

24th MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE (CDSC24) Lima, Peru - 12 June 2026

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2026

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

High level summary:

- First meeting held under the new name **Capacity Development Sub-Committee (CDSC)**.
- The 2026 Capacity Development Work Programme (CDWP) was updated and progress reviewed, including the historical funding of all Capacity Development CD activities achieved in 2025.
- The submissions for the 2027 CDWP were reviewed and prioritized.
- Two Task Teams were established to follow up on the recommendations of the Fund Generation Project Team and to review Capacity Development procedures.
- Strategic discussions addressed implementation of the new IHO Strategic Plan, including review of C-55 and support for improved performance monitoring.
- Progress was reported on Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) and the continued development of the IHO eLearning Centre.

Details:

The 24th meeting of the Capacity Development Sub-Committee (CDSC) was held at the Peruvian Directorate of Hydrography and Navigation (DHN) in Lima, Peru, from 10 to 12 June 2026. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Evert Flier (Norway) and attended by 23 participants from 13 Member States, representing 14 of the 15 Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs). Two Regional Capacity Development Coordinators were unable to attend in person; to facilitate participation by one of them, the meeting was actively streamed. The IHO Secretariat was represented by Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas.

During the opening session, CDSC Chair Mr. Evert Flier welcomed participants, thanked DHN for hosting the meeting, and highlighted that this was the first meeting held under the Sub-Committee's new name. He emphasized the increased importance of Capacity Development within the revised IHO Strategic Plan 2027–2032.

Director Sinapi welcomed participants and reaffirmed that Capacity Development remains central to the IHO mission and confirmed the Secretariat's continued commitment to supporting CDSC activities.

The meeting was informed on the outcomes of the 4th Session of the IHO Assembly (A-4) such as on the approval of: the IHO Strategic Plan 2027–2032; the revision of IHO Publication C-47; the renaming of the Capacity Building Sub-Committee to the Capacity Development Sub-Committee (CDSC); the IHO Resolution on support inspire, recruit and maintain a competent workforce; the recommendations for the use of the 2025 surplus; and, the budget estimates and three-year Work Programme 2027 – 2029.

CD Coordinators presented updates on activities conducted across their respective RHCs. A common theme across regions was the challenge of supporting the transition to S-100 implementation. CDSC discussed the value of expanding the CDWP to include not only activities submitted by RHCs but also initiatives developed and supported by Member States and RENCs.

It was noted that 2025 was a record year for IHO Capacity Development, with all 31 non-earmarked CDWP activities funded through contributions from Member States, the IHO Secretariat, and RENCs. Only one activity was not completed because of technical issues.

The 2026 CDWP was updated. Of the 27 planned activities, 11 remain unfunded. Six have received support from PRIMAR, and further support is expected following the IC-ENC Steering Committee meeting. CDSC also reviewed and prioritized submissions for the 2027 CDWP, which currently has funding requirements of more than €552,894 against available non-earmarked funding of €171,100.

CDSC noted the recommendations of the Fund Generation Project Team, recognizing Capacity Development as a major beneficiary of additional funding opportunities, CDSC agreed to establish a Task Team to further develop procedures and identify fund-generation activities, initially focusing on engagement with industry and support to the CDWP.

The IHO Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) initiative continued with support from Member States through funding, training opportunities, and outreach activities. A side event at the 4th Session of the IHO Assembly highlighted progress and national initiatives to improve gender balance in hydrography, and CDSC24 welcomed updates from China on its national EWH activities.

The IHO eLearning Centre continued to develop under the guidance of its Steering Committee, with ongoing improvements to the platform, including enhanced accessibility, supported by the continued commitment of the Republic of Korea. Current efforts include evaluating the use of AI-generated multilingual subtitles. CDSC also considered a proposal to develop eLearning courses for S-5B basic subjects to increase flexibility, reduce training costs, and expand access to hydrographic education, in coordination with IBSC. During the meeting, Brazil offered to contribute with eLearning content.

Opportunities were identified to improve Capacity Development procedures by increasing administrative flexibility, improving cost efficiency, and addressing delays caused by the current bank-transfer payment process. A Task Team was established to review the procedures, while the IHO Secretariat was requested to investigate more practical payment methods.

CDSC considered the new IHO Strategic Plan 2027-2032 and the SPIs that relate to CDSC. One SPI relates to maritime safety information, for which WWNWS has developed a good way to monitor and measure progress and the second refers to adequately surveyed areas which is reported through C-55 "Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Charting Worldwide". Discussion was focused on the strategic purpose of C-55 and opportunities to modernize it to meet current requirements. CDSC agreed to propose that IRCC establish a Project Team under the IHO Council to review and redefine the purpose of C-55 and investigate potential improvements.

CDSC also discussed the work of the HSSC/IRCC Joint Project Team, which is reviewing the structure of the Committees and subordinate bodies. Members expressed the view that CDSC remains appropriately positioned under IRCC due to the strong relationship between Capacity Development Coordinators and the RHCs.

Photo



Participants in the 24th meeting of the Capacity Development Sub-Committee (CDSC) – Lima, Peru.

Upcoming meetings:

The next CDSC meetings are planned as follows:

- CDSC25 Intersessional February 2027, VTC
- CDSC25 26 – 28 May 2027, Nigeria
- CDSC26 May/June 2028, Australia/New Zealand
- CDSC27 May/June 2029, Denmark