



2nd SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY
Monaco, 21-24 April 2020

REPORT OF THE IHO COUNCIL
(version 1.0, dated 16 January 2020)

- 1. Chair:** Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith, United States of America
Vice-Chair: Admiral (Ret.) Luiz Fernando PALMER Fonseca Brazil

2. Membership (*IHO Member States having a seat at the Council*):

Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay.

3. Meetings:

1 st meeting (C-1)	IHO Secretariat, Monaco	17 – 19 October 2017
2 nd meeting (C-2)	London, United Kingdom	9 – 11 October 2018
3 rd meeting (C-3)	IHO Secretariat, Monaco	15 – 17 October 2019

Foreword from the Chair

It is my honor to report to Assembly 2 (A-2) on the activities of the first triennium of IHO Council. This inaugural Council focused on three main goals. First, to develop an identity and culture for the Council and institute processes to promote our effectiveness. Second, to position ourselves within the existing structures of the IHO, the Secretariat, the IRCC, and the HSSC. Third, to develop proposals for the strategic direction of the IHO for the consideration of the Assembly. I am proud of our accomplishments in these areas, and of the development of an operational regime of a strong Council that will be of service to the IHO for years to come.

Council Culture and Processes

The intent of the Council is to accelerate the pace of decisions and to maintain a clear strategic direction for the IHO. To maintain the ability to work effectively, the Council has deliberately kept the size of the Council meetings small, limited to two participants from each Council Member State and one participant from Observer States. The agenda is arranged carefully to introduce more difficult issues early in the meeting, with time to take issues off line and return to the Council later in the meeting with a solution. There are very few prepared statements, and discussions are fluid, with a high degree of participation.

The Council does not have the authority to stand up formal working groups unless authorized by Assembly. Instead, Council members regularly volunteered to work on an issue in small groups focused on a narrow proposal. These groups were recognized by the Council and proposals were

made in the names of the members of the group. It worked well, and allowed the work of the council to continue between meetings.

Council Relation to other IHO Bodies

At the first Assembly, it became clear that it was important to have a Council chair identified in advance of the first meeting, and I was elected by circular letter using a one-time process approved by Assembly 1 (A-1). Council developed a proposal to order [see PRO 1.6] to make this important procedure permanent for future Councils.

At Council 1 (C-1), the members made decisions that clarified the role of the Council with respect to other IHO subsidiary bodies:

- IRCC and HSSC would retain their authority to make operational and routine proposals to IHO Member States through Circular Letters distributed via the Secretariat. Only proposals with strategic impact would be routed through Council for endorsement first before submission to Member States for approval.
- Despite some ambiguity in IHO governing documents, the Council agreed to recognize proposals made by Member States and the Secretary-General in advance or during a Council session. Council requests Assembly's concurrence with this interpretation [see PRO 1.1].

Proposals on the strategic direction of the IHO

Strategic Plan

Assembly-1 tasked the Council with consideration of an update to the IHO Strategic Plan,¹ and C-1 accordingly stood up a Strategic Plan Review Working Group with a two phase terms of reference. In the first year, the SPRWG would consider the necessity of an update to the Strategic Plan and to make a proposal to the Council on the length, structure and outline of a proposed new plan. In the second year, the group would draft the plan using the guidance approved by the Council. The resulting proposed Strategic Plan is delivered for consideration of the Assembly [see PRO 1.8]. Accordingly, if approved, the Council proposes the next Council take as its main theme until Assembly 3 (A-3) "*the effective implementation of the Revised Strategic Plan*" keeping in mind to apply the principles of ISO 9001 for." (see Annex 3/55b)

S-100 Services

In addition, C-2 recognized that several Member States were in the process of developing services based on newly-approved S-100 based standards, and that more were expected soon. Recognizing the risk of rolling out services in an uncoordinated manner, C-2 envisioned a roadmap for the IHO for the provision of these services in order to coordinate among Member States, with the IMO, and within national jurisdictions. C-2 commissioned the Secretary-General, the Council Chair, and the Chairs of the IRCC and HSSC to draft such a roadmap for consideration at C-3. In the course of discussions, this drafting group recognized that the roadmap was going to evolve over the decade of implementation in response to negotiations with IMO and the actual pace of MS adoption of services, and that the plan should therefore be considered a living document. Council will propose to A-2 that this roadmap be annually maintained by the Council, with input from the other IHO bodies and from the Secretary-General.

¹ A-1 Decision 3 A-1 PRO-4: "*The Assembly tasked the Council to conduct a comprehensive review of the Strategic Plan and to provide a draft revised Plan, as appropriate, in time for the consideration of the 2nd ordinary session of the Assembly (A-2). The Council is empowered to establish a working group for this discrete purpose.*"

The Council welcomes any guidance or input on the scope or content of this roadmap from MS, expressed through Assembly or directly to Council. Please reference C-3/16² and see PRO 2.1.

In formulating the Roadmap for Provision of S-100 Services, the Council recognized that there could be value in the development of core principles to organize these services. These principles would serve to guide the provision of the next generation of services in a manner similar to the way the WEND principles guided the transition to first-generation S-57 ENC's. Accordingly, the Council requested through IRCC that the WEND draft these principles for the consideration first of IRCC, then the Council, and finally to Member States. In addition, the WEND was requested to draft amendments to their Terms of Reference to expand their mandate to include S-100 based services. This ongoing work may be considered for endorsement as soon as C-4 in October 2020. Please reference C-3/35.³

Financial

As Council Chair, I contributed to the annual meeting of the officers of the Finance Committee, and the SG reports annually to the Council on the financial health of the IHO. In the past few years, the finances of the IHO have been profoundly affected by increases in the cost of the core operations of the Secretariat, and in particular the rising costs of health care for current IHO employees and our retirees. At C-3, the Secretary General reviewed the history of costs of IHO core functions and the annual dues paid by Member States. In short, the trend of the increase in cost of core operations at the IHO has been matched in recent years by the addition of additional dues-paying Member States. C-3 recognized that the additional revenue from adding additional Member States will be matched with additional costs, and that the rate of addition of new Member States will likely diminish in the years ahead. Consequently, there is a high likelihood that the IHO will be unable to maintain the current part of the budget to support standards development and administration of the capacity building program, which would substantially reduce the impact of the IHO overall. The Council requested that the Secretary-General prepares a proposed budget for Assembly consideration which would give the Council and SG the option of a modest increase in dues if it is deemed necessary. This same procedure has been used frequently in past years, and the history is that the option of a dues increase has been exercised only very rarely. Please see C-3/45, refer to details explained in PRO 1.7 (option of a consecutive increase of 1% per each year from 2021 to 2023 subject to annual Council approval) that is supported by the Council and the forthcoming report of the Finance Committee to A-2.

Overview of Council Proposals to A-2

Pro Number	Object of the Proposal
1.1	Interpretation of some articles in the Basic Documents of the IHO
1.2	Revision of Articles 14, 15, 20 and 25 of the General Regulations of the IHO
1.3	Revision of Clause (c) of Article 16 of the General Regulations of the IHO – Hydrographic Interest
1.6	Revision of Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the IHO Council and consequence on Rules 8 and 11 - Timing of Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

² C-3/16 "Council Chair to propose the Assembly to task the Council to maintain the S100 roadmap on an annual basis as a key priority of the Council activities. which is related to C-3/13 "Council/HSSC/IRCC Chairs/SecGen supported by subject matter experts as appropriate to maintain this roadmap as an incremental version-controlled document (including narrative and timelines) on an annual basis taking into account comments made at C-3 (engagement plan, production plan, capacity building) and A-2"

³ C-3/35 "Council Chair to include a progress report on the transition for WEND to WENS in his report to A-2."

1.7	3-year Work Programme and Budget 2021-2023
1.8	Revised Strategic Plan
2.1	S-100 Implementation Strategy
3.1	Revision of the IHO Resolution 2/1997 - Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC)
3.2	Revision of the IHO Resolution 1/2005 - IHO Response to Disasters

Meeting venue

Council members experimented with the idea of convening the mid-session Council meeting (ie, C-2) in a venue other than Monaco to encourage and support greater regional diversity and awareness of hydrographic issues globally. However, logistical and financial considerations indicate it may be more practical and less costly to convene simply Council meetings in Monaco to keep costs low.

Conclusion

The Council faced initial questions of defining its role and added value to the workings of the IHO as a whole. By the C-3, members generally concluded the Council is demonstrating great value by providing a frequent (annual) venue for hydrographic offices to convene and discuss the current and prospective work of the IHO and hydrography in general in a comprehensive, practical and frank manner. Members were able to consider in detail all three IHO work programs and the synergy of efforts, where in terms of national office operations, regional coordination, and in light of developing technical specifications and standards. Members raised fundamental questions of directions of the organization, performance measurement and accountability, capacity building at all levels, and importantly, external partnerships. The Council provided a venue for hydrographic offices to deliberate and mature proposals to be presented to the Assembly in a way that we believe facilitates the decision-making role of the membership at the triennial Assembly meetings. In these regards, as Chair, I feel the Council has demonstrated considerable value to the organization enhancing its vitality and ability to deliver the promises of hydrography in a new era of maritime development and growth.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the members of Council 1-3 for their hard work, their collegial spirit, and their impressive strategic thinking. I would like to invite the Assembly to join me in thanking the participants and the Member States they represent.

Recommendations and call for directions

The Council recommends the Assembly

- a) to adopt the listed nine proposals;
- b) to convene Council meetings regularly at the IHO Secretariat;
- c) to adopt as the main theme until Assembly 3 (A-3) *“the effective implementation of the Revised Strategic Plan” keeping in mind to apply the principles of ISO 9001 for”*.

and seeks Assembly input, guidance and directions as Assembly deems appropriate.

Annex 1 [Summary Report Council-1 \(C-1\)](#)

Annex 2 [Summary Report Council-2 \(C-2\)](#)

Annex 3 [Summary Report Council-3 \(C-3\)](#)