

**9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO-INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO IRCC9**

**PARAMARIBO, 12-14 JUNE 2017**

**Report of the IHO Secretariat**

<i>Submitted by:</i>	IHO Secretariat
<i>Executive Summary:</i>	This paper provides a summary report of matters of interest related to the work of the IHO Secretariat.

**Entry into force of the Amendments to the IHO Convention and its supporting Basic Documents**

1. The Amendments to the IHO Convention and its supporting Basic Documents entered into force on 8 November 2016. The most significant changes to the organization of the IHO are:

- the term International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) used to describe the headquarters and the secretariat of the IHO is replaced by the term IHO Secretariat;
- the Directing Committee, comprising a President and two Directors ceases to lead the IHB (Secretariat of the IHO). Instead, the Secretariat of the IHO is now led by a Secretary-General assisted by two subordinate Directors;
- the term International Hydrographic Conference used to designate the principal organ of the Organization, composed of all Member States, is replaced by the term Assembly. The ordinary sessions of the Assembly will be held every three years instead of every five years for the Conference. The first session of the IHO Assembly (A-1) was held in Monaco from 24 to 28 April 2017, at which time an IHO Council has been established. The first meeting of the Council (C-1) will take place from 17 to 19 October 2017 and annually in October thereafter. The second session of the Assembly (A-2) should take place in April 2020;
- the subsidiary organs, including the Committees, of the IHO will report to the Council that will then refer endorsed proposals for adoption either to the Assembly or to the Member States through correspondence;
- the planning cycle for the IHO work programme and budget changes from a five-year to a three-year cycle. The next cycle will run from 2018 to 2020.
- for States wishing to join the IHO that are already Member States of the United Nations there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO;
- the strict eligibility requirements for candidates seeking election as the Secretary-General or a Director are relaxed; and
- in future, where voting by correspondence is required, through the Council, decisions will be taken based on a majority of the Member States that cast a vote, rather than the existing arrangements where a majority of all the Member States entitled to vote is required. A minimum number of at least one-third of all Member States eligible to vote must vote positively for the vote to stand

**Status of Membership of the IHO**

2. Malta and Vanuatu has been 86<sup>th</sup> and 87<sup>th</sup> member of the IHO during the report period. One of the main changes resulting from the entry into force of the revised IHO Convention is that, for States wishing to join the IHO that are already Member States of the United Nations, there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO. Accordingly, the following States: Bulgaria, Congo, Haiti, Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Solomon Islands, that have already applied for membership of the IHO, may now submit their

instruments of accession to the Convention on the IHO and thereby become members immediately.

### **Suspended Member States**

3. Serbia, Congo and the Dominican Republic remain suspended. IHO Secretariat is working with these states to expedite their return to full membership as soon as possible, as is the case for a number of other Member States who have fallen behind on payments of their annual subscription.

### **Diplomatic Engagement**

4. The Secretary General and Directors are continuing its programme of visits to brief high officials of non-Member States on the global status of hydrography and the relevance of the IHO to non-Member States. This is being done through targeted in-country visits and briefings and through visits to diplomatic legations in Paris, London and New York when convenient.

5. The Secretary General and Directors, in consultation with individual Member State representatives, brief relevant diplomatic missions in order to raise the profile of the respective national hydrographic service and the importance of hydrography.

6. The Secretary General and Directors provide briefings to the Department of External Relations and Cooperation of the Government of Monaco to enable Monaco's diplomatic service to better assist the IHO in maximising levels of awareness of hydrography and the IHO at the highest diplomatic levels, particularly in the UN and through the diplomatic services.

### **IHO GIS Data Base - Progress Report**

See document IRCC9-11A.

### **Outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly**

See document IRCC9-08A.

### **IHO Outreach**

7. World Hydrography Day. The theme of World Hydrography Day (WHD) 2016 was "*Hydrography – the key to well-managed seas and waterways*". This theme was intended to highlight the fundamental importance of hydrography and our knowledge of the shape, nature and depth of the seafloor as a fundamental enabler of the proper, safe, sustainable and cost effective use of the world's seas, oceans and waterways. A number of WHD events were held by Member States of the IHO including in Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Finland, Indonesia, Japan, Mauritius, Monaco, Pakistan, Suriname, UK and USA.

8. The theme of World Hydrography Day 2017 (WHD-2017) "*Mapping our seas, oceans and waterways - more important than ever*" (CL 61/2016 dated 4 November refers) is intended to focus attention on raise awareness of the current lack of comprehensive data to underpin many maps and charts of the seas and oceans. The theme also promotes and encourages innovative supplementary data gathering and data maximizing initiatives already under investigation in the IHO, including crowd-sourced bathymetry (volunteered geographic data) and satellite-derived bathymetry. This, in turn, will help to promote the increasing role of those involved in hydrography in maritime spatial data infrastructures and the benefits of making hydrographic data accessible to the widest possible audience for uses that go well beyond the safety of navigation. A brief on WHD-2017 is also available on the IHO website.

9. Member States have been invited to forward as soon as possible to the IHO Secretariat any material that is created in support of national WHD-2017 celebrations for posting on the IHO website. This will enable the widest possible dissemination of publicity and support material for the event.

10. International Hydrographic Review (IHR). The IHR provides an ideal opportunity for Regional Hydrographic Commissions and Member States to publicise technical and other achievements in the region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor ([ihreview@iho.int](mailto:ihreview@iho.int), copy to [ian.halls1@defence.au.gov](mailto:ian.halls1@defence.au.gov)). The deadlines are:

- End of January for the May Edition;
- End of July for the November Edition.

### **Capacity Building Programme**

11. The level of activity of the IHO Capacity Building (CB) Programme in 2016 was nearly the same as in 2015. Expenditure in the 2016 CB Work Programme (763,605 Euros) was slightly more than the budget for the previous year. Three activities were postponed to 2017 at the request of the RHC Chairs, which resulted in 93% of the budgeted work program being executed. Some of the activities that could not take place were postponed and transferred to the 2017 CB Work Programme for execution. The IHO Capacity Building programme is funded from the IHO budget and is supplemented by additional financial support from Member States (currently the Nippon Foundation of Japan, and the Republic of Korea) with in-kind support from Member States and from industry. However, considering the growing demands for IHO Capacity Building activities, more funds and contributions are required. The IHO Secretariat is continuing its campaign to find additional donor States and funding organizations. For this reason, the IHO representatives have engaged external stakeholders such as the United Nations, IMO, IALA, the European Commission, funding agencies (in particular the World Bank), academia and industry in general. IHO representatives had several meetings with the World Bank in 2016 which were helpful for networking and identifying funding opportunities for regional hydrographic projects, in particular for the Caribbean, West Africa and South West Pacific regions.

### **Action Requested of IRCC**

12. IRCC is invited to:

- **Note** this report,
- **Take any actions** as considered appropriate.