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# REPORT OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

*21 February 2025, Suntec Convention Centre, Singapore*





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## 1. OPENING REMARKS

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This meeting was the first council session of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation. The President expressed gratitude to the Council for supporting Brazil for the presidency. He welcomed all Councillors and particularly new members Albania, Croatia, Romania and Belgium.

## 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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There were no apologies received for this session.

A list of participants is at Annex B.

## 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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Input paper C01-3.1 refers.

**The agenda was approved and can be found at Annex A.**

## 4. VACANT POSITION WITHIN COUNCIL

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Input paper C01-4.1 refers.

Based on consultations with members and the fact that the group was elected at the Council meeting in Rio de Janeiro for the 2023–2027 term.

**The Council elected the Chair and members the Finance and Audit Group as follows:**

- United Kingdom (Chair);
- Chile;
- France;
- Germany; and
- Malaysia

## 5. STRATEGY AND POLICY

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### 5.1 Results of the 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly

The Secretary-General reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly was successfully held from 18 to 20 February 2025 and a short report of the meeting would be posted on the website within the next couple of weeks. It was intended that the report would not reflect all the comments made during the meeting but the audio recording of the sessions would be made available on the website instead. The report would consist mainly of the Resolutions approved by the General Assembly.

**The Council noted the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly.**

## 6. AFFILIATE INDUSTRIAL MEMBERS GROUP

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The representative of the Affiliate Industrial Members Group Simon Brooks reported that the Affiliate Industrial members held their Assembly on 17 February and announced he elected group as follows:

Company name	Representative for
Flotex SRL, Italy	Europe and Africa
Mediterráneo Señales Maritimas, Spain	Europe and Africa
Japan Radio Co, Ltd, Japan	Asia and Oceania
Sealite Pty Ltd, Australia	Asia and Oceania
Tideland Signal Manufacturing, LLC, USA	The Americas
ARBO Plásticos, Brazil	The Americas
Aatash Norcontrol Ltd, India	Country of next Conference
Australian Maritime Systems Group, Australia	All members
Sabik, Finland	All members

The Secretary-General emphasized, for new councillors, that the committees of IALA relied a lot on the technical expertise from the Industrial members. He also explained that the president of the AIMG was from India as he would be responsible for organizing the Industrial Exhibition for the next conference to be held in Mumbai in 2027.

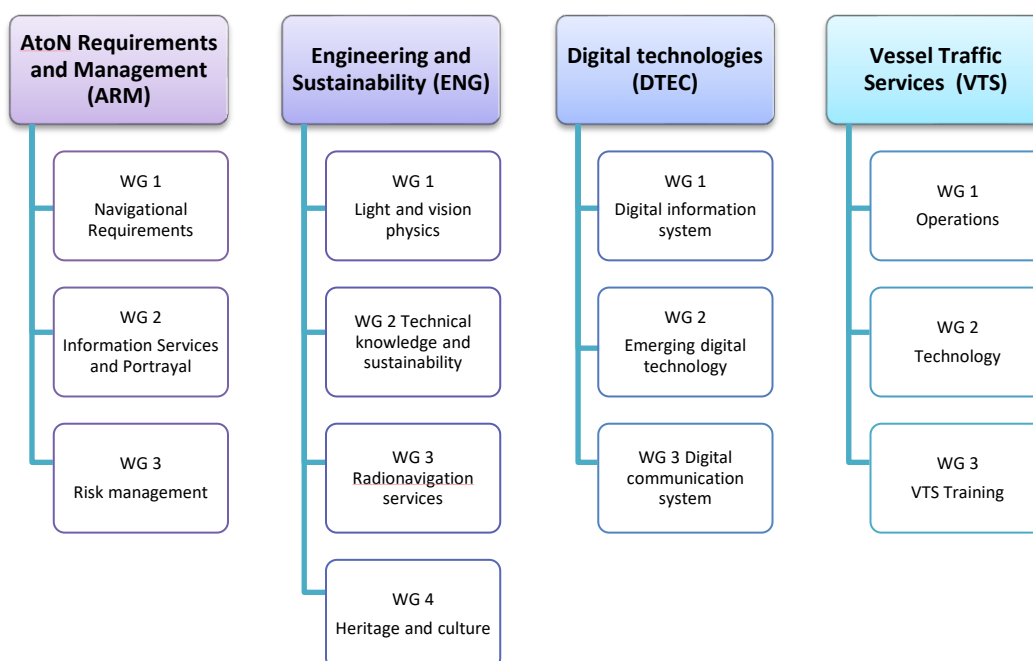
**The Council noted the AIMG's report.**

## 7. TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

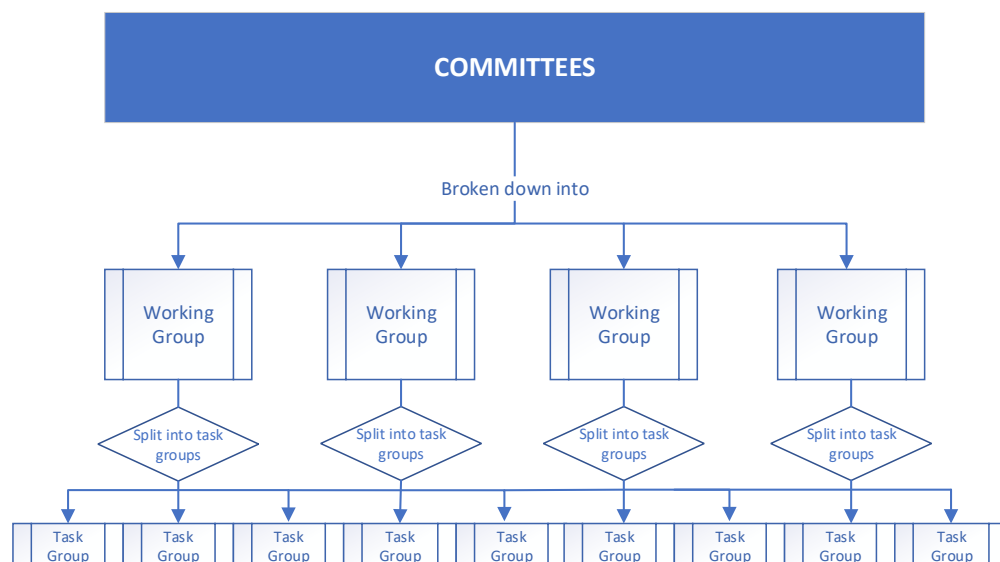
### 7.1 Committee Structure and working arrangements

Input paper C01-7.1 refers.

The four committees, agreed by the General Assembly, operate under the authority of the Council and are structured to ensure efficient progress in their respective areas. Their work is guided by the Work Programme, which defines key tasks, priorities, and timelines.



The four committees will convene twice per year in person, with the option for virtual opening participation. Unless otherwise agreed, meetings will be held at the headquarters of the Organization in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France.



The Councillor for Finland requested clarification on online participation. The Secretariat confirmed that, although in person participation is the preferred option, all meetings will, as far as possible, have an online attendance option.

**The Council approved the committee structure and working arrangements.**

## 7.2 Committee's work programme 2025-2027

Input paper C01-7.2 refers.

The Work Programme is a structured plan that guides the activities of the committees in line with the Strategic Vision approved by the General Assembly. It is designed to ensure that the Organization's technical and policy-related work is carried out in a systematic and prioritized manner. The Work Programme operates on a three-year cycle, allowing for continuous progress while providing flexibility for necessary adjustments over time.

The PAP 56 session conducted a review of the 2023-2027 Work Programme, which was originally approved by Transition Council 3. Based on this review, the PAP has modified the Work Programme to reflect new priorities and ensure its relevance for the upcoming period 2025-2027. The revised version is now subject to Council approval, after which it will become the official baseline for the Committees' work during the 2025-2027 period.

**The Council approved the work programme for 2025-2027.**

## 7.3 Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs for committees and subsidiary bodies

Input paper C01-7.3 refers.

In accordance with the Convention Article 8.8 (k) the Council appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees and subsidiary bodies.

By letter Circular Letter 2025/01 of 08 January, all member States have been invited to nominate candidates for the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the Committees and subsidiary bodies for the next work period.

**The Council appointed or re-appointed the Chairs and Vice Chairs as follows:**

### Aids to Navigation Requirements and Management Committee (ARM):

Chair: Guttorm Tomren, Norway

Vice Chair: Natasha McMahon, Canada

### Engineering and Sustainability Committee (ENG):

Chair: Alwyn Williams, United Kingdom

Vice Chair: Michel Cousquer, France

**Digital Technologies Committee (DTEC):**

Chair: Hideki Noguchi, Japan

Vice Chair: Dennis Khoo, Singapore

**Vessel Traffic Services Committee (VTS):**

Chair: Monica Sundklev, Sweden

Vice Chair: Dirk Eckhoff, Germany

**Policy Advisory Panel (PAP):**

Chair: Phil Day, United Kingdom

Vice Chair: Serhat Aytugel, Türkiye

**Legal Advisory Panel (LAP):**

Chair: Christina Schneider, Germany

Vice Chair: Thomas Arculus, United Kingdom

## 8. WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

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### 8.1 Appointment of the Board

In accordance with the General Regulations Article 14, the day-to-day management of the World-Wide Academy (WWA) shall be administered by a Dean, supported by an Advisory Board.

**The Council appointed the WWA Board as follows:**

- Rear Admiral Tsuguo Awai, Japan Coast Guard (Chair)
- Professor Maximo Q. Mejia, Jr., President of the World Maritime University
- Ms. Catherine Mulvihill, CEO of the International Foundation for Aids to Navigation, IFAN
- Professor Seung-Gi GUG, Dean of the Graduate School at Korea Maritime & Ocean University
- The Secretary-General/Deputy Secretary-General
- The Dean of the WWA

## 9. MEMBERSHIP

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### 9.1 Applications

Input papers C01-9.1 refers.

Since the December Council session, and in accordance with the General Regulations Article 2, the Secretariat received **6** new applications for membership. **4** are for Affiliate Industrial membership and **2** are for Affiliate membership. Three of them were provisionally accepted and 3 were in the need of Council acceptance.

**The Council approved:****For Affiliate Industrial membership**

- **Seamax Marine Services, Pakistan (4PAK102).**
- **IHI Corporation, Japan (4JAP015).**

**For Affiliate membership**

- **Research Institute of Medium & Small Shipbuilding, Rep. of Korea (3RCOR10).**
- **Hydrography and Navigation Coordinating office, Venezuela.**
- **ALLforLAND, Rep of Korea.**
- **Marine Exchange of San Francisco Bay Region, the United States of America.**

## 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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The Secretary-General explained to the Council that due to the move of the headquarters planned in the first half of the year 2026, it would be appreciated if members could offer to host the committee meetings for this session. The Secretariat will issue a Circular Letter to ask for formal invitations from members.

Spain, Norway and China expressed interest in hosting meetings.

The Secretary-General then mentioned that the next Council meeting in June may take place in Nice, France, in parallel to the United Nations Oceans Conference the same week. More details would be circulated to councillors as soon as possible.

The Secretary-General also wished to extend his gratitude for legal advice to Christina Schneider from Germany, Henning Osnes Teigene from Norway and Mary Dean from Australia for all their work and guidance during the change of status process.

The Councillor for UK reminded the Council that the WATON Day 2025 main event would be organized in London and invited all members to attend.

**The Council noted the information provided.**

### *Action item 1:*

*The Secretariat to issue a Circular Letter to invite Member States to host the committee meetings and the Council meeting of the first half of 2026.*

## 11. DATES AND PLACES FOR NEXT MEETINGS

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**The Council approved the following tentative dates and venues for the following sessions:**

- Session 02: 9 to 13 June 2025, Nice, France.
- Session 03: 8 to 12 December 2025, Mumbai, India.
- Session 04: June 2026, to be decided.
- Session 05: December 2026, to be decided.



## ANNEX A – AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

### APPROVED AGENDA

ITEM		ACTION REQUESTED
1.	OPENING REMARKS	
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Note
3.	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA	Approve
4.	VACANT POSITIONS WITHIN COUNCIL	Elect
4.1	Election of the Finance and Audit Group and its Chair	
8.	STRATEGY AND POLICY	Note
8.1	Results of the 1 <sup>st</sup> General Assembly	
9.	INDUSTRIAL MEMBERS GROUP	Note
9.1	Composition of the Group for the period 2025-2027	
10.	TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES	
10.1	Committee structure and working arrangement	Approve / Note
10.2	Committee's work programmes 2025-2027	Approve
10.3	Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs for committees and subsidiary bodies	Appoint
11.	WWA	Appoint
8.1	Appointment of the Board	
12.	MEMBERSHIP	Approve note
12.1	Application	
12.2	Resignation	
13.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
14.	DATES AND VENUES FOR THE NEXT MEETINGS	Note

## ANNEX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Directorate General of Navigation, Brazilian Navy (President)</b>  Marcos L. de ALMEIDA Washington Luiz de PAULA SANTOS Renato DA FONSECA LACERDA BATISTA Ghuilherme BLACK
<b>India</b>	<b>Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (Vice-president)</b>  T.K. RAMACHANDRAN Mukesh MANGAL Natarajan MURUGANANDAM Saravanan SUNDARAVEL
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>Trinity House</b> Iain LOWER (Chair of Finance and Audit Group) Thomas ARCULUS <b>Northern Lighthouse Board</b> Mike BULLOCK
<b>Albania</b>	<b>Albanian Hydrographic Service – Ministry of Defence</b> Adnand AGASTRA Artan MALO
<b>Australia</b>	<b>Australian Maritime Safety Authority</b> Kaylene DALE Elisa BOUGHTON Mary DEAN
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services</b> Nathalie BALCAEN Wim SMETS
<b>Canada</b>	<b>Canadian Coast Guard</b> Antonella FERRO Natasha Mc MAHON
<b>Chile</b>	<b>Chilean Navy, General Director of Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine (DIRECTEMAR)</b> Tamara VILLANUEVA Sigfrido RAMIREZ Carlos CERDA
<b>People's Republic of China</b>	<b>Maritime Safety Administration</b> XU Wei  JIANG Jianyu  LI Tao  SONG Wei  LI Wenhua

LU Yongqiang  
SONG Huanhuan  
XUE Feng  
LUO Ziwen

**Croatia**      **Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure**  
Sinisa ORLIC  
Toni MARICEVIC  
Doria TONKOVIC

**Denmark**      **Danish Maritime Authority**  
Jan THORN

**Finland**      **Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency**  
Simo KERKELA  
Elisa MIKKOLAINEN  
Sanna SONNINEN

**France**      **Ministry of the Sea**  
Jean-Pascal DEVIS

**Germany**      **Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency**  
Thomas WAGNER  
Christoph HALLIER

**Ireland**      **Commissioners of Irish Lights**  
Yvonne SHIELDS  
Ronan BOYLE

**Japan**      **Japan Coast Guard**  
Tomoyuki ISHIZUKA  
Tsuguo AWAI  
Koichi YOSHIDA  
Kinji TAKEUSHI  
Hideki NOGUCHI  
Mayumi ARITA  
Nemoto YU  
Masatora ONO  
Momoka BAN  
Yuki MORIMASA

**Republic of Korea**      **Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries**  
CHO Yong Hun  
LEE Sak  
CHOI Seong-yong  
KIM Young-Jin  
BAE Yong-chan  
YUN Sang Il  
LEE Jong-ho  
LEE Jisoo

CHO Seoyeon  
CHUNG Changkyun

<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>Light Dues Board Peninsular Malaysia</b> Siva Sangar KRISHNAN Abdullah BURHANUDIN Muhammad Fadhli MAKHTAR Dickson Bin DOLLAH Abdul Samad SHAIK OSMAN Syamsul Aminuddin SAMAT Yasmin MOHD HASNI Mohammad Saifullah YUSOFF Mohd Hazwan Din HASHIM Tahira Mohamad ZAKI Mohamed Safwan BIN OTHMAN Abdul Majid MOHD HAFIZ Hairizam ALBUKHARI
<b>Norway</b>	<b>Norwegian Coastal Administration</b> Arve DIMMEN Guttorm TOMREN
<b>Romania</b>	<b>Maritime Hydrographic Directorate</b> Lucian GRIGORESCU Paula PARASCHIV
<b>Singapore</b>	<b>Maritime and Port of Authority</b> Eng Dih TEO Muhammad SEGAR Hoe Soon TAN Tyng Woei TAN Weng Hwee ONG Selica Yong Xin LAI Luqman Hakim ABDUL RAZAK
<b>Spain</b>	<b>State Ports</b> Javier Martin SANTO DOMINGO Pedro GARCIA NAVARRO
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>Swedish Maritime Administration</b> Johan WINELL
<b>The Netherlands</b>	<b>Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management</b> Maarten BERREVOETS
<b>Türkiye</b>	<b>Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure</b> <b>Directorate General of Coastal Safety</b> Serhat AYTUGEL Selay TURAN Mustafa BANKAOGLU <b>Directorate General of Maritime Affairs</b> Ömer Adem GAZİOĞLU



**IMG**

**Observer**

Simon BROOKS

AMS

**IALA**

**Secretary-General**

Francis ZACHARIAE

**Deputy Secretary-General**

Omar Frits ERIKSSON

**Dean WWA**

Vincent DENAMUR

**Technical Operations Manager**

Minsu JEON

**Finance and Administration Manager**

Christine PHILIP

**Communication Officer**

Audrey GUINAULT

## ANNEX C – ACTION ITEMS

### *Action item 1*

*The Secretariat to send a Circular Letter to Member States inviting them to host committee meetings and council meeting for the first half of 2026.*

## ANNEX D – RECORD OF DECISIONS

**The Council elected the Chair and members the Finance and Audit Group as follows:**

- United Kingdom (Chair);
- Chile;
- France;
- Germany; and
- Malaysia

**The Council approved the Committee structure and working arrangements.**

**The Council approved the Committee work programme for 2025-2027.**

**The Council appointed or re-appointed the Chairs and Vice Chairs as follows:**

**Aids to Navigation Requirements and Management Committee (ARM):**

Chair: Guttorm Tomren, Norway

Vice Chair: Natasha McMahon, Canada

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Chair: Hideki Noguchi, Japan

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**Legal Advisory Panel (LAP):**

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Vice Chair: Thomas Arculus, United Kingdom

**The Council appointed the WWA Board as follows:**

- Rear Admiral Tsuguo Awai, Japan Coast Guard (Chair)
- Professor Maximo Q. Mejia, Jr., President of the World Maritime University
- Ms. Catherine Mulvihill, CEO of the International Foundation for Aids to Navigation, IFAN
- Professor Seung-Gi GUG, Dean of the Graduate School at Korea Maritime & Ocean University
- The Secretary-General/Deputy Secretary-General
- The Dean of the WWA

**The Council approved:**

#### **For Affiliate Industrial membership**

- **Seamax Marine Services, Pakistan (4PAKI02).**
- **IHI Corporation, Japan (4JAPO15).**

#### **For Affiliate membership**

- **Research Institute of Medium & Small Shipbuilding, Rep. of Korea (3RCOR10).**
- **Hydrography and Navigation Coordinating office, Venezuela.**
- **ALLforLAND, Rep of Korea.**
- **Marine Exchange of San Francisco Bay Region, the United States of America.**







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International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation