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| **IALA COUNCIL**  **CoS 4** |  | **October 2016**  **Input paper CoS4-1.2.** |

**IGO Action Plan – Diplomatic action**

Note by the Secretariat

#### General

Councillors will recall that the next step in the IGO action plan on Diplomatic Action was the start of the diplomatic process by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This action was supposed to start when the draft Convention text and the draft General Regulations were ready to be presented to the National Members and the diplomatic representations in the member countries.

#### Pre-diplomatic meeting in 2017

##### There has been a number of meetings between the IALA Secretariat, the French Direction des Affaires Maritimes and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

##### The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided to start the 2nd round of diplomatic action by inviting to a pre-diplomatic meeting in Paris early in 2017. Invitation, proposed dates and agenda will be developed in the next weeks and Council will be updated during C63 in December 2016.

#### The draft Convention

The French MinistryofForeign Affairs has decided to accept the draft Convention text as prepared by the IALA Council with the change that French is added as a working language.

It is very common that International Organizations have more than one official language. In the draft Convention for IALA it is proposed to have English, French and Spanish as official languages. Legislation and documents of major public importance or interest are produced in all official languages and there will be interpretation available in the 3 official languages at the General Assembly. This is the same procedure as IALA is following now.

Many international organizations also have more than one working language. A working language is a language that is given a unique status in the organization. The working language is often English and the language of the host nation or the country where the organization have most interest. Documents which a member or a person sends to the organization may be drafted in one of the working languages selected by the sender. The reply is drafted in the same language. Delegates may choose to submit working papers in the working languages, but they are not all automatically translated, which helps to keep the expenses of having more than one working language to a minimum. For IALA it could be proposed to translate working documents submitted to Council or Committees in French into English. A qualified person for that job is already in the present 4 year budget.

An explanatory note and the draft convention text for the further diplomatic process is attached as input paper 1.2.1.

#### THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

**Note** the update.