



Visit of the IHO Secretary-General to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) London, United Kingdom, 30 September 2026

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2026.

Task 1.1.15 Maintain relationships with other international and observer organizations when their agendas have relevance to the programme of the IHO.

High level summary

- The IHO Secretary-General, Rear Admiral Luigi Sinapi, accompanied by IHO Director of Technology Dr John Nyberg, met IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez and the Director of the IMO Maritime Safety Division, Mr. Damien Chevallier, at IMO Headquarters in London. The meeting was cordial, open and productive and focused on practical cooperation to support the S-100 transition, reaffirming commitment to the 1 January 2029 milestone for S-100.
- They identified three priorities: high-level international coordination, direct engagement with shipping and end users, and stronger IHO–IMO capacity development cooperation.
- Follow-up will include a 2027 high-level S-100 meeting in Monaco, an end-user roundtable in London, and closer coordination on training and technical assistance, while existing IHO and IMO governance and technical processes remain fully respected.

Details:

Meeting with the IMO Secretary-General, London, 30 September 2026

The meeting was scheduled in follow-up to the IHO Secretary-General's letter of 1 September 2026 on strengthening IHO-IMO cooperation for 2026-2029. The discussion centred on the transition from standards development to operational implementation of S-100 and on the need for regulation, data production and distribution, type approval, training and end-user uptake to progress in a coordinated manner. Particular attention was given to the respective roles of IMO, IHO and the other international organizations contributing to the wider S-100 ecosystem, as well as to the operational support that will be provided by the IHO Infrastructure Centre in Busan.

The IHO emphasized that technical readiness alone will not deliver S-100 at sea. Shipowners, operators, mariners, pilots, equipment manufacturers, training providers and the type-approval community must be directly engaged so that investment, familiarisation and operational use develop in parallel with the standards and regulatory framework. The public communication issued after the visit similarly highlighted stronger IHO-IMO cooperation, greater involvement of the shipping industry and the need to ensure that developing coastal States are not left behind.

Agreed follow-up and responsibilities

High-level S-100 coordination. The IMO Secretary-General indicated his availability for a meeting in Monaco either during the week of 28 June-2 July 2027 or 12-16 July 2027. The IHO will lead the organization and seek the participation of the heads of the relevant international/intergovernmental organizations. Within the IHO, the Director of Technology will coordinate this work and provide the IMO with an initial concept and proposed dates.

End-user roundtable. A roundtable will be organized at IMO Headquarters after the Monaco meeting, indicatively in the second half of 2027 or first half of 2028. The IHO will support preparation from the technical and stakeholder perspectives, particularly the shipping, mariner and equipment communities, with a focus on practical uptake of S-100 and the new ECDIS environment.

Capacity development. IMO confirmed its readiness to support developing Hydrographic Offices. The IHO will provide the IMO Maritime Safety Division with a consolidated view of relevant needs and requests, together with information on available IHO training and capacity-development capabilities

in the field of Safety of Navigation. The IHO Director of Coordination will lead this follow-up, working closely with the Director of Technology on S-100 technical aspects. Updates will be provided through the designated points of contact.



IHO Secretary-General Rear Admiral Luigi Sinapi and IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez, IMO Headquarters, London, 30 September 2026.

Overall assessment and follow-up

The visit strengthened the direct relationship between the two Secretariats at the start of the IHO Secretary-General's mandate and translated the strategic dialogue into a small number of practical follow-up actions. It also confirmed that senior-level engagement can complement the existing technical and regulatory machinery by connecting the S-100 roadmap with industry uptake and capacity development. The results will inform the forthcoming IHO Council discussion on engagement with IMO without prejudging any decision on future liaison arrangements or structures. The IHO Secretariat will continue the agreed follow-up through the Director of Technology and Director of Coordination and will keep the IMO counterparts informed as the respective workstreams develop.