INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT IMO POSITION ON WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE (WRC-23) AGENDA ITEM 10

IALA workshop on the development of IALA plan for future digital maritime communication infrastructure

Submitted by IALA

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	This document informs the Groups of the IALA workshop on the development of IALA plan for future digital maritime communication infrastructure.
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 12
Related documents:	NCSR 9/24, NCSR 9/WP.5

Introduction

1 At its 9th session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communication and Search and Rescue (NCSR), when developing the draft IMO position on WRC-23 agenda item 10, the following view was expressed.

> "Dedicated events (e.g., a conference, workshops, etc.) could be organized to accelerate the pace of the work required." (para 46.4, NCSR 9/WP.5)

2 With this in mind, IALA provided the Sub-Committee with information on the IALA workshop on the development of IALA plans for future digital maritime communication infrastructure to be held in Tokyo, Japan, in January or February 2023. (para 12.24, NCSR 9/24).

Background

3 The recent development of digital maritime communication technologies such as VDES, NAVDAT, IMT, digitalization of VHF voice communication, and onboard internet connection will bring numerous benefits to users. These include improvements to the safety and efficiency of navigation, protection of the marine environment, welfare of seafarers and the efficient use of the maritime radiocommunication spectrum.

4 However, digitalization of maritime communication requires careful consideration. For example, some maritime radiocommunication channels may need to maintain analogue operation for compatibility with legacy equipment and maintaining the integrity of GMDSS. Other channels may be suitable for digital utilization. The implementation of such digital use will require further studies.

5 Whilst some digital systems can be implemented as a direct replacement for analogue, others may require the installation of additional antennas and sites for transmission of services. Appropriate implementation of digital systems is therefore important.

6 Furthermore, satellite communication services are or will be available on the market. Satellite communication services can complement terrestrial communication services when utilized appropriately.

IALA workshop

7 IALA, as an established and recognised authority regarding Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN) services has contributed to the digitalization of maritime communication through the publication of documents, and submission of papers to IMO, ITU, IHO, IEC and other relevant international bodies.

8 IALA understands that its members require guidance in preparing for future digitalization of maritime communication and have decided to hold a dedicated workshop on this issue, hosted by the Japan Coast Guard.

9 The Workshop is aimed at assisting AtoN authorities, other shore authorities, and IALA members to consider digitalization of their services through future digital marine communication systems as an infrastructure development.

10 The Workshop will be held from 20 to 24 February 2023 at the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technologies. Detailed information about the Workshop will be available on the IALA website (https://events.iala-aism.org/future-digital-maritime-communication/).

11 IALA intends that the Workshop programme will be prepared from the AtoN authority's perspective, but that it may have some value to the IMO in its consideration of digitalization of maritime communication. IALA will submit the Workshop report as an information paper to IMO.

Action requested to the Group

12 The Group is invited to note the information provided.