

Input paper for the following Committee(s):

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☐ ARM☐ ENG☒ PAP☐ ENAV☐ VTS**Purpose of paper:**☐ Input☒ Information**Agenda item**

3.1

Author(s)/Submitter(s)

Secretariat

IALA's WORK WITH THE IMO

1. INTRODUCTION

For decades IALA as an association has been in close cooperation with both the IMO and the IHO and has held consultative status with IMO since 1961.

Following our IGO transition, France, as the depositary to the IALA Convention, made a submission on behalf of IALA, to the IMO Council requesting the establishment of a formal cooperation between the Organization and IMO subject to the aforementioned Resolution.

In line with the procedures and terms of cooperation between IMO and intergovernmental organizations (IMO Assembly Resolution A.1168(32)).

This was approved IMO Council, and the IMO Secretary-General submitted the request to the IMO Assembly for approval. In December 2025 the IMO Assembly endorsed a formal cooperation agreement between the two organizations recognizing IALA's new intergovernmental status and establishing the framework for future cooperation.

2. DISCUSSION

Resolution A.1168(32) is the legal mechanism through which IMO formally endorsed IALA as an IGO partner in December 2025. Below is what it changes in practice for IALA:

IALA is now a formally recognized intergovernmental partner of IMO.

IALA is no longer just a consultative NGO (as it was since 1961). It now operates under a treaty-level cooperation framework with IMO. This gives IALA institutional legitimacy comparable to:

- IHO
- WMO
- ICAO (in relevant contexts)

IALA may observe and submit documents directly to IMO under IGO rules and can now:

- Submit technical papers as an intergovernmental source, not an NGO.
- Participate in all relevant IMO bodies more seamlessly.
- Be explicitly tasked by IMO committees for expert input (e.g., VTS standards, AtoN guidance, e-Navigation, digitalization).

IALA's standards now carry greater authoritative weight.

Because IALA is an IGO:

- IMO Member States can rely on IALA standards as outputs of a formal intergovernmental process.
- This strengthens references such as SOLAS V/13 (which already relies on IALA's Buoyage System).

The relationship becomes reciprocal and structured.

IALA can now:

- Invite IMO to participate formally in its General Assembly, Council, and Committees, and events.
- Coordinate IMO–IALA–IHO trilateral work more effectively (e.g., S-100 / S-200, e-Navigation, digital maritime services).

IALA may now be commissioned by IMO for technical tasks.

Under A.1168(32), IMO can formally request IALA to:

- Develop technical guidance
- Assist with capacity building
- Contribute to risk-assessment tools
- Provide specialized expertise
- Etc.

Enhances global legitimacy and encourages wider State participation.

The resolution helps:

- Position IALA as a peer maritime IGO internationally
- Encourage non-member States to accede to the IALA Convention
- Strengthen IALA's global leadership in AtoN, VTS, and maritime digitalization

Annex A refers.

3. ACTION REQUESTED OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY

The Policy Advisory Panel is requested to note the information provided.

ANNEX A

IMO RESOLUTION A.1168(32) ON RELATIONS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS



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ASSEMBLY
32nd session
Agenda item 20(b)

A 32/Res.1168
28 January 2022
Original: ENGLISH

Resolution A.1168(32)

**Adopted on 15 December 2021
(Agenda item 20(b))**

RELATIONS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Part VI of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization and, in particular, Article 25,

NOTING ALSO Part XVI of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization and, in particular, Article 66,

BEARING IN MIND that no procedure was established to formalize the relations between the International Maritime Organization and intergovernmental organizations wishing to enter into agreements or arrangements of cooperation with it,

BEARING IN MIND ALSO that, to date, the agreements or arrangements of cooperation were formalized via an exchange of letters or the signature of an agreement of cooperation, following the Council and the Assembly's approval,

HAVING CONSIDERED the benefits of establishing clear and transparent procedures and terms for the cooperation with intergovernmental organizations whose interests and activities are related to the purposes of the Organization,

1 ADOPTS the *Procedures and terms for the cooperation between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and intergovernmental organizations*, the text of which is in the annex;

2 REQUESTS the Council to keep this resolution under review and propose amendments as appropriate, for adoption by the Assembly.

Annex

**PROCEDURES AND TERMS FOR THE COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- 1 The interests and activities of any intergovernmental organization wishing to cooperate with IMO shall be related to the purposes of the Organization.
- 2 Requests for cooperation with IMO from intergovernmental organizations shall be submitted to the Council, in the form of a Council document, by a Member State or a group of Member States on behalf of the interested intergovernmental organization.
- 3 Each request shall consist of a letter from the Executive Head of the interested organization and a supporting explanatory document.
- 4 If approved by the Council, the Secretary-General shall submit the request to the Assembly for approval.
- 5 Once approved by the IMO Assembly, the intergovernmental organization shall be allowed to observe and submit documents to meetings or conferences convened by or under the auspices of IMO to consider matters in which the intergovernmental organization has an interest, in accordance with the procedures applicable to each meeting or conference. The organization shall have no voting rights at the meetings or conferences. Conversely, the intergovernmental organization may invite the Secretary-General of IMO to send observers and submit documents to meetings or conferences convened by or under the auspices of the intergovernmental organization to consider matters in which IMO has an interest, in accordance with the governing rules of the intergovernmental organization.
- 6 IMO and the intergovernmental organization may consult each other on matters of common interest to both with a view to ensuring maximum coordination of the work and activities of their respective organizations.
- 7 The intergovernmental organization may, at the request of IMO, render assistance to IMO in matters falling within the scope of IMO's activities.
- 8 IMO may withdraw this arrangement for cooperation at any time following a decision from the IMO Council which shall be submitted to the IMO Assembly for approval. Equally, the intergovernmental organization may withdraw from the arrangement at any time.