



REPORT OF THE 81ST SESSION OF THE IALA COUNCIL

20 November 2025, Video Conference

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OPENING

The 81st and final session of the Council of the International Association of Marine Aids, Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) marked the official transition from an international association to an intergovernmental organization (IGO). The meeting focused on finalizing legal, financial, and administrative steps, celebrating the organization's legacy, and acknowledging the contributions of council members and staff.

1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

The president, Marcos de Almeida welcomed participants to the eighty-first and final session of the Council of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities. He also welcomed Mr Michael Skaarup (Eltea Avocats) and Mr Thomas Descamps (Rydge Conseil) who attended the meeting in case of any legal questions about the termination process.

He then said that despite the formalities of terminating IALA as an International Association, this meeting had a special significance, as it represented another chapter in the history of IALA, honoring its past and its legacy, paying tribute to all those who helped build it with dedication, effort, and knowledge.

IALA would continue to sail under a single flag, of an intergovernmental organization, and it would continue on the course of professionalism, competence, and dedication to increasingly safe, harmonized, and sustainable navigation on all seas and oceans.

The Secretary-General, Francis Zachariae, also welcomed and thanked participants for attending this last council meeting of the Association.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Thomas Wagner, Councillor for Germany and Maarten Berrevoets, Councillor for The Netherlands.

A list of participants is at Annex B.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Input paper C81-3.1 refers.

The agenda was approved and can be found at Annex A.

4. VACANT POSITION WITHIN COUNCIL

There was no vacant position within the Council.

5. STRATEGY AND POLICY

5.1 Update on the change of status and ratifications

Input paper C81-5.1 refers.

The Secretary-General reported that 42 Member States have joined the new IALA, with Italy as the latest. The transition process was described as efficient and a source of pride for the organization.

The Council noted the update.

5.2 Winding up of the Association IALA-AISM

The Legal Statement from the French law firm Eltea Avocats confirmed the completion of all legal and financial formalities required by French law for dissolving the association. All assets, liabilities, and staff were successfully transferred to the new IGO, including the headquarters transferred on 29 July 2025.

The Annex to the Convention (Transitional Arrangements) and Article 13 of the current IALA Constitution outline the automatic dissolution of IALA as an association. References to the "Council" in the Constitution refer to the Council of IALA as an association.

The Secretary-General thanked the council and staff for their dedication during this transition period.

The Council noted that all formalities required by French law for the dissolution of the Association are completed and that the winding up (dissolution) of the legal structure Association IALA-AISM will be duly formalized before the end of 2025.

6. FINANCES

6.1 Financial statements of the Association for the period from 1 January to 31 July 2025

Input paper C81-6.1 refers.

The treasurer, Iain Lower, presented the financial statements of the Association.

The transfer of rights, assets, liabilities and staff took place in several steps during the year 2025:

- The transfer of staff took place on 31 March with the signing of new employment contracts;
- The transfer of contracts with suppliers and other social contracts took place during the year and is now complete;
- All bank accounts were easily transferred by Société Générale;
- The debts were automatically transferred to the IGO's accounts.

The transfer of the property, which was the last formality to be completed, was made with a Notary on 29 July 2025. It was therefore decided to close the association's accounts on 31 July 2025.

The Administration and Finance Director, Christine Phillip, and the French lawyer Michael Skaarup from Eltea Avocats and the Chartered accountant from Rydge, Thomas Descamps were available for questions, but none were raised.

The Council noted the financial statements.

6.2 Closing of the Association's accounts

Input paper C81-6.2 refers.

The Association's accounts were reviewed by chartered accountant Rydge. It has been needed to separate accountings data in the respective entities (Association and Organization), recalculate all provisions and record necessary adjustment entry before closing definitively the accounts of the Association as of July 31, 2025.

On the date of the transfer of assets, only the Association's balance sheet will be included in the Organization's accounts. This transaction will therefore have no impact on the Organization's results as at 31 December 2025. In order to obtain a clear picture of the financial year's activity, the accounts of both structures will need to be combined.

The Council noted the closing of the Association's accounts.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The councillors for Singapore, Korea, Spain and India, and expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's work and welcomed the transition. Members looked forward to upcoming meeting in Mumbai under the new IGO structure.

The President concluded the meeting, emphasizing the importance of the transition and thanking all participants for their contributions.

ANNEX A – AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

APPROVED AGENDA

ITEM		ACTION REQUESTED
1.	PRESIDENT’S OPENING REMARKS	Note
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Note
3.	AGENDA	
3.1	Provisional Agenda	Note
4.	VACANT POSITIONS WITHIN THE COUNCIL	Note
5.	STRATEGY AND POLICY	
5.1	Update on the change of status and ratifications	Note
5.2	Winding up of the Association IALA-AISM	Note
6.	FINANCES	
6.1	Financial statements of the Association for the period from 1 January to 31 July 2025	Note
6.2	Closing of the Association’s accounts	Note
7.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	Note

ANNEX B – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Brazil	Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação (DHN) of the Brazilian Navy (President) Marcos ALMEIDA Renato LACERDA
India	Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (Vice-president) Natarajan MURUGANANDAM
United Kingdom	Trinity House (Treasurer) Iain LOWER Northern Lighthouse Board Mike BULLOCK
Australia	Australian Maritime Safety Authority Mary DEAN
Canada	Canadian Coast Guard Natasha McMahon
Chile	General Director of Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine Chilean Navy, Directemar Carlos FREDES Henry ARRIAGADA
China	Maritime Safety Administration WANG Ping LUO Ziwen
Finland	Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency Simo KERKELA Kaisu HEIKONEN
Japan	Japan Coast Guard Koichi KAWAGOE Masatora ONO Makoto TAMURA Mayumi ARITA
Republic of Korea	Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries BAE YongChan

Kingdom of Morocco	Ports and Maritime Public Domaine Direction Nisrine LAZARE
Norway	Norwegian Coastal Administration Arve DIMMEN
Singapore	Maritime and Port of Authority of Singapore Muhammad SEGAR Selica LAI Woei Tyng TAN Luqman HAKIM
Spain	Puertos del Estado Javier Martin Santo Domingo
Sweden	Swedish Maritime Administration Johan WINELL
Türkiye	Directorate General of Coastal Safety Serhat AYTUGEL
US	Coast Guard R. David LEWALD
IMG	Observer Simon BROOKS
IALA	Secretary-General Francis ZACHARIAE Deputy Secretary-General Omar Frits ERIKSSON Technical Operations Director Minsu JEON Finance and Administration Director Christine PHILIP Communication Manager Audrey GUINAULT Head of International Relations Lorraine MBONG Document Controller and Legal Advisor Christina SCHNEIDER



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