



## IALA COUNCIL 62<sup>nd</sup> session



**21-24 June 2016**  
**Lisbon**  
**Portugal**

### 8 – STRATEGY AND POLICY

#### *8.3 – Advisory Group on Change of Status*

##### 8.3.2 – Status of the Action Plan

Note by the Secretary-General

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

At its 60th session in May 2015 in Kuala Lumpur Council agreed on an action plan for the change of status (CoS) project. The action plan has been reviewed by the Change of Status Advisory Group at its 2nd meeting 9 November 2015 in IALA and at the 3th meeting in May 2016 by correspondence.

The plan contains 4 main areas: Communication, Diplomacy, Financial Aspects and Convention text and related documents.

An updated action plan can be found as input paper C62-8.3.2.2.

#### **2. COMMUNICATION PLAN**

Councillors will recall that the Secretariat's work on the Communication Plan will be ongoing for some time and that the overall objective is to reach the broad stakeholder groups outlined in that Plan, namely, the IALA membership (National, Industrial and Associate Members), other international organizations (including IMO and other IGOs), and the broader maritime community including the maritime press.

Document C61-7.3.2.1 refers.

##### *Communication with IALA Membership: IGO Information Pack*

An IGO Information Pack has been distributed to National, Associate and Industrial Members, together with a covering letter of the Secretary-General providing an update on progress accomplished towards the CoS Project.

The information provided concerns two important IGO-related documents:

- An Explanatory Note including the draft IALA Convention text (as accepted at C61) in English, French and Spanish.
- The IMO information paper (as noted by the 29th Assembly of the International Maritime Organization, held 23 November-3 December 2015) in English, French and Spanish.

Members are free to circulate these documents to interested colleagues and concerned members of the maritime community, and to publicize the good progress made with the CoS Project with Government officials in their respective countries and particularly with Ministries of Foreign Affairs. In his letter, the Secretary-General encourages all Members to do so in order to assist in the build-up and necessary coordination of the diplomatic processes around the world, in preparation of the Diplomatic Conference that will adopt the new IALA Convention.



#### C62-8.3.2.1

When using or circulating the information, Members are kindly advised to draw on the authoritative outline, as provided in the Secretary-General's letter, of the most important provisions of the draft IALA Convention text. This will ensure clarity, accuracy and consistency of the 'IGO message' and thus avoid any confusion or misinterpretation regarding the aims, functions and operations of IALA as an IGO.

#### *Communication with other International Organizations*

A similar IGO Information Pack has been sent to other international organizations, in particular, IALA's 'sister' IGOs and those organizations with which it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), as appropriate for each organization.

'Sister' international organizations:

- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- International Hydrographic Organization
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO)

MoU partners:

- International Navigation Association (PIANC)
- Comité International Radio Maritime (CIRM)
- International Harbour Masters Association (IHMA)
- Nautical Institute (NI)
- International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- International Maritime Pilots Association (IMPA)
- Maritime Organization for West and Central Africa (MOWCA)

The same exercise will be extended to relevant stakeholders in the wider maritime community, including the shipping industry and representative bodies of seafarers as the prime users of aids to navigation and related services.

#### *IALA Website*

Councillors will recall that information on the progress with the IGO Action Plan can be tracked on the IALA website [www.iala-aism.org](http://www.iala-aism.org) (click on "About IALA" on the Home page and scroll down to "Latest News" and click through page numbers in the bottom right hand corner of the screen to find "Change of Status").

A new web site with the new Visual image and a better structure will be launched in June 2016.

#### *IALA Bulletin and maritime press*

Councillors will recall that IALA has engaged the part-time services of Ms Aline De Bièvre. Her first Bulletin article appeared in the 2016-1 Edition and she will be writing articles in future Bulletins. She is also assisting the Technical Operations Manager with the summaries of the Committee reports for publication and with sourcing articles from Members and relevant external parties. Using her maritime press contacts, she is taking advantage of opportunities to write about IALA's work in the international maritime press. Her article on how IALA is tackling the challenge of global harmonization of aids to



navigation was published by Marine Electronics and Communications in its print publication as well as on its website in February 2016. The MEC website link is

[http://www.marinemec.com/news/view,global-harmonisation-of-navigation-aids-remains-a-challenge\\_41765.htm](http://www.marinemec.com/news/view,global-harmonisation-of-navigation-aids-remains-a-challenge_41765.htm)

### 3. DIPLOMACY

In accordance with the action plan, the SG has send a letter to National Members asking them to provide the IALA Secretariat with two “Points of Contact (PoC)”; one from within its Administration and the other from the Government Administration responsible for the Diplomatic Action, for example the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Secretary General has send the relevant information to the French Foreign Ministry and a meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

The member of the Council from the host nation will update Council more in details about future diplomatic at the C62 in Lisbon.

### 4. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

The change of status Advisory Group in its first meeting in Madrid (CoS1) concluded that it was necessary to investigate the financial impacts of the change of status for IALA as part of the Action Plan.

As a result a report on the financial issues of the change of status of IALA was developed including a follow-up legal advice from Dr. Rosalie Balkin on the possibilities of continuing to accept financial contributions from others than contracting parties in the future.

CoS 2 discussed the outcome of both the financial report and the legal advice from Dr. Balkin and gave advice to Council on how to proceed.

A majority of attendees stated that a significant raise of annual membership contributions would be considered a major risk factor in proceeding with the change of status project specifically in getting support in membership countries to sign the Convention and becoming contracting party.

Council decided at C61 in December 2015 to proceed with the scenario in which the annual membership contributions would roughly stay the same as today.

### 5. CONVENTION TEXT AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

IALA General Assembly has agreed that IALA’s aim to assist in the development and harmonisation of aids to navigation worldwide can best be achieved if IALA has a strong, international legal framework that ensures transparency and good governance, that positions IALA to work in close collaboration with governments and other intergovernmental organisations, and that fosters the work of IALA as the peak international technical body in its field.

A multilateral convention to create IALA as an IGO has been determined to be the path to achieve this outcome. LAP has been assisting Council in the development of a suitable instrument for this purpose.

The draft IALA Convention was agreed by Council at C61 and has been forwarded to the French Foreign Ministry for further diplomatic action.

#### *Related documents*

The Draft General Regulations including draft Financial Regulations for IALA as an IGO based on the Basic Documents developed for the present IALA and taking into account the draft Convention text for IALA as an IGO have been prepared by a dedicated LAP working group and reviewed at LAP 16 in April 2016.

The draft General Regulations have been reviewed by the CoS Advisory Group and Japan has send some comprehensive comments.



#### C62-8.3.2.1

The draft General Regulations as reviewed by the CoS Advisory Group are input paper C62-8.3.3.1 and the comments provided by Japan Coast Guard are input paper C62-8.3.3.2. The Risk Register is input paper C62-8.3.2.3.

Council is requested to discuss the draft General Regulations including the draft Financial Regulations and advice on the way forward especially where LAP needs to focus in their future meeting in the fall of 2016.

It is anticipated that Council can agree on the draft general regulations at its meeting in December 2016.

#### **6. THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO**

**Discuss** the draft General Regulations and advice on the way forward.

**Note** the information provided.