**Input paper: [[1]](#footnote-1)** VTS56-7.2.4

**(**PAP54-7.3.3.1)

**Input paper for the following Committee(s):** **Purpose of paper:**

(Select as appropriate)

ARM  ENG  PAP  Input

ENAV VTS  Information

**Agenda item** [[2]](#footnote-2) 7.3.3

**Author(s)/Submitter(s)** Alwyn Williams………

Outcomes of the Sustainability Workshop[[3]](#footnote-3)

# Summary

The topic of sustainability is a rather complex and broad subject, which is becoming increasingly relevant and mainstream from an operational perspective. Consequently, IALA is arranging a Sustainability Workshop (SWS) hosted by Irish Lights in Dublin in October 2025 to discuss the matter more fully.

This short paper is intended to summarise the preparatory discussions on the outcomes of the workshop that have taken place over the last few months. It is recognised that tangible workshop outcomes that IALA, and its members, can build upon and progress for years to come is key to the success of the event. In other words, this paper contextualises the workshop in a yet-to-be-agreed approach to sustainability within IALA and its members.

# Basis of the Workshop

The basis of the workshop is the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG), as summarised in IALA Recommendation 1004, “Sustainability in the Provision of Marine Aids to Navigation”. As such, this will be the basis for the individual topics at the SWS. The UNSDG covers topics beyond environmental and climate-change considerations normally associated with sustainability, and include matters such as skills development, equality, procurement, and economic growth.

Therefore, the SWS will introduce, in the form of presentations, the various topics across the scope of UNSDG and how they apply to the provision of marine aids-to-navigation. It will be a great opportunity to holistically review how the industry currently operates and identify areas that may need to change to meet the mid- to long-term future challenges in terms of the UNSDG. A draft workshop schedule is attached to demonstrate how the workshop will achieve this.

# Workshop Outcomes

The intended outcome of the SWS will be two-fold. Firstly, a list of conclusions or actions needed to be taken by IALA and/or its members to address these future challenges. Secondly, a roadmap in the form of an outline white paper setting out what IALA and its members can do in the long term to meet the challenges.

To achieve this, the workshop participants will split into several working groups to focus their attention on a particular subject matter. Each working group should identify two or three conclusions/actions from their discussions that will form the draft conclusions/actions of the workshop. These will be recorded in the workshop report.

The working groups should also identify one or two chapter headings for the sustainability white paper. These chapter headings, supported by an outline description of what the white paper chapter should address, will form the outline white paper output of the workshop. This working document will then need to be further developed beyond the workshop.

# Post-Workshop Tasks

The output of the workshop itself can only be considered as the beginning of further instilling sustainable practices within IALA documentation. There is a question of how the momentum developed during the workshop will continue, and this can be explored further during the workshop itself. Nevertheless, a broad approach needs to be agreed beforehand.

## A Possible Approach to Sustainability within IALA Beyond the Workshop

One approach could be the creation of a task force to develop and proposed a final draft of the IALA Sustainability White Paper started at the workshop. This task force, if the approach is agreed by the IALA Council, will use the conclusions, actions and suggestions from the workshop to write the substance of the white paper. Once complete, it is envisaged that it will be presented to the IALA Council or, if appropriate, the General Assembly for approval and publication. Once approved, the IALA Sustainability White Paper will be the guiding document when updating IALA standards, recommendations, and guidelines to incorporate sustainable practices and principles.

The diagram below illustrates the potential timeline of how the concept of sustainability could be developed over the next few years.

Whilst the figure only shows Recommendation R1004 being updated after the publication of the white paper, the principles will apply to all IALA published documents, including recommendations and guidelines.

# Conclusion

Without a plan for action after the workshop, participation at the workshop itself could be limited due to an unclear benefit of attending. A strong message and purpose for the workshop can ensure good attendance and participation by attendees from all around the world and will help shape the meaning of “sustainability” for IALA members into the future.

This paper has given an overview of what the IALA Sustainability Workshop could produce, and it has laid out a potential way forward in progressing those outcomes within IALA, ingraining those principles in revised standards, recommendations, and guidelines.

# Action Requested

Committees to note and take action as appropriate.

PAP is requested to consider whether the proposed workshop aims, and subsequent tasks, is the most appropriate way to instil sustainability practices within IALA beyond the workshop, and if not, what should the intended tangible output of the workshop be?

In addition, PAP is kindly requested to review the attached workshop programme, and within the technical committees if necessary, and to provide feedback and (ideally) potential presenters to Alwyn Williams by PAP55.



1. Potential timeline of how IALA can turn discussions on sustainability at the workshop into practices to incorporate into IALA documentation.

1. Input document number, to be assigned by the Committee Secretary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Leave open if uncertain [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Footer will automatically populate [↑](#footnote-ref-3)