



## 8th Meeting of the IHO Council

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

# **IHO Stakeholder Survey Results**

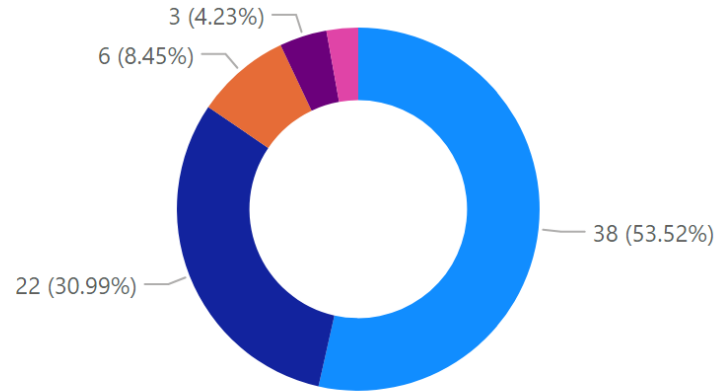
## **Agenda Item C8-07.1**

C-8, IHO Secretariat, Monaco, 15 – 17 October 2024

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# IHO Stakeholder Survey - Event Participation Results at 20240902

Q4 Responses by type of respondee



Who are you responding for?

- IHO Member State
- Chair of Committee/Sub-Committee/...
- Chair of Regional Hydrographic Commi...
- Coastal State
- IHO Secretariat

Response rate

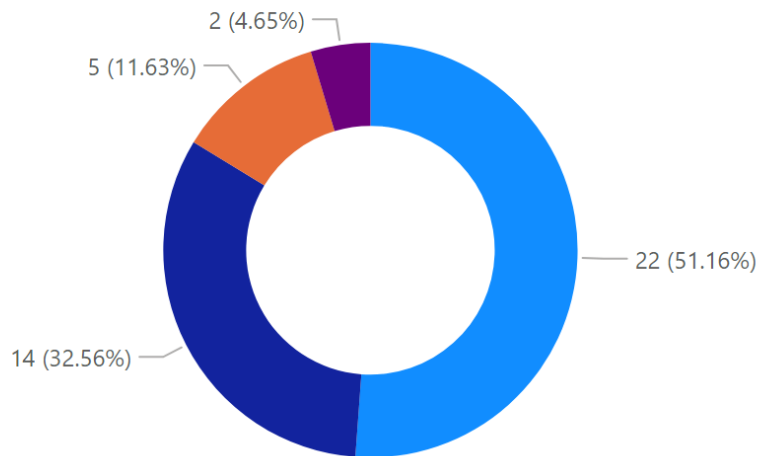
100 IHO MS @ Sept 2024 38 MS responses.

6 RHC chair responses and 22 chair responses.

Three Coastal States responded

Q5 How often do you or your colleagues currently attend meetings?

Working Groups and Project Teams

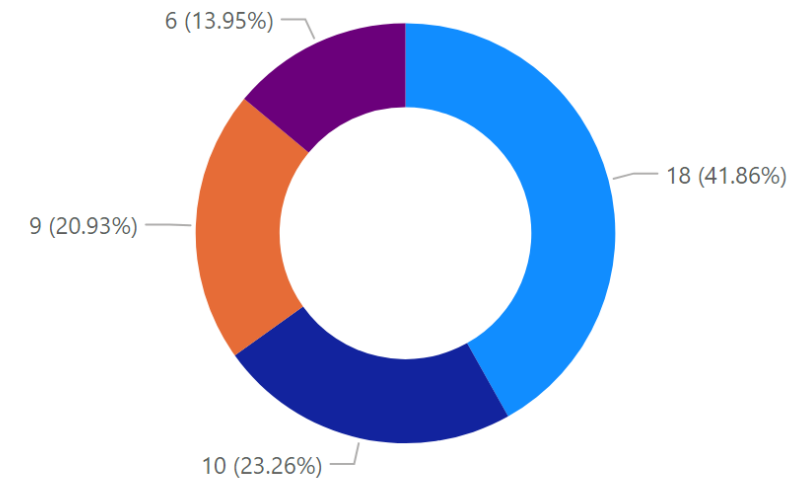


How often do you or your colleg...

- Frequently
- Occasionally
- Always
- Never

Q6 How often do you or your colleagues currently attend meetings?

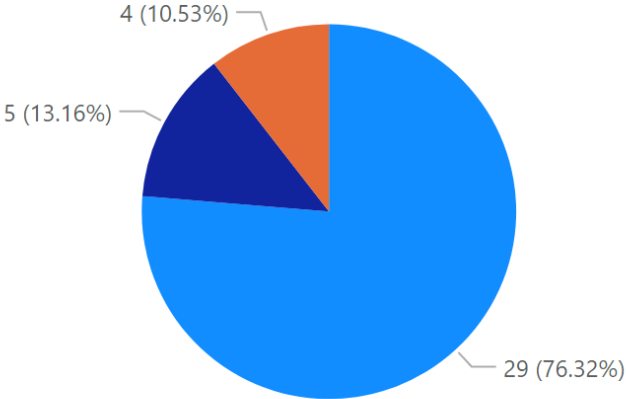
Committees and Sub Committee



# Attendance Preferences - IHO Member States (38 responses)

## Q7 What is your preference to attend meetings?

Working Groups, Sub Committees and Project Teams

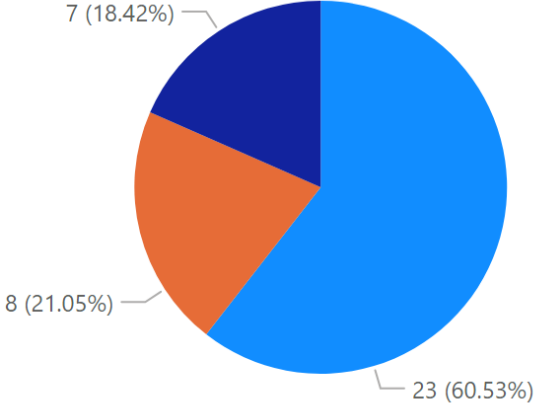


### What is your preference to att...

- Active
- Passive
- In person only

## Q8 What is your preference to attend meetings?

HSSC and IRCC

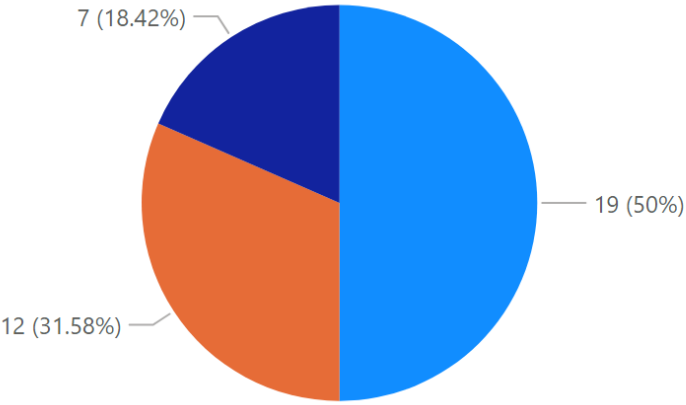


### What is your preference to att...

- Active
- In person only
- Passive

## Q9 What is your preference to attend meetings?

Council

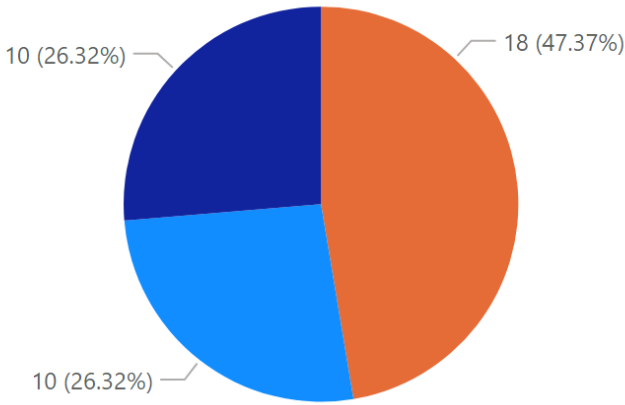


### What is your preference to att...

- Active
- In person only
- Passive

## Q10 What is your preference to attend?

Assembly Sessions



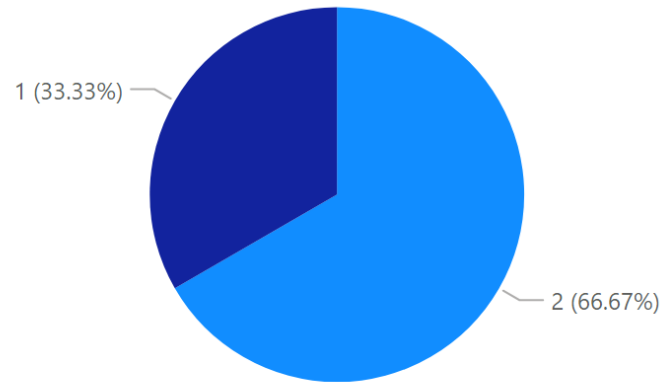
### What is your preference to att...

- In person only
- Active
- Passive

# Attendance Preferences - Coastal States (3 responses)

Q7 What is your preference to attend meetings?

Working Groups, Sub Committees and Project Teams

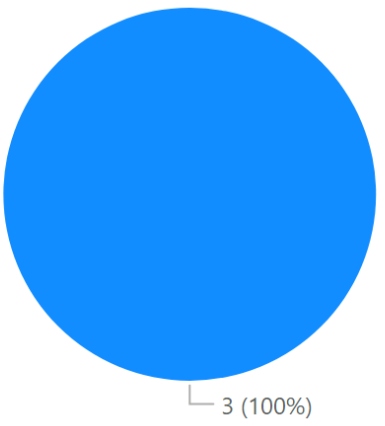


What is your preference to attend...

- Active
- In person only

Q8 What is your preference to attend meetings?

HSSC and IRCC

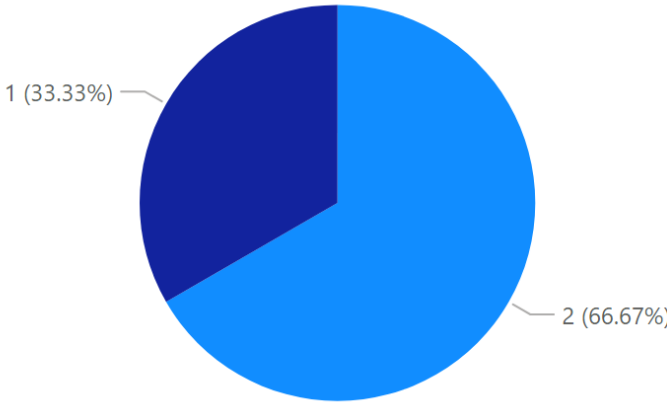


What is your preference to attend...

- Active

Q9 What is your preference to attend meetings?

Council

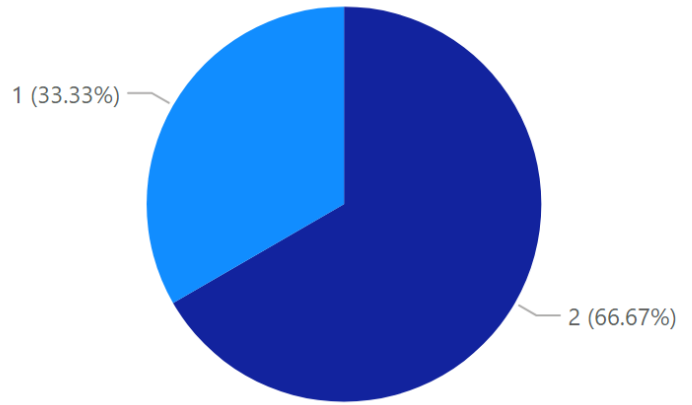


What is your preference to attend...

- Active
- Passive

Q10 What is your preference to attend?

Assembly Sessions



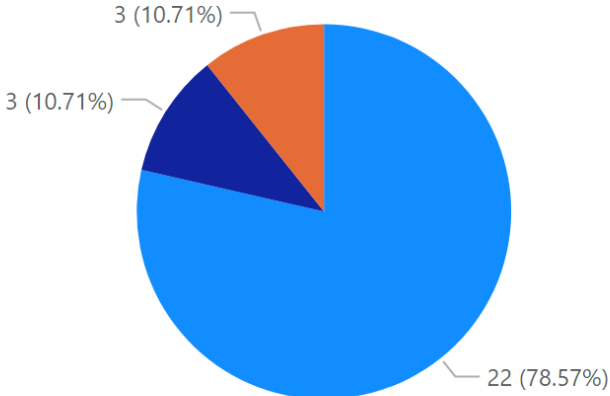
What is your preference to attend...

- Passive
- Active

# Attendance Preferences - Chairs (28 responses includes RHC chairs)

### Q7 What is your preference to attend meetings?

Working Groups, Sub Committees and Project Teams

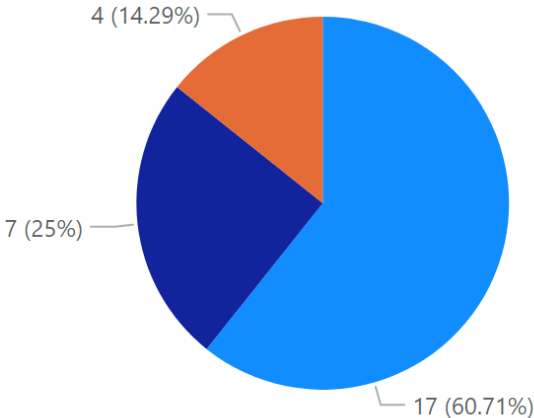


What is your preference to att...

- Active
- In person only
- Passive

### Q8 What is your preference to attend meetings?

HSSC and IRCC

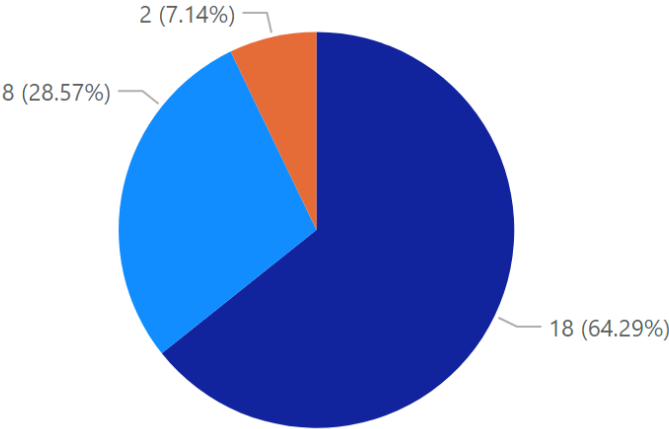


What is your preference to att...

- Active
- Passive
- In person only

### Q9 What is your preference to attend meetings?

Council

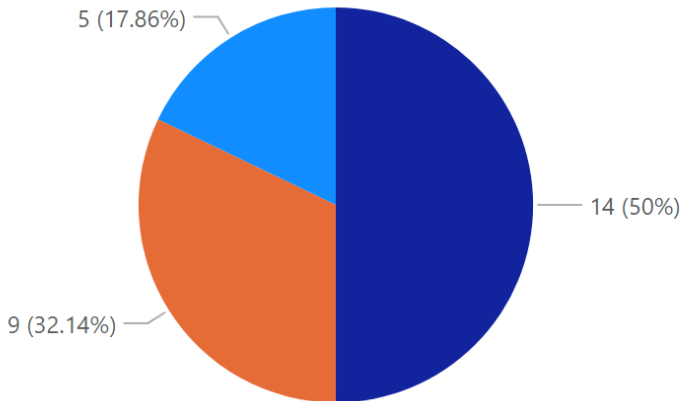


What is your preference to att...

- Passive
- Active
- In person only

### Q10 What is your preference to attend?

Assembly Sessions



What is your preference to att...

- Passive
- In person only
- Active

# Attendance Preferences - IHO Secretariat (2 responses)

Q7 What is your preference to attend meetings?

Working Groups, Sub Committees and Project Teams



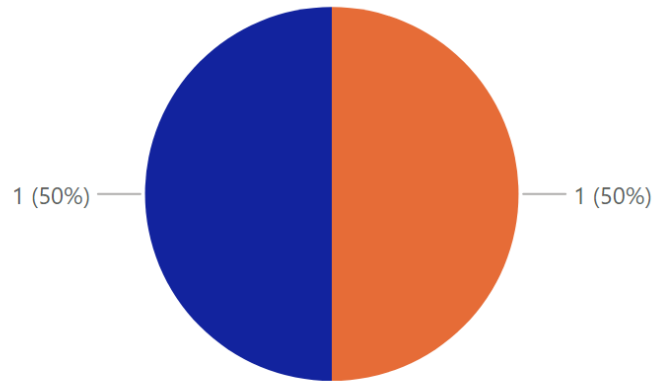
2 (100%)

What is your preference to att...

Active

Q8 What is your preference to attend meetings?

HSSC and IRCC Meetings



1 (50%)

1 (50%)

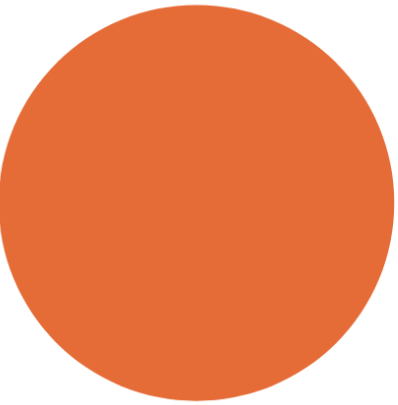
What is your preference to att...

In person only

Passive

Q9 What is your preference to attend meetings?

Council



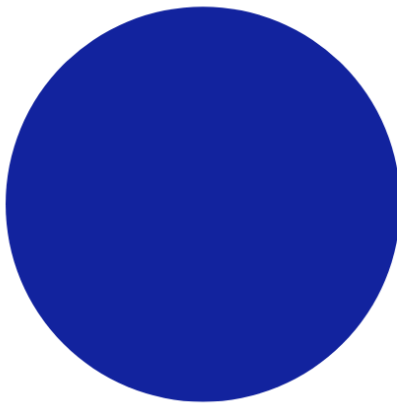
2 (100%)

What is your preference to att...

In person only

Q10 What is your preference to attend?

Assembly Sessions



2 (100%)

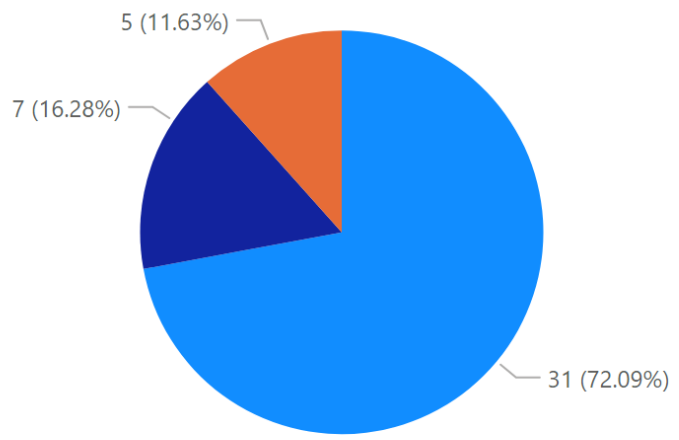
What is your preference to att...

Passive

# Hosting Capacity

Member States, Coastal States and IHO Secretariat only

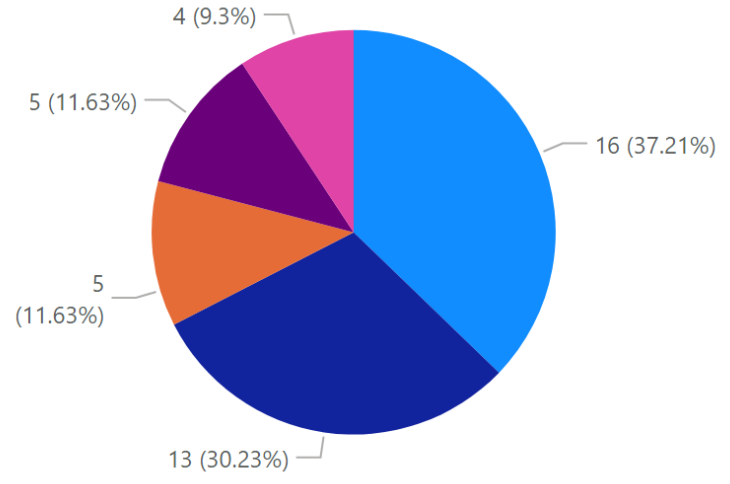
Q12 WG/SC/PT meetings which options can you provide?



**For Working Group, Sub Com...**

- Active
- Passive
- In person only;

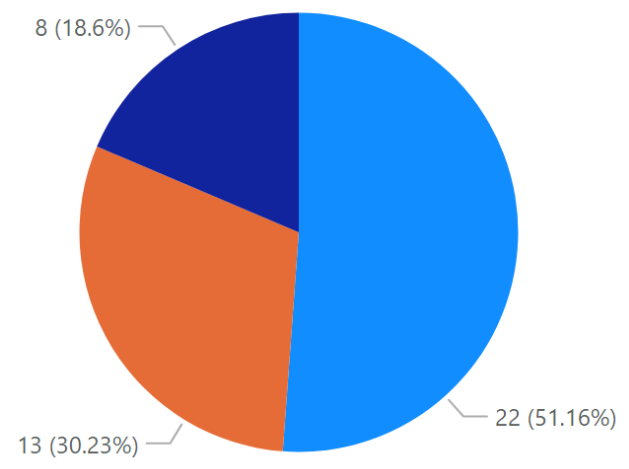
Q13 Capacity to host WG/SC/PT Meetings?



**What is your capacity to hos...**

- Once per year
- Less than once per year i.e...
- More than twice per year
- No capacity
- Twice per year

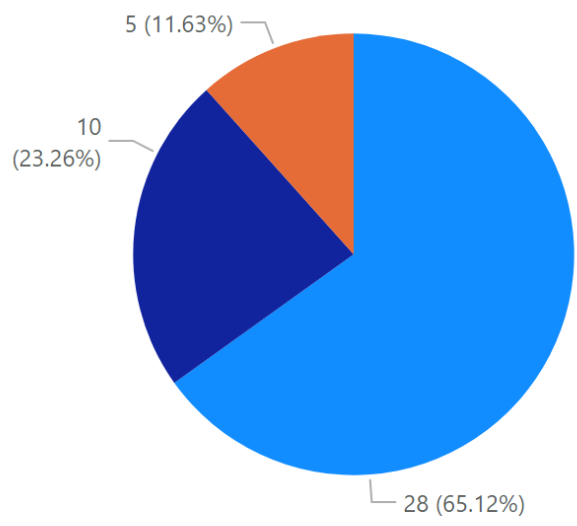
Q14 IRCC and HSSC which options can you provide?



**Annual HSSC and IRCC Meetin...**

- Active
- In person only
- Passive

Q15 Capacity to host HSSC and/or IRCC Meetings?



**What is your capacity to hos...**

- Some capacity (could host...)
- No capacity
- Significant capacity (could ...)



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# SELECTED COMMENTS

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Whilst in-person participation of IHO meetings is the ideal, MS face many challenges including cost/time of travel and climate/carbon reduction targets. Hence, to maximise participation, engagement and contribution the use of technology is considered to be a viable alternative to attend either in remote-passive or remote-active mode.

Hosting HYBRID or live stream meetings are challenging compared to in person or VTC (fragile technology, additional costs and work). It is important to agree procedures and best practices for HYBRID and live stream meetings.

The IHO events are most useful for creating personal contacts with specialists from countries with strong hydrographic background. Our specialists have learned a lot and we have a network to ask our questions when nobody in our organisation or country has the answer.

MS# is very supportive of hybrid meeting options to increase our (and our regions) participation in IHO activities whilst minimizing travel expense, time and carbon.

MS% sees value to in person meetings for relationship building, particularly in the IHO's multicultural and multilingual context. MS% also supports the option of hybrid or passive live stream, but only if requested by participants. We suggest that the default be in person, but participants can request hybrid or passive live stream.

In order to increase participation in activities of IHO bodies it could also be considered to organize intersectional VTC only meetings with simplified agenda to present major developments in the Committee level.

MS\$ supports a hybrid format in all meetings to maximize participation, transparency and open access. However, hybrid meetings pose unique challenges (infrastructure, cost, etc.), therefore MS\$ notes that as a logistic matter, members must assess their ability to host hybrid meetings on a case by case basis.

We are a relatively new HO and still building capacity. We consist of four fulltime equivalent people. The option of participating remotely gives us much more flexibility. However, we realise the advantage of attending in person.

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# SELECTED COMMENTS

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Several members of the ## have repeatedly stressed the importance of providing hybrid capabilities for each annual meeting due to their stated inability to travel - mostly due to cost. In an effort to find a fair compromise, we will host an annual virtual intersessional meeting, while providing VTC capabilities, when possible, at our annual CSBWG meeting.

As a chair of a working group it is very difficult to manage the flow of a meeting if it is hybrid. Optimally the meeting should either be fully remote or in person with a passive livestream for members to keep abreast of what is going on. In order to progress the work of the working group it is vital to have in person meetings and have the ability to solve tricky issues over the breaks and then come back to the whole group with a solution. In addition, an in person meeting allows the attendees to focus on the meeting and achieving the outcomes of the working group on behalf of the IHO MS.

For HSSC and IRCC WG Chairs should always be present in person even if the sessions can be online, this provides the only time for in person cross collaboration

Allowing for VTC meetings can be interpreted as being more inclusive as personnel without the possibilities / resources to travel, can participate. When we meet new people with very different cultural background, building trust in order to allow for good communication, is very difficult in a virtual environment. Especially within ###, I would highly recommend support for in person participation.

The project team has found that a combination of full VTC meetings and some in person meetings with passive streaming and the option for specific contributors to present on agenda items has achieved a good balance of in person engagement and minimising environmental impact/cost.

Full VTC is suitable for WGs and PTs as intermediate between in person or hybrid meetings.

In person meetings building up personal relations and trust. Many conversations happen in the margins of an in-person meeting. Time shift over far distant time zones puts enormous physical burden on remote participants.

#### members agreed to meet twice a year - once in person (only), and once fully online. This is working reasonably well, but we get lower quality engagement (from a greater total of people) in the fully online, while we get high quality input from a much smaller group when we meet in person. Many potential hosts would struggle with the costs of running proper and effective hybrid meetings.

Hybrid meetings - both full hybrid and livestream - are basically ok forms of meeting. But in order get them to the same level of convenience with in-person and full-VTC meetings, we would need to lay out some ground rules how they should be conducted and set up.

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# **IHO STAKEHOLDER SURVEY**

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## **Survey Results**

- **Good response rate when compared to previous IHO surveys**
- **High percentage expressed a preference for online meetings**
- **High percentage can provide online options**
- **A high capacity to host online meetings**

## **Insights**

- **Important to have Guidelines / good practice guide for online meetings**
- **Recognition that In-person participation is the ideal esp for building relationships**
- **Hosting & Chairing online meetings can be challenging**
- **Online meetings maximise participation, transparency and open access and conversely minimise travel – expense, time, fatigue & carbon**
- **For major meetings the principals should attend in-person**
- **Technical support to host online meetings may be needed**

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**IHO****DRAFT PROPOSAL:  
MAXIMISING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN IHO EVENTS**International  
Hydrographic  
Organization

**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.



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# ACTION REQUIRED OF COUNCIL

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The Council is invited to:

- a. Note the positive survey results,
- b. Note the selected comments and insights
- c. Note the need for Guidelines to be prepared to assist MS host and facilitate online meetings
- d. Discuss and endorse the proposed IHO Resolution on Maximising Active Participation in IHO Events
- e. Take any other action deemed appropriate