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| SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION,  COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND  RESCUE  11th session  Agenda item X | Document Symbol  Document date, i.e. 1 January 2023  Language: i.e. Original: ENGLISH  Pre-session public release: |

**Agenda item title**

**Title of document**

**Submitted by IALA**

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| **SUMMARY** | |
| *Executive summary:* |  |
| *Strategic direction, if applicable:* |  |
| *Output:* |  |
| *Action to be taken:* | Paragraph 6 |
| *Related documents:* | MSC.467(101), MSC.1/Circ.1595, MSC.1/Circ.1610, NCSR 6/8, NCSR 10/7 |

**Introduction**

1. At its 10th session in May 2023, the NCSR Sub-Committee, having noted the discussion on an MSC circular to provide guidance to Member States on the use of Maritime Resource Names (MRN), invited interested Member States and international organisations to submit detailed proposals to a future session (NCSR 10/22).
2. The use of unique identifiers is a necessary development of Maritime Services in the context of e-navigation to maintain harmonisation across domains, services, and bodies. Maritime resources, such as Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN), Vessel Traffic Service (VTS), waterways and authorities, require unique identification to avoid duplication and misalignment when referenced. Currently, there is no single system that allows to specify maritime identifiers in a uniform and unambiguous way.
3. Maritime Resource Names (MRNs) are a universal naming scheme for maritime resources on a global scale and are intended to serve as persistent, location-independent, resource identifiers and are designed to make it easy to map other namespaces. MRN is a registered domain within Uniform Resource Name (URN) which is a standardised and proven architecture from the internet domain.
4. With the increasing digitalisation of maritime operations, and specifically the introduction of new maritime services in the context of e-navigation and the adoption of IHO’s S-100 data modelling framework, the adoption of MRN offers a crucial advantage.
5. In NCSR 10/7, an overview of the MRN concept was provided to the Sub-Committee by IALA. Maritime stakeholders, including IMO and its members, were encouraged to apply MRN in areas of their domain and were invited to adopt the syntax in accordance with IANA[[1]](#footnote-1), IALA[[2]](#footnote-2) and IETF[[3]](#footnote-3) documentation.
6. However, there still exists a significant gap in organisational awareness and understanding of the MRN system. Upcoming e-navigation services will require existing infrastructure that can issue, assign and process MRNs for ensuring safe and efficient navigation. Therefore, IMO should inform its members about the concept of Maritime Resource Names.

**Actions requested**

1. The Sub-Committee is invited to:
   1. take note of the information in this paper and consider paragraph 5 above.
   2. recommend to MSC the issuance of a circular with the content provided in Annex 1.

1. Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) describes MRN in <https://www.iana.org/assignments/urn-formal/mrn> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. IALA describes MRN in their domain and has several guidelines <https://www.iala-aism.org/technical/data-modelling/mrn/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) describes URN in <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8141> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)