

## 23<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUBCOMMITTEE (CBSC23)

### IHO Secretariat, Monaco

### 28 - 30 May 2025

#### Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2025

Task 3.3.1 Organize, prepare and report annual meetings of the Capacity Building SubCommittee (CBSC)

#### High level summary:

- CBSC is exploring the use of GIS to enhance visualization of its Capacity Building activities.
- The possibility of prioritizing funds for S-100 implementation (Phase 3) was discussed.
- RENCs continue to provide essential support and solutions for IHO Members to develop capacity for the transition to S-100 data service provisions.
- All 28 proposed activities in the 2025 Capacity Building Work Programme (CBWP) will be fully funded.
- Submissions from RHCs for the 2026 CBWP have been prioritized.
- Updates were received from the Workforce of the Future Project Team, Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH), the IHO eLearning Centre, and the Fund Generation Project Team.
- CBSC agreed to propose IRCC the rebranding of Capacity **Building** to Capacity **Development**.
- CBSC concurred with IBSC's proposal to withdraw IHO publication C-47 *Training Courses in Hydrography and Nautical Cartography*.

#### Details:

The 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC) was held at the IHO Secretariat in Monaco, from 28 to 30 May 2025. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Evert Flier (Norway) and attended by 21 attendees from 11 Member States, representing 11 out of 15 Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs), with Australia, Bangladesh, Denmark and Nigeria as observers. The Chairs of three RHCs also attended the meeting contributing to the discussions. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas.

During the opening session, CBSC Chair Mr. Evert Flier welcomed all participants, expressing appreciation for the strong attendance and the comprehensive agenda of the meeting. Although some CB Coordinators were unable to attend in person, streaming arrangements allowed them to follow the discussions remotely. Director Sinapi also welcomed the participants, emphasizing the importance of this meeting as the last before the IHO Assembly. He highlighted significant progress in capacity building, acknowledging the contributions of the IHO Secretariat, CBSC, regional coordinators, Member States, and RENCs, and expressed his hopes for productive discussions.

The Committee reviewed the documents from previous sessions and agreed to task the CB Coordinators to report to CBSC on Crowd-Sourced Bathymetry (CSB) activities within their regions. CBSC is evaluating the use of GIS tools to support the visualization of IHO capacity building activities over time, which would help illustrate the global reach of IHO's support.

One of the key topics discussed was the IHO Capacity Building Strategy, particularly the possibility of reallocating funds from Phase 0 and Phase 1 activities to support S-100 implementation under Phase 3. While recognizing the increasing demand for S-100 capacity development support and the limited availability of non-earmarked funds for, the majority of RHCs expressed their preference to maintain the current strategy, plans, and procedures that assigns priority to Phases 0 and 1. This decision

underlines the important role of the RENCs in supporting Phases 2 and 3. The IHO Secretariat presented a Concept Note, previously shared with the RENCs, proposing a holistic approach to S-100 training on data production and service, which received support from CBSC members.

Several Member States continue to provide direct contributions to IHO capacity building activities, such as offering facilities, trainers, personnel, and advisory support. Additionally, countries like the Republic of Korea and Japan via the Nippon Foundation, provide relevant support funding earmarked activities, particularly in Phases 2 and 3. Both RENCs have also established their own Capacity Building Funds focused on S-100 implementation. Under the current IHO CB Strategy, non-earmarked funds are prioritized for Phases 0 and 1, while funding for Phases 2 and 3, including S-100 implementation, is primarily channeled through the RENCs, who continue to provide valuable support for Member States facing the challenges imposed by the transition to S-100.

The Capacity Building Work Programme for 2025 (2025 CBWP) was updated during the meeting. Thanks to contributions from Member States, RENCs, and the IHO Secretariat, all 28 activities included in the 2025 CBWP have been fully funded to date.

The submissions from the RHCs to the 2026 Capacity Building Work Programme were prioritized. The total estimated funding required to meet all submissions exceeds €690,000, while the currently available non-earmarked funds stand at €120,681.

The Committee received an update from the Workforce of the Future Project Team on the development of a draft Resolution, as directed by Council-8 (Decision C8/22a), aimed at helping Member States attract talent from the widest possible pool to address current and future challenges. An update was also provided on the Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) initiative, which aims to enhance equitable participation and promote women into leadership positions within hydrography. Thanks to ongoing support from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Norway, and the UK, the project remains active in accordance with the decisions of Council 7.

The Chair of the IHO eLearning Centre Steering Committee (SC) reported on several improvements, including the addition of new course materials and the signpost to additional eLearning platforms. However, progress has been hampered due to challenges faced by the General Manager Team. As a result, CBSC requested IRCC to encourage RHCs to identify additional candidates for the Steering Committee and General Manager Team and reiterated the call for Member States and partner organizations to contribute new eLearning materials to the platform.

CBSC23 also welcomed the report from the Fund Generation Project Team, which is exploring alternative funding models and mechanisms to support capacity building, GEBCO and other IHO initiatives.

The CBSC initiated a discussion on renaming Capacity **Building** to Capacity **Development**, aligning it to the terminology used by other organizations. While capacity building suggests the creation of new capabilities, capacity development emphasizes a more sustainable, participatory approach that builds on existing skills and resources. Following a constructive discussion, strong support emerged for the change. CBSC23 submitted a proposal to IRCC17 to endorse the renaming of this IHO strategic pillar and Sub-Committee as well as to be embedded in the revised IHO Strategic Plan 2027-2032.

In response to IRCC16 Decision 30, the IBSC proposed CBSC to agree on the withdrawal of IHO Publication C-47 *Training Courses in Hydrography and Nautical Cartography*, which has not been updated since 2011. Instead, it recommended that the IHO should focus on promoting Recognized Programmes that meet the applying IHO Standards, as listed on the regularly updated IBSC webpage. CBSC supported the withdrawal of C-47 but recommended preserving relevant information via the eLearning Centre.

## Photo



## Upcoming meetings:

The next CBSC meetings are planned as follows:

- CBSC24 Intersessional February 2026, VTC
- CBSC24 June 2026, Peru
- CBSC25 May/ June 2027, Nigeria
- CBSC26 May/June 2028, Australia/New Zealand
- CBSC27 May/June 2029, Denmark (tbc)