

**IALA COUNCIL
80th session****24-28 June 2024
Istanbul
Türkiye****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.

The committee and panel meetings in March and April of the new work period showed again that face-to-face meetings remain IALA's preferred mode of operation. The meetings were very successful with many participants in the HQ and also some participating on-line.

The membership of IALA and the interest in the committee work are very satisfying with record high number of participants.

The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation and the transition to an International Organization progress well and as of 27 May 2024 29 States have ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to the Convention and it is expected that more States will follow soon.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of IALA consists of 346 members: 96 National, 171 Industrial and 79 Associate, which is 16 members more than last year at the same period and after the termination or resignation of some members which took effect from 1 January 2024. The movements in membership in the different categories since C79 are the following:

Applications:

- One change was received from Associate to National membership and provisionally accepted. It is to be confirmed by the Council.
- Eleven new applications were received for Industrial membership. All were provisionally accepted and are to be confirmed by the Council.

Resignations:

- Four resignations were received from Industrial membership.
- One resignation was received from Associate membership.

Members in arrear:

Two National members remain suspended, Algeria and Republic of Congo. No reaction was observed since they were notified of the waiving of their debts by the Council and of the willingness of IALA to find a



compromise. However, the Council may recall that the Republic of Congo has signed the Convention and engaged in the ratification process. They also attended the Conference in Rio and the General Assembly although they could not vote.

In addition, the following National members did not react to the reminders sent by the Secretariat in early April: The Instituto Hidrografico de Sinalizaçao, Angola; Dubai Maritime City Authority, the United Arab Emirates; Service national de la signalization maritime in Gabon; the Nigerian Port Authority; and Tanzania Port Authority. It was therefore decided to send a reminder and seek the cooperation of their embassies if necessary. The Council may note that these countries, excepted Nigeria have signed the Convention, and the Secretariat will keep following the case.

Despite the successful collection of debt by the Secretariat, the following organizations are now in the position to have their rights suspended:

Beijing Caton Global Technology Co. Ltd, Shanghai Space Earth Net Information, Technology Co., Ltd; and Jiangsu Koropp Maritime Technology Co., Ltd in the People's Republic of China; Safe Sea Services FZCO in the United Arab Emirates; Tridel Technologies Private Ltd in India; BC Cuerpo Construction Corporation in the Philippines; Tecotrex Welding Marine in Qatar; Daekee Marine Corporation and Woori Haeyang Co. Ltd. In the Rep of Korea; Port Autonome de San Pedro in Côte d'Ivoire; TWL Logistics Ltd in Papua New Guinea. STC B.V in the Netherlands; Rosmorport in Russia and the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands in Fidji.

All these organisations were notified in early April in a strong reminder of a possible suspension by this Council session, and termination in December if no reaction is noted.

More details on membership are in the respective agenda points.

3. WORK OF THE COMMITTEES AND SUSIDIARY BODIES

The committees and panels convened at the IALA Headquarters in March and April. The meetings were held in a hybrid format, which included a physical week at the headquarters and the option for online participation. This approach allowed for greater flexibility, enabling participants from various regions to join the discussions. Following the physical week, there was a designated period for the approval of the output documents, and a virtual closing plenary was held the week after to finalize the reports.

Attendance at the meetings was higher than last sessions, with an average of 120 participants in each committee session. This highlight growing interest and engagement in the committees' work. The VTS committee saw a remarkable turnout with 142 participants.

The meetings resulted in the production of numerous high-quality recommendations, guidelines, and model courses. Furthermore, the committees generated a substantial number of liaison notes directed to other international organizations. These liaison notes reflect the committees' recognition that many topics now require collaborative efforts to address complex global projects and topics effectively.

In summary, the meetings and panel meetings were very productive, with strong participation and valuable outputs.

The results of the work will be presented under the respective agenda points.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

The IALA and WWA staff now consist of 17 full-time employed members and ten consultants (nine in the Academy section and one for Communication).

A new General Services Officer joined the administrative team in January 2024 to perform various logistical functions within the Secretariat.



Mr. Jaime Alvarez has been transferred to the Academy section. He will be replaced by a new Technical Officer who will be appointed in 2024.

From the 17 employees, four students are on an apprenticeship contract. One of them has been reappointed as an IT Developer to assist the Technical Operations Manager in improving the existing databases and developing an in-house system adapted to the needs of IALA.

Two other students are responsible for analyzing AIS data until July 2024. Another student has been trained during one year in the administrative-accounting section and is expected to be recruited on a permanent basis in September 2024.

With the IGO status approaching fast, the preparation for the future Secretariat will soon start. An analysis shows that there is a need to separate the Deputy Secretary-General and the Dean position and appoint a new Dean. Also, there is a need for a dedicated Documents Controller in the technical department. These recruitments will be included in the future budget for Council approval under point 9 of the agenda.

5. COMMUNICATION

The Communication Group has continued its work on internal and external communication. The main plan for external communication for 2024 has been finalized, as well as different project-based communication plans such as the WATON Day or the IGO.

To improve internal communication, some possible measures were discussed such as portraits of the staff for the annual report, thematic team meetings or a specialized app to increase team spirit. The draft communication policy for the IGO has also progressed well and is nearly ready.

6. THE CHANGE OF STATUS PROJECT

The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation is ratified, approved, accepted or accessed by 29 States as of 27 May 2024. The Convention will enter into force 90 days after 30 States have deposited their instrument with the French Government. The first General Assembly of the new IGO has to be convened within 6 months from the day the Convention enters into force.

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 to provide legal assistance throughout the transition period and until the winding up of the Association is complete. The law firm 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.

Singapore has generously offered to host the first General Assembly of the new organization, probably early 2025. One of the main points on the agenda will be approval of the General Regulations and Financial Regulations. In order to prepare for this, a Conference was convened in Tokyo from 7 to 10 November 2023. The Conference was very successful and attended by almost 100 participants from 38 countries. The Conference managed to agree on a draft text of the General Regulations and Financial Regulations with only a few areas marked in square brackets for the General Assembly to decide on.

7. NEW HEADQUARTER

As briefed at previous meetings of the Council the French Government has offered to assist in finding suitable locations for the new IGO. This process is relatively urgent as the present Headquarters is too small with all the new members that have joined the Association. The meeting of the VYS Committee in March was attended by approximately 140 people which was over the limit for the plenary room, meeting facilities and the lounge.



Negotiations are going well, and some possibilities have been investigated with the help of our national member in France.

8. DEVELOPMENTS OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

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

In pursue of their strategic goals through its “Enlighten, Educate and Engage” strategy, the Academy is on track with its action plan for 2024.

Accredited training organizations in the United Kingdom, France, Morocco, Suriname, India, Colombia and China are in the process of delivering the Level 1.1 Aids to Navigation Manager course, and more than 100 new AtoN managers are expected to be certified in 2024.

Furthermore, several technical needs assessment missions and reviews are being carried out in 2024 including Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Dominican Republic and Indonesia. In Indonesia, several missions are planned due to the size of the country, and the Academy is working towards establishing L1.1 AtoN manager training capacity there in the local language.

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.

After more than a decade of serving on the Academy board, Sir Jeremy de Halpert has decided to retire from his post. I thank him for his outstanding work for the Academy and wish him all the best.

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.