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PARTNERSHIPS

Delivering as one in action

Submitted by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This report covers the background, strategy, achievements and future technical capacity-building activities related to safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment under the United Nations banner of "Delivering as One"

Strategic directions: 1.1, 3.1

High-level actions: 1.1.2, 3.1.2

Planned outputs: 1.1.2.1, 3.1.2.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 12

Related document: TC 62/15 para.6.5

Introduction

1 The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) is one of the three pillars of the United Nations (UN) System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). Enormous progress has been made to date towards achieving its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Post-2015 Development Agenda under the banner of "Delivering as One" aims to tackle many issues, including the protection of the world's oceans. To achieve this, one of the UNDG's strategic priorities for 2013-2016 is to strengthen capacity development as a core function of the UN development system¹. This noble goal has found a champion in the form of the "Joint IHO/IMO/WMO/IOC/IALA/IAEA/FIG² Capacity Building Group" (Joint CB Group) which held its

¹ UNDG Strategic Priorities for 2013-2016 update December 2014

² IHO/IMO/WMO/IOC/IALA/IAEA/FIG (International Maritime Organization/World Meteorological Organization/Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/ International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities/International Atomic Energy Agency/International Federation of Surveyors)

8th annual meeting in Copenhagen in November 2014. The Group aims at identifying areas of cooperation to improve the safety of navigation worldwide through its commitment to protecting both the world's oceans and the mariners who navigate through them.

2 This report aims to update the Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC) of the work of the Joint CB Group; its achievements and planned activities to support the UN's MDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Challenge

3 The majority of the IMO's 171 Member States are well aware of their international obligations, specifically those related to maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment. However, some of the least developed and developing nations face considerable challenges in meeting their obligations set out in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), in particular. The task of the Joint CB Group is to develop strategies, initially to raise awareness of such obligations within the national competent authorities responsible for safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment in these States and, subsequently, to work with them through training and technical needs assessment missions to implement actions to achieve full compliance for the benefit of both themselves and the international community.

The Team and its Achievements

4 The Joint CB Group is led by IMO – its “mother ship” –, and it is composed of the following organizations/agencies:

- .1 IHO focussing on compliance with SOLAS Chapter V Regulations 4, 9, 19 and 27;
- .2 IALA and the IALA World-Wide Academy on compliance with SOLAS Chapter V Regulations 12 and 13;
- .3 FIG, together with the IHO, and the International Cartographic Association (ICA), on training and certification of hydrographic and cartographic specialists;
- .4 WMO and IOC of UNESCO on capacity-building strategies focused on oceanographic monitoring; maritime safety; coastal inundation forecasting; marine service improvements; the protection of the marine environment; tsunami warning systems and mitigation; harmful algal blooms; and production of coastal atlases and marine data and information management, including marine biogeographic data management; and
- .5 IAEA on building capacity within the scientific community including the use of nuclear technology to treat water and minimise diseases associated with poor water supplies.

5 Whilst pursuing their own series of capacity-building events, the triumvirate of IMO, IHO and IALA have since 2012³ delivered, thanks to the assistance of the host countries and through IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), a series of joint regional seminars on the safety of navigation and hydrography in Asia, the South-West Pacific and

³ The IALA WWA was formed on 1 January 2012 and is funded independently by generous sponsors

Africa. Other similar events are anticipated in the Meso-American and Caribbean region. These seminars were attended by nearly 200 participants from 30 developing nations. In addition, IALA has participated in nine IHO-sponsored Regional Hydrographic Commissions to emphasise the inextricable connection between adequate hydrographic and aids to navigation services.

6 Working together, this powerhouse of expertise pursues, both individually and cooperatively, a range of capacity-building activities designed specifically to meet the UN's MDGs and the post-2015 Development Agenda, particularly the protection of the world's oceans and those that live and work on or near them. The annual meeting of the Joint CB Group enables the effectiveness of such efforts to be maximised under the aegis of the "UN Delivering as one".

The Status of International Safety of Navigation Services

7 Each participating organization prioritises its capacity-building activities based on needs assessment principles. They generate lists of target States grouped in defined regions that best match their strategies. In some cases, these States and regions are published on their websites. The Joint CB Group recognises the value of information contained within the Country Maritime Profiles (CMPs) held by the IMO. However, whilst recognising that access to this data should be protected, information from the CMPs could be combined to deliver a cohesive image of safety of navigation services in each nation and region. The Joint CB group will continue to share information and circulate reports of its activities whilst also investigating how information held in the CMPs might be used to strengthen further its targeted capacity-building activities.

Joint CB Initiatives

8 The Joint CB Group has identified that the creation of a common calendar of such events would increase the efficiency of the delivery of its activities. This would enable, for example, joint "high level" visits by the IHO and IALA to be conducted to key target States so that a common message on the provision of safety of navigation services under SOLAS Chapter V could be delivered to senior opinion formers in such countries.

9 Training and capacity building are indivisible. The Joint CB Group has identified the need for an information exchange of training facilities delivering courses aimed at improving the safety of navigation and the protection of the maritime environment.

Recommendation

10 The coordinated actions between the seven organisations concerned were reinforced at the last meeting held in Copenhagen in November 2014, where the participants to the Joint CB Group adopted the following recommendations for their respective organisations:

- .1 That capacity building should include strategies to protect the marine environment and safety of navigation (including regulation) initiatives concerning:
 - Environmental risk assessment initiatives:
 - IALA risk management toolbox;
 - Hydrographic risk assessment methodologies; and
 - Oceanographic inundation modelling;
 - Maritime safety initiatives;

- Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs);
 - The implications of climate change;
 - The direct link between safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment;
 - Incorporation of a wider group of stakeholders who can affect or be affected by changes to the marine environment;
- .2 That information would be shared on the establishment of regional training hubs and advances in distance/e-learning;
- .3 That stakeholders, decision makers and the wider public be informed or educated on matters relating to capacity building activities to improve the safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment through proactive public relations initiatives. Members should share examples with other members of the Meeting;
- .4 That an information exchange be established between member organisations of the Joint Capacity Meeting Group including:
- Calendar of activities;
 - Country maritime profile information;
 - Joint IHO/IALA/IMO high level visits to common target States/regional organisations where appropriate;
 - Capacity Building/Development impact assessments; and
 - Gender and youth programmes.
5. That these be collated into a draft information paper for input to IMO TC 65.

Conclusion

11 The Joint CB Group is a world-class example of how individual Agencies and Organizations have come together to support the UN's goal of protecting both the world's oceans and the mariners who navigate through them. Its annual meeting continues to refine and pursue actively any activity that achieves that goal. It is a clear demonstration of "Delivering as One" in action. Without the leadership of its "mother ship", IMO, and the support of all its Member States within the TCC, it could not have achieved such a demonstrably coordinated success. It is intended that its pro-active pursuit of joint capacity building will continue to achieve the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Action requested of the Committee

12 The Committee is invited to take note of the information provided and to make such comments as it deems appropriate.
