

IALA COUNCIL
77th session



28 May 2023
Rio de Janeiro
Brazil

6.1 - REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. GENERAL

This document provides a general update on several matters related to the governance and operation of IALA. Some matters will be dealt with in greater detail under other agenda items.

The experience has shown that face-to-face meetings remain IALA's preferred mode of operation. However, the Secretariat has made arrangements for all meetings except for the Conference/General Assembly to take place in a hybrid/blended version with a combination of virtual and physical meetings.

The membership of IALA and the interest in the committee work is very satisfying. The work period of 5 years - due to the pandemic - has finished with a very good result.

The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation closed for signatures in January 2022 and has been signed by 50 States. Nineteen States (30 April 2023) have ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to the Convention and it is expected that many States will follow soon.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of IALA consists of 330 members: 94 National, 158 Industrial and 78 Associate, which six members more than last year at the same period after the termination or resignation of some members which took effect from 1st January 2023. The movements in membership in the different categories since C76 are the following:

Applications:

- One new application was received for National membership and provisionally accepted. It is to be confirmed by the Council.
- Four new applications were received for Industrial membership and provisionally accepted. They are to be confirmed by the Council.
- One change of category was received from Associate to Industrial membership and provisionally accepted. It is to be confirmed by the Council.
- One new application was received for Associate membership and provisionally accepted. It is to be confirmed by the Council.

Resignations:

- One resignation was received from Industrial membership.
- One resignation was received from Associate membership.



Members in arrear:

Two National members were notified of the waiving of their suspension by the last Council and of the willingness of IALA to find a compromise. (Algeria and Rep of Congo). However, and although they acknowledged receipt of such a correspondence, no official reaction was observed. The Council may note that the Republic of Congo has signed the Convention on the new IALA and is about to ratify.

In addition to that and despite the successful collection of debt by the Secretariat, the following organizations are now in the position to have their rights suspended:

- Whenzou Lighthouse Electronic and Shanghai Spaceflight of TT&C in the People's Republic of China;
- Maritime Atlantic Global SAS in Colombia; Invelco SA in Spain;
- CV Sarana Samudra Raya, Keira Surya Kencana, PT. and PT. Lestari Marina Utama in Indonesia;
- Offshore Maritime Subsea Advance Technologies Inc. in the *Philippines*;
- Geo System Research Corporation and Keumha Naval Technology Co., Ltd in the Rep. of Korea;
- CNS Systems in *Sweden*; Anayurt Savunma San Ltd. Sti, in Turkey;
- Port of Melbourne Corporation and Fremantle Ports in *Australia*;
- European Space Agency;
- Nigerian Marine coast Guard; and
- Institute of High-Performance Computing in *Singapore*; Instituto Nacional de Canalizaciones in *Venezuela*.

Sitronik KT in Russia has also made a request to have its Industrial membership suspended because of the conflict with Ukraine.

More details on membership are in the respective agenda points.

3. WORK OF THE COMMITTEES AND SUSIDIARY BODIES

The arrangements for the hybrid committees have been very successful using the online facilities offered to the membership and the committee's dashboard hosted on the IALA website.

The virtual meetings have been arranged with an opening plenary and two to four weeks of intersessional meetings and presentations, a period of silent approval of output document and a closing plenary. Even if these virtual meetings have been very successful face-to-face meetings are still the preferred option for IALA, which was clearly demonstrated during the physical meetings in St. Germain-en-Laye in 2022.

The Committee meetings will be conducted in a hybrid/blended version with a physical week, including the possibility of on-line participation, in the headquarters and virtual meetings between the opening plenary and the closing plenary. There will also be a period for silent approval of the output documents. This procedure is reflected in the General Regulations.

The work period of five years - due to the pandemic - has finished with a very good result. Most of the work items have successfully been finished and some few carried over to the next work period. An update will be given during the meeting and Council will be asked to note and comment on the work plan for the next period for approval of the incoming Council at C78 on 3 June 2023.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

With the latest reorganization the IALA and WWA staff now consist of 12 full-time employed members and eight consultants (seven in the Academy section and one for Communication) and one student on an apprenticeship contract.



The Staff regulations have been updated to accommodate working from home (télétravail) which proves to be very efficient and saves a lot of time and travel costs for the staff.

5. COMMUNICATION

IALA's external communication has proved to be successful with an ongoing presence in the media. The e-Bulletin has made its place as a regular means of communication used to update the membership on the latest developments and a place to advertise for our Industrial members. The website is constantly developed to provide information to the members on news and events.

During the last month communication efforts has been concentrated on promoting the Conference on the web site and on social media.

6. THE CHANGE OF STATUS PROJECT

The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation is ratified, approved, accepted or accessed by 19 States as of 30 April 2023. The Convention will enter into force 90 days after 30 States have deposited their instrument with the French Government. The first General Assembly of the new IGO has to be convened within 6 months from the day the Convention enter into force.

The Secretariat has started the detailed preparation for the transition period between the start of the new organization and the termination of the present association. For this purpose and after advice from the LAP, the Secretariat has appointed a French law firm, Carlara Avocats, to provide legal assistance throughout the transition period and until the winding up of the Association is complete. Carlara Avocats will provide assistance with respect to the administrative formalities required by French law for the transfer of the rights, interests, assets and liabilities in favour of the new IGO.

7. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The World-Wide Academy continues to develop under the leadership of the Dean and the Academy Board, chaired by Professor Gug.

The Academy has now fully resumed its physical activities in pursue of their strategic goals through its "Enlighten, Educate and Engage" strategy. Also, several accredited training organisations around the world have decided to deliver the IALA AtoN Manager course before the end of the year.

The new Education and Training Manager, Latifa Oumouzoune, who took office in the beginning of the year, is performing well following quite a steep learning curve.

The Academy would not exist were it not for generous sponsorship both in direct and indirect funding from several nations and organizations and the superb and unstinting support from the four IALA Committees, for which we are thankful.

The Dean will brief in more detail under the relevant agenda item.

8. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO

Note the information provided in the report.