

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Introduction

1. The text of the Convention for the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation was agreed at the Diplomatic Conference in Kuala Lumpur in February 2020. The initial signing ceremony of the Convention was held on 27 January 2021 in Paris and as depositary State of the Convention, France, 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, and then to proceed to its ratification.

To reach a maximum number of signatures of the Convention, a final signing ceremony was hosted by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs representing the Depositary, the government of France. This ceremony took place at the IALA headquarters on 26 January 2022 and marked the end of the one-year signature period, bringing the number of signatures up to 50.

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 Convention will enter into force "on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession".

2. Pursuant to the Diplomatic Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, the Conference on the Draft General Regulations and Financial Regulations for the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (the Conference) is being convened in Tokyo, Japan, at the kind invitation of the Japan Coast Guard.

3. Participants will be National members of IALA and Signature States and Acceding States of the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation, at the time of the opening of the Conference.

4. Due to the capacity of the venue, the national member who will participate is kindly requested to limit the numbers of the participants to up to three for each delegation.

Duration of the Conference

5. Provision has been made for a four-day Conference to be held from Tuesday 7 November to Friday 10 November 2023 in Tokyo. On Monday 6 November p.m. a Seminar will be

hosted by the IALA World-Wide Academy. Participants and invited guests are welcome to join the Seminar. Independent registration will be arranged for this event.

Aim of the Conference

6. The aim of this Conference is to produce draft General Regulations and Financial Regulations for the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation that have the best possibility of being accepted by the first General Assembly of the Organization when established.

7. There will be no voting during the Conference. When agreement cannot be reached either in plenary or in a working group, if appropriate, this will be recorded in the minutes from the meeting for the General Assembly to make the final decision. Consequently, there is no need for credentials for the Conference, but delegations will be invited to signal a Head of Delegation to the Secretariat prior to the opening of the Conference.

Opening of the Conference

8. The Conference will open on Tuesday, 7 November 2023, at 10.00 a.m. local time. The Conference is physical only with no possibility to participate on-line.

Meeting of Heads of Delegation

9. In accordance with usual practice, a meeting of Heads of Delegation will be convened prior to the formal opening of the Conference, in order to discuss certain organizational and procedural matters. The conclusions reached by the Heads of Delegation will be reported by the Secretary-General to the Plenary for consideration and adoption. Accordingly, the meeting of Heads of Delegation will be held on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

Structure of the Conference

10. It is proposed that the Conference shall be conducted in plenary with the possibility of establishing working groups if necessary.

11. Having regard to the provisional timetable, the Conference may wish to consider and adopt the following structure:

- A Plenary with the Secretary-General of IALA as Chair, or in his absence, by the IALA Councilor for Japan from Japan Coast Guard as Vice-Chair.
- Working group(s) composed by relevant members appointed by the Plenary on the proposal of the Chair. The working group(s) will choose its own Chair.

12. The Conference Secretariat will be headed by the Chair of the Legal Advisory Panel, and in her absence the Vice-Chair of the Legal Advisory Panel, supported by the IALA Secretariat and the Conference host.

Interpretation and minutes from the meeting

13. Due to the financial provisions for the Conference, the meeting is conducted in English only. The draft General Regulations and Financial Regulations will be produced in Arabic, Chinese,

French, Russian and Spanish after the Conference based on the agreed English draft and made available on the web site.

14. Minutes from the meeting will be produced after the Conference and circulated by electronic means for comments by participants.

Organization of the work of the Conference

15. Based on the structure proposed above and the facilities available, it is suggested that the work of the Conference be organized as follows:

- Working hours of the Conference will be 9.30 – 17.30 with breaks for tea and lunch.
- The morning of the opening day of the Conference (Tuesday, 7 November) will be devoted to consideration of the organizational arrangements. This will take place informally at the meeting of the Heads of Delegation and, subsequently, at the inaugural session of the Plenary to agree on the Conference Chair and Vice-Chair.
- The Plenary will commence its work on Tuesday 7 November, following conclusions of the inaugural Plenary, and will continue work until Thursday 9 November, 17.30 with Friday 10 November a.m. as reserve.
- Friday 10 November a.m. (or Friday 10 November p.m. (see above)) is planned for the closing ceremony of the Conference.
- A Conference dinner is planned on the evening of Wednesday 8 November.

16. The proposed schedule of meetings is set out in the annex to this document.

Basic proposal

17. The draft General Regulations and Financial Regulations for the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation of June 2023, as contained in document GR-3.1, shall constitute the basic proposal for consideration by the Conference.

18. Other proposals, including proposed amendments to the basic proposal shall normally be introduced in writing and handed to the Secretariat of the Conference who shall circulate these to the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed unless it has been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. A special part of the IALA website will be dedicated to input papers for the Conference. The Chair may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though such amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated on the same day.

Action requested of the Conference

19. The Conference is invited to consider the information and suggestions provided in this document and take action, as deemed appropriate.

Annex

PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF THE CONFERENCE

7 to 10 November 2020

Conference Bodies	Tuesday 7 November		Wednesday 8 November		Thursday 9 November		Friday 10 November	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Heads of Delegations								
Opening ceremony and Plenary								
Conference dinner								
Closing Ceremony/ reserve time								