**Draft Terms of Reference for  
the Digital Communication System Working Group (WG 3)**

**Introduction**

The use of digital communication is slowly being introduced in the maritime environment. This is due to various limitations such as the transmission range, data speeds and access costs. In the coming years a cost effective, redundant, fair and reasonable maritime digital communication system is expected. The Telecommunication Technical Working Group (WG3) of the previous e-Navigation Committee had significantly contributed to the development of maritime digital communication system such as VDES and will continue this work. The Digital Communication System Working Group takes over the work of the Telecommunication Technical Working Group and continues the development of maritime digital communication system.

**Terms of reference**

The Working Group, taking into account the work carried out by the Telecommunication Technical Working Group of the previous e-Navigation Committee, the input papers submitted to the Committee and the comments made and decisions taken in plenary, is instructed to:

1. develop draft IALA documents on maritime digital communication system such as VDES and NAVDAT from the technical view point;
2. contribute to the development of maritime digital communication system conducted by other international bodies, especially ITU, IMO and IEC;
3. assist and coordinate the work of other Committees using digital communication technology such as AIS, AMRD, R-mode;
4. review existing IALA documents on marine digital communication system and update if necessary;
5. organize Workshops, Seminars and other events on maritime digital communication system if necessary;
6. submit a written report to plenary at the end of each committee meeting and following all intersessional meetings that are held.