

## **PRO-1.2 Implementation and Review of the Strategic Plan**

**Submitted by: Council (Council Chair)**

**References:**

- A. IHO Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026
- B. 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IHO Council IHO C-6 – *Summary Report*
- C. M-3 Resolutions of the IHO - IHO Resolution 12/2002 as amended  
– *Planning Cycle [for Assembly Years]*.

### **PROPOSAL**

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

- a. **to agree on the continuation of conduct of the annual Work Programmes on the basis of the Strategic Plan in place for 2021 – 2026 and direct the Council accordingly;**
- b. **to approve that Goal 1 of the IHO Strategic Plan and its targets shall have the highest priority in the implementation of the 2024–2026 Work Programme;**
- c. **to direct IRCC to provide guidance to the MSDI Working Group on the focus shift in implementation of Goal 2/Target 2.1 towards an IHO Data-Products-Services portal providing global thematic layers;**
- d. **to continue to measure the effectiveness and the efficiency of the three Work Programmes implementation by means of the Strategic Performance Indicators as endorsed by the Council;**
- e. **to provide directions to the next Council for the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2027–2032.**

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

1. The Strategic Plan in place, designed for the rolling period 2021 – 2026, shall be reviewed at each ordinary session of the Assembly (Reference C, Art. 1). The Council, tasked to provide input for this review, confirmed the general appropriateness and usability of the existing Strategic Plan. The Council therefore recommends to continue with the Strategic Plan in place for 2021–2026 in general (Council Decision C6/56), but proposes priority and focus adjustments which are explained in the following paragraphs.
2. At its ninth meeting in 2022 (NCSR9), the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, Search and Rescue of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) had endorsed and transmitted to the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) the proposal, initiated by IHO, to include S-100 compatible data sets as a valid format in ECDIS.
3. The 6th Council noted the outcome of the 9th session of the IMO NCSR on the revision of MSC.1/Circ.1503/Rev1 – ECDIS Guidance for Good Practice and Revision of MSC.232(82) – ECDIS Performance Standard (IHO CL 31/2022 refers) and took note of

the associated IHO commitments made towards the IMO and the IEC in particular (transition period for S-100 ECDIS, to become legal to use after 1 January 2026 and from 1 January 2029, new systems must comply with the new IMO Resolution on ECDIS Performance Standards). Both documents have subsequently been approved in November 2022 by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 106).

4. Of particular note is this intended timeline for S-100 ECDIS. Rapidly growing S-101 ENC coverage and appropriate complementary S-100 data/products services is now expected when S-100 ECDIS becomes operational. In order to meet these expectations, it is now of strategic importance to facilitate IHO Member States and wider stakeholders to actively support the development of S-101 and other S-1xx Product Specifications and, potentially, accelerate delivery of operational versions of S-128, S-164 and S-98.
5. As a consequence it is proposed that the implementation of Work Programme 2024 – 2026 should focus on activities in support of Goal 1 and its targets which means priority in
  - a. application of material and human resources;
  - b. liaison with public sector and industry partners;
  - c. promotion of concerted regional approaches including increased collaboration with the RENCs; and
  - d. support of test beds delivering best practice examples for the production, maintenance and distribution of all prioritised S-100 derivatives.
6. An important means for creation and maintenance of services for S-100 derivatives services is a matured MSDI infrastructure. The Strategic Plan addresses this under Goal 2 / Target 2.1 to “Build a portal to support and promote regional and international cooperation in marine spatial data infrastructures (MSDI)”. The implementation of this target is addressed under the Working Programme of the MSDI Working Group which is overseen by IRCC. The anticipated solution so far was to build up a dedicated IHO web page which serves as a gateway to the respective national MSDI infrastructure of Member States.
7. This concept has turned out in the interim to be an unbearable task in terms of completeness and up to dateness. Moreover, web page statistics indicates an insignificant number of visitors searching for national MSDI resources via the IHO website. The Council has therefore agreed on the Secretary-General’s recommendation to refocus the function and the layout of a future MSDI portal (Reference B C6/53). Instead of referencing to the respective national MSDI infrastructure, with links that will never be complete nor fully up to date, it is proposed to focus on global thematic layers of information which are limited to the IHO scope such as those which are already provided under IHO online catalogues. Some examples are listed here:
  - Global IHO Membership
  - Global INT Chart coverage
  - Global ENC coverage
  - Global CATZOC status (for those ENC producers willing to make it publicly available)
  - Global AIS indicated ships traffic
  - INTtoGIS III (as a worldwide simplified version of the global S-128 catalogue)
  - GEBCO SCUFN Gazetteer and SCUFN Archive
  - Global Bathymetric layer (GEBCO Grid)
  - Global Survey Coverage
  - C-55 content
  - Global MSI NAVAREA layout
  - S-100 showcases / best practice examples

8. This approach can be extended to other themes such as future digital catalogues of hydrographic products and services (S-128) and a global repository of Marine Protected Areas (S-122). These and other themes of global thematic layers of interest, such as “green” spatial planning, would help to increase IHO’s visibility and assist Member States in their respective domestic duties. It is proposed therefore to direct IRCC to provide guidance to MSDIWG on the focus shift in implementation of Goal 2/Target 2.1 and add appropriate action on MSDIWG Work Programme for the development of a concept approach for an IHO portal on global thematic layers relevant for the pursuance of Goal 2.
  9. The Council proposes to be tasked with the development of the next Strategic Plan to be put in place for 2027 – 2032 in compliance with the Planning Cycle (Reference C, Art. 1)). Noting the implementation of the Strategic Performance Indicators in progress for all three Work Programmes, aiming to deliver a comprehensive assessment of the efficiency of IHO activities in support of the drafting process of the Strategic Plan 2027 – 2032, the Council proposes to continue to measure the effectiveness and the efficiency of the three Work Programmes implementation by means of the Strategic Performance Indicators as endorsed by the Council.
  10. Based on the expected guidance received from A-3, it is assumed that C-7 will set up a Strategic Plan Review Working Group that would start the drafting process with direction to present a first report to C-8, endorsement of the final draft at C-9, and submit the result for adoption by A-4.
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