

Terms of Reference for the North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC) Statutes Working Group (NIOHC-SWG)

(Raised during NIOHC 19 25-28 March, Muscat, Oman)

(Status - Approved during NIOHC19)

With referencing to:

- NIOHC Statutes January 2019.

1. **Context:** The NIOHC at its 19th Conference, recognised the need to initiate a study of the length of tenure of Chair and Vice Chair in order to optimise efficiency. This will be delivered through a review of the existing statutes, noting how other Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) operate and taking into account any benefits and implications should a change of tenure be recommended. In the process of this review, the NIOHC-SWG should also make proposals to update the statutes for consistency and terminology.

2. **The Working Group under the authority of the NIOHC is tasked to:**

- Review the current statutes and make recommendations for clarity and to remove ambiguity, if any.
- Consider benefits and implications in changing the length of tenure for Chair and Vice Chair.
- Consider options for enabling the hosting of RHC meetings
- Analyse how other RHCs operate and consult as necessary.
- Focus on efficiency.
- To present a report to the NIOHC six months from the end of NIOHC 19. This report should include;
 - findings of the current statutes
 - recommendations on how to proceed
 - if change of length of tenure is recommended and if such a proposal is made the broader implications should also be highlighted
 - a proposed action plan with specified time schedule for implementation.
- Identify any NIOHC resource requirements as a consequence.

3. **Rules of procedures:**

- All NIOHC Members are encouraged to participate to the NIOHC-SWG (Initially Egypt, India, Indonesia, Thailand and United Kingdom).
- The NIOHC-SWG should be chaired by one of the Member States elected by the NIOHC-SWG members.
- The NIOHC-SWG secretarial support will be provided by UK.
- The NIOHC-SWG should consult other RHCs or other relevant bodies, as deemed necessary.
- The work of the NIOHC-SWG will be carried out primarily by correspondence (via e-mails). The members are encouraged to reply without unnecessary delay.
- Decisions will be by consensus and any differences will be brought back to plenary for a decision.