

## Outcomes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IMO/ITU Experts Group (IMO/ITU EG13)

Submitted by IHO Secretariat

### SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details of the outcomes of IMO/ITU EG13, which are relevant to WWNWS-SC

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6.

Related documents: NCSR4/12 dated 2 December 2016, NCSR4/16 dated 1 September 2016

1. The 13th session of the IMO/ITU EG (IMO/ITU EG13) was held at the IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom, from 10 to 14 July. It was noted that, apart from NAVAREA I Coordinator, there were no delegates representing Hydrographic Offices of IHO member states or other originators of MSI involved in the WWNWS.
2. The Group addressed a number of topics of direct interest to IHO Member States resulting from discussions at the 97th and 98th sessions of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC97 and MSC98), 4th session of the IMO Sub-committee on Navigation, Communications, and Search and Rescue (NCSR4) and in preparation for the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19).
3. After considering the outcomes of NCSR4, MSC97 and MSC98, the participants focused on further developing the IMO position on the WRC-19 agenda items relating to maritime services. In particular the participants addressed the modernization of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), and expressed concerns over the inclusion of the new system for maritime data broadcasting NAVDAT (Navigational Data) in the IMO proposal that is currently being developed. It was agreed that the inclusion of possible frequencies to be used for NAVDAT should be considered for WRC-23.
4. It was noted that the Modernization Plan of the GMDSS had been completed after the endorsement and approval given at MSC98. The majority of the meeting was then spent on developing the related preliminary draft revisions of SOLAS Chapters III and IV. There was considerable discussion on whether to expand the scope of application of Chapter IV to include all ships on international voyages, regardless of tonnage. No consensus was reached and it was therefore agreed that the current scope of application should be retained. A comprehensive review was conducted with numerous amendments and revisions proposed, including the revision and development of a number of definitions for terms such as *bridge-to-bridge communications*, *Enhanced Group Call (EGC)*, *GMDSS*, *Recognised mobile satellite service* and *Sea areas A3 and A4*. No final agreement was reached on a new definition of *Security-related communications*, which will be further discussed during NCSR5 rather than in the Correspondence Group (CG) on the Modernization of the GMDSS

established by NCSR4. The IHO noted that this was already included within the definition of MSI in the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on MSI. All these definitions will be developed further by the CG for submission to NCSR5.

5. The Group developed a preliminary draft work plan for the related and consequential amendments to other existing instruments. The draft work plan included resolution MSC.191(79) – *Performance Standards for the presentation of navigation-related information on shipborne navigational displays*, resolution A.801(19) as amended by MSC.199(80) - *Provision of radio services for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, (GMDSS)*, Resolution A.707(17) - *Charges for Distress, Urgency and Safety Messages through the Inmarsat System*, Resolution MSC.306(87) - *Revised performance standards for Enhanced Group Call (EGC) equipment*, and Resolution MSC.68(68), Annex 3 - *Performance Standards for MF/HF Radio Installations Capable of Voice Communication, Narrow Band Direct Printing and Digital Selective Calling* – all of which impact on the work of a number of IHO committees, sub-committees and working groups. It is intended that the first draft revisions will be submitted to NCSR5 for further consideration.

6. The Sub-Committee is:

- a. **invited** to note the information provided;
- b. **requested** to consider direct involvement by NAVAREA Coordinators in the Correspondence Group;
- c. **invited** to investigate ways of achieving representation of NAVAREA Coordinators at the next session of the IMO/ITU EG; and
- d. **take** any other action as appropriate.