



# **3<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY**

**Monaco, 2-5 May 2023**

**GENERAL DOCUMENTS**

*«RED BOOK»*

**COMMENTS TO PROPOSALS**

**Submitted to the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly**



**PROPOSALS**

**PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY  
THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY**

**LIST OF PROPOSALS (AS 20 DECEMBER 2022)**

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<b>1.4</b>	3-year Work Programme and Budget 2024-2026	IHO Council	1
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<b>1.6</b>	Polygonal demarcation of global sea areas	Secretary-General	1
<b>1.7</b>	Deprivation of the IHO member state status from the Russian Federation as its military aggression against Ukraine since 24 February 2022 has caused major threatens to navigation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, in particular, has deprived Ukraine of performing the hydrographic surveying within its area of responsibility and issue and update its navigational charts	Ukraine	1
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## **LIST OF MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS**

The Secretariat thanks to Member States which have shared their respective comments on the Assembly Proposals in advance. In accordance with Resolution 8/1967 as amended the Secretary-General has placed his comments on the technical, administrative and financial implications on relevant Proposals.

In continuation of the previous practice, this Red Book issue does not contain the proposals itself since this would unnecessarily duplicate the series of Assembly Proposals coming as separate documents. Instead, links are provided under the respective headline of each proposal.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">1.1</a>	New IHO Resolution on S-100 Implementation	IHO Council	1

**BRAZIL**

Brazil supports this proposal.

**CANADA**

Canada endorses this proposal.

It invites the submitters to consider the following observation: In the proposed Resolution, the list of Annexes to the Roadmap for the S-100 Implementation Decade is notated by:

- a) Collaboration with IMO and other liaising Organizations.
- b) S-100 Timelines
- c) WEND-100 Principles
- d) Dual Fuel Concept for S-100 ECDIS

It is suggested that the notation be Annex 1, Annex 2, etc., to correspond to how these annexes are listed on the IHO S-100 Implementation Strategy web page. That is:

Annex 1. Collaboration with IMO and other liaising Organizations.

Annex 2. S-100 Timelines.

Annex 3. WEND-100 Principles.

Annex 4. Dual Fuel Concept for S-100 ECDIS

**FINLAND**

Finland supports the proposal.

**GERMANY**

Germany supports this proposal.

**ITALY**

As member of the IHO Council, Italy supports the proposal.

**JAPAN**

Japan supports this proposal.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal endorses this proposal.

**SWEDEN**

Sweden supports this proposal.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom supports this proposal.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States congratulates the Council and S-100 implementation team and fully approves the Resolution.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL`S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES COMMENTS**

The Secretariat thanks Canada for their relevant editorial suggestions.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">1.2</a>	Implementation and review of the Strategic Plan	IHO Council	1

**BRAZIL**

Brazil supports this proposal.

**CANADA**

Canada endorses each of the elements of this proposal.

Related to the change in focus for SP Target 2.1 from, "Build a portal to support and promote regional and international cooperation in marine spatial data infrastructures," to developing an, 'IHO Data-Products-Services portal providing global thematic layers', will the IHO Work Programme 2024-2026 be modified to reflect this task? [This also relates to PRO 1.4]

**FINLAND**

Finland supports the proposal.

**FRANCE**

France supports the Secretary General's recommendation to refocus the function of the "MSDI" portal in target 2.1 of the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan on access to global thematic layers of information that can be easily maintained by the IHO Secretariat on the basis of information already available in the Organization's publications or on the website.

In terms of global survey coverage, the most efficient way to populate this layer of the future portal for EU waters is to rely on the common data index of the EMODnet Bathymetry Portal (CDI Data Discovery and Access Service - <https://www.emodnet-bathymetry.eu/search>).

**GERMANY**

Germany supports this proposal.

**ITALY**

As member of the IHO Council, Italy supports the proposal.

**JAPAN**

Japan supports this proposal.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal endorses this proposal.

**SWEDEN**

Sweden supports the proposed implementation and review of the IHO Strategic Plan. It is of particular importance that IHO focus on the S-100 implementation during the period of 2023 - 2026. Thus the highest priority on Goal 1 of the IHO Strategic Plan is welcomed by Sweden.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom supports this proposal.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States supports all items as key implementation components to move the IHO Strategic Plan forward.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES COMMENTS**

The Secretariat is of the view that the wording in place is of generic nature and covers the proposed change of the focus towards global thematic layers of IHO Products and services.



PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">1.3</a>	Amendments to IHO Resolution 1/2020 –Gender-Inclusive Language	IHO Council	1

**BRAZIL**

Brazil supports this proposal.

**CANADA**

Canada endorses this proposal.

**FINLAND**

Finland supports the proposal.

**GERMANY**

Germany supports this proposal.

**ITALY**

As member of the IHO Council, Italy supports the proposal.

**JAPAN**

Japan supports this proposal.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal endorses this proposal.

**SWEDEN**

Sweden supports this proposal.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom supports activities that aim to enhance gender equality and inclusivity and endorses the proposed amendment to IHO Resolution 01/2020 together with edited versions of M-1 and M-3.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States fully supports the proposed actions.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">1.4</a>	3-year Work Programme and Budget 2024-2026	IHO Council	1

**CANADA**

Canada endorses each of the elements of this proposal.

Related to the change in focus for SP Target 2.1 from, “Build a portal to support and promote regional and international cooperation in marine spatial data infrastructures,” to developing an, ‘IHO Data-Products-Services portal providing global thematic layers’, will the IHO Work Programme 2024-2026 be modified to reflect this task? [This also relates to PRO 1.2.]

**FINLAND**

Finland supports the proposal.

**GERMANY**

Germany supports this proposal.

**ITALY**

As member of the IHO Council, Italy supports the proposal.

**JAPAN**

Japan supports this proposal and appreciates IHO Secretariat’s effort to contain the annual value of a contribution share for Member States.

**PORTUGAL**

At a time of deep transformations on the standards, Portugal does not agree with the reduction of the budget allocated to Capacity Building to 60.000 Euros. If this value goes forward, both the transformation to the S-100 and the training of hydrographic services will be very limited and therefore hindered.

**SWEDEN**

Sweden supports the Council proposal of the 3-Year Work Programme and the Budget 2024 – 2026.

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**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom supports this proposal.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States supports the proposal, and encourages the IHO Secretariat to continue with its demonstrated conservative fiscal management.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL`S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES COMMENTS**

The 3-year budget estimates for the period 2024 – 2026 were drafted based on the Council endorsement (Decision and Action C6/48 refers) of the proposed 3-year Work Programme and Budget\* provided by the Secretary-General for submission at A-3 by Council Chair for the approval of Member States.

\* subject to an update prior to submission to A-3 by 20 December 2022 in consideration of the volatility of the global finance situation.

A detailed explanation of the financial situation of the Organization will be given at the meeting of the Finance Committee prior to the Assembly.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">1.5</a>	Revision of M-7 IHO Staff Regulations	Secretary- General	1

**BRAZIL**

Brazil supports this proposal.

**CANADA**

Canada endorses this proposal.

**GERMANY**

Germany supports this proposal.

**JAPAN**

Japan supports this proposal.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal needs a better clarification on this subject in order to have any decision.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom supports this proposal.

**SWEDEN**

Sweden supports the proposed revision of the M-7 IHO Staff Regulations.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL`S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES COMMENTS**

A presentation of the changes proposed to be applied to the M-7 Staff regulations is on the agenda of the meeting of the Finance Committee prior to the Assembly.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">1.6</a>	Polygonal demarcation of global sea areas	Secretary-General	1

**BRAZIL**

Brazil supports this proposal.

**CANADA**

Canada endorses this proposal.

Canada thanks the Secretary-General and the other members of the S-130 Project Team for their efforts with respect to these challenging tasks thus far and supports the reasoning to postpone much of the work until the S-130 specification Edition 2.0.0 has been adopted.

**GERMANY**

Germany supports this proposal and appreciates the excellent work done so far by Secretary-General and the S-130 Project Team.

**ITALY**

The IHO Council already endorsed the proposal. Italy supports the Secretary General's recommendation to align the polygonal demarcation of global sea areas with the upcoming new S-130 Product Specification.

**JAPAN**

Japan would like to express our appreciation for the great support and continuous contribution regarding S-130 from the Secretary-General. Japan generally supports this proposal, with a suggestion that the phrase "when" and "are" in articles b and c should be replaced with "after" and "will be" respectively, in order to clarify the meaning to postpone both considerations after the finalization of the S-130 Product Specification and dataset.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal endorses this proposal.

**NORWAY**

Norway supports this proposal by IHO Secretary-General as a pragmatic and realistic approach to the task given by A-2 on this complex and sensitive issue.

**SWEDEN**

Appreciating the progress made by the S-130 Project Team and noting the timeline for the development of the product specification and authoritative S-130 dataset, Sweden supports the Secretary General's proposal to **not** commence work items A2/PRO 1.9.3 and A2/PRO 1.9.5 before the tasks currently assigned to the S-130PT have been finalized.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom supports this proposal.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States supports the proposal on S-130 and feels this data set will provide considerable value to the IHO Member States once complete.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES COMMENTS**

An edited version of the Part of PRO 1.6 including the changes proposed by Japan is attached as Annex 1 to this document.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
1.7	Deprivation of the IHO member state status from the Russian Federation as its military aggression against Ukraine since 24 February 2022 has caused major threatens to navigation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, in particular, has deprived Ukraine of performing the hydrographic surveying within its area of responsibility and issue and update its navigational charts.	Ukraine	1

## CANADA

Canada's position regarding the Russian Federation's unlawful aggression against Ukraine, and Canada's ongoing support for Ukraine, have been clearly and publicly stated. While Canada notes and shares many of concerns expressed in PRO 1.7, it does not believe that the IHO Convention contains provision(s) to suspend a Member State from the organization except for the non-payment of contributions. Therefore, at this time, Canada does not support this proposal.

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Russian Federation rejects all the claims included in Proposal 1.7 by Ukraine and objects to including this Proposal into the agenda of the Assembly as contrary to the spirit, rules and goals of the IHO.

First of all, we would like to bring attention to the fact that according to Article II of the Convention on the IHO and Article 1 of the IHO General Regulations, the organization has a consultative and purely technical nature. Article 1 of the General Regulations unequivocally states that the IHO activities do not include matters involving questions of international politics.

So, the issues included in the Ukrainian proposal are beyond the authority of the IHO. Any discussions at the Assembly connected with Russian-Ukrainian relations will have no ground, and conclusions and decisions on this point will be null and void.

According to Article XX of the Convention on the IHO, IHO is open for accession by any United Nations member state. There's no possibility or procedure in the IHO basic documents for withdrawal of the IHO member status. This means that a state can stop participating in the IHO only on a voluntary basis and implementing its sovereign right for leaving the Convention on the IHO.

Regarding the Ukrainian claims that the Russian Federation is violating the rules of international navigation safety and the UNCLOS in general, it can be said that the Russian Federation fulfils its obligations under the IHO Convention as well as under other respective international treaties.

As far as the claim about restriction of freedom of navigation in the Kerch Strait is concerned, it should be mentioned that during the period from October 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, more than 1,200 vessels under different flags crossed the strait. The Russian Federation fulfils all the duties for maintaining safety of navigation in Black and Azov seas, including the duties which Ukraine refused to fulfil.

Again, the Russian Federation objects to putting Proposal 1.7 by Ukraine on the agenda of the Assembly as not corresponding to the spirit, rules and goals of the IHO.



**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom fully supports Ukraine in standing against ongoing illegal aggression from Russia and the United Kingdom Government condemns Russia's unprovoked and premeditated invasion of Ukraine. The United Kingdom recognizes that it is through international bodies such as the IHO that countries (including the United Kingdom) should seek to hold Russia accountable for its illegal and unsafe actions and their impact on Ukraine's ability to undertake their duties as a national hydrographic office and the safety of the international mariner.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's unprovoked and illegal war against Ukraine.

We support all efforts to ensure the safety of seafarers, commercial vessels, and the marine environment in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov. It is important to the United States that lawful hydrographic services and activities be facilitated, even in situations involving armed conflict, and we note that they are being blocked or degraded by the unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine. The swiftest and surest way to address the negative impact of Russia's aggression on hydrographic services and activities in the region is for the Russian Federation to immediately end its illegal war against Ukraine and withdraw all of its forces from Ukrainian territory, including from its internationally recognized territorial sea.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES COMMENTS**

The IHO Convention is open for accession by any State that is a member of the United Nations (IHO Convention, Article XX). Neither the IHO Convention nor the General Regulations of the IHO do provide a mechanism to suspend a State which has acceded to the IHO Convention from IHO membership for reasons other than non-payment of contributions for two years in sequence.

Concluding PRO 1.7 and related comments by Member States as being political in nature, noting that *the Organization shall have a consultative and technical nature* (Article II of the IHO Convention refers), it is proposed that consideration be given for:

- The Assembly to note PRO 1.7 and associated comments in the *Red Book*, in accordance with Rule 10 (g) of the Rules of Procedures of the IHO Assembly;
- The Assembly to decide *not* to consider PRO 1.7 *as such* under this Assembly Agenda item in accordance with Article V (e) (viii) of the IHO Convention. Instead, consideration should be given, as a precautionary action under this Assembly Agenda item, that the Assembly tasks IRCC, supported by the most concerned RHCs, to conduct a comprehensive technical impact assessment of the regional situation of affected areas on hydrographic matters in relation to safety of navigation for international shipping (production and maintenance of charts, distribution of, and availability of up-to-date ENCs and charts in all other areas, etc.).

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">2.1</a>	Adoption of dual fuel concept for S-100	IHO Council	2

**BRAZIL**

Brazil supports this proposal.

**CANADA**

Canada endorses this proposal.

**FINLAND**

Finland supports the proposal.

**GERMANY**

Germany supports this proposal.

**ITALY**

As member of the IHO Council, Italy supports the proposal.

**JAPAN**

Japan generally supports this proposal, with a suggestion to correct misspellings from “Duel Fuel” to “Dual Fuel” in the title and some points in Appendix 1 (Full Report) of Annex A.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal endorses this proposal.

**SWEDEN**

Sweden supports this proposal.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom supports this proposal and will continue to test the dual fuel concept through our combined S-100 ECDIS trial with SHOM. Where successes are demonstrated and achieved, or gaps identified in the delivery of the IHO standards, these will be fed back into the IHO process through the appropriate mechanisms.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States supports the need for consolidated guidance to stakeholders involved in the move to S-100.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES COMMENTS**

The Secretariat thanks Japan for the meticulous perusal. The misspellings were fixed and a corrected version of the affected document was uploaded to the Assembly website.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">2.2</a>	Establishment of an S-100 Infra Center to support the implementation of S-100	Republic of Korea	2

**BRAZIL**

Brazil supports this proposal.

**CANADA**

Canada supports the general idea of the proposal, and thanks the Republic of Korea for taking this initiative. It is recognized that the IHO has a responsibility to provide support to all Member States so that no one is left behind in the migration to S-100.

However, it is suggested that HSSC the review this proposal further, perhaps via a project team, to solidify the scope of its work and the standard operating procedures of such a Center.

For example, is the purpose of this proposal to provide more support and structure to the IHO Geospatial Information Registry and help ensure its long-term sustainability? How will the work of the Center relate to, or intersect with existing bodies such as the S-100 Working Group and the IHO-Singapore Innovation and Technology Laboratory?

This additional information and detail would help inform Council (C7) as to the utility of the Center in terms of how it would support the S-100 framework and how it would operate on an ongoing basis.

**FRANCE**

France recognizes the need for a permanent, sustainable and operational structure to support the implementation and maintenance of the S-100 standard in the long term and therefore approves the establishment of a project team under the HSSC to define its precise objectives and organization. As the geospatial information register is held by the IHO and managed by the Secretariat, the project team should closely involve the Secretariat.

**ITALY**

In order to leave no one behind, Italy supports the creation of any structure able to develop the capacity and capability of Member States to make the S-100 framework operational.

**JAPAN**

Japan understands the significance of an S-100 Infra Center and generally supports this proposal. However, we believe that establishment and running costs of the center should not strain the IHO's budget and/or contribution shares of each Member State, as IHO faces to some budgetary challenges such as the small amount of the IHO capacity building fund.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal needs a better clarification on this subject in order to have any decision.

**SWEDEN**

Sweden recognizes the need to establish a stable structure for a sustainable management of the framework for S-100. Therefore, Sweden supports the proposal from the Republic of Korea to form a project team under HSSC with the aim to propose a robust organizational structure.

Sweden proposes that HSSC, based on the outcome of the project team, should propose how such an organization can be established by the Council. Subsequently it should be the Council that reports to the IHO Assembly 4 for a possible approval by IHO Member States.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom thanks the Republic of Korea for this proposal. The United Kingdom would wish to better understand the purpose of this facility, the outcomes it seeks to realize, the funding model and the Member States governance of it. The United Kingdom is not able to support this proposal currently and would recommend that the IHO Secretariat retains responsibility for S-100 development at this very important moment in implementation.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States supports the need to consider how the IHO S-100 infrastructure will be run and maintained.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES COMMENTS**

The Secretariat thanks the Republic of Korea for this proposal, but recommends that a more detailed governance model is provided (investments, operational costs, staffing, in kind-contribution) to assess the possible impact on the IHO Budget 2024-2026 and the organizational effects for the working groups under supervision of HSSC and IRCC.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">2.3</a>	Future of Digital Charting	United Kingdom	2

**CANADA**

Canada thanks the United Kingdom for bringing forward and endorses this proposal.

Canada welcomes this discussion regarding this significant and important segment of electronic chart users and the manufacturers of electronic chart systems (ECSs). This is a segment that has been largely ignored with respect to standardization.

However, there is also great opportunity in the sub-ECDIS market as the users and manufacturers tend to be more willing to test out and adopt new products and services. This group will be important partners in the uptake of S-100.

**FRANCE**

The recent reflections on the future of the paper chart and the need to find digital alternatives would benefit from being addressed in a coordinated way between Member States and by measuring the impacts of the orientations decided.

However, the high priority that must be given in the coming years to advancing the implementation of the S-100 makes it difficult to address this issue in the short term.

**JAPAN**

Japan supports this proposal.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal needs a better clarification on this subject in order to have any decision.

**SWEDEN**

S-57 data has been used by the sub-ECDIS market ever since S-57 data became available more than 20 years ago. Nothing will prevent the usage of S-57, S-101 and other S-100 layers by the future sub-ECDIS market. Sweden does not see a need for new supplementary IHO standards, since the existing and new S-100 product specifications will be useful also for the sub-ECDIS market.

Considering that IHO in general and HSSC in particular needs to focus on the S-100 implementation Sweden would prefer to wait using resources on a digital alternative solution to paper charts until after 2026 when most of the first priority S-100 products have matured to a first operational edition.

A possible way to go forward would be to propose to the IMO that the ECDIS carriage requirements should also include smaller ships, e.g. all ships from 300 gross tonnage similar to carriage requirements for AIS. Such a proposal should preferably come from IMO MS and not from IHO.

**NORWAY**

Norway recognizes the need to address the topic raised by this proposal, how to provide updated digital navigation services to non-ECDIS carriage requirement vessels as we are addressing this with our national maritime authority. On a global scale, a large percentage the ships sailing anywhere in the world, do not require to carry ECDIS. However, if we look at international shipping, this percentage drops significantly. At IHO we need to prioritize standardization (and optimization) of current and future navigation data services for (international) ships that by IMO regulation need to meet the relevant equipment requirements in addition to ensuring interoperability with other marine data sets in order to ensure the widest possible use of hydrographic data. Norway believes that the topic of whether or not non-ECDIS carriage requirement vessels should be subjected to international standards is bigger than to be addressed by a sub-ECDIS project team or working group and should first be addressed by HSSC or Council. Potentially, this topic can be sufficiently addressed on a national level, by primary charting authorities and / or by industry in cooperation with national authorities, as well as being an agenda topic for the various RHC's. With the current commitment of the IHO to the S-100 implementation roadmap and the scarcity of available resources, we all need to be careful of how we wish to prioritize.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">3.1</a>	Amendments to General Regulations, Art. 8.e – Membership of the HCA	IHO Council	3

**BRAZIL**

Brazil supports this proposal.

**CANADA**

Canada endorses this proposal.

**FINLAND**

Finland supports the proposal.

**GERMANY**

Germany supports this proposal.

**ITALY**

As member of the HCA and the IHO Council, Italy supports the proposal.

**JAPAN**

Japan supports the proposal.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal needs a better clarification on this subject in order to have any decision.

**SWEDEN**

Sweden supports the revision of Article 8(e) of the General Regulations of the IHO.



**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom supports this proposal.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States supports this change and congratulates the HCA for the advancement of the IHO Goal 2 in ways that are open and inclusive of all marine geospatial data holders within the region.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">3.2</a>	Revised Capacity Building Strategy	IHO Council	3

**BRAZIL**

Brazil supports this proposal.

**CANADA**

Canada endorses this proposal.

**FINLAND**

Finland supports the proposal.

**GERMANY**

Germany supports the revised Capacity Building Strategy.

**ITALY**

As member of the IHO Council, Italy supports the proposal.

**JAPAN**

Japan supports the proposal.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal endorses this proposal.

**SWEDEN**

Sweden supports the Revised Capacity Building Strategy.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom approves the capacity building strategy.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">3.3</a>	Recognition of the Southern Ocean	HCA Chair	3

**ARGENTINA**

Argentina considers that there are no technical grounds to support a separate reference for the area referred as "Southern Ocean", which corresponds to the southern zones of the Indian, South Atlantic and South Pacific Oceans.

Furthermore, and considering the technical and consultative character of the International Hydrographic Organization, the present resolution not only lacks political implications but also juridical.

A letter describing Argentina's further views on this issue is attached as Annex 2 of this document.

**BRAZIL**

Brazil supports the proposal.

**CHILE**

Chile recognizes the existence of the Southern Ocean and its limits by the following statement:

"The northern limit of the Southern Ocean is the parallel 60° S and its southern limit is the Antarctic coastline, included the Antarctic Peninsula".

Therefore, CHILE supports the Proposal 3.3 submitted by the Secretary-General, as HCA Chair.

**GERMANY**

Germany supports this proposal.

**ITALY**

As member of HCA, Italy supports the proposal.

**NORWAY**

Norway supports this proposal in order to rectify an omission that has lasted 70 years and to once more become aligned with geographers and the scientific community in their well-established use of the denominator "Southern Ocean".

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal endorses this proposal.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom support this proposal.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States supports the proposal and concurs with the proposed limits of the Southern Ocean for use by the IHO. This recognition is without prejudice to the term "Southern Ocean" as other international or regional bodies with appropriate competence may define for their specific purposes.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL`S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES COMMENTS**

The Secretary-General in his capacity as HCA chair confirms that all regular business procedures within HCA were followed and applied to this item as for the others, with full fairness and transparency.

The Secretariat stands ready to include the reservations (except those that could be procedural in nature) that any Member State wishes to add in the Appendix of the proposed Resolution.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">3.4</a>	Access to Software, Hardware and Training Courses	Islamic Republic of Iran	3

**ITALY**

Addressing the challenge for all the hydrographic community to embrace the S-100 framework, Italy supports any proposal to develop common efforts toward the S-100 implementation. The RENCs can play an active role in this direction.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal needs a better clarification on this subject in order to have any decision.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL`S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES COMMENTS**

In preparation of the considerations to be made under the respective Assembly Agenda item, Member States are invited to take note of the Article II of the IHO Convention and IHO Resolution 2/1972 addressing the scope of this Proposal.

PROPOSAL N°	OBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL	SUBMITTED BY	REFERENCE
<a href="#">3.5</a>	Establishment of a task force to explore the potential merits, structures, and options for alternative fund generation to support capacity building and other IHO initiatives	United States of America, Canada, Norway, United Kingdom and Australia	3

**BRAZIL**

Brazil supports this proposal.

**CANADA**

Canada thanks the United States for this initiative to investigate approaches to create sustainable funding mechanisms to complement the current IHO models and operations and endorses this proposal.

The IHO has done an admirable job delivering capacity building given the funding pressures and parameters of the program.

Unfortunately, as the proposal points out, the IHO has been unable to keep up with all the demands for capacity building.

Canada believes that it is in the best interest of those asking for capacity building and the IHO to examine new options.

**FRANCE**

France supports the creation of a Working Group dedicated to the search of alternative funding for the capacity building policy or other IHO initiatives and wishes to become a member.

The themes mentioned, namely capacity building and GEBCO, are managed by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) within the IHO, as are the regional initiatives that could benefit from this search of funding. France therefore proposes to place this Working Group under the direct supervision of the IRCC and not the IHO Council, with the IRCC being responsible for keeping the Council informed of the Group's progress.

**PORTUGAL**

Portugal needs a better clarification on this subject in order to have any decision.

**SWEDEN**

Sweden supports the proposal for a Capacity Building Task force.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

The United Kingdom support this proposal.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL`S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES COMMENTS**

Noting the priorities and difficulties faced by a number of existing sub-committees, project teams and working groups (lack of office bearers, active membership, meeting costs...), the Secretariat proposes the consideration of an ad hoc Project Team – a well-established format with a short mandate, TORs, etc. – within the existing framework of committees and working groups.



**Annexes addressed by the Secretary-General's comments in response to Member States Comments**

**Annex 1**

**Edited version of PRO 1.6 Polygonal demarcation of global sea areas to highlight Japan's suggestions through strikethrough and replacement in red**

PROPOSAL

Noting the endorsement by the Council, the Assembly is invited:

- a. to note the timeline for the development of the S-130 Product Specification and Implementation.
  - b. to endorse the Secretary-General's recommendation to postpone the consideration of the necessity of the subsequent development of basic guidelines for the allocation and display of attributes of sea areas to be applied to Geographic Information Systems ~~when~~ **after** the S-130 Product Specification and the implementation as authoritative S-130 dataset ~~are~~ **will be** finalized.
  - c. to endorse the Secretary-General's recommendation to postpone the consideration of subsequent amendments to the relevant IHO Resolutions 32/1919 as amended and 13/1919 as amended, for endorsement by the Council, if appropriate, ~~when~~ **after** the S-130 Product Specification and the implementation as authoritative S-130 dataset ~~are~~ **will be** finalized.
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## Annex 2



*Ministerio de Defensa*  
*Servicio de Hidrografía Naval*

BUENOS AIRES, January 18th, 2023.

Mr. SECRETARY GENERAL

I am pleased to write to you regarding the last version of the draft Resolution submitted to the Third Session of the Assembly (A-3) of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) which proposes the recognition of the "Southern Ocean", identified in the list of documents before the Assembly as Proposal 3.3.

First of all, it is observed that, once again, the current version of the draft Resolution does not include in Annex 1, which contains national positions and reservations on the limits of the Atlantic, Indian, Pacific and "Southern Ocean", the Argentine position that was duly submitted by letters sent to the IHO Council Secretariat and the Antarctic Hydrographic Commission (HCA) Secretariat. However, it is noted that a slot has been reserved, which states the following: "Argentina: National position on the existence and limits of the Southern Ocean to be included, if Argentina wishes to do so (to be confirmed and added in the final version if appropriate)".

On the other hand, even though the e-mail sent on November 30th 2022 by IHO Secretary General, Mr. Mathias Jonas, refers to an explicit support from Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, Spain, United States and the United Kingdom, Annex 1 only includes, in addition to previously incorporated comments on the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and observations from Australia and the United Kingdom, opinions from Chile and Ecuador.

In view of this, Argentina reiterates that taking into account the differences in the positions and national reserves contained in Annex 1 of the draft Resolution, as well as the small amount of opinions from member States that were incorporated in the document, there would be no consensus on the recognition of the "Southern Ocean", as this draft Resolution seems to imply.

Moreover, as it was previously noted, both in the 18th Conference of the Antarctic Hydrographic Commission (HCA), at the regional level, and in the IHO Council, the issue of the recognition of the "Southern Ocean" was not included in the agenda and its treatment should have been exclusively for informative purposes, which would prevent the adoption of any type of decision in this regard.

In that sense, Argentina reiterates that in both instances our country exercised its right as member State to request the circulation of the letter containing comments and national observations on a matter within the Organization's mandate, which was not fulfilled. In light of this, Argentina requests, once again, the circulation of both letters to the member States of the Organization.



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On the other hand, in the before mentioned e-mail dated November 30th 2022, the Secretary General of the IHO expressed that “no comment was received from Argentina on this discussion prior to HCA-18”.

In this respect, Argentina reiterates that the treatment of the issue regarding the limits and denomination of the “Southern Ocean” (entitled “Open discussion on the limits and naming of the Southern Ocean- way forward”) was included in the agenda of the 18th Conference in point “Any other business”. The document HCA18-08.1AE that referred to that matter was not available on the IHO website. In addition, the draft Resolution was circulated after said meeting, which prevented our country from knowing the content of the draft Resolution and exercise the corresponding right of stating our national position as a member State.

Furthermore, and with respect to the IHO Secretary General’s observation on Argentina’s comments affirming that it “is not factual but relates to the process of treatment of the proposal itself and is therefore not suitable to become part of the Annex to the Resolution itself”, Argentina indicates that the assessment of the comments sent by member States exceeds the Secretariat’s competence, as it is an organ that has no mandate to provide this kind of judgments. In that sense, Argentina reiterates the request to incorporate the national position in Annex 1 of the draft resolution.

In addition, the request to circulate the national position of a State constitutes the exercise of a right that corresponds to that State as a member of the Organization, which cannot be restricted in any way by the Secretariat.

On the other hand, as stated in previous opportunities, it is noted that the draft Resolution should not use the verb “recognize”, as this would imply admitting a pre-existing situation, which would not be the case with the “Southern Ocean”. Indeed, the draft Resolution aims to accept said reference and adopt the respective place name, which could only take effect from the entry into force of the resolution.

As a consequence, the draft Resolution could not recognize the “Southern Ocean”, as it is not a pre-existing situation. In addition, it could not name said maritime area either, as that exceeds the IHO’s mandate.

In this regard, it is recalled that Argentina’s position does not imply a disagreement with the reference itself, but from a national perspective there are no technical, scientific or hydrographic grounds that explain the need to assign a separate reference to the area referred as “Southern Ocean”, which corresponds to the southern zone of the Indian, South Atlantic and South Pacific Oceans. In that sense, the draft Resolution does not provide any technical arguments to support such decision, and it only refers to the use of the reference in certain academic circles and media.



*Ministerio de Defensa*  
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Instead, Argentina considers that the expression "southern oceans" could be used to refer to the southern zones of the Indian, South Atlantic and South Pacific Oceans, as has been the practice to this day.

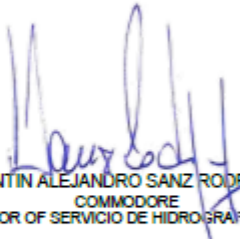
Moreover, it is reiterated that according to the IHO General Regulations, "the activities of the International Hydrographic Organization (hereinafter the Organization) are of a consultative and technical nature, and do not include matters involving questions of international politics" (article 1). In that sense, and considering that the reference "Southern Ocean" could be used for informative purposes only, it is remarked that such reference not only lacks political implications ("these limits have no political significance whatsoever") but also juridical, and could not affect rights and duties of States in relation with the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

In that sense, and taking into account that Argentina's comments were not incorporated in Annex 1 of the draft Resolution and considering the slot reserved to our national's observations, Argentina requests the inclusion of the following paragraph in Annex 1 of the draft Resolution as a summary of the national position:

"Argentina considers that there are no technical grounds to support a separate reference for the area referred as "Southern Ocean", which corresponds to the southern zones of the Indian, South Atlantic and South Pacific Oceans.

Furthermore, and considering the technical and consultative character of the International Hydrographic Organization, the present resolution not only lacks political implications but also juridical".

Lastly, Argentina requests the present letter to be circulated to the member States of the Organization.

  
VALENTIN ALEJANDRO SANZ RODRIGUEZ  
COMMODORE  
DIRECTOR OF SERVICIO DE HIDROGRAFIA NAVAL

Secretary General of IHO  
Dr. Mathias JONAS

CC  
Secretary of 3rd Assembly IHO  
Secretary of HCA