

**IALA COUNCIL**  
**76th session**



**12-16 December 2022**  
**Rio de Janeiro**  
**Brazil**

## **6.1 - REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

### **1. GENERAL**

This document provides a general update on several matters related to the governance and operation of IALA. Some matters will be dealt with in greater detail under other agenda items.

Notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions IALA and the World-Wide Academy are on track with their respective work programmes and planned activities. All four committees, panels boards etc. met physically in St. Germain-en-Laye in the last quarter of 2022. The physical meetings were carried out as hybrid meetings with a few attendances on-line. This system worked well and participants were happy to be back.

The experience has shown that face-to-face meetings remain IALA's preferred mode of operation. However, the Secretariat has made arrangements for all meetings except for the Conference/General Assembly to take place in a hybrid/blended version with a combination of virtual and physical meetings.

The membership of IALA is still growing and the interest in the committee work is very satisfying.

The preparation for the Conference in May/June 2023 is going well with the support of the host country and the Industrial members Committee. The preparation for the General Assembly due to take place on 3 June is also on track.

The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation closed for signatures in January and has been signed by 50 States. Eleven States have ratified, accepted or acceded to the Convention and it is expected that many States will follow soon.

### **2. MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of IALA consists of 337 members: 93 National, 164 Industrial and 80 Associate, which is 17 members more than at the same time last year, and after the termination or resignation of some members which took effect from 1 January 2022. The movements in membership in the different categories since C75 are the following:

Applications:

- Eleven new applications were received for Industrial membership and provisionally accepted. They are to be confirmed by the Council. One application is still in hold since the last Council (Qingdao Geetsacom Technology Co., Ltd., China), awaiting China MSA support.



- Three new applications were received for Associate membership and provisionally accepted. They are to be confirmed by the Council.

Resignations:

- One resignation was received for Industrial membership.

Members in arrear:

Two National members were notified of the waiving of their suspension by the last Council and of the willingness of IALA to find a compromise. (Algeria and Rep of Congo). However, and although they acknowledged receipt of such a correspondence, no official reaction was observed. The Council may note that the Republic of Congo has signed the Convention on the new IALA.

In addition to that and despite the successful collection of debt by the Secretariat, the following organizations are now in the position to be removed from IALA membership for non-payment of their contributions. No reaction was observed since they were notified of their suspension by the last Council:

Chaohu Qunli Marine Anchor Chain Co. Ltd – *People's Republic of China*; Qingdao Hotech Automated – *People's Republic of China*; Shandong Buoy & Pipe Industry Co.Ltd, *People's Republic of China*; Electronics and Telecommunication Research Institute – *Republic of Korea*; Marine Transport Institute - *Democratic People's Republic of Korea*; Pesona Global Teknologi, Pt- *Indonesia*; Harmoz Berkeh, Ertebat Electronic Gil – *Iran*; Navalec S.A de C.V – *Mexico*; AD Engineering Limited - *Papua New Guinea*; and Maximum Protective Service Intl N.V - *Suriname*.

More details on membership are in the agenda items 9 and 15.

### **3. DIGITAL DEVELOPMENTS – WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMMITTEES AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

The Secretariat were extremely happy to welcome the committees once again for physical meetings at Headquarters. Although the last few years of the pandemic have been difficult, the utilization of the online facilities offered to the membership including the committee's dashboards meant that the arrangements for the virtual committees in 2020 and 2021 were very successful. Now IALA have taken the benefits of the virtual committee arrangements to the physical domain.

Face-to-face meetings are the preferred option for IALA, and many members have expressed their wish to resume the physical meetings in Saint-Germain-en-Laye. The committee sessions were therefore conducted with a physical week, including the possibility of virtual plenaries and participation. In order to facilitate these new arrangements, improvements to the online/Wi-Fi facilities at Headquarters were made.

In what was seen as a huge improvement to scrutiny, transparency and quality, the silent approval procedure for output documents was kept. All closing plenaries were held online the week after the physical week which provided for an extended approval period that ensured the quality of documents submitted to the Council.

The IALA post committee survey has been issued and this valuable source of information will inform any further improvements to the working arrangements for committee facilitation. Initial feedback from participants have been positive.

### **4. ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF**

With the latest reorganization the IALA and WWA staff now consists of 12 full time employed members and nine consultants (eight in the Academy section and one for Communication). Ms. Virginia Marshall has retired in April 2022 and has numerical been replaced by Ms. Julie Navarre. Mr. Kevin Gregory resigned



from the Academy and has been replaced by Ms. Latifa Oumouzoune as the new Training and Education Manager. IALA has also recruited in November an IT Developer, Mr. Swann Martineau, on a one-year apprenticeship contract, to assist the Technical section.

The Secretariat has taken up physical work at the HQ in Saint-Germain-en-Laye from 1 September 2021. The Committee meetings resumed face-to-face at IALA HQ during the autumn season. Many visits were organized in 2022 at the HQ to welcome members, potential members or partners. The Staff regulation has been updated to accommodate the system of working from home (télétravail) which prove to be very efficient and save a lot of time and travel costs for the staff. In parallel, the staff achieved all necessary work related to the change of status project.

## 5. COMMUNICATION

IALA's external communication has proved to be successful with the ongoing presence on media. The World Marine Aids to Navigation Day was largely followed and shared through many photos of AtoN on social media. The e-Bulletin has also made its place as regular means of communication used to update the membership on the latest developments and a place for our Industrial members to advertise. The website is constantly developed to provide information to the members on news and events. The communication planning and strategy is under review and will be discussed under the agenda point 16.

## 6. THE CHANGE OF STATUS PROJECT

The first signing ceremony of the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation was held on 27 January 2021 in Paris and as depositary State of the Convention, France, represented by Mrs. Annick Girardin, Minister for Marine Affairs, was the first State to sign the Convention.

This ceremony marked the opening for signature of the Convention for a period of one year. All Member States of the United Nations, and in particular the other signatories of the Final Act of the Kuala Lumpur Conference, were invited to sign the Convention at the Protocol of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

A final signing ceremony was held at the last day of the signature period on 26 January 2022 in the IALA HQ in St. Germain en Laye. During the year 50 States have signed the Convention and eleven States have ratified, accepted or acceded to the Convention.

States that have signed the Convention are invited to transmit the instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval to France, the depositary State. All Member States of the United Nations that have not signed during the signature period, may accede to the Convention, which will enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

The certified versions of the Convention in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish can be found on the IALA web site <https://www.iala-aism.org/the-igo-project/>

The Secretariat has started the detailed preparation for the transition period between the start of the new organization and the termination of the present association. For this purpose and after advice from the LAP, the Secretariat has appointed a French law firm, Carlara Avocats, to provide legal assistance throughout the transition period and until the winding up of the association is complete. Carlara Avocats will provide assistance with respect to the administrative formalities required by French law for the transfer of the rights, interests, assets and liabilities in favour of the new IGO.



## 7. PREPARATION FOR THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE

Unfortunately, the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference in Rio de Janeiro had to be postponed to May 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and with the uncertainty of the future situation. The Conference website is now launched, and pre-registrations are open both for the Delegates and Industrial membership exhibition.

The preparations for the Conference at the Windsor Convention Centre are progressing well and decision on the theme and topics has been taken. Call for abstracts has been highly successful with almost 200 proposals received.

The General Assembly will convene during the conference and for the first time the seven standards will be updated and the revised MBS agreed. The Council Strategic Drafting Group has updated the Strategic Vision which will be discussed at C76 and approved at the General Assembly. The preparation for the General Assembly is a separate point on the agenda.

The Steering Group is meeting at regular intervals for the preparation of the conference and the Industrial Members Committee has held several meetings and visited Rio de Janeiro and inspected the possible facilities to ensure a successful exhibition and industrial members evening. The Exhibition Manual has been issued to the Industrial members.

The Council members from Brazil and the IMC will give more details during the relevant agenda point.

Following the conference and General Assembly in 2023, it is foreseen that the regular interval of two years between the conference and symposium will be re-established. Therefore, Singapore will host the symposium in 2025 with India hosting the conference and General Assembly in 2027.

## 8. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

The World-Wide Academy continues to develop under the leadership of the Dean Omar Frits Eriksson and the Academy Board, chaired by Professor Gug.

The Academy is now rapidly resuming its physical activities in pursue of our strategic goals through its “Enlighten, Educate and Engage” strategy.

Also, the accredited training organisations around the world are slowly returning to a more normal situation with several AtoN Manager courses being delivered this year.

In July this year, Kevin Gregory announced that he would be moving to a new role with effect from the end of August. Kevin stated that it had been an exceptionally rewarding experience working for the World-Wide Academy, especially in witnessing first-hand the positive impact that the Academy has on both the professional and personal levels around the world. We thank Kevin for his contribution to the development of the Academy and wish him good wind going forward.

As expected, there was great interest for the vacant position, with candidates from all parts of the world, some of which were extremely experienced and well suited for the job. At the end of the day Ms. Latifa Oumouzoune from Morocco was selected as the best suited candidate, and she has now taken over the role as the Academy Education and Training manager.

The Dean will brief in more detail under the relevant agenda item.

The Academy would not exist were it not for generous sponsorship both in direct and indirect funding from several nations and organizations and the superb and unstinting support from the four IALA Committees, for which we are thankful.

The Dean will brief in more detail under the relevant agenda item.



## 9. THE COUNCIL IS INVITED TO

**Note** the information provided in the report.