

## Paper for Consideration by Council-8

### Report on inclusive participation in IHO meetings and proposed Resolution

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Ad hoc drafting group (Australia, Chile, Fiji, Singapore, New Zealand (Lead), United Kingdom and United States)
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This report provides an update on the work of the ad hoc drafting group to provide an initial proposal for an IHO Resolution - Maximising Active Participation in IHO Events, and to design and launch an IHO Stakeholder Survey to seek information on MS and IHO Sec capacity & willingness to host events. The Draft IHO Resolution and survey results will be discussed at C-8.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	<a href="#">A3 2023 G 06.14 EN</a> SWPHC report to A-3 <a href="#">Decisions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IHO Assembly</a> <a href="#">Summary Report from C7</a> <a href="#">List of Decisions and Actions from C-7</a> <a href="#">CL28 INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OF IHO BODIES</a>
<b>Related Projects:</b>	

#### Introduction / Background

1. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> IHO Assembly in May 2023 the South West Pacific Hydrographic Commission (SWPHC) made a request to the Assembly that resulted in Decision 21;

*The Assembly tasked the Council to discuss the request from the SWPHC for the provision of mechanisms to ensure greater inclusion and participation of all Member States at IHO meetings, in particular the IHO Assembly and come up with solutions as soon as possible.*

2. At the 7<sup>th</sup> IHO Council in October 2023 the Council agreed to establish an ad hoc drafting group (AU, CL, FJ, SG, NZ(Lead), UK and US) to prepare an IHO Resolution on Guidelines for Making IHO Events More Inclusive (final title TBC) based on the recommendations made by the Secretary-General and preliminary analysis from AU, NZ & UK. The objective being to maximise participation at IHO meetings:
  - a. Encourage PT, WG, Committees, Council & Assembly where possible to consider technology\* to increase participation, diversity and inclusion to ensure the widest possible contributions in delivery of the IHO strategy and workplan
  - b. \*Noting that technology allows us to engage a much broader group by extending to additional participants through remote connections
3. The Council also tasked the ad hoc drafting group to prepare a survey on MS, WG Chairs, & IHO Secretariat capacity, willingness & preference to host meetings (PT/WG, Committees, Council & Assembly) based on the following requirements - cost, technology, bandwidth & expertise. The timeline proposed was:
  - a. Draft proposed IHO Resolution by end January 2024 to Council/IHO Sec
  - b. Ad hoc team to launch survey (& draft proposal?) end January 2024, to seek info on MS & IHO Sec capacity & willingness to host
  - c. Final IHO Resolution by end March 2024 submitted by CL to MS for approval

#### Discussion

4. The initial proposal for an IHO Resolution - Maximising Active Participation in IHO Events - was prepared by the ad hoc drafting group and is included at Annex A of this paper. This draft proposed IHO Resolution is planned to be discussed at C-8, the next Council meeting in October 2024.

5. The IHO Stakeholder survey - Event Participation, was recently launched on 19 June 2024 via IHO CL28 Increasing participation in activities of IHO bodies, inviting responses no later than 31 August 2024, prior to C-8. Presentation of the outcome of this survey will be made available on the C-8 webpage and discussed under agenda item 7.1 at C-8.
6. A consolidated draft proposed IHO Resolution will be subsequently submitted to the Member States for their approval.

### **Action Required of Council**

The Council is invited to:

- a. note this report,
- b. note the DRAFT Resolution on Maximising Active Participation in IHO Events
- c. note the launch of the IHO Stakeholder survey via CL28
- d. respond to the IHO Stakeholder survey no later than 31 August 2024
- e. note the outcome of the survey will be made available on the C-8 webpage and discussed under agenda item 7.1 at C-8
- f. take any other action deemed appropriate

### **Annex A**

#### **DRAFT PROPOSAL: Maximising Active Participation in IHO Events**

**Recalling** the decision A3/21 made at the 3rd Assembly and the decision C7/39 made at the 7th Council, the IHO recognises that technology enables multiple formats through which IHO events may be conducted.

**Noting** the need to engage all IHO Member States and interested Coastal States, it is **resolved** that the IHO will seek to achieve the maximum possible active participation at IHO events by leveraging technology, where appropriate.

**Recognising** that IHO events are typically hosted by IHO Member States, and that the capacity of host nations may differ, it is **recommended** that the bodies of the IHO use the most appropriate format for their events to maximise active participation, while taking into consideration the capacity of host nations and the preferences of expected participants.

It is further **recommended** that the IHO Secretariat conduct regular reviews of IHO Member State hosting capacity and participants preferences to provide evidence to support bodies of the IHO in these decisions.