

**TRANSITION COUNCIL**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> session**



**10-13 December 2024**  
**Headquarters, France**

## 6.1 - REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

### 1. GENERAL

This document provides a general update on several matters related to the governance and operation of IALA. Some topics will be addressed in more detail under other agenda items.

The committee and panel meetings in October and November were highly successful and conducted in hybrid format. Participation numbers were substantial, highlighting that the current HQ is too small to accommodate the Committees comfortably.

Progress on the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation and the transition to an International Organization is going well, with 35 States having ratified, approved, accepted, or acceded to the Convention. It is anticipated that more States will follow soon.

Preparations for the General Assembly in Singapore from 18 to 21 February 2025 are progressing well, with significant interest from sister organizations and other stakeholders.

The recruitment of a new Dean for the WWA was successful, and Mr. Vincent Denamur began his role on 4 November 2024.

### 2. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of IALA as an association currently includes 352 members: 97 National, 174 Industrial, and 81 Associate, representing an increase of four members compared to the same period last year. However, the Transition Council should note that this figure does not fully reflect the growing number of applications, as the organization has welcomed 28 new members in 2024. This net increase is partially offset by membership terminations or resignations that took effect on January 1, 2024.

The transfer of members of the present categories to IGO Associate Members and Affiliate Members is progressing well.

Members in Arrears.

Two National members, Algeria and the Republic of Congo, remain suspended. Despite being notified of the Council's decision to waive their debts and IALA's willingness to find a compromise, there has been no response from these members, and they are now in a position to be removed from the membership. Congo has signed the Convention and can join IALA again by depositing the instrument of ratification, and Algeria can in the same way accede to the Convention.



The Ministry of Interior of Kuwait has paid part of its debt, covering more than three years of contributions. Additionally, three other organizations that were suspended at the June Council have now settled their outstanding contributions, and their rights have been reinstated.

A strong reminder was sent to the National members from Angola, Nigeria, Gabon, and Tanzania, emphasizing the importance of fulfilling their obligations. No response has been received at this time.

To facilitate the transition of membership into the IGO, it was decided to waive all past-due contributions, except for the 2024 contribution, provided that payment for 2024 is made by the end of November. All affected members have been informed of this decision.

The National member from Tanzania recently informed the Secretariat that they intend to settle their outstanding dues in response to this measure, following a recent mission from the WWA in the country.

Further details on membership will follow in the relevant agenda items.

### 3. WORK OF THE COMMITTEES AND SUSIDIARY BODIES

The committees and panels convened at the IALA Headquarters in October and November. The meetings were held in a hybrid format, which included a physical week at the headquarters and the option for online participation. This approach allowed for greater flexibility, enabling participants from various regions to join the discussions.

Attendance at the meetings was high, with an average of 120 participants in each committee session. This highlight growing interest and engagement in the committees' work.

The results of the work will be presented under the respective agenda points.

Two workshops—one on S100/200 in Annapolis, USA, in September, and another on AtoN Engineering in Sydney, Australia, in October—were organized by our members in these countries. Each workshop attracted over 100 participants and was highly successful with excellent results for the future development and work of the committees.

### 4. ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

The IALA and WWA staff now comprise 15 full-time employees and ten consultants (nine in the Academy section and one in Communication).

In the administrative team, one member resigned in September and will be replaced in early 2025. Additionally, Mrs. Virginie Grondin, who completed a one-year apprenticeship, was appointed as a full-time Accounting and Administrative Assistant in September.

In the Technical team, Mrs. Alisa Nechyporuk joined as Technical Officer in September, replacing Jaime Alvarez, who has transitioned to the Academy section. Alisa's responsibilities include coordinating Technical Committee sessions and supporting the execution of workshops, seminars, and other IALA events.



Finally, Mr. Vincent Denamur started as the Dean of the WWA on November 4, replacing Mr. Omar Eriksson, who has now assumed the role of full-time Deputy Secretary-General.

This staff reorganization, designed to enable the Secretariat to operate with optimal efficiency as an IGO, will continue into 2025 with the recruitment of a full-time document controller for the Technical Department.

## 5. COMMUNICATION

During this transitional phase of the Organization, effective communication is essential, and special efforts have been made to keep members informed of all changes and developments. A press release was prepared, and regular updates have been shared via email, the website, social media, and newsletters. Additionally, a short video about IALA is in production.

The e-Bulletin has been successful, featuring highly informative articles from members on various technical developments. Advertising for industrial members was discussed during the 27th session of the Legal Advisory Panel and will be addressed later in the agenda.

Internal communication was a major focus during "IALA Day," an annual event for staff to discuss organizational issues. While progress has been made, full implementation remains challenging due to remote work and increased activity.

## 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 the Secretariat is engaged in managing the transition period between the launch of the new organization and the dissolution of the association.

The Secretariat has appointed a French law firm to provide legal assistance throughout the transition period until the winding up of the Association is complete. The law firm will assist with the administrative formalities required under French law for the transfer of rights, interests, assets, and liabilities to the new IGO.

Preparations for the first General Assembly of the new organization, scheduled for 18 to 21 February, are progressing well in collaboration with the host, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. A detailed program and further information will be provided later in the agenda.

The HQ Agreement is now in final draft form, and France has initiated the approval process. It is expected that the agreement will take effect in early 2025, allowing for the transfer of staff and other key administrative arrangements.

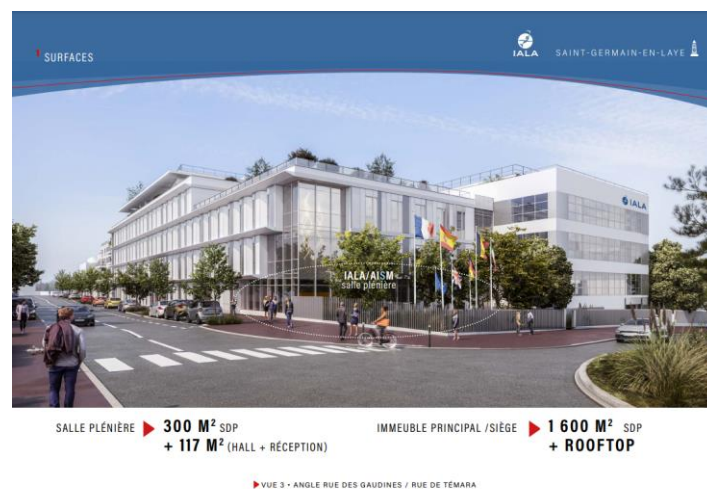
IALA had numerous important cooperation agreements with other maritime organizations, which will now conclude with the end of the association. Transfers of some agreements have been completed with RTCM and CIRM, and agreements with IMPA and NI are expected to be finalized during the IMO Council meeting from 18–22 November.

Since the General Assembly, in accordance with the Convention, must approve agreements with States and International Organizations, the draft agreements with IMO and IHO will be presented as input papers to the Assembly in February 2025.

## 7. NEW HEADQUARTER

As briefed in previous Council meetings, the French Government has offered to assist in finding suitable locations for the new IGO headquarters. This process is urgent, as the current Headquarters is too small to accommodate the growing number of new members joining the Organization. At the October/November Committee meetings the attendees exceeded the capacity limits of the plenary room, meeting facilities, and lounge.

Negotiations are progressing well between the Secretariat and the city of St. Germain-en-Laye. A proposed project including approximately 1,600 sqm of office and meeting space, along with a 300 sqm plenary room, has been submitted to the French Government. If a decision is made before the end of the year, the facilities will be ready for the Committee season in the spring of 2026. This project will be presented at the upcoming Council meeting.



## 8. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The World-Wide Academy continues to thrive under the leadership of the Dean and the Academy Board, chaired by Professor Sunny Gug. Guided by its “Enlighten, Educate, and Engage” strategy, the Academy is making strong progress on its 2024 action plan.

This year, accredited training organizations in the United Kingdom, France, India, Colombia, China, and Indonesia will deliver the Level 1.1 Aids to Navigation (AtoN) Manager course, with over 100 new AtoN managers expected to be certified in 2024. Additionally, several technical needs assessment missions and reviews were conducted, including three missions to Indonesia. With its 25 AtoN districts, Indonesia is set to be fully assessed through a series of four to five missions by the end of 2025.

The Academy is also building Level 1.1 AtoN Manager training capacity in Indonesia, which successfully delivered its second L1.1 course this November, this time partly in Bahasa Indonesia, the local language.

As previously announced, Omar Frits Eriksson has now assumed the role of Deputy Secretary-General full-time, and a new Dean, Vincent Denamur, former Councillor for France and well-known to the council, assumed office in early November.



The Academy owes its ongoing success to the generous support of its sponsors, who provide both direct and indirect funding, and to the invaluable assistance of the four IALA Committees.

The Dean will brief in more detail under the relevant agenda item.

**9. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO**

Note the information provided in the report.