



# IALA POLICY ADVISORY PANEL

## REPORT OF THE 57<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IALA POLICY ADVISORY PANEL (PAP)

**3 June 2025**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The 57<sup>th</sup> session of PAP was held online on 3 June 2025.

Key outcomes included:

- Feedback from the committee season
- A discussion PAP's future role

The PAP was also updated on:

- An update on inter-committee liaison
- A project on AtoN for Small Island Developing States and Small States
- The Style Guide
- The MCP

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# Report of the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the IALA

## Policy Advisory Panel

### GENERAL

PAP57 was held virtually 3 June 2025, with Phil Day as Chair, Serhat Aytugel as Vice-Chair and Thomas Southall as Secretary.

## 1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

### 1.1. WELCOME BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Francis Zachariae, Secretary-General welcomed Phil Day and Serhat Aytugel as the newly elected Chair and Vice-Chair of the Policy Advisory Panel and congratulated them on their appointments. Guttorm Tomren, ARM Chair and Dennis Khoo, DTEC Vice-Chair, were also welcomed as new panel members. He expressed confidence in the strength of the team and looked forward to future collaboration.

He reflected on the success of the General Assembly in Singapore, hosted by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, where key governance documents were agreed. This ensured the IGO was fully operational. The transition of staff and assets from the old Association to the new Organization was nearly complete, with only the real estate transfer pending. The final documents had been processed by a notary in Paris and were with the Ministry of Finance. The property transfer was expected to be finalised after the summer, likely in September, after which the old Association would officially close.

Preparations had begun for the next General Assembly in Mumbai, with planning underway for the 2027 conference, tentatively scheduled for early November. The Policy Advisory Panel has substantial work ahead, including providing strategic advice to Council, consideration of organisational structures and addressing emerging issues such as digitalisation and decarbonisation. A review of regulations and terms of reference was also planned to consider adjustments for the post-2027 period.

Omar Eriksson, Deputy Secretary-General was thanked for his long-standing role as Chair of the PAP, recognising his years of dedication and contributions. Dirk Eckhoff, VTS Vice-Chair was also acknowledged in what was expected to be his final meeting before retirement, with appreciation expressed for his service, particularly his support to the Committee.

The Secretary-General concluded by thanking all involved for their work and reaffirmed that the PAP was in capable hands.

### 1.2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda (input paper PAP57-1.2.1) was approved. The approved agenda is provided in ANNEX A.

### 1.3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Michele Cousquer, ENG Vice-Chair.

### 1.4. REVIEW OF INPUT PAPERS

Members noted that aside from the agenda there were no other input papers.

## 2. OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

### 2.1. FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMITTEE SEASON

Here's a concise summary of Agenda Item 2.1 – Feedback from the Committee Season for the PAP57 report, presented in straightforward British English:

#### ARM Committee – Chair: Guttorm Tomren

The ARM Committee held an extended meeting with a record attendance of 107 participants. A significant milestone was the approval of S-201, now operational as version 2.0. Additionally, S-125 was introduced for reading and testing, moving forward alongside S-124. Several liaison notes were shared with other committees, including discussions on MASS.

#### VTS Committee – Chair: Monica Sundklev

The VTS Committee had 123 participants and successfully completed updates to guidelines on performance requirements for core VTS systems (Guidelines G1111 and G1111-1). Revised guidelines on simulation and training were also finalised. The Committee worked on service specifications for traffic clearance and route exchange, with test versions currently in progress. Liaison notes were exchanged with other committees and a seminar on daily operational challenges was proposed by Spain. A global digital survey on VTS was also discussed, with plans for further review in the next session.

#### DTEC Committee – Chair: Hideki Noguchi

A meeting was held with 143 participants, which tested the capacity of the current HQ. Key outputs included draft guidelines on Maritime Service Registry technical specifications, authentication technology and VDES signal measurement. An information paper for MSC was prepared to address urgent amendments to SOLAS related to VHF data exchange systems. Discussions also covered ongoing IMO work on IP-based connectivity for S-100 ECDIS and authentication guidelines linked to DTEC work. Future sessions will continue to focus on digitalisation of maritime communication.

#### ENG Committee – Chair: Alwyn Williams

Nearly 100 participants attended the ENG Committee meeting, both in person and online. Three working groups met, producing guidelines on light measurement and the harmonisation of IoT protocols for monitoring visual AtoNs. A review of the task register ensured all items were correctly transferred from the old system to the new online tool. Revised documents included guidelines on managing surplus lighthouse property and recommendations on conserving lighthouse heritage. The technical catalogue was also reviewed to identify orphaned guidelines and this work will continue.

#### LAP Committee – Chair: Christina Schneider

No LAP Committee meeting was held after the General Assembly, so no updates were available. However, a meeting is scheduled for later this year.

#### Industrial Members Group – Representative: Malcolm Nicholson

Malcolm Nicholson confirmed there were no immediate updates from industry members. An IMG meeting is planned for December following the Council meeting in Mumbai.

Finally, Thomas Southall, Technical Operations Manager (TOM), noted that as usual feedback is being gathered on operational aspects of the committee season. He invited members to send in any further comments for consideration for the next round.

#### **Action item:**

*That PAP members send in any further comments to Thomas Southall ([tso@iala.int](mailto:tso@iala.int)) on operational aspects of the committee season for consideration for the next round.*

## **2.2. INTER-COMMITTEE LIAISON**

Minsu Jeon, Technical Director, shared a consolidated list of liaison notes sent between the committees from last season and these were noted by members.

## 2.3. PROJECT ON ATON FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND SMALL STATES WORK PROGRAMME AND MANAGEMENT TOOLS

Deputy Secretary-General, Omar Eriksson, provided an update on a project aimed at supporting small island developing states and small states in AtoN provision. The initiative stems from previous capacity-building efforts by the Worldwide Academy and collaboration with SPC, working on safety of navigation in the Pacific region.

It has become clear that in some cases small Pacific islands lack the resources to implement internationally standardised AtoN systems. SPC initially proposed locally sourced solutions, including makeshift AtoN using available materials such as spray paint. However, the Secretariat declined endorsement, as the proposal did not meet international compliance requirements.

Following this, a former SPC representative moved to the International Foundation for Aids to Navigation (IFAN), which has financial resources for charitable projects. IFAN, along with Lloyd's Register Foundation, decided to fund a formal project, engaging the Royal College of Arts in London to carry out the majority of the work.

The Secretariat agreed to participate, but on the condition that any solutions comply with established international recommendations and guidelines.

The project is designed with a three-year timeframe and future meetings will provide further details once funding arrangements are finalised. The key deliverable is expected to be an official publication, potentially an IALA guideline, outlining how small states can create viable visual AtoN while maintaining compliance with international standards.

Technical experts from committees will likely contribute and any proposed guideline will undergo committee review and Council approval.

The PAP acknowledged that a similar proposal had been discussed before and supported this effort to assist small island states. However, it was raised that there is a possible challenge that non-standard solutions could reduce regulatory compliance for smaller ports and harbours and stressed the need to ensure that guidance does not create loopholes allowing lower standards in larger maritime areas.

## 3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 3.1. PAP'S FUTURE ROLE

Phil Day, PAP Chair, raised the topic of PAP's future role, suggesting that the Panel could strengthen its strategic advisory function for Council and proposed discussing this further in September. At the next Council session he intends to ask Council whether PAP could further support policy development. It was noted that PAP is well placed to fulfil this role providing more technical insights from committee leadership and the Secretariat. There was broad agreement that PAP's role could adapt to help facilitate policy formation and process improvements.

It was agreed that further discussions would take place at the next PAP session and that Council's feedback will be sought in Nice.

### 3.2. UPDATE ON THE STYLE GUIDE

Thomas Southall (TOM), provided a brief update on the ongoing revisions to the style guide. He noted that both he and Sarah Robinson are working on incorporating feedback from PAP, including contributions from Monica Sundklev and Jorge Arroyo. He encouraged members to submit any additional feedback as soon as possible

#### **Action item:**

*That PAP members submit any feedback on the Style Guide to Thomas Southall ([tso@iala.int](mailto:tso@iala.int)) as soon as possible.*

### **3.3. UPDATE ON MCP**

PAP Chair, Phil Day, raised the topic of the Maritime Connectivity Platform (MCP), which had been discussed at NCSR and included in a draft guideline regarding IALA's instance of MCP. He sought an update on IALA's position in relation to setting it up as a service, noting that despite ongoing guideline development, many countries were continuing to advance IP-based connectivity, highlighting the urgent need for MCP.

The Deputy Secretary-General acknowledged that MCP had been frequently discussed within PAP, but there was some discussion on whether to take on operational responsibility for an instance. Currently, MCP is being developed within IALA, particularly in DTEC, with guidance expected to be included in an IALA publication. At the last meeting, two instances were endorsed, one at GLA in the UK and another at KRISO in Korea for testing and compatibility verification.

Discussions at NCSR also centred on trust, particularly concerns about relying on commercial entities for maritime safety information. There was growing interest in intergovernmental MCP instances, with efforts to involve IALA and IHO.

It was noted that at the next PAP meeting, further discussion would be needed regarding IALA's role, whether to operate MCP independently or collaborate with IHO to ensure a trusted solution.

It was considered whether the MCP should be highlighted during the Council meeting next week, given that it was referenced in previous PAP minutes. It was noted that DTEC will address MCP in September meeting.

## **4. CLOSING OF MEETING**

### **4.1. REVIEW OF KEY OUTPUTS FROM MEETING**

There were none.

### **4.2. REPORT OF THE MEETING**

The final report was approved by correspondence.

### **4.3. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Conference Steering Group will be held 8 – 9 September 2025 at IALA HQ.

PAP58 will be held between the 9 – 12 September 2025 at IALA HQ.

## **5. CLOSING OF MEETING**

The Chair thanked all members for their cooperation and friendly discussions and once again congratulated the committee chairs and vice-chairs for the successful committee season.

## **6. LIST OF ANNEXES TO THE REPORT**

- 1      Agenda  
A copy of the agenda is at ANNEX A.
- 2      Participants  
A list of participants is at ANNEX B.
- 3      Input papers  
A list of input papers is at ANNEX C.
- 4      Output papers  
A list of output papers is at ANNEX D.

## ANNEX A AGENDA



### 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IALA Policy Advisory Panel (PAP57)

The 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Policy Advisory Panel will be held on 3 June at online between 11:00 – 12:00 UTC.

In accordance with the Convention Article 9.1, the Policy Advisory Panel will support the aims and objectives of the Organization by:

- a) Proposing the meeting dates of all Committees for a given year for approval by the Secretary-General at least one year in advance, for notification to all participants through the IALA website.
- b) Considering and advising the Council and the Secretariat on policy and strategy matters concerning the development and harmonisation of Marine Aids to Navigation systems, with specific emphasis on the Strategic Vision.
- c) Co-ordinating the work of the Committees and providing a forum for Committee Chairs to share progress, challenges and operations to provide a collegiate delivery of the various work plans with the Secretariat.
- d) Carry out such other work as the Council may from time to time require.

## Agenda

### 1 Welcome and Opening Remarks

1.1	Welcome by Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General	FZ,OFE	
1.2	Approval of agenda	PD	Approve
1.3	Apologies and introductions	TS	Note
1.4	Review of input papers	TS	Note

### 2 Operational and Administrative Matters

2.1	Feedback from the committee season	PD	Discuss
2.2	Inter-committee liaison	MJ	Discuss
2.3	Project on AtoN for Small Island Developing States and Small States	OFE	Note

### 3 Any other business

3.1	PAP Future Role	PD	Discuss
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### 4 Closing of meeting

4.1	Review of Key Outputs from Meeting
4.2	Report of the meeting
4.3	Date and venue of next meeting





## ANNEX B LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b>PAP</b>	Chair	Phil Day <a href="mailto:guttorm.tomren@kystverket.no">guttorm.tomren@kystverket.no</a>
	Vice-Chair	Serhat Aytugel <a href="mailto:serhat.aytugel@kiyiemniyeti.gov.tr">serhat.aytugel@kiyiemniyeti.gov.tr</a>
<b>ARM Committee</b>	Chair	Guttorm Tomren <a href="mailto:guttorm.tomren@kystverket.no">guttorm.tomren@kystverket.no</a>
	Vice-Chair	Natasha McMahon <a href="mailto:natasha.mcmahon@dfo-mpo.gc.ca">natasha.mcmahon@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</a>
<b>DTEC Committee</b>	Chair	NOGUCHI Hideki <a href="mailto:hideki.noguchi@gmail.com">hideki.noguchi@gmail.com</a>
	Vice-Chair	Dennis Khoo <a href="mailto:dennis_khoo@mpa.gov.sg">dennis_khoo@mpa.gov.sg</a>
<b>ENG Committee</b>	Chair	Alwyn Williams <a href="mailto:alwyn.williams@gla-rad.org">alwyn.williams@gla-rad.org</a>
<b>VTs Committee</b>	Chair	Monica Sundklev <a href="mailto:monica.sundklev@transportstyrelsen.se">monica.sundklev@transportstyrelsen.se</a>
	Vice-Chair	Dirk Eckhoff <a href="mailto:dirk.eckhoff@wsv.bund.de">dirk.eckhoff@wsv.bund.de</a>
<b>LAP</b>	Chair	Christina Schneider <a href="mailto:Christina.Schneider@wsv.bund.de">Christina.Schneider@wsv.bund.de</a>
	Vice-Chair	Thomas Arculus <a href="mailto:thomas.arculus@trinityhouse.co.uk">thomas.arculus@trinityhouse.co.uk</a>
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<b>Technical Officer</b>		Alisa Nechyporuk <a href="mailto:ane@iala.int">ane@iala.int</a>



## ANNEX C LIST OF INPUT PAPERS

Meeting	Agenda Item	Input Paper Title	Source
PAP57-	1.2.1	Provisional Agenda	Secretariat



## ANNEX D LIST OF OUTPUT PAPERS

Meeting	Agenda Item	OUTPUT PAPERS
PAP57-	4.2	Report of PAP57

