

**Comments, observations and suggestions of the Russian Federation
on the draft General Regulations and Financial Regulations
for the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation
(Tokyo, 7-10 November 2023)**

General Regulations	Russian Federation`s comments
Article 2	
2. Application for Associate and Affiliate Membership (b) The Secretariat will submit applications for Associate membership to the General Assembly and applications for Affiliate membership to the Council, for a decision	To change: «The Secretariat shall submit all applications...»
3. Industrial Members	To add: «Industrial Affiliate Members» Is there an intention to introduce a new kind of members (Industrial Members)? Won't it contravene Article 5 (1) of the Convention which stipulates that there are only three kinds of membership: State Members, Associated Members and Affiliate Members? If the Industrial Members introduced to differentiate fees are a subtype of Affiliate Members, then for the purpose of consistency we would suggest to call them Industrial Affiliate Members. Do we understand it correctly that the second subtype will be called «other Affiliate Members» (as in Article 2(4)(a))?
4. Fees	Article 2 is devoted to «Membership» as a whole. However it lacks rules regarding the fees of the State Members.
5. Suspension and Reinstatement of Associate and Affiliate Membership (b) The General Assembly may suspend an Associate membership and the Council may suspend an Affiliate membership for any justifiable cause in the best interest of the Organization.	To change: «The General Assembly may suspend an Associate membership and the Council may suspend an Affiliate membership for any activities incompatible with the aim and objectives of the Organization set forth in Article 3 of the Convention. » The Russian Delegation believes the term «the best interest of the Organization» is vague and subjective to be used in connection with suspension

	of membership. Reference to the provisions of the Convention would, in our opinion, be more suitable.
<p>6. Termination of Associate and Affiliate Membership</p> <p>(c) by the General Assembly for Associate Members and by the Council for Affiliate Members, for any justifiable cause in the best interest of the Organization.</p>	<p>To change:</p> <p>«by the General Assembly for Associate Members and by the Council for Affiliate Members, for any activities incompatible with the aim and objectives of the Organization set forth in Article 3 of the Convention.»</p> <p>The Russian Delegation believes the term «the best interest of the Organization» is vague and subjective to be used in connection with termination of membership. Reference to the provisions of the Convention would, in our opinion, be more suitable.</p>
Article 3	
<p>1. Convening</p> <p>(b) ...Under exceptional circumstances the Council may decide to convene the General Assembly virtually.</p>	<p>To delete.</p> <p>It is not clear which exceptional circumstances are meant here.</p> <p>There are no proper guidelines neither in the Draft General Regulations nor in any other documents as to the modalities of organizing virtual meetings and ways of providing in this respect necessary guarantees for every country's right to participate in the work of the General Assembly. In this regard virtual meetings would require special Rules of procedure. Elections can only take place in-person with a view of keeping secrecy of vote.</p>
<p>2. Attendance</p> <p>(c) Each Member State shall communicate in writing, in accordance with its own practice, to the Secretary-General the names of the persons composing its delegation to the General Assembly, designating its principal delegate, as well as its alternate. This communication signed by an appropriate government authority of the Member State will be regarded as appropriate credentials for the</p>	<p>The Russian Delegation would like to seek clarification on how this provision will be realized in practice.</p>

participation of the named individuals in all activities of the General Assembly.	
<p>3. Organization</p> <p>(f) The provisional agenda for an extraordinary session of General Assembly called by the Council shall be prepared by the Secretary-General for approval by the Council and shall include consideration of the question(s) for which the session was convened.</p> <p>(g) The provisional agenda for an extraordinary session of General Assembly called by the Member States shall be prepared by the Secretary-General and shall include consideration of the question(s) for which the session was convened.</p>	To merge (f) and (g).
<p>5. Election of the President and the Vice President</p> <p>The General Assembly shall elect the President and Vice President of the Organization as follows:</p> <p>(a) The Secretary-General will invite Member States to declare their candidacy for the Presidency or Vice Presidency one hundred eighty calendar days before the opening of the General Assembly. Nominations will be received by the Secretariat for the following hundred and twenty calendar days. Nominations should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the name of Member State being nominated in each case; and ii. a statement, in the form approved by the Council and provided by the Secretariat, outlining the credentials of the Member State in each case. 	The Russian Delegation would like to seek clarification on how this provision will be realized in practice.
(g) Should the position of President become vacant, the Vice President will assume this role and the position of Vice President will become vacant instead. In this event, the Secretary-General shall call for nominations to fill the vacant position and will conduct a ballot, either in session or electronically, in	<p>To delete «electronically».</p> <p>Votes and elections can only take place in-person. There are no proper guidelines neither in the Draft General Regulations nor in any other documents as to the modalities of organizing a ballot electronically.</p>

accordance with the provisions above.	
Article 4	
4.3 Voting	To add subpara d) stipulating a procedure for the situations when the number of votes is equal.
Article 6	
2. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair (d) Chairs and Vice Chairs of working groups in accordance with Article 3.2 (c) shall normally be provided by Member States. However, where appropriate, they may be drawn from Associate Members and Affiliate Members or relevant international organizations.	Reference to Article 3.2 (c) seems wrong.
3. Rules of Procedure	To add «Rules of Procedure for Committees ».
3.3 Decisions	The Russian Delegation would like to clarify how the decisions will be made in working groups.
Article 8	
3. Exhibitions (a) At conferences An exhibition of Marine Aids to Navigation equipment will be organized during each conference period. Only those Industrial Members who have paid the equivalent of the fees for the two years immediately prior to the year of the conference, plus the year of the conference, will have the right to exhibit.	The Russian Delegation is not sure this provision is necessary – seeks clarification.

Financial Regulations (Annex A)	Russian Federation`s comments
Article 3	
Budget 3. The operating currency shall be the currency of the Member State in which the seat of the Organization is located	The Russian Delegation suggests allowing payments in different currencies.
5. Any transfers of allocations between different categories of expenditure specified in the annual budget shall be reported as a revised budget, with the necessary justification, to the Finance and Audit Group.	To set a limit of 10-15% for any transfers of allocations between different categories of expenditure.
Article 4	
Procurement	The Russian Delegation would like to seek clarification on the procurement limits and method which should be detailed in the Secretariat Procedures. The key principles could be provided for in the Financial Regulations.
Article 5	
Financial Statements 2. The Secretariat shall submit the draft financial statements to the Finance and Audit Group, not later than fourteen calendar days prior to a Finance and Audit Group meeting.	Fourteen calendar days could not be enough for a thorough analysis.
Article 6	
Cash Reserve	The Russian Delegation would like to seek clarification on the calculation formula for the value of the cash reserve.
Article 7	
Annual Contributions and Fees	Needs clarification regarding a partial return of annual contribution in case of termination of membership (proportionate to a period of being a Member of IALA).
Article 10	
External Audit 2. The appointment is for a period of six years and may be renewed.	To change: «The appointment is for a period of three years and may be renewed once .»