

**3<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY**  
**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION**

5 May 2023

**FINANCE REPORTS, WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET MATTERS (AGENDA ITEM 11)**

**PRESENTATION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (AGENDA ITEM 11.1)**

(A3/2023/F/01/EN; A3/2023/F/02/EN; A3/2023/F/03/EN; A/2023/09/EN)

CHAIR invited the Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee to introduce the agenda item.

VICE-CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE reported that the Finance Committee had met on Monday, 1 May 2023, the day before the opening of A-3, with representatives of 23 Member States attending. Agenda items discussed at the meeting had included the Finance report 2020–2022 (A3/2023/F/01/EN) and Annual Finance Report 2022 (A3/2023/F/02/EN); implementation of the budget for 2023; the three-year budget 2024–2026; and election of the Finance Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for the term 2024–2026.

The Finance Committee had recommended that the Assembly should:

- Approve the Finance Report 2020–2022;
- Approve the Annual Finance Report 2022;
- Approve the Secretary-General's recommendations for the transfer of the 2022 budget surplus to the Assembly Fund;
- Appoint Cabinet Taramazzo to audit the 2022 IHO accounts (approval ex post facto) and to audit the fiscal years 2023–2025;
- Note the implementation of the Budget for 2023;
- Approve the three-year budget 2024–2026;
- Approve an increase in the value of the Member States' contribution share by 3% to €4,145.05 (approximately 120 euros per share) in one step, taking effect in 2024;
- Take note of the fact that the revision of the IHO M-7 Staff Regulations had no financial implications other than those already reported in the annual reports and budget plans.

The Finance Committee had further re-elected Ms Isabelle Rosabrunetto as Chair and elected Ms Sonia Chanell as Vice-Chair by acclamation.

The Finance Committee transmitted the above recommendations to the Assembly for adoption.

CHAIR opened the floor to Member States for comments on the report of the Finance Committee.

UNITED KINGDOM fully endorsed the recommendations of the Finance Committee and thanked the Vice-Chair for his service to IHO.

GERMANY commended the work done by the Finance Committee and fully supported its recommendations.

The Assembly approved the Finance Report 2020–2022.

The Assembly approved the Finance Report 2022 (Annual Report 2022 Part II) and noted the Annual Report 2022 (draft Edition 1.1.0, April 2023) (Doc. A3 2023 G 09 refers).

The Assembly approved the Secretary-General's recommendation to A3 for the use of the 2022 surplus to add it to the Assembly Fund.

The Assembly endorsed the appointment of CABINET TARAMAZZO (Monaco) to audit the 2022 IHO's accounts ex post facto and to audit the fiscal years 2023–2025.

The Assembly approved the 3 years' budget 2024 – 2026.

The Assembly approved the increase in the value of the Member States' contribution share by 3% to €4,145.05 (~ €120 per share) in one step, taking effect in 2024.

The Assembly took note of the fact that the revision of the IHO M-7 Staff Regulations had no financial implications other than those already reported in the annual reports and budget plans.

The Assembly took note of the re-election of Ms Isabelle Rosabrunetto (Monaco) as Chair and the election of Ms Sonia Chanell (United Kingdom) as Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee for the term 2024–2026.

### **APPROVAL OF THE THREE-YEAR WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2024–2026 (IHO COUNCIL) (AGENDA ITEM 11.2)**

(A3/2002/EN/PRO 1.4)

SECRETARY-GENERAL explained that, as part of the IHO Planning Cycle for Assembly years, the IHO Convention mandated the Council to prepare a proposal for the three-year Work Programme and budget estimates for Assembly adoption. The Council, assisted by the Secretary-General, had drafted a proposal of a three-year Work Programme 2024–2026, based on the priorities of the existing IHO Strategic Plan. The Council had endorsed the three-year budget estimates 2024–2026 including recommendations regarding pragmatic allocations in case the Assembly decided in favour of an increase of the value of the Member States' contribution share.

As the Assembly had approved that Goal 1 and its Targets in the IHO Strategic Plan should have the highest priority in the 2024–2026 Work Programme, it was expected that the Assembly would task the Council to review and possibly adapt the Work Programme 2024–2026 at the Council's seventh meeting in October 2023.

The Assembly: a) approved the 3 years' Work Programme 2024-2026; b) approved the three-year budget estimates 2024-2026; c) tasked the Council to adapt the Work Programme 2024-2026 and budget estimates 2024-2026 according to the applying decisions made at A3.

### **APPROVAL OF THE TABLE OF TONNAGES 2024–2026 (AGENDA ITEM 11.3)**

(A3/2023/G/03)

SECRETARY-GENERAL presented the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Assembly adopt the proposed Table of Tonnages as submitted in document A.3/2023/G/03.

The Assembly approved the Table of Tonnages, Shares, Contribution and Votes (Doc A3/2023/G03/EN/FR V3) as prepared according to IHO Financial Regulations, Articles 5 and 6.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT AND FIRST INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ELECTION PROCESS (AGENDA ITEM 11.4)**

CHAIR instructed that only one delegate from each Member State can be present in the Auditorium during the vote, accompanied only by a personal interpreter as necessary. All delegates and observers who were not entitled to vote were asked to leave the Auditorium Hall.

SECRETARY-GENERAL noted that the election process would comprise two rounds of voting in closed session, the first round to elect the Secretary-General and the second round to elect a Director. Director Sinapi would perform the responsibilities of the Secretary-General for the Assembly during the election process.

## **ELECTION FOR THE POSITION OF IHO SECRETARY-GENERAL AND IHO DIRECTOR (AGENDA ITEM 12)**

(A3/2023/E/01 Rev.1 and A3/2023/E/02 Rev.1)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GUILLAM displayed the names of the eligible candidates for the position of Secretary-General and asked if the representatives had received the correct number of ballot papers. In the absence of a response to the contrary, he instructed the delegates to fill out their ballot papers.

(A vote was taken by secret ballot, and the ballot box was then handed to the Scrutineers for counting.)

CHAIR confirmed that the expected 308 ballot papers had been received and read the results as compiled by the Chair of the Scrutineers:

Rhett HATCHER, 91

Mathias JONAS, 181

Abraham KAMPFER, 36.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GUILLAM displayed the names of the eligible candidates for the position of Director. He asked if the representatives had received the correct number of voting papers and received no response.

(A vote was taken by secret ballot, and the ballot box was then handed to the Scrutineers for counting.)

CHAIR, confirming that the expected 308 ballot papers had been received, reporting that there had been three abstentions. He read the results as compiled by the Chair of the Scrutineers:

Abraham KAMPFER, 128

John NYBERG, 177.

The Assembly elected successively:

- Dr Mathias JONAS (Germany) to the post of Secretary-General, for a term of office of three years starting on 1 September 2023;
- Dr John NYBERG (United States of America) to a post of Director for a term of office of six years starting on 1 September 2023.

(Delegates and observers resumed their seats in the Auditorium Hall.)

**ENDORSEMENT OF THE SELECTION PROCESS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE IHO COUNCIL 2023–2026 (AGENDA ITEM 12.1)**

(A3/2023/G/07 V3 and A3/2023/G/08 V3)

SECRETARY-GENERAL gave a short presentation about the selection process and read out the list of Council members for 2023–2026. He concluded by explaining the election process for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council.

The Assembly endorsed the selection process of the Members of the Council 2023-2026 (document A3/2023/G/07 V3).

The Assembly approved the Members of the Council 2023-2026 (document A3/2023/G/08 V3).

**REVIEW OF ASSEMBLY DECISIONS (AGENDA ITEM 12.2)**

(A3/2023/G/10)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MANTEIGAS presented the list of draft decisions of the 3rd Assembly. In the absence of any comments, CHAIR took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the decisions.

The Assembly decisions were adopted.

**AWARD FOR THE BEST MEMBER STATE EXHIBITION (AGENDA ITEM 12.3)**

CHAIR announced that the United States of America was the winner, with Greece in second place, and Portugal, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and Uruguay in joint third place.

**PRESENTATION OF A VIDEO OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT INVITING PARTICIPANTS TO THE UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE 2025 IN NICE, FRANCE (AGENDA ITEM 12.4)**

The video was unfortunately not available. It will be shown at a future IHO meeting.

**CLOSING CEREMONY (AGENDA ITEM 13)**

**DATE OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY IN 2026 (AGENDA ITEM 13.1)**

CHAIR announced that the date proposed for the next session of the Assembly was 20–24 April 2026.

The Assembly agreed to plan the fourth session of the Assembly (A4) for 20–24 April 2026.

**SEATING ORDER AT THE NEXT SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY (AGENDA ITEM 13.2)**

The letter “A” was drawn by the Assembly Vice-Chair to be used in determining the seating order.

The Assembly agreed to start the seating order of 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly (A-4) with letter A of the French alphabet.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEM 13.3)**

### **RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE HOST COUNTRY (A.1/MISC/02)**

CHAIR read out the following resolution:

The Assembly:

Recognizing the continued close association and significant support of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II and the Government of the Principality of Monaco in hosting the International Hydrographic Organization,

Appreciating the kind generosity of His Serene Highness and the Government of the Principality of Monaco in providing premises for the Organization,

Further appreciating the provision of a reception to the participants of the 3rd Session of the Assembly,

Further appreciating the provision of the Port Facilities of Monaco for the ships that called during the 3rd Session of the Assembly,

Expresses its profound gratitude to His Serene Highness Prince Albert II and the Government of the Principality of Monaco for their graciousness and kind hospitality extended to the Organization, and

Requests the delegation of the Principality of Monaco to convey to His Serene Highness and the Government of the Principality of Monaco the sincere sentiments of the Assembly expressed above.

The CHAIR said she took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the resolution.

The resolution was adopted.

### **STATEMENTS BY OUTGOING AND INCOMING SECRETARY-GENERAL AND DIRECTORS (AGENDA ITEM 13.3) (continued)**

Mr KAMPFER, outgoing Director, extended congratulations to Dr Mathias Jonas, the Secretary-General, on his re-election and to Dr John Nyberg on his election as Director. He had been deeply honoured to serve as Director of the IHO technical programme for six years. He thanked everyone for their support and confidence. He knew that he was not the only one to be excited about the future of the Organization, with the focus on the S-100 standards being ready to provide compatible data and services in 2026. The well-functioning Secretariat, Committees and Working Groups, with their dedicated office bearers, had been in evidence during the course of the Assembly. He was confident in the future of the Organization. He would follow the progress of S-100 with great interest and wished the new team in the Secretariat every success.

Dr JONAS, incoming Secretary-General, expressed his relief, gratitude, pride and joy for the recognition shown on his re-election. When he had first been elected in 2017, he had found that no one could be fully prepared for the position, since there was no “Category A” course for incoming Secretaries-General! He had learned the job by doing it and had tried to make as few mistakes as possible. The IHO was in excellent shape but faced technical and organizational challenges in the coming decade, including promoting technical standards to the next level of digitization and investing in the capacity to apply them both inside and outside the IHO community, and liaising with collaborating partners with greater intensity. Those goals and targets were

addressed in the agreed IHO Strategic Plan. As an organization with a technical focus, IHO's leverage to build a global system of hydrographic services crossed administrative, cultural and political boundaries. Digitization would allow IHO to become more visible while visibility would, at the same time, raise expectations from a much-expanded range of stakeholders. In order to meet those expectations, IHO would do more on sustainability. His motivation was high and the dedication and commitment of Member States would be crucial to the success and evolution of the Organization. IHO faced the challenge of reaffirming its constitutional nature as a technical and consultative organization, as IHO's predecessors had done for over a century through times of political conflict. His guiding principle remained multilateralism for global cooperation in hydrography. He extended his wholehearted gratitude to the outgoing Director of the IHO Technical Programme for his tireless work, achievements and personal friendship. He welcomed the incoming Director and looked forward to working with him. He renewed his promise as Secretary-General to work as the first servant of the Organization.

Dr NYBERG, incoming Director, thanked Member States, the Secretariat and his own country for the support he had received. He would not forget that he had been elected to work for Member States. He was aware of the messages received during the Assembly that no country should be left behind in their hydrographic capacity and ability to meet the challenges of the Strategic Plan. Together, Member States and the Secretariat must see through implementation of the S-100 data model and expand opportunities through diversity and inclusion. He expressed sincere gratitude and respect to the candidates for the posts of Secretary-General and Director, who had all contributed greatly to the hydrographic community. He sincerely looked forward to working with the IHO Secretariat and for Member States over the coming six years.

#### **CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR OF THE ASSEMBLY (AGENDA ITEM 13.4)**

Mrs DAHL HØJGAARD, Chair of the Assembly, said that, in a week of hard work, an impressive number of decisions had been taken that would guide the cooperation within the hydrographic community during the coming years. The strategic decision to put focus on the implementation of the S-100 standards in the next triennium to be ready to provide compatible data and services in 2026 was of particular significance. IHO Member States had chosen a pathway to follow together and had committed to sharing their experiences and coordinating efforts regionally and internationally. She wished to rephrase the vision "from the Ocean we have, to the Ocean we want" to read "from the Hydrography we have, to the Hydrography we want", since it framed very well the discussions held that week.

The new organizational structure, which was put into play with the first Assembly in 2017, had shown its strength. The role of the Council, working in the interim to facilitate discussions, had provided and matured a number of proposals for final decision at Assembly, which had been unanimously supported. She thanked the Council Chair, Geneviève Béchar, who had made the decision-making possible with her very inclusive and consultative manner, which had made sure that everyone was heard. Acknowledgement was also due to the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee and the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee.

The lively discussions had focused mostly on the new proposals coming from Member States or regional commissions, and common ground had been reached. She thanked Member States for the respectful and positive atmosphere in which the proceedings had been held. She had been glad to feel part of an international community in which there was a shared passion for hydrography and a common wish to preserve the world's oceans and keep seafarers safe.

In closing, she congratulated the elected Secretary-General and Director and thanked Mr Kampfer, who would be missed. She thanked the guests, exhibitors, rapporteurs and interpreters who had enabled the development of the proceedings and lasting record of the Assembly. Thanks were due also to the Vice-Chair, Adam Greenland, for his support, and to all members of the Secretariat, whose dedicated efforts behind the scenes had helped the Assembly to run smoothly.

(Amid applause, the IHO Secretariat was invited to ascend the stage.)

The SECRETARY-GENERAL presented a commemorative gift to the outgoing Chair in acknowledgement of her outstanding work in guiding the Assembly.

(Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Assembly of the International Hydrographic Organization was declared closed.)