

**Minutes**  
**of the**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Southern African and**  
**Islands**  
**Regional Hydrographic**  
**Commission**

**17-19 September 2024**



## **SAIHC20 Plenary Report – Held in Kisumu, Kenya/Hybrid 16-19 September 2024**

Note – this document does not act as full meeting minutes, however it provides an overview of presentations, reports and a summary of action items. A summary of actions can be found in Annex A. Most but not all reports and presentations were uploaded on the IHO SAIHC webpage. The numbering in the report coincides with the agenda items of the SAIHC20 meeting.

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## SAIHC20 Plenary Day 1 - Tuesday 17 September 2024

### Opening remarks and welcome

Chair, RAdm Angus Essenhigh OBE (UK) welcomed the delegation to Kisumu. The Chair encouraged all Member States to participate with energy, ensuring maximum participation over the next few days. He thanked industry partners Underwater Surveys, Kongsberg, AML Oceanographic and Amaza Surveys for co-hosting the evening events of SAIHC with the UK.

The Chair then introduced Ambassador Nancy Karagithu, from the Executive Office of the Kenyan President, who delivered the key-note address. She highlighted the importance of cooperation and collaboration in the region. Expanding on how investing in hydrography was a worthwhile endeavour across the region as the Blue Economy presented huge opportunities to all nations within SAIHC.

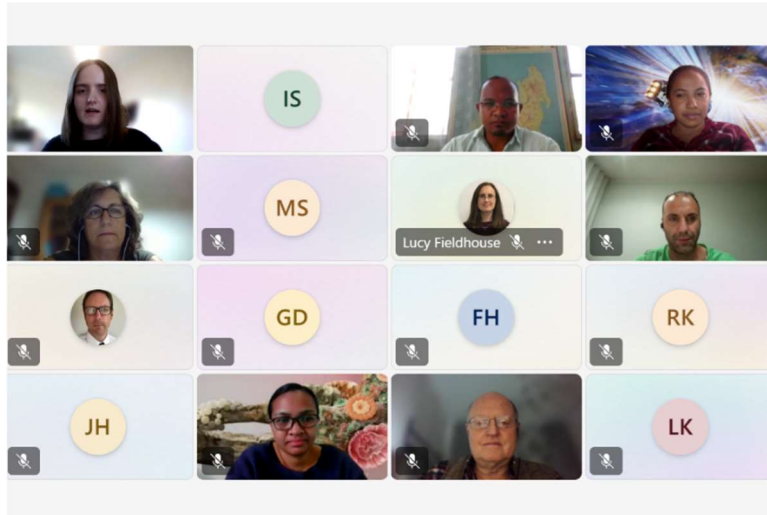
IHO Assistant Director John Nyberg welcomed all to the conference and appreciated how SAIHC was attended by inland states and emphasised how the IHO were aware that the issues covered by the IHO extended far beyond the sea.

The Chair then explained who had joined online and invited those in the room to introduce themselves.

### In-person delegates



**Online delegates** (not all delegates online captured.)



## 1.1 Approval of the Agenda

The Chair commented that the draft agenda had been circulated prior to plenary, and there were no requests for amendments. The Chair invited any additional comments, inputs, questions for the agenda.

### Comments:

**Chair:** highlighted that the S-100 coordinator vote was moved further down the agenda to allow for the delayed arrival of Mauritius.

**Norway:** clarified that EOMAP was a presentation on Satellite Derived Bathymetry and Capacity Building, not industry.

Following these comments the agenda was approved.

Link: [Agenda](#)

### Decision 1: Approval of the SAIHC20 agenda

## 1.2 Matters arising from Minutes of SAIHC19

The Chair shared that all feedback was considered and incorporated into the amended draft SAIHC19 minutes. No correspondence had been received prior to SAIHC20 and there were no comments from the floor. The Chair confirmed the SAIHC19 minutes as the definitive version.

Link: [SAIHC19 Minutes](#)

### Decision 2: Approval of SAIHC19 Minutes as final

## 1.3 Review of SAIHC19 Actions list

The Secretary gave an overview of the updated actions that were circulated to SAIHC Members on the 14 July 2024. No comments were received in advance therefore the closed actions from SAIHC19 have now been removed. It was suggested by the Chair that the continuous actions should be moved to an Annex in the SAIHC Statutes. The Chair requested that South Africa as Crowd Sourced Bathymetry (CSB) co-ordinator follow up on actions relating to CSB.

Link: [SAIHC19 Actions](#)

**Action 1: CSB Coordinator to contact those within SAIHC, that have not responded to IHO CL on CSB.**  
**Action 2: SAIHC Secretary to remove closed actions from the SAIHC 19 Actions List and move continuous actions to SAIHC Statutes and circulate.**

#### 1.4 Approval of S-100 Coordinator

The Chair outlined how via circular letter Mauritius had been selected as SAIHC S-100 coordinator, however it was required to be officially confirmed at SAIHC20. Members were asked to indicate their support; Mauritius was confirmed as S-100 coordinator.

**Comments:**

**Mauritius:** thanked the Member States for their support and highlighted that team work would be essential for efficiently discharging this pioneering role.

**Decision 3:** Mauritius confirmed as S-100 Coordinator.

#### 1.5 SAIHC Statutes review

The SAIHC statutes were circulated via email on 29 August 2024, to allow Members to respond with any comments or amendments. The Chair had previously suggested that continuous actions were moved to an annex of the statutes, this was agreed by members. There were no further comments.

*On the final day of plenary, the Chair requested an amendment to the statutes. Please see section 1.4.3 for detail.*

**Link:** [Statutes](#)

**Decision 4:** SAIHC Statutes are approved.

#### 2.1 IHO Secretariat Report

IHO Director, John Nyberg gave an overview of the IHO secretariat report. John directed members to the website for the full report.

Director Nyberg specifically highlighted IHO Circular Letters due for release shortly, requesting votes to formally adopt finalised standards. He described how it was critical for these to be approved in 2024 and called for all to vote quickly and provide comments early.

He later described opportunities for training and capacity building (comprehensively detailed in the report and presentation linked below.)

He welcomed all countries not yet IHO members to consider joining. He offered assistance to any country interested.

He reminded IHO members that P5 and C55 are most useful if updated annually and called for members to ensure these were updated.

He described the success of the Empowering Women in Hydrography Project and called for participation by offering opportunities.

It was also highlighted that conversations around the security of S-100 and data transmission were still ongoing.

**Comments:**

**UK:** commented that sometimes the latest P5 and C55 updates are not visible on the IHO website and that countries should reconfirm their P5 annually even if nothing had changed. The UK trailed that more on Capacity Building would come in later presentations.

**France:** Highlighted a French speaking exchange opportunity in Brest. Applications will be advertised by IHO Circular Letter.

**Seychelles:** Requested funding from IHO Capacity Building fund should be used to support attendance at international meetings. The SAIHC Capacity Building Coordinator responded highlighting the UK's gender balance fund to increase female participation, could be a method of receiving funding. It was highlighted that IC-ENC also offered sponsorship opportunities.

**Chair:** The Chair also called for member states to reach out to colleagues about Circular Letters and ask for clarification if what was being asked of them was unclear.

**Link:** [IHO Report](#)

**Link:** [IHO Report Presentation](#)

**Actions requested of SAIHC:** Note report and consider recommendations.

## 2.2 Progress and Plan IHO Portal

Director Nyberg then gave an overview of the Progress and Plan of the IHO Portal.

He detailed that the portal would be used to centralise documentation for meetings and events and was at a trial stage with Working Groups. He explained that the migration from current storage was ongoing and hoped it would be completed by 2025. The current document archive would then become dormant. He noted how when it was fully operational further tweaks and comments would be welcome and that the IHO would be there to provide user support.

**Link:** [IHO Portal Plan and Progress](#)

## 2.3 Council 7 Report

The Council 7 report presentation was delivered by Evert Flier, Norway.

Evert highlighted how Council was only a few weeks away, so many items from Council 7 had been overtaken by meetings and events in the last year.

Council 7 took place in Monaco, 17-19 October 2023.

Key Items:

- S-100 infrastructure and standards developments - Council endorsed the principle that additional funding resources should be considered for setting up sustainable technical and administrative infrastructure around S-100.
- Establishment of new project teams - Council noted the establishment under HSSC of an S-100 Infrastructure Centre Establishment Project Team; the S-100 Security Scheme project team, as well as the establishment of an electronic chart system project team under the ENC Working Group.
- Council agreed to create a new award in addition to the Prince Albert Medal, the Ex Abyssia ad Alta Award, the first winner was IHO's Yves Guillam.
- A project team on fund generation was established to overcome the discrepancy between ambitions and budget.
- Gender Balance in Hydrography project should develop into a programme. Council tasked IRCC to define through the capacity building subcommittee a framework for continued activity. This work was underway with Evert chairing.

- Singapore Innovation Technology Lab - Council noted the updates of the Singapore Innovation and Technology Laboratory and noted progress made on projects such as S I 3 I Marine Harbour Infrastructure database.
- Council acknowledged the current structure of the strategic plan was still relevant and that a revision of the current plan was needed rather than rewrite. HSSC and IRCC were tasked to provide their inputs and that would be provided at Council 8.
- Making IHO events more inclusive – Council agreed to take forward developing guidance for making IHO events more inclusive. Work would continue through 2024 to analyse and findings reported at Council 8.

The Chair encouraged attendance at Council from members and non-members as observers.

**Link:** [Council 7](#)

**Action requested of SAIHC:** Note the Report.

## 2.4 IRCC I 6 Report

Lucy Fieldhouse, IHO Capacity Building Coordinator gave an overview of the IRCC I 6 meeting, which was held 10-12 June 2024 in Galapagos, Ecuador.

38 registered participants from 15 Member States, including UK, France and Norway from the SAIHC Region.

### Future IRCC Dates:

IRCC I 7 – 3-5 June 2025 IHO Secretariat Monaco

IRCC I 8 – Peru (May/June 2026)

IRCC I 9 – Nigeria (May/June 2027)

IRCC I 20 – Australia / New Zealand (May/June 2028)

IRCC I 21 – Denmark (May/June 2029)

### Key Items:

- Fund Generation of IHO projects
- Drafting Group for making IHO events more inclusive
- Future framework for an IHO social programme (incl. Gender Balance in Hydrography)
- RHC Reports
- Axis of Evolution of the IHO Strategic Plan

IRCC Recommendations to RHCs were also covered and are available in the presentation.

**Link:** [IRCC Presentation](#)

**Link:** [SAIHC report to IRCC I 6](#)

**Action requested of SAIHC:** Note the reports and take any necessary actions.

## 2.5 HSSC I 6 Report

Gabin Sogorb, France summarised HSSC I 6, which took place in Tokyo, Japan 27-31 May 2024.

Attendees:

31 Member States

6 NGOs

PRIMAR

Expert contributors



## Key Items:

- S-100 Edition 5.2.0 has been approved by IHO Members States
- All core phase I Product Specifications are in line with the S-100 Timeline and IHO CL for MS approval is expected to be issued in October 2024 with due date December 2024
- Infrastructure centre update: role, location, targets, proposal to council
- Dissemination of S-100 Data

Further information on the above points can be found on the HSSC I 6 web page and presentation:

Link: [HSSC Presentation](#)

Link: [HSSC I 6 Webpage](#)

**Action requested of SAIHC:** Note the report.

## 3.1 Summary of IHO Strategic Plan and RHC-owned SPIs

Cdr Ankush Sachdeva from Mauritius summarised the Goals, Targets and SPIs for 2021-2026 for the SAIHC region.

- **Goal 1: Evolving the hydrographic support for safety and efficiency of maritime navigation, undergoing profound transformation.**

**Target: 1.1** Deliver standards for hydrographic data and specifications of hydrographic products, support regular production, coordinate regional and global services for their provision

1.1.1 - % of members that have operational S-100 products

1.1.2 - S-100 hydrographic products for autonomous shipping

**Target: 1.2** Develop standards, specifications, and guidelines in the areas of data assurance, including cyber security and data quality assessment

1.2.1 - Percentage of hydrographic data products and services based on S-100 model that are covered by IHO standards, specifications and guidelines on cyber security

1.2.2 - Percentage of navigationally significant areas for which the adequacy of the hydrographic knowledge is accessed using appropriate quality indicators

**Target: 1.3** Use capacity building and training to develop and increase the ability of MSs to support safety and efficiency of maritime navigation

1.3.1 - Ability and capability of Member States to meet the requirements and delivery phases of the S-100 implementation plan

- **Goal 2: Increasing the use of hydrographic data for the benefit of society.**

**Target: 2.1** Build a portal to support and promote regional and international cooperation in marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI)

**Target: 2.2** Promote new tools and methods to accelerate and increase coverage, consistency, quality of surveys in poorly surveyed areas

**Target: 2.3** Apply UN shared guiding principles for geospatial information management to ensure interoperability and extended use of hydrographic data in combination with other marine-related data

- **Goal 3: Participating actively in international initiatives related to the knowledge and the sustainable use of the ocean.**

**Target: 3.1** Collaborate with other bodies who deliver capacity building and training to improve effectiveness of capacity building activities and programmes

**Target: 3.2** Improve knowledge of the world's seafloors

**Target: 3.3** Implement a comprehensive IHO digital communication strategy to enhance its visibility and accessibility to its work.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Action requested of SAIHC:** Note the report and take any necessary actions.

#### **4.1 AML Oceanographic**

James Walton of AML Oceanographic presented.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

#### **4.2 EOMAP – Satellite Derived Bathymetry for Capacity Building**

Delivered ahead of 4.1 to separate from industry presentations. Evert Flier and Knut Hartmann presented.

**Link:** [SDB for Capacity building](#)

**ACTION 3:** SAIHC Members to consider participating in the SDB Project Team.

#### **4.3 Kongsberg Discovery joined by Sealand Mapping**

Justin Hornby and Paul Nzau presented.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

#### **4.4 Amaza Surveys**

Gaynor Deacon presented.

**Link:** [Amaza Surveys](#)

#### **4.5 Underwater Surveys**

Theo Stokes presented.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

#### **5.1 Lake Victoria Basin Committee**

The LVBC did not present.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

## Tour of Kisumu Port and the MV Uhuru II

During the afternoon of Plenary Day One, in person attendees visited Kisumu Port and received a tour of the MV Uhuru II.



**SAIHC20 Plenary Day 2 -  
September 2024**

**Wednesday 18**

### 6.1 International Coordination Working Group (ICCWG)

**Chart**

ICCWG Chair Alfons Van Craeynest (South Africa) presented the 12<sup>th</sup> INT Chart Coordination working group report, and covered the following agenda points:

- Actions from 11<sup>th</sup> ICCWG – 4 actions, all ongoing – for more detail see presentation.
- Region H – INT chart scheme:
  - o 129 charts of which 120 produced and 9 schemed. No new INT charts since last SAIHC meeting.
  - o 9 new editions of INT charts since last SAIHC.
  - o 2 new INT charts are planned (INT 7620 and INT 7630).
- India submitted a proposal to convert some existing national charts to INT charts in order to enhance coverage to international mariners. The impact of this on the existing scheme needs to be reviewed as appropriate.
- In 2023 France proposed a new ENC FR276900 (without publication of paper chart). No objections received. Production planned for 2025.
- UKHO has submitted proposals to rescheme GB ENCs in the SAIHC region which were circulated for comment via CL.  
UK gave an overview on their submitted gridded proposals. Explained the rationale behind the proposals and the impact on GB cells in the region. No objections have been received from ICCWG.

#### ENC Overlaps

- IC-ENC and PRIMAR reports are used to identify ENC overlaps.
- 13 unresolved overlaps

#### S-100 implementation roadmap

- Recommendations/Decisions from IRCC 15 related to S-100 Roadmap
- WENDWG CI/2023 Survey – readiness status of RHCs
- Mauritius was appointed as the SAIHC S-100 coordinator and thanked all the member states for their continued support.

#### INToGIS III

- Aim to provide tool for MS for planning and scheming ENCs, S-100 products and ENDS (phase 1) from 2025-2029.
- It will be ready to provide worldwide coverage of S-100 based products by 2024.

- Review of ICCWG RoP and ToR – Since last SAIHC these have been amended to update gender inclusive language and include role of S-100 coordinator.

**Comments:**

**UK:** informed the group that they are in dialogue with Portugal and Mozambique in regards to two new planned INT charts.

**India:** reiterated that their proposal was to enhance coverage and will follow the appropriate review process.

**UK:** stated that once the proposal has been circulated to member states they will review and comment.

**UK:** asked if there is a cross RHC coordination group for the S-100 coordinators.

**IHO:** suggested it could be something that takes place in WENDWG margins as this is where the suggestion of S-100 coordinators came from.

**Mauritius:** mentioned that on the margins of SAIHC20, they had professional exchanges work with France and India who are other RHC S-100 coordinators. They also endorsed the proposal for cross RHC coordination group for S-100 coordinators.

**Chair:** suggested one of S-100 or ICCWG chair attend WENDWG meeting and should discuss in margins.

India thanked UK for work on gridding and congratulated Mauritius on their role as S-100 coordinator for SAIHC.

**Link:** [ICCWG Report](#)

**Link:** [ICCWG Presentation](#)

**Action requested of SAIHC:** Members of SAIHC are invited to note the report.

**Action 4:** IHO to suggest to WENDWG develop S-100 coordinator group to share knowledge and experience.

## 7.1 MSDIWG update

The MSDIWG Chair Tim Lewis (UK) presented an update on MSDIWG and the activity during and since SAIHC 19.

Highlights included:

- Annual report delivered to SAIHC delegates (Aug 2024)
- Commended Mauritius who gave an update on their work in MSDI.
- ToR/RoP reviewed for S-100 support and gender inclusive language.
- Intersessional VTC held in July 2024 – IHO MSDI WG chair presented an overview of activities during this meeting.
- Consideration of Data Portal, initially to support the Great Lakes Project SAIHC MSDIWG CB/training requirements. None received.
- With the establishment of the S-100 coordinator role it was proposed to change the SAIHC MSDI WG to an ambassador role. This is in line with other regional hydrographic commissions.

**Comments:**

**Norway:** supported the withdrawal of SAIHC MSDI WG and noted that other RHCs had done similar and thanked the UK, for leading the group whilst active.

**IHO:** reiterated that this was taking place in other RHCs. It had been proposed at the IHO MSDI WG meeting that the UN GGIM/MSDI WG merge. This would report to IRCC but fall under the UN banner. This would be raised at Council. This was agreed at the UN but needed to be discussed at IHO. IHO Director stated the importance of MSDI ambassador role.

**UK:** thanked all for kind words.

**Link:** [MSDI Report](#)

**Actions requested of SAIHC:** Note this MSDIWG report.

**Decision 5:** Move from MSDI WG to Ambassador role.

**Decision 6:** UK will take on the MSDI Ambassador role.

## 7.2 Capacity Building Report

Capacity Building Coordinator Lucy Fieldhouse (UK) updated on CB matters:

### CBSC22 Meetings:

- CBSC22 Intersessional – VTC in February 2024
- CBSC22 – Galapagos in June 2024.

### Items discussed:

- Challenges of the S-100 implementation, the valuable contributions of Nippon Foundation and Republic of Korea and industry and other member states and the potential for increasing CB support through other avenues. It was noted that there is an increasing demand for CB support and therefore other avenues are being sought for CB support.
- Current IHO Opportunities
- IHO eLearning Centre updates.
- Empowering women in hydrography – Several opportunities including secondments/funds have been provided by Member States.
- MSc Programme in Hydrographic Science, University of Southern Mississippi funded by Republic of Korea.
  
- SAIHC Capacity Building update:
  - 3 activities funded through IHO in 2024.
  
  - 2 activities planned for 2025 including Hydrographic Awareness Seminar and Technical Visit to Zambia.
- SAIHC Capacity building workplan and proposal.
- Reminder of phases of capacity building activities and planning timelines.

### Comments:

**Norway:** thanked Lucy for the report and highlighted the eLearning ongoing action.

**France:** thanked Lucy and provided feedback that some materials provided had not yet been uploaded on the eLearning centre.

**IALA:** mentioned that post COVID they had moved back from online training to blended learning as they found they were not getting results from online training alone. They encouraged those States conducting technical visits to share the reports.

**South Africa:** encouraged Member States to access the MSI eLearning site.

**Mauritius:** thanked the Capacity Building chair (Norway) and vice chair (UK) and mentioned they believe an S-100 CB funded course would be beneficial to the region.

**Madagascar:** asked how a country like Madagascar can benefit from capacity building as a non-IHO member state. The CB Coordinator provided information on what options are open to non-members.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

### Actions requested of SAIHC:

- Note the report
- Inform SAIHC Capacity building coordinator of any Capacity Building requests for inclusion in the 2026 workplan by 1 Jan 2025
- Note the continuous action, to consider contributing to the Empowering Women in Hydrography Project
- Note the continuous action to consider contributing eLearning Training Material to the IHO eLearning Centre

**Action 5:** SAIHC Participants to consider sharing their IALA reports to share regional information.

**Action 6:** Extend SAIHC CB activities, where possible, to include EAHC.

### 7.3 African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub-Working Group Report

Interim AGL&RSWG Chair Nick Swadling (UK) gave an update on activities from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

#### Key points included:

- IALA seminar (introduction to AtoN and Risk Assessment) September 2024
- IALA Lake Victoria Mission September 2024
- World Bank Multi phase programme with Lake Victoria Basin Commission to include hydrographic surveys to support Safety of Navigation
- IHR note/ Technical Report published in November 2023 edition of the IHR, produced by UKHO with contributions from Malawi, Kongsberg Discovery and GeoSystems. (Link in presentation)
- Ongoing receipt of data to support renewed navigational chart compilation of Lake Victoria
- SAIHC on the Lake – visit to MV Uhuru II during SAIHC plenary raising awareness of challenges faced on the region's inland waters.

#### Ongoing activities of the AGL&RSWG include:

- Survey metadata dataset
- Data portal development and options going forward include RCMRD or UK Centre for Seabed Mapping but reiterated the need to understand the requirements of the portal from Member States.
- Actions can be found in the AGL&RSWG report.

#### Comments:

**IALA:** mentioned the workshop that took place on the final day of plenary highlighting the importance of hydrographic surveys.

**UK:** reminded the group that the UK were editor of IHR so encouraged SAIHC members to get in touch with UK if anyone wants to contribute papers or notes to the IHR.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Action requested of SAIHC:** Note the Report

### 7.4 IHO-EU Network Working Group Report

The IENWG report was presented by Gabin Sogorb, France, providing an update on the most recent meeting in May 2024 and included:

- EU maritime policies, information on various EU projects involving HOs and progress in the development of the IENWG Work tracks: data collection, development of the S-100 products and capacity building.
- The IENWG identified to raise awareness of the EC of the possibility of more joint actions.

Ongoing developments include an EU initiative on marine data collection reporting and coordination and re-use of environment public data applied to marine knowledge. New activities included the need of data for European Green Deal (GreenData4All).

A New group formed recently including IENWG and EMODnet as members. This will help EU countries' contribution to GEBCO and improve interoperability between EMODnet, the IHO DCDB, IHO and IOC GEBCO. Various S-100 Product Development projects had been funded in Baltic Sea. Recent document detailing synergies between EC and IENWG in Capacity Building had been published.

#### Comments:

**Norway:** asked France how the funding applications work and who submits these.

**France:** suggested that this working group should do some of the administrative work in pulling together applications and ask for support from CBSC if necessary.

**Mauritius:** suggested that the fund and opportunities on offer by the EU could be utilised by the SAIHC and proposed that Capacity Building manager may seek avenues for S100 development in the region.

**Link:** [IENWG Report](#)

#### **Action requested of SAIHC:**

- To note the IENWG activity since SAIHC19
- To note the EU need of hydrographic and cartographic data and the support to projects related to hydrography and navigational products
- To take note of the IENWG document “IHO and EC cooperation in third countries – A proposal for capacity development.”
- To take note of the IENWG and EC interactions to come on the capacity development in liaison with the CBSC as appropriate, the promotion of the S-100 products and the data collection needs.

### **7.5 CSB/Seabed 2030**

The CSB Coordinator for SAIHC, Nicolette le Roux (South Africa) gave an update on the current status of CSB within the SAIHC.

- SANHO (SA Navy HO) provided updates on the trial they were participating in with Seabed 2030 and IHO which included the rollout of data loggers in RSA waters.
- Recently SANHO have supported Monaco explorations who conducted an Indian Ocean Expedition in Nov 2022 by acting as a trusted node of bathymetric data. After verification was completed, the data would be submitted to GEBCO/Seabed 2030.
- An update on the IHO-CSBWG was given and can be found on the IHO Website CSBWG15 page.
- No training updates since SAIHC19 and Member States are invited to provide training and CSB requirements relating to CSB either through the National Report or through the SAIHC CSB coordinator.

#### **Comments:**

**France:** reminded SAIHC that the Monaco Expeditions were not collecting CSB data. This was considered planned scientific survey under the MSR as they asked for permission to undertake this survey.

**Norway:** thanked SANHO for presentation and supported France in their statement. Noted that whilst some progress has been made there was still a long way to go in mapping our oceans/ocean floor.

**South Africa:** thanked and noted the comments from France.

**Kenya:** asked about the roll out of data loggers and if they would supply more data loggers to other countries.

**Norway:** explained there were no plans, but there were further conversations with SB2030, and ask larger HOs to support this project.

**South Africa:** did have some challenges with fitting the data loggers which were all shared in the report.

**IALA:** encouraged NHOs to engage with industry to access data collected.

**Link:** [CSBWG](#)

**Action 7:** Member states to review and action where appropriate action items from CSBWG15.

**Action 8:** MS are encouraged to participate and contribute towards CSB projects in aid of the GEBCO Seabed 2030 project, report CSB activities to SAIHC CSB coordinator.

### **8.1 Angola National Report**

Angola presented the Angola National Report. Please see attached for more information.

#### **Comments:**

**IHO:** noted the request for a high-level visit and will discuss with Angola in the margins.

**UK:** asked Angola to share any charting information with UKHO so they can update their products in the region.

**Norway:** requested that an action be taken that all national reports contain an update on engagement with industry and if, relevant, PCA on the releasability of data holdings.

**Portugal:** reiterated Angola's comments that they were working closely together on hydrographic, surveying, and charting matters. They also responded to UK's comment and confirmed they will keep UK informed of any charting updates in the region that may affect their products.

**Link:** [Report](#)

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Actions requested from SAIHC:**

- Angola requests a high-level visit to Angola by the IHO.
- To support technical cooperation with an established Hydrographic Office in the SAIHC region for surveys and knowledge transfer.
- To support national efforts to hold seminars and workshops on the importance of hydrography.

**Action 8:** Add line to National Report template to include section on engagement with charting authority.

**Action 9:** Note request for capacity building training from Angola and add to IHO CB workplan.

## 8.2 France National Report

SAIHC Secretary received the documents in Annex B ahead of SAIHC20. France presented the France National Report.

**Link:** [Report](#)

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Actions of SAIHC:** To take note of the report.

## 8.3 Kenya National Report

Kenya presented the Kenya National Report.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Actions requested from SAIHC:**

- Capacity building – introductory training on basics of hydrography and software can be periodically done online.
- Resource mobilisation – equipment and software support.

## 8.4 Mauritius National Report

Mr H Teckmun from Mauritius presented the National Report.

**Comments:**

**Chair:** *applauded the international engagement work presented in the report and thanked India for its work in the region.*

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Actions for SAIHC:** Note the report and presentation.

## 8.5 Mozambique National Report

Mozambique did not present.



**Link:** [Report](#)

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

## 8.6 Norway National Report

Norway presented the Norway National Report.

**Comments:**

**Chair:** encouraged Member States to utilise the open-source software mentioned in the report if suitable particularly in light of tightened budgets and resources yet greater and greater amounts of data.

**Link:** [Report](#)

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Action requested of SAIHC: Note the report.**

## 8.7 Republic of South Africa National Report

South Africa presented the South African National Report.

**Comments:**

**Norway:** encouraged conversations about spare data loggers between Kenya and South Africa and identified the MV Uhuru II as an example boat that could benefit from having one of the loggers fitted. (Action 13.)

**Link:** [Report](#)

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Action requested of SAIHC: Note the report.**

## 8.8 Seychelles National Report

Seychelles presented their National Report.

**Comments:**

**Kenya Ports Authority** asked if UK support other countries in undertaking bathymetric surveys and how this is prioritised throughout the PCAs. UKHO suggested continuing this conversation bilaterally.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Action requested of SAIHC:** Request capacity building on next generation ENCs.

## 8.9 United Kingdom National Report

Tim Lewis shared the UK National Report.

**Link:** [Report](#)

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Actions requested of SAIHC:** Note the National Report and presentation.

## 8.10 Comoros National Report

Comoros presented the Comoros National Report online.

**Comments:**

**Lucy Fieldhouse, Capacity Building Coordinator:** explained that some of the training and capacity building funds were only available for IHO Member States.

**France:** suggested Comoros could consider accessing the Empowering Women in Hydrography opportunities and to refer to the relevant Circular Letters.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Actions requested of SAIHC:**

- Note the National Report and presentation.
- Assist in hydrographic, bathymetric, cartographic training recognised by IHO
- Assist with S-100
- Assist with becoming IHO Member State

### 8.11 India National Report

India presented the India National Report.

**Comments:**

**IALA:** announced India will host IALA level I course again.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

### 8.12 Madagascar National Report

Madagascar presented their National Report.

**Comments:**

**Chair:** commended Madagascar on their collaboration projects.

**Link:** [Report](#)

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Actions requested of SAIHC:** Note the National Report and presentation.

### 8.13 Malawi National Report

Malawi presented their National Report.

**Link:** [Report](#)

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Actions requested of SAIHC:** Note the National Report and presentation.

### 8.14 Namibia National Report

Namibia presented the Namibia National Report.

**Comment:**

**Lucy Fieldhouse, Capacity Building Coordinator:** offered support to Namibia with access to training and IHO membership.

**IHO:** offered support to Namibia regarding how to join the IHO as a member.

**Link:** [Report](#)

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Actions requested of SAIHC:**

- Assist with the training of the IHO recognised Hydrographic Surveyor.
- Collaboration for Namibia to provide S-100 product/ products by 2026.

**8.15 Portugal National Report**

Portugal presented the Portugal National Report online.

**Comments:**

*Chair: thanked Portugal for providing the introduction in Portuguese language to support those in the Commission whose native language is Portuguese.*

**Link:** [Report](#)

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Action requested of SAIHC:** To note National Report and presentation.

**8.16 Tanzania National Report**

Tanzania did not present.

**8.17 Uganda National Report**

Uganda presented the Uganda National Report. Please see below.

**Comments:**

**South Africa:** invite Uganda to consider CSB as a means to collect some data where currently there is none.

**Angola:** asked if Uganda have a project to remove wrecks. Uganda responded that there is a project, but they have no further details at this time.

**UK:** offered support through ongoing MOU discussions and mentioned they had data from a recent survey from Kisumu to Uganda and asked that as port developments progress to keep UKHO informed.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Actions requested of SAIHC:** Note report.

**8.18 Zambia National Report**

Dunstan Kangwa presented the Zambia National Report in person. See below for further information.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Actions requested of SAIHC:** Note report.

**The Chair thanked all Members and Associate Members for delivering informative and interesting National Report updates.**

**9.1 SAIHC Disaster Response Plan**

South Africa introduced the SAIHC Disaster Response Framework and asked Members to read it in slower time. She commented that the Framework had not changed since the last meeting. However, there was an outstanding action from SAIHC I 8, and requested all MS to send their contact details in the Annex A of the response plan below.

**Link:** [Disaster Response Plan](#)

**Action 11:** SAIHC participants, to provide contact details for SAIHC Disaster Response Plan to South African NAVAREA Coordinator.

## 9.2 Maritime Safety, World-Wide Navigational Warnings Service and NAVAREA Coordination (MS WNWNS & NC)

NAVAREA VII Coordinator South Africa provided an update on NAVAREA VII activities in the region since the last meeting in the SAIHC region.

### Significant events:

- Increased number of SafetyNET/SafetyCAST Messages / Coastal Navigational Warning Messages.
- Actions have been taken to improve safety on Lake Victoria.
- Thanks to UKHO, AGL&RWG, East African Community LVBC for the work to address gap in navigation.
- No signed agreement between SA and Iridium yet.
- No issues using Telkom Radio Services to broadcast NAVAREA VII messages.
- Contingency plans exist between SA, France, and Australia for dissemination of MSI via SafetyNET.
- Ongoing capacity building initiatives identified.

### Challenges/concerns:

- **Angola:** lack of regular reporting on MSI related matters  
Regular reports of movements of oil and gas rigs
- **Mozambique Institute of Hydrography and Navigation:** MSI reports consist of Aids to Navigation being out of order and the concern that no other information regarding maritime safety is generated and communicated to SA
- **Namibia:** NAVTEX broadcasts intermittent, MSI reports consisting mainly of Aids to Nav, port constructions and gunnery exercises
- **Madagascar:** Few MSI received, mainly consist of Aids to Nav being out of order
- **Iles Comoros:** Complete lack of communication
- **Lack of transmitting stations:** north of SA, namely Angola; Mozambique and Madagascar

### Recommendations:

- Member States are encouraged to communicate MSI matters to the NAVAREA VII Coordinator to disseminate these potentially hazardous matters to mariners operating in the relevant areas of interest.
- Member States are invited to contact the SANHO for enrolling in the MSI eLearning package.

*Correction to presentation regards Mozambique, who are still implementing Notice to Mariners process.*

**Link:** [MSI NAVAREA Assessment](#)

**Link:** [MSI NAVAREA Presentation](#)

**Actions requested of SAIHC:** Report to be noted by SAIHC20.

## 10.1 International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)

Gerardine Delanoye provided an update on IALA. This included some **key topics:**

- Change of status for IALA from NGO to IGO
- Overview of recent IALA/ AtN technical visits in the region
- Overview of IALA Training and education in the region

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

## 10.2 South African Hydrographic Society

Gaynor Deacon, Professional Development Officer of SAHS gave a presentation and overview of the South African Hydrographic Society. The presentation included:

- The history behind the organisation.
- Its aims and objectives.
- Some recent updates on the organisation's activities and its members.
- Covered the Hydrographic Professional Accreditation Scheme (HPAS) which is recognised by the IBSC and is a qualification to recognise skills of surveyors/cartographers that may not have followed the traditional education/route into the industry. Webinar 10 October 15:00-16:00 (CET)
- Welcomed any individuals and organisations interested in South Africa or on the African continent or even further afield to join. Please contact [hydrosocietyisa@gmail.com](mailto:hydrosocietyisa@gmail.com)

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

## 10.3 General Bathymetric Charts of the Oceans (GEBCO) and Seabed 2030

Evert Flier, Chair of GEBCO Guiding Committee, gave a presentation on the updates for GEBCO and Seabed 2030, summarised here:

### **GEBCO:**

- New GEBCO Strategy, endorsed by IHO and IOC
- GEBCO Governance Review, also endorsed by IHO and IOC
- Highlights from GEBCO sub-committees
- Ocean Mapping focus at Barcelona April 2024 + Nice June 2025
- GGC4I in Fiji, jointly with SB2030 Pacific RDACC

### **SB2030:**

- Aims and connection with GEBCO
- Overview of SB2030 network
- Opportunities and Challenges
- Status of Mapping within SAIHC and progress
- West Indian Ocean Bathy Project overview

### **Comment:**

**Chair:** thanked all data contributors and encouraged all countries to engage with the project and if appropriate to engage with their Primary Charting Authority for support with creating data formats for ingest into SB2030/GEBCO.

**Norway:** thanked Madagascar for responding to the IHO CL on CSB.

**IHO:** encouraged attendance at the Ocean Conference in Nice 2025.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

## 10.4 KMFRI

Dr Amon Kimeli presented on behalf of the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Institute. The presentation included the following:

- Overview of the West Indian Ocean Bathy Project
- Area of interest, aims, methodologies
- Partners including the SB2030 Atlantic and Indian Ocean Regional Centre
- Project outputs and phases and progress

### **Comment:**

**Norway:** encouraged all those in the region to engage and contribute to this project.

**UK:** commented that they are keen to support the project and are working with data owners in the region to help to get permissions to release data in UKHO data holdings to the project.

**Chair:** encouraged countries to think about releasability of surveys and data so that it can be shared easily with projects like this.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

**Action 12:** UKHO to provide WIObathy with contacts in Somalia and review UKHO data holdings for data releasability.

## 10.5 Maritime Organization for Eastern, Southern and Northern Africa (MOESNA)

Jonah Mumbya, presented on behalf of MOESNA and updated the group on the following points:

- Overview of MOESNA
- Regional Industry Challenges
- Current Initiatives
- MOESNA and SAIHC

**Comments:**

**IHO:** commented that it would be good to discuss an MOU with the organisation to enable closer collaboration.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

## SAIHC20 Plenary Day 3 - Thursday 19 September 2024

### 11.1 Industry presentation – TCarta

TCarta provided a recorded presentation which was played to the delegation.

**Comments:**

**Norway:** complemented the impressive progress that satellite derived bathymetry had made over the last few years and the great potential that it had. He explained with mapping unmapped areas and coastal areas, one big issue had been data sharing. Explaining further that if satellite derived bathymetry is not combined with insight measurements, then there could be national policies. But if it was from satellites there could be no issue and data could be shared in high resolution of all coastal zones of the world. Norway asked TCarta if that topic was being covered by them and if a short insight on how you are addressing that could be shared. (This comment was passed to TCarta.)

**TCarta:** We typically operate without any use of in situ or ground control and can validate the results with other satellite-based techniques so this is not a technical issue in most cases. Of course when survey data is available it can be used to improve SDB models and whenever possible we do work with the local HO to utilize these data for validation purposes. TCarta's overall approach has been to engage with countries directly on SDB technology and, as TCarta presentation highlighted, we have conducted numerous SDB Workshops around the world in the past few years. We have found that providing instruction and building an understanding of how SDB is created, what is best used for (and specifically not used for) helps develop a comfort level with both SDB technology and its use within their waters and often they offer data for validation purposes.

**Link:** [TCarta](#)

## 11.2 Industry presentation – Teledyne Geospatial (7Cs)

Alex Kramer presented for 7Cs/Teledyne.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

## 11.3 Fela Pay Ltd

Edgar Dewai presented for Fela Pay.

### **Comment:**

**UK:** *Complemented Edgar on his exciting proposal and offered to link Fela Pay with the UK licensing Team and suggested working with the Singapore Lab could be an option.*

**IHO:** *Confirmed working with Singapore Lab could be an option.*

**Link:** N/A

## 11.4 Industry presentation – Oshen

Oshen did not present.

## 12.1 SAIHC Input to IHO Meetings – Report to IRCC17 and 8<sup>th</sup> IHO Council considerations

The Chair welcomed any suggestions and recommendations for content/ questions for IRCC17 and Council 8. The report to IRCC16 was shared on screen (linked below.)

**Angola** confirmed they would attend Council 8 as SAIHC Representative.

### **Suggestions:**

- Chair: Include detail of Hydrographic Awareness Seminar
- Chair: Capacity Building Issues
- Chair: Great Lakes Coordination
- WIOBathy Initiative and collaboration example
- UK: Cover the benefits of the trip to Uhuru II.  
Norway: added how we could show development between SAIHC and IRCC in June 2025 with potential data logger progress.
- South Africa: Suggested that a session on Crowd Sourced Bathymetry included as a seminar at SAIHC would be beneficial to increase interest across the membership.

The Chair called for any further suggestions to be made throughout the year to the Secretary.

During Agenda item 13.1 the Chair added the additional suggestion:

- Highlight the need for specific S-100 Capacity Building provision.

**Link:** [IRCC16 Report](#)

## 13.1 S-100 Readiness in the SAIHC Region

Cdr Ankush Sachdeva from Mauritius presented the results of the S-100 Readiness Questionnaire sent to members by Circular Letter. Mauritius thanked the membership for supporting them as S-100 Coordinator for SAIHC.

9/16 responded to the Questionnaire.

- Only 44% of SAIHC members are currently producing and managing S-100 based products.
- 100% of Member States are aware of the S-100 readiness target to be achieved by 2026. However, only 11% of the Member States have got national policies in place to support S-100 adoption and just 11% have the technical infrastructure needed to manage S-100 products.
- Only one Member State considers itself expert, while about 40% Member States feel they possess only basic or low expertise in the subject matter.
- Challenges related to training, funding and data access are significant. Only 22% of the offices have access to training programmes on the S-100 data model, 78% were unsure if they will receive the necessary funding for the implementation and setting up of infrastructure in their respective countries.
- A large proportion of hydrographic offices face challenges collecting or having access to the data required for S-100 products.
- 66% of the respondents indicated that they do not have any S-100 implementation plan in place
- Only 34% believe that they will be able to provide S-100 products by 2026
- Uncertainty around the financial support for S-100 implementation. The cost of transitioning to S-100, covering infrastructure upgrades, training, maintenance are significant and most of the nations are looking for dedicated funding to commit for long term strategic actions.
- Training programmes on the S-100 model are not readily available in the region with the lack of formal training opportunities hydrographic officers find it difficult to upskill their staff capacity. Building initiatives are essential to close this knowledge gap.

#### **Recommendations to SAIHC:**

- Develop S-100 transition plans
- Hydrographic offices where appropriate should actively seek international grants and from donor organisations for S-100 implementation. These partnerships could alleviate some of the financial burden allowing Member States to invest in the necessary infrastructure and training.
- S-100 Capacity Building should include both basic and advanced training, covering technical operations, data management and S-100 standard production and product creation. SAIHC members should take advantage of opportunities from the IHO, RENCs and other organisations offering training.
- Encourage peer-to-peer learning and collaboration amongst SAIHC members.

#### **Comments:**

**Chair:** the Chair complemented Mauritius as S-100 Coordinator and their proactive approach.

**South Africa:** thanked Mauritius for their update on SAIHCs S-100 Readiness.

**IHO:** thanked Mauritius and emphasised the importance, as you mentioned, on putting together the national strategy or implementation plan. Encouraging countries to work with their PCAs where necessary.

**Chair:** highlighted the contents of Mauritius' presentation are echoed across RHCs.

**Chair:** explained that the UK was focussing on high volume traffic areas initially and would work out from there in terms of creating and transitioning to S-100 products. This will really display the benefits of S-100 to users and encourage usage.

**Chair:** encouraged nations to work with their PCAs to discuss aims/ambitions and work together to develop a plan.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)

### **13.2 IC-ENC RENC Update**

Ruth White, UK, presented online.

**Link:** [Presentation](#)



### 13.3 Primar RENC update

Evert Flier, Norway presented.

Link: [PRIMAR](#)

### 14.1 Any other Business

There was no other business raised.

### 14.2 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair stated that the UK would be willing to remain as Chair. Mauritius also put forward their intention to stand as Chair. IHO Director John Nyberg oversaw the closed vote by Members and Associate Members and confirmed the UK as Chair, with Mauritius as Vice Chair.

**Decision 7:** The Chair and Vice Chair confirmed as UK and Mauritius, respectively.

**Action 13:** SAIHC Secretary to share revised statutes including comprehensive Chair voting procedures in advance of approval at SAIHC21.

### 14.3 Review of Actions and Decisions

The Secretary presented the actions from day 3. A summary of all actions and decisions from SAIHC20 can be found in **Annex A**.

#### Comments:

**Norway:** highlighted that Data Logging ambitions should be an action.

**Action 14:** SAIHC Members and Associate members to investigate the possibility of using data loggers on Lake Victoria.

### 14.4 Details of next meeting

France had submitted an offer in advance to the SAIHC Secretary to host SAIHC21 in 2025. The Chair asked France to confirm and opened the floor for additional offers.

#### Comments:

**France:** Gabin confirmed that France would be delighted to host SAIHC21 with provisional dates of the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025, in La Reunion.

**Action 15:** SAIHC Secretary to discuss arrangements for SAIHC21 with France in due course.

### Closing Remarks

The Chair invited IHO Director John Nyberg to deliver his closing remarks. He reflected on the size and breadth of the subject discussed over SAIHC20, which was his first SAIHC meeting. He complemented initiatives in the region and the recognition of the S-100 landscape. He emphasised how important it was to support the next generation of hydrographers and those working in hydrography. He concluded his speech by thanking industries input and the work of the Chair and the extended team.

Mr M S Ayoob SAAB from Mauritius then offered his concluding remarks as Vice Chair. He thanked all those who attended and made the meeting a success. He emphasised the importance of the work to come and the teamwork required. He explained how Mauritius would do all they could to achieve the objectives discussed during SAIHC20. He wished all safe journeys home. The Chair concluded SAIHC20 by thanking all for supporting his first SAIHC and affirmed the UKs support to SAIHC. He thanked Ambassador Nancy for attending SAIHC and committing so much of her time to the conference. He thanked France for their generous offer to host next year.

## Annex A - SAIHC20 Actions and Decisions

Please note that all on-going actions from SAIHC 19 and SAIHC20 have now been closed and added to the SAIHC Statutes as an Annex. The secretary will circulate these in due course.

### Actions

Legend
White: Open
Orange: Propose close
Light Green: Completed or Closed

No.	Ref	Actions	Action By	Due date	Status
1.	SAIHC20-1.3	CSB Coordinator to contact those within SAIHC, that have not responded to IHO CL on CSB.	South Africa (CSB Coordinator)	December 2024	
2.	SAIHC20-1.3	SAIHC Secretary to remove closed actions from the SAIHC 19 Actions List and move continuous actions to SAIHC Statutes and circulate.	Secretary	27/09/2024	COMPLETED
3	SAIHC20 – 4.2	SAIHC Members to consider participating in the SDB Project Team	SAIHC Members	Ongoing	As an ongoing action will be immediately moved to the statutes annex.
4.	SAIHC20-6.1	IHO to suggest to WENDWG develop S-100 coordinator Group to share knowledge and experience.	IHO	December 2024	
5.	SAIHC20- 7.2	SAIHC Participants to consider sharing their IALA reports to share regional information.	SAIHC Members and associate members	Ongoing	As an ongoing action will be immediately moved to the statutes annex.

No.	Ref	Actions	Action By	Due date	Status
6.	SAIHC20- 7.2	Extend SAIHC CB activities, where possible, to include EAthC.	CB Coordinator	Ongoing	As an ongoing action will be immediately moved to the statutes annex.
7.	SAIHC20-7.5	Member states to review and action where appropriate action items from CSBWG I 5	SAIHC members and associate members	March 2025 (CSBWG I 6)	
8.	SAIHC20-7.5	MS are encouraged to participate and contribute towards CSB projects in aid of the GEBCO Seabed 2030 project, report CSB activities to SAIHC CSB co-ordinator.	SAIHC members and associate members	Ongoing	As an ongoing action will be immediately moved to the statutes annex.
9.	SAIHC20-8.1	Add section on engagement with Charting Authority in National Report Template.	SAIHC Secretary	SAIHC2 I	
10.	SAIHC20-8.1	Note request for capacity building training from Angola and add to IHO CB workplan	CB Coordinator		COMPLETED
11.	SAIHC20-9.1	SAIHC participants, to provide contact details for SAIHC Disaster Response Plan to South African NAVAREA Coordinator.	SAIHC members and associate members	1 December 2024, consider as ongoing action for statutes	
12.	SAIHC20-10.4	UKHO to provide WIOBathy with contacts in Somalia and review UKHO data holdings for data releasability	UK	1 December 2024	
13.	SAIHC20-14.2	SAIHC Secretary to share revised statutes, including comprehensive Chair voting procedures, for Members and Associate Members to provide feedback	SAIHC Secretary	SAIHC2 I	
14	SAIHC20-14.3	SAIHC Members and Associate Members to investigate the possibility of using data loggers on Lake Victoria.	SAIHC Members and Associate Members	SAIHC2 I	
15	SAIHC20 – 14.4	SAIHC Secretary to discuss arrangements for SAIHC 2 I with France in due course.	Secretary/France	Early 2025	

## Decisions

No.	Ref	Decisions
1.	SAIHC20 -1.1	Approval of the SAIHC20 agenda.
2.	SAIHC20 -1.2	Approval of SAIHC19 Minutes as final
3	SAIHC20 – 1.4	Mauritius confirmed as S-100 Coordinator.
4.	SAIHC20 -1.5	SAIHC Statutes are approved.
5.	SAIHC20 -7.1	Move from MSDI WG to Ambassador role.
6.	SAIHC20 -7.1	UK will take on MSDI Ambassador role for SAIHC.
7.	SAIHC20 -14.2	The Chair and Vice Chair confirmed as UK and Mauritius, respectively.

## Annex B

**20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)**  
**17-19 September 2024, Kisumu, Kenya**

**Agenda Item 8.2: National Report of France**

**Written Statement by the Republic of Mauritius**

The Republic of Mauritius wishes to place on record its strong objection to France's claim in its National Report that the Island of Tromelin is a French territory.

The Island of Tromelin forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius and is not a French territory. The Republic of Mauritius has full and complete sovereignty over the Island of Tromelin, including its maritime zones.

The Republic of Mauritius rejects France's sovereignty claim over the Island of Tromelin and does not recognize the validity of the inclusion of the Island of Tromelin in the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF) or the Scattered Islands.

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be recorded in the minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of SAIHC.

**20th Meeting of Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)**

**17-19 September 2024, Kisumu, Kenya**

**French written statement in response to the Mauritian written statement related to the French national report for the SAIHC20 meeting**

**16 September 2024**

The French authorities do not recognise any legal value in the Mauritian declaration, which fails to consider that the Island of Tromelin is a French territory over which France has constantly exercised full and total sovereignty.

Thus, France enjoys sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction under international law in the maritime zones adjacent to the Island of Tromelin.

SAIHC meetings are not the appropriate place to discuss territorial sovereignty issues, and French authorities will continue to hold constructive dialogue with the Republic of Mauritius on this matter.

France requests that this statement be recorded in the minutes of the 20th SAIHC Conference.