

Council Out of Session Approval
Agenda item XXX
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Approval of Documentation for General Assembly

1 SUMMARY

This paper presents draft documents related to the conduct of the General Assembly for approval by Council.

1.1 Purpose of the paper

The purpose of this paper is to provide the opportunity for Council to review and approve the Letter of Invitation, including the Agenda and planned approach for the conduct of the General Assembly, and to advise Council regarding the provision of information to members.

1.2 Related documents

Annex A contains the Letter of Invitation, which has been agreed by the IALA President
Annex B contains the document Change of Status – Case for Change
Annex C contains the document Change of Status – Frequently Asked Questions

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The IALA General Assembly will take place in A Coruna in May 2014. The IALA Constitution states that a function of the IALA Council is to convene General Assemblies; to comply with the requirements of the French Law of Associations, (which provides IALA legal status and governs the Constitution) this action should be undertaken by invitation to all members at a reasonable time before the meeting is to be held.
- 2.2 Dependent upon other decisions of Council, the General Assembly will invite National members to approve changes to the IALA Constitution and a Resolution regarding a change to the status of IALA. To assist National members form a view on these issues it is proposed to make a range of additional information available.

3 DISCUSSION

3.1 Convening the General Assembly

- 3.1.1 The Letter of Invitation at Annex A will provide the means by which Council convenes the General Assembly. The form of the invitation is in accordance with French legal requirements, one of which is that members be provided with an Agenda for the General Assembly.
- 3.1.2 French law also requires that the invitation be made available ‘within a reasonable time’ prior to the meeting. It is the intention of the Secretariat to

make the information available at least four weeks prior to the first session of the General Assembly, that is, by 28 April 2014.

- 3.1.3 The Letter of Invitation also includes information regarding the proposed conduct of the General Assembly meeting. This information explains the split sessions and the purpose of the business in each session.
- 3.1.4 Importantly the document also contains reference to a list of materials that will be provided for consideration by members, using the IALADOCs mechanism. This is in keeping with the 'paperless' approach being adopted.

3.2 Noting of new information documents

- 3.2.1 Council 55 tasked the Secretariat to explain to members the benefits and other implications of moving to IGO status. Two new information documents in this regard are provided at Annex B and Annex C. These documents distil the work of the first Extraordinary Legal Advisory Panel meeting considering the text of the draft International Agreement and the second Extraordinary Legal Advisory Panel meeting, which identified some benefits and risks of a change of status for IALA. These meetings were attended by representatives of 18 and 15 National members respectively.
- 3.2.2 Annex B explains the current environment in which IALA operates, lists potential benefits categorised in regard to IALA's status, implementation and organisation, highlights risks that may arise as a result of the change of status project and presents a conclusion for the consideration of members.
- 3.2.3 Annex C draws on the experience of the Secretariat in identifying issues which have been of concern to members, and recasts IALA's deliberations on change of status in the form of questions and answers.

4 REFERENCES

Nil.

5 ACTION REQUESTED OF COUNCIL

Council is requested to:

1. **Approve** the Letter of Invitation, including the Agenda and provision of additional information regarding the conduct of the General Assembly for forwarding to all IALA members as the means of convening the General Assembly
2. **Note** the text of the documents provided at Annex B and Annex C and the proposed means for providing access to all information documents
3. **Note** the intention to dispatch the Letter of Invitation by 28 April 2014