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# INTERNATIONAL 18.10.2024

# *IMO/ITU*

# Report of 20th Joint IMO/ITU EG meeting

Note by the IALA representative Stefan Bober

#### BACKGROUND

The 20th meeting of the Joint IMO/ITU Expert Group on Maritime Radiocommunication Matters was held at IMO Headquarters in London from 7 to 11 October 2024. Chairman was Mr. Mr. A. Jennings (Ireland). IALA is an observer in consultative status and was represented by Stefan Bober for the meeting.

#### Introduction

The meeting of the Joint IMO/ITU Expert group is an annually meeting held at IMO to exchange information on maritime radiocommunication matters between IMO and ITU. The work of this Joint IMO/ITU Expert group (further referred to as the group) is one of the bases for the development of the IMO position on maritime radiocommunication matters at ITU.

The main agenda items of the meeting were:

* Briefing on the outcome of relevant IMO and ITU bodies
* Outcome of WRC-23 and preliminary draft IMO position on WRC-27 agenda items
* Revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-5
* Blockage to AIS signals caused by VHF radiotelephony
* Dissemination of MSI and SAR related information through recognized mobile satellite services
* Consideration of matters related to NAVDAT
* Any other business: Revision of MSC.1/Circ.1657, Development of IMT-2030 standardization, Manufacturer IDs for devices using a freeform number identity,

#### issues related to IALA work addressed during the Joint IMO/ITU EG meeting

##### Preliminary draft IMO position on WRC-27 agenda items

The Group prepared a preliminary draft IMO position on relevant WRC-27 agenda items. The Group noted that the draft IMO position should be finalized in 2026 for approval and submission to the ITU Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC-27, which had not been scheduled yet.  
Regarding WRC-27 agenda item 1.12, use the frequency band 1 645.5-1 646.5 MHz, IMO restated its WRC-23 position to support the use of 1 MHz band by recognized MSS providers for GMDSS. However further consideration is needed, e.g. the use of this frequency band for Fleet Safety Service or for future MASS operation. .

##### • Revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-5

The group considered the liaison note from ITU on the draft revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-5. The Group prepared a draft new table of ship types (i.e. table A7-8), containing existing ship types and amendments to the existing ship types as well as new ship types. The new table can accommodate up to 99 ship type identifiers and should replace the existing table of ship types. The group emphasized the need for navigation experts to consider the proposed draft new table A7-8 at NCSR 12.  
In anticipation of the conclusion of the work on the development of VDES performance standards at NCSR 12, the Group noted general support for the inclusion of the VDES capability indicator in the revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-5.  
The Group prepared a proposal to the draft revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-5 to align the information regarding the entry of the IMO number in AIS with the amended performance standard for AIS as adopted by MSC109.  
The Group noted that once the revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-5 was completed by ITU, certain IMO instruments might require consequential amendments (e.g. resolution MSC.74(69), , the draft AIS performance standards, MSC.1/Circ.1252 and SN/Circ.227).

##### Blockage to AIS signals caused by VHF radiotelephony

The Group considered document from the United States concerning the blockage of the reception of AIS signals by the operation of VHF radiotelephones nearby. While acknowledging the issue, the Group was of the view that IMO would need to review the results of further studies and/or tests to be able to analyse the impact of the AIS signal blockage problem on safety of navigation. The Group prepared a draft liaison statement to ITU-R WP 5B on Blockage of AIS signals caused by VHF radiotelephony.

##### Draft performance standards for NAVDAT

The group reviewed the draft NAVDAT manual for further development, to align the text with the draft NAVDAT performance standards and the WRC-23 decisions. The Group noted a view indicating that the technical characteristics of the NAVDAT system were compliant with the requirements of IHO S-124 navigational warnings product specifications  
The Group reviewed the road map on the issues to be considered regarding the introduction of NAVDAT service.

##### Revision of MSC.1/Circ.1657

Group prepared draft modifications to MSC.1/Circ.1657, aligning the operational procedures for responding to DSC distress alerts by ships with those included in Recommendation ITU-R M.541-11.

##### Development of IMT-2030 standardization

The Group noted the information provided by IALA, presenting information concerning the work undertaken by IALA on the development of use cases and service requirements for marine AtoN to support the development of IMT-2030 standardization.

##### Manufacturer IDs for devices using a freeform number identity

The Group noted a liaison statement from ITU-R WP 5B concerning the assignment of manufacturer IDs to companies producing devices using a freeform number identity.

#### IALA IS REQUESTED TO

**Note** the report of 20th Joint IMO/ITU EG meeting