

**22ND MEETING OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC22
SANTA CRUZ ISLAND, GALÁPAGOS (ECUADOR), 5-7 JUNE 2024**

Report of the IHO Secretariat

Submitted by: IHO Secretariat

Executive Summary: This paper provides a summary report of matters of interest related to the work of the IHO Secretariat.

Status of Membership of the IHO

1. One of the main changes resulting from the entry into force of the revised IHO Convention is that, for States wishing to join the IHO that are already Member States of the United Nations, there is no requirement to seek the approval of existing Member States of the IHO. Since the last CBSC21 meeting, the IHO has reached the historic milestone of one hundred IHO Member States since the foundation in 1921, thanks to the joining of the Republic of Cabo Verde in November 2023 and the Republic of Kiribati in May 2024 as 100th IHO Member State. Unfortunately, Serbia and Syria remain suspended from Member States rights.
2. The IHO Secretariat, in cooperation with the Department of External Relations of the Government of Monaco, stands ready to assist those non-IHO Member States with the application process for membership of the IHO, as currently underway towards several non-IHO Member States in several hydrographic regions, and stands ready to pay High Level Visits to those States not yet IHO Member States, as the High Level Visit to The Commonwealth of The Bahamas conducted in April 2024. The Capacity Building Sub-Committee, via the Regional Coordinators, is kindly invited to propose at regional level, Technical and High Level Technical Visits also to those States not yet IHO Member States.

Outcomes of the 7th Meeting of the IHO Council concerning CBSC and preparation of the 8th Meeting of the IHO Council

3. The following are the main outcomes of the 7th Meeting of the IHO Council:
 - Champion of Hydrography Award (C7/16): with IHO CL 19/2024 the proposed IHO Resolution - *The Ex Abyssis ad Alta – IHO Award for Hydrographic Excellence* was adopted. Candidates were nominated and the selection process was conducted by the Award Board in accordance with the criteria contained in the Resolution. The announcement of the selected Awardee will be made at C-8.
 - Project Team on Fund Generation of IHO' Project Initiatives under the IRCC (C7/22): CL 42/2023 and CL 16/2024 announced the creation of the Project Team and its composition respectfully. Two meetings were conducted to date and Chair and Vice-Chair of the PT were nominated.
 - Gender Balance in Hydrography (C7/24): the Empowering Women in Hydrography Project continues. The IHO Council tasked the IRCC to first define through the CBSC the regulatory framework (M-3) for a continued activity on this social theme through a proposal for an IHO Resolution to be presented to A-4 for approval.
 - Strategic Plan 2021-2026 (C7/36 – C7/38): The current structure is still relevant at conceptual level (vision, goals, etc.). It was agreed that the objective for the next SP 2027- 2032 should be limited to a revision of the current SP. The Council Vice-Chair

is chairing a Strategic Plan Review Working Group (SPRWG) by correspondence. A Timeline for the SPRWG was issued to submit a report on the work of the SPRWG by December 2025, and facilitate Council's submission of the revised IHO SP (final draft) to A-4.

- IHO Resolution Guidelines for making IHO Events more inclusive (C7/40): an initial proposal for an IHO Resolution Guidelines for making IHO events more inclusive is under preparation by an *ad-hoc* drafting group (AU, CL, FJ, NZ, SG, GB, US...). A questionnaire to submit to the IHO Member States will be issued via an IHO CL.

4. The 8th Meeting of the IHO Council is scheduled to take place in Monaco, from 15 to 17 October 2024. The preparation of the meeting has already started with the "*Announcement of the Eight Meeting of the IHO Council and Provisional Agenda*" (see CCL 01/2024) and the "*IHO Annual Report for 2023 and Approval of the Finance Report for 2023*" (see CCL 02/2024). It can be noted that in accordance with the Rules of Procedures of the Council, the deadline for submission of proposals by IHO Member States is 15 July 2024.

5. With reference to the C-8 Provisional Agenda (cfr. CCL 01/2024), particular attention deserves the following items related to the subsidiary organs of the Council and the annual work program and budget:

- Update on the activities of the IHO Fund Generation Project Team
- Update on the Empowering Women in Hydrography Project
- Update on contributions to the UN Ocean Decade
- Update on activities to acquire new IHO Member States.

In the Approval of the Finance Report for 2023 (cfr. CCL 02/2024), a note of merit deserves the proposals of the Secretary-General – already endorsed by the Finance Committee Officers – to allocate the budget surplus for 2023 of 215k€ (40k€ are proposed to be allocated to the Capacity Building Fund for 2024).

Capacity Building Programme, Courses and Initiatives

Capacity Building Programme

7. The 2024 CBWP has 293,265€ for non-earmarked projects and 790,223€ for earmarked projects. The total of funds available for 2024 is 1,083,488€. In 2024 the CBWP will return to the pre-COVID practice of not carrying over not executed activities from year-to-year. Significant increment of the funds for non-earmarked activities was received from Republic of Korea in 2024 and for 2025 (this latter 50% more than in 2024).

Hydrography, Nautical Cartography and Ocean Mapping courses

8. In 2024, the following courses sponsored by the IHO and ROK and Nippon Foundation have been approved:

- *CAT A courses at USM sponsored by ROK* (2 selected for 11th course 2023/2024; 2 selected for 12th course 2024/2025 starting in August 2024);
- *Cat B course in Hydrography at KHOA-ROK* from 17 June to 1 November 2024 (10 participants selected with IHO CL 15/2024);
- *GEOMAC Cat B course in 2024 sponsored by Nippon Foundation* (7 participants selected with IHO CL 17/2024);

- *The 21st Course of the IHO-IOC-Nippon Foundation/GEBCO Training Program leading to a Graduate Certificate in Ocean Mapping at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), USA* was announced with IHO CL 12/2024 (expiration date 14 April 2024) – and with an IOC CL within the IOC community as well. The course will begin in late August 2024 and students will undertake an intensive 12-month period of lectures, practical laboratory and on-the-water projects, secondments to relevant laboratories and cruises on research or survey ships (information on the course and selected candidates will be available to the link: <https://www.gebco.net/training/>).

The IHO Secretariat, in cooperation with Nippon Foundation and the UKHO, is working on a questionnaire regarding the GEOMAC Project to better understand what the demands from the Member States are. The questionnaire will be issued in the second semester of 2024 via an IHO CL.

Capacity Building Initiatives

9. *Empowering Women in Hydrography (EWH) project*: in 2024, thanks to the generous support from Belgium, Denmark, France, Norway, USA, UK, IC-ENC and Canada, IHO CLs 40/2023, 41/2023, CL 9/2024, CL 11/2024, CL 22/2024, CL 23/2024 and CL 25/2024 provided the new current and future opportunities under the project, in line with the Action C7/24. Discussions are currently in place with Canada for the 2024 fund that will be allocated to the project, to better understand how to support participants from the Indo Pacific region. In line with Action C7/24, the IHO Secretariat has started a selection for contracting an EWH Assistant for a period of 1 year (renewable for a second year), to assure the continuation of the project until the next IHO Assembly in 2026, (to the recruitment announcement made on LinkedIn, 50 applications were received). The new position will be covered by the beginning of July 2024.
10. *Cooperation with IMO-WMU*: thanks to the Letter of Intent signed between the IHO and the WMU (World Maritime University) of IMO, numerous activities on Gender Equality (workshop, webinars, etc.) and the participation at the UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona in April 2024 with a joint WMU-IHO Satellite Event “177. *The People We Need for the Ocean We Want: Achieving Gender Equality for the Ocean Decade*” were secured. Potential participation at the next large appointment on the Ocean in 2025 will be explored.
11. *IHO e-learning centre*: with IHO CL 24/2023 the e-Learning Centre Steering Committee was established in line with the indications provided in the guidelines. Three meetings of the Steering Committee were held to operationalize the centre and amplify the on-line educational offer to IHO and non-IHO members.
12. *Cooperation with RENCs*: the cooperation with IC-ENC and PRIMAR has been intensified to search for new activities in support of the IHO Capacity Building programme and in particular S-100 Implementation roadmap in the IHO community. From the IC-ENC Project Fund, IC-ENC financed the "ENC Quality Assessment and Transformation Course" in favour of the MBSHC members, and PRIMAR signed a Letter of Intent with the IHO to provide IHO Member States access to the PRIMAR Training Portal, based on application through the CBSC.
13. *Project Team on Fund Generation of IHO' Project Initiatives under the IRCC*: the PT met twice and established the ToRs. The PT will report to IRCC16 on its first achievements. The PT will explore options for the establishment of alternative funding for programmed IHO activities; these activities include capacity building and a sustainable structure for the IHO to

manage the operational S-100 infrastructure.

14. *IHO and EC Cooperation in Third Countries for Hydrographic Capacity Development*: to promote programs for the development of competencies, expertise, training and means to increase the hydrographic capacity in the EU and outside EU, the IENWG under the leadership of Belgium prepared a document to affirm the strong link between the Worldwide Hydrographic Capacity development and the security of the Sea Line of Communications (SLoCs) between Europe, East Asia and Africa, and the need of a resilient network of SLoCs as a fundament for the world economy, reliable nautical charts (INT, S-57, S-1XX) to enable safe navigation and investments in hydrographic capacity development elsewhere to assure global maritime accessibility. The proposal will be presented to the next IRCC-16 as part of the IENWG report to IRCC and the IHO Fund Generation Project Team's works.

15. *13th Joint IHO/IMO/WMO/IOC/IALA/IAEA/FIG/IMPA Capacity Building Coordination Meeting*: the meeting marked the restart of the joint CB coordination meetings after four years of interruption caused by the COVID Pandemic, bringing together representatives from eight organizations: IHO, IMO, WMO, IALA, IOC, IAEA, IALA, FIG and IMPA. The eight Organizations / Associations will start to share the plans of their own activities, trying to identify those activities that can be delivered jointly. IHO, IOC and IALA expressed the interest in participating in the elaboration of the concept notes to participate in some IMO big projects. It was unanimously decided to discuss on the possible ways to launch and fund joint activities of interest for all organizations (e.g. MSI, S-100 implementation, e-learning, etc.). A meeting focused on the discussion of the projects will be held in next September by VTC.

IHO Outreach

16. The outreach of IHO themes is more than ever based on digital provisions. Social media such as LinkedIn, Facebook and X have become relevant communication channels in parallel to the IHO website. The IHO website had a total of 921,575 views in this calendar year 2023. The LinkedIn page grew to 9,650 followers in May 2025 and reached total post impressions of 322,413 in 2023. The website of the International Hydrographic Review underwent a full re-launch providing now substantially extended functionality. The Secretariat has increased its presence on social media through articles and news about its working groups, committees and subcommittees, as well as the participation in regional and global initiatives that refer to Hydrography, especially in the framework of the UN Ocean Decade and in view of the UN Ocean Conference in 2025.

World Hydrography Day

17. As announced with IHO CL 01/2024, the theme for WHD 2024 is as follows:

“Hydrographic Information - Enhancing Safety and Efficiency in Marine Activities”

This theme is proposed to highlight that - as per Decision 8 of the 3rd Session of the IHO Assembly in May 2023 - Goal Number 1 of the Strategic Plan and its targets shall have the highest priority in the implementation of the 2024–2026 Work Programme, which means priority in application of material and human resources, liaison with public sector and industry partners, promotion of concerted regional approaches including increased collaboration with the RENCs, and support of test beds delivering best practice examples for the production, maintenance and distribution of all prioritized S-100 derivatives. The Secretariat would

welcome any comments and suggestions aimed at improving the impact and the organization of annual WHD celebrations.

International Hydrographic Review (IHR)

18. Dr Patrick Westfield from Germany was confirmed for additional 2 years as IHR Editor. The Review is focused in facilitating interdisciplinary knowledge exchange in applied science, as hydrography encompasses fields such as geophysics, oceanography, geodesy, acoustics, cartography, remote sensing and others. The recent IHR Vol.30 Ed. May 2024 covers some of these different perspectives and includes articles on oceanography, geodesy, geology and of course hydrography, with contributions on crowdsourcing water depth data.

19. Twice a year, the IHR provides an opportunity for Member States to publicize technical and other achievements in their region. An editorial board comprising a representative from each region has been established. Papers for consideration for publication in the IHR should be forwarded directly to the editor (ihreview@iho.int, copy to ihr.editor@iho.int.com). The deadlines are:

- end of January for the May Edition
- end of July for the November Edition

Action Requested of CBSC

20. CBSC is invited to:

- **Note** this report
- **Contribute** to the CB initiatives currently in place
- **Take any actions** as considered appropriate.