

Agenda item 6 – IALA STRATEGY**6.1 IALA Change of Status Working Group*****6.1-1 Introduction***Note by the Secretariat**1 SUMMARY****1.1 Purpose of the paper**

The purpose of this paper is to provide the opportunity for Council to consider and approve a Terms of Reference by which to create a new Council standing committee – the IALA Change of Status Working Group (CoS WG).

1.2 Related documents

Annex A (input paper C59-6.1-2) contains the General Assembly Resolution on change of status.

Annex B (input paper C59-6.1-3) contains the draft CoS WG Terms of Reference.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The IALA General Assembly met in A Coruna, Spain in May 2014 and passed a Resolution (by 29 votes to 11) supporting the pursuit of a change of status for IALA to that of International Intergovernmental Organization (IGO). That Resolution, amongst other things and as a policy position, determined that IALA should strive to achieve IGO status and decided that IALA would support its members and their governments in achieving that status.

2.2 The Resolution also directed Council, with the assistance of the Secretary General, to progress the change of status for IALA and authorised Council to act in fulfilment of the Resolution. The Resolution is reproduced at Annex A for ease of reference.

3 DISCUSSION**3.1 The Role of Council**

3.1.1 The IALA Constitution tasks the IALA Council with a number of functions including implementing the overall policy of IALA, establishing committees or other such bodies as may be appropriate, approving documents and providing oversight of the management of the organisation.

- 3.1.2 In addition to the above the General Assembly, through the Resolution, has tasked Council with a new function - to further consider the preparation of IALA for a change of status, including the development and adoption of modern, flexible and efficient administrative practices.
- 3.1.3 Council has also been authorised to act in fulfilment of the Resolution, giving it authority to do all things necessary, in the name of IALA, to bring about the outcome desired by the General Assembly.
- 3.1.4 It is no longer open to Council to debate the merits of the Resolution but rather it is incumbent upon it to actively undertake the roles entrusted to it by the General Assembly on behalf of all IALA members.
- 3.1.5 The Resolution may be seen as the most substantial statement of policy for IALA since its inception. The change to an IGO will require actions at a number of stages in the process, identification and management of risk, management of stakeholder expectations and changes to the operation of the Secretariat. All of these matters will require careful planning and vigilant oversight by Council

3.2 The role of the Secretary-General

- 3.2.1 The Resolution envisages that Council will be assisted by the Secretary-General in preparing IALA for IGO status.
- 3.2.2 To begin this process the Secretariat has prepared the draft Terms of Reference for the CoS WG at Annex B for consideration by Council, mindful that neither Council nor the Secretariat are provided with additional resources to achieve the goal set by the General Assembly.

3.3 The Terms of Reference (TOR)

- 3.3.1 The TOR provide for the establishment of a Council working group, the objectives of which is to assist Council in meeting its obligations under the Resolution.
- 3.3.2 The TOR note objectives, a proposed composition including a suggested size and core membership, and deliverables for consideration. In this regard it is to be noted that this working group will need to be very active in determining tasks and providing outputs to move the change of status process forward. This will require time and effort and working group members are encouraged to consider engaging other resources from within their administration to meet the challenges ahead. It is considered that resources with project management, risk management, legal and diplomatic skills would be of assistance.
- 3.3.3 The TOR note that the Legal Advisory Panel (LAP) and Strategy Working Group will be useful additional resources for the CoS WG to call upon. This will be essential as the deliverables set for the working group involve high level strategic planning and the continuation of work on a draft Convention text.
- 3.3.4 The TOR suggest that the current Chairs of these two Council advisory groups might lead the CoS WG. There are synergies in this arrangement due to the nature of some of the deliverables. The problem with this may be the heavy workload associated with carrying all three working groups forward. Another alternative may be that the Secretary-General could lead the CoS WG, operating in close collaboration with the LAP and Strategy Working Group Chairs. The potential

problem with this arrangement is that the resources directly available to the Secretary-General are limited to those of the Secretariat and this may detract from the overall performance of the Working Group. In addition, only Council is authorised by the Resolution to do what is necessary to promote IGO status and whilst the Secretary-General is to assist Council, taking the role of Chair may be beyond what is envisaged.

- 3.3.5 The TOR suggests some early timeframes for presentation of deliverables by the CoS WG and Council. These are considered necessary to move this project forward in a timely manner.

4 REFERENCES

Nil.

5 ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL

Council is requested to:

1. **Note** the General Assembly Resolution provided to Annex A as it relates to the directions given to Council;
2. **Consider** the means by which Council can fulfil the directions given it by the General Assembly, and if that is to be done by formation of a working group;
3. **Approve** the text of Terms of Reference provided at Annex B.