LIAISON NOTE TO COUNCIL

Revision of IMO Resolution A.857(20) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services

# INTRODUCTION

The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its 99th meeting, agreed to a submission to revision of Resolution A.857(20) on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services (MSC 99/20/3), to ensure that they were modernised/updated and continued to serve as an effective instrument, providing a clear framework to implement vessel traffic services globally in a harmonized manner.

Sponsors of the submission included:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Government | Non-Government |
| * Australia * China * India * Norway * Republic of Korea * Singapore * South Africa * Turkey | * IALA * IHMA * International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations * International Association of Institutes of Navigation * The Nautical Institute |

The submission document highlighted eight key areas of the resolution that require clarification or update. These include:

* Role of Competent Authority / VTS Authority
* Changing traditional boundaries
* VTS and Future Developments
* Types of Service (INS, TOS and NAS)
* Result-oriented instructions
* VTS Qualifications, Training and Certification
* Recognition of IALA Standards relating to VTS
* Administrative amendments

MSC assigned the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) as the coordinating organ for the revision during the 2019-2020 biennium.

# DISCUSSION

Anticipating that NCSR may welcome the assistance of IALA in coordinating the work associated with the revision of the resolution during the 2019-2020 biennium the VTS Committee has:

* Prepared a work programme to facilitate completing a draft revision for consideration at NCSR 7.
* Commenced preparations for a workshop on the Revision of Resolution A.857(20) in 2019 to:
  + Facilitate discussion and active engagement amongst stakeholders in preparing a draft revision of the Resolution for submission to the IMO.
  + Provide the opportunity to broaden the participation and engagement in preparing a draft revision, particularly with IMO members who may not have been involved in the preparation of the submission by IALA (MSC99/20/3).
  + Assist the VTS Committee in finalising the draft revision for submission to NCSR 7.
* Prepared ‘*guiding principles’* that provide a framework for drafting the revised/new resolution in a manner that will ensure the outcomes identified in the IMO submission (MSC99/20/3) are achieved.
* Completed a first draft for a revised/new resolution.
* Formed a correspondence group to progress completion of the tasks identified in the work programme intersessionally, via teleconference.

# ACTION REQUESTED

The Council is requested to note the work being undertaken by the VTS Committee in preparation for the revision of the resolution by NCSR during the 2019-2020 biennium.