the Organization and shall be responsible for directing the activities of the Organization.   2. The Council shall consist of up to twenty three (23) elected Councillors and one (1) non-elected Councillor.  3. Elected Councillors shall be elected by ballot by the General Assembly in accordance with the General Regulations.  4. The Contracting Party of the State in which the seat of the Organization is located (“Host Nation”) shall be the non-elected Councillor;  5. At Council Contracting Parties shall preferably be represented by the head of a national authority legally responsible for the regulation, provision, maintenance or operation of marine aids to navigation of that Contracting Party, or his or her representative.   1. The Council shall: 2. Elect the President and the Vice President from amongst its members; 3. Exercise such responsibilities as may be delegated to it by the General Assembly ; 4. Coordinate the activities of the Organization within the framework of the overall policy, the strategic vision and the budget estimates, as decided by the General Assembly; 5. Approve the annual budget and accounts and the annual report; 6. Determine the rate of contributions for Contracting Parties and members; 7. Convene the General Assembly; 8. Report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization; 9. Appoint a Secretary-General in accordance with the General Regulations; 10. Review proposals submitted to it in accordance with the General Regulations; 11. Refer to the General Assembly all matters requiring decision by the General Assembly; 12. Approve recommendations, guidelines, manuals and other appropriate papers; 13. Approve submissions to other organizations; 14. Determine the terms of reference for committees and other subsidiary bodies; 15. Approve and review the work programmes of the Committees; and 16. Decide the venue and the year of the IALA Conferences and symposia as described in the General Regulations; | Constitution  WMO Art 14  WMO Art 6 | *Consider having a provision in the GR to recommend that elected Councillors be, as far as practicable, drawn from different regions of the world.*  *Consider if the Secretary-General should be elected by the General Assembly.* |
| 9 | Article 8  Committees and Other Subsidiary Bodies  Committees and other subsidiary bodies may be established by the General Assembly or Council to support the endeavours of the Organization and shall operate in accordance with this Convention and the General Regulations. | Constitution  Art 9 |  |
| 10 | Article 9  Secretariat  1. The permanent Secretariat of the Organization shall be comprised of the Secretary-General and such technical and administrative staff as may be required for the work of the Organization.   1. The Secretary-General shall be appointed for a term of five years and may be reappointed for one additional term not exceeding five years; 2. The Secretary-General shall be responsible for the day to day management of the Organization, subject to any guidance issued by the Council or the General Assembly;   2. The staff of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the Secretary-General on such terms and to perform such duties as the Secretary-General may determine.  3. The Secretariat shall:  (a) Maintain all such records as may be necessary for the efficient discharge of the work of the Organization and shall prepare, collect, and circulate any documentation that may be required;   1. Manage the Organization’s finances under the direction of the Council, in accordance with the General Regulations; 2. Prepare the annual budget and accounts for submission to Council; 3. Keep Contracting Parties and members informed with respect to the activities of the Organization; 4. Organize and support meetings of the General Assembly, the Council and Committees and other subsidiary bodies; 5. Organize Conferences and symposia; 6. Perform such other tasks as may be assigned by the Convention, the General Regulations, the General Assembly or the Council; 7. In the performance of their duties the staff of the Secretariat shall not seek or receive instructions from any authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might adversely reflect on their position as international officers. | Constitution Art 8.2.2  WMO Art 20  WMO Art 21  IHO Art X  WMO Art 22(b) |  |
| 11 | Article 10  Funding and Expenditure  1. The expenditure available for the functioning of the Organization shall meet the amount of financial resources provided by:   * 1. Contracting Party contributions determined in accordance with this Convention and the General Regulations;   2. Members annual fees;   3. donations, bequests, grants, gifts; and   4. other sources approved by the Secretary-General.   2. The budget estimates and the financial statements on the accounts of the Organization shall be approved by the Council.  3. After Council’s approval of the Organization’s audited financial statements those statements shall be distributed to all members by the Secretariat in accordance with the General Regulations. | Constitution Art 11  EFI Art 10, 11  IHO Art XIV | *Financial arrangements are approved by the General Assembly.* |
| 12 | Article 11  Legal personality, privileges and immunities   1. The Organization has international legal personality and has the capacity to: 2. contract; 3. acquire and dispose of immovable and movable property; and 4. institute legal proceedings.   2. Subject to the agreement of each Contracting Party, the Organization shall enjoy in the territory of the Contracting Party such privileges and immunities as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its aim and for the exercise of its functions.  The Organization may cooperate with governments, organisations and other bodies, and conclude agreements with them. In the territory of any state which is party to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 21 November 1947, such legal capacity, privileges and immunities shall be those defined in the said Convention. | EFI Art 12  WMO Art 27  WMO Art 27 | Consider extending privileges and immunities to meeting attendees and staff members (for CoS meeting)  Suggest new text for CoS meeting (IALA not a Specialized Agency). Jon Price to write new text for 11.3 |
| 13 | Article 12  Amendments  1. Any Contracting Party may propose an amendment to this Convention, in writing, to [the Government of France, in its role as] the Depositary.  2. The Depositary [Government of France] shall circulate the amendment proposal to all Contracting Parties and the Secretary-General at least six months in advance of its consideration by the General Assembly.  3. The proposed amendment shall be accepted by vote of the General Assembly upon approval by a two-thirds majority of Contracting Parties present and voting, excluding Contracting Parties denied by Article 4.7. The Depositary [Government of France] shall communicate any amendment so accepted to Contracting Parties and the Secretary-General.  4. Any amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 3 shall be notified by the Depositary to all Contracting Parties. The amendment shall be deemed to have been accepted at the end of a period of twelve months after the date of notification, unless within that period not less than one-fourth of the States that were Contracting States at the time of the adoption of the amendment have communicated to the Depositary that they do not accept the amendment, in which case the amendment is rejected and shall have no effect.  5. An amendment deemed to have been accepted in accordance with paragraph 4 shall enter into force six months after its acceptance. | Constitution Art 12 and, eg:  WMO Art 28  EFI Art 17.2  IHO Art XXI  WMO Art 28  EFI Art 17 | *Government of France volunteers to be the Depositary subject to interest shown by other countries.*  *Paragraph 4 amended and paragraph 5 added by Mary after LAP15.* |
| 14 | Article 13  Interpretation and Disputes  Any question or dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention arising between or amongst Contracting Parties which is not settled through consultation or negotiation or by the good offices of the Council may be referred to an independent arbitrator appointed by the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, unless the parties to the dispute agree upon another mode of settlement. | IHO Art XVII  WMO Art 29 | *To be considered: China would not accept arbitration by an independent bodies FOR REPORT ONLY.* |
| 15 | Article 14  Signature, Ratification and Accession  1. This Convention shall open for signature at [xxx] and remain open until [xxx].  2. This Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatory States.  3. This Convention shall be open for accession by any State which has not signed the Convention from the day after the date on which the Convention closes for signature.  4. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the Depositary [Government of France], who shall then notify each Contracting Party and the Secretary-General thereof.  5. Ratification, acceptance, or approval of, or accession to, this Convention shall be without reservation. | IHO Art XVIII  WMO Art 32 |  |
| 16 | Article 15  Entry into force  1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit of the [xxxth] instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.  2. For each State ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to the Convention after its entry into force the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. | WMO Art 35 | *It was noted that the minimum number of contracting parties should be in accordance with the number of seats on the Council. The participants suggested 30 but this will be up to the Diplomatic Conference.* |
| 17 | Article 16  Withdrawal   1. Any Contracting Party may withdraw from this Convention by giving at least twelve month written notice to the Depositary [Government of France], who will immediately inform all Contracting Parties of such notification. 2. Notification of withdrawal may be given at any time after the expiration of [twelve months] from the date on which the Convention has come into force. 3. The withdrawal shall take effect on 31 December following the expiration of the notice. |  |  |
| 18 | Article 17  Termination  1. This Convention may be terminated by decision of the General Assembly upon a [two-thirds] majority of Contracting Parties present and voting, excluding any Contracting Party denied by Article 4.7.  2. The date of termination will be twelve months after the date of the above decision and in the intervening period the Council shall be responsible for the winding up of the Organization in accordance with the General Regulations. | EFI Art 19  Constitution Art 13 |  |
| 19 | Article 18  Transitional Arrangements   1. Upon the entry into force of this Convention all National members of the International Association of Marine aids to navigation and Lighthouse Authorities, who are not Contracting Parties, shall, with the approval of the Council and subject to their agreement, become Associate members of the Organization.   2. Upon the entry into force of this Convention all parties holding financial, non-suspended status as an associate member or industrial member of the International Association of Marine aids to navigation and Lighthouse Authorities, shall, with the approval of Council and subject to their agreement become Affiliate members of the Organization, in accordance with the General Regulations.  3. Upon the entry into force of this Convention the Council of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities shall become the transitional Council of the Organization and will operate as such until the first General Assembly convened under this Convention, which must be within a period not exceeding six (6) months.  4. For the duration of the transitional Council Associate members will be permitted to engage in the work of the Council for the benefit of the Organization.  4bis The Committees of the International Association of the Marine aids to navigation and Lighthouse Authorities shall become the transitional Committees of the Organization and will operate until the equivalent Committees are established under this Convention.  5. In the event that a State which has Associate membership becomes a Contracting Party the Associate membership will cease on the date on which the Convention enters into force for that State. In the case of a Contracting Party having more than one Associate membership that Contracting Party may decide to retain Associate memberships.  6. Until a sufficient number of Contracting Parties become party to this Convention, each number specified in Article 7.2 as a requirement for the number of Council members may be applied flexibly as decided by the General Assembly.  7. After the entry into force of this Convention the transitional Council shall initiate negotiations with the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities on the transfer of the latter’s activities, records, documents, publications, archives, rights, interests, funds, assets and liabilities to the Organization.  8. Until such time as the Secretariat of the Organization has been established the secretariat of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities shall serve as, and perform the functions of, the Secretariat. The Secretary-General of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities shall serve as the Secretary-General of the Organization until the Council appoints the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 7. | EFI Art 16.1  IOM Art 35 (only allows non-party councillors until next Council meeting – ie 12 months  GGGI Art 17.4  EFI Art 16.2  GGGI Art 17 | *Honorary membership is not appropriate in the context of IGOs.*  *Not necessary if number of contracting parties is set sufficiently high.* |
| 20 | IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.  DONE at [xxx] on [xxx] in the English, French and Spanish languages, each text being equally authentic, the original of which shall be deposited in the archives of the [Government of France] Depositary . The Depositary [Government of France] shall transmit certified copies thereof to all the [signatory and acceding] Governments and to the Secretary-General of the Organization. |  |  |

1. Further work required to ensure that Convention contains enough detail to allow a meeting of the approval body to take place in order to establish these Regulations in the first instance. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Consider if this is needed in view of wording of functions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)