

## 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG), Video-conference, 7 – 9 April 2020

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020	
Task 3.4.1	Organize, prepare and report annual meetings of the WEND Working Group - Foster the implementation of the WEND principles, monitor progress and report to IRCC.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WENDWG), initially scheduled in Hong Kong, China then in Monaco, was re-arranged by video teleconference (VTC) from 7 to 9 April 2020. The meeting was chaired by Mr John Nyberg (United States of America). Thirty delegates from 19 Member States (Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States), the Chairs of the S-100WG, MSDIWG<sup>1</sup> and NIPWG<sup>2</sup>, the Chairs of the IC-ENC Steering Committee and PRIMAR Advisory Committee and the directors/managers of the RENCs/RECC attended the meeting. Directors Mustafa Iptes and Abri Kampfer and Assistant Director Yves Guillam (Secretary) represented the IHO Secretariat.

At the opening of the first session, the Chair and Director Iptes both welcomed the participants and thanked them for the efforts made by their supporting organizations to join the on-line meeting for three days in such circumstances. It was also agreed that this meeting was not only important to move “WEND-like” matters forward in support of the S-100 Implementation Roadmap but also to experiment and explore the potential of VTCs for such challenging IHO technical and strategic matters.

The meeting agreed to concentrate the efforts of the VTC meeting on the agenda item related to the development of the WENS Principles that were introduced at WENDWG-9 and then at IRCC-11 and C-3 in 2019.

Firstly, the WENDWG considered supporting papers, comments and presentations aiming to provide a wide understanding of the issues to be addressed when developing the WENS Principles further. Practical cases in relation to the implementation of S-100 based products and associated management issues were raised on S-123 - *Marine Radio Services* and S-128 – *Catalogue of Nautical Products*. In the comments provided by IC-ENC Members and by France on the initial draft of the WENS Principles, the need for clear definitions of what stands for “data”, “products” and “services”, and also for more sensitive terms (such “areas under jurisdiction”, “mandatory”, “authoritative”, etc.) was highlighted as a pre-condition, and an ad-hoc definition group, chaired by Canada, was set up for this purpose. Presentations and proposals on MSDI and on the principles of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) of the UN-GGIM supported the adoption by the working group of a tiered approach in the development of the WENS Principles (A1: data products fundamental to safety of navigation, A2: data products that enhance safety of navigation, B: additional navigation information, C: other marine spatial information). With regard to the possible extension of the scope of the WENS Principles, it was finally agreed to prioritize their development with a first step on ECDIS/SOLAS navigation, then other categories of navigation, in order to align with the current priorities given in HSSC for S-98 – *Data Products Interoperability in S-100 Navigation Systems*, and to align with the opportunities offered by the IMO calendar (IHO CL 13/2020, paragraph 37 refers).

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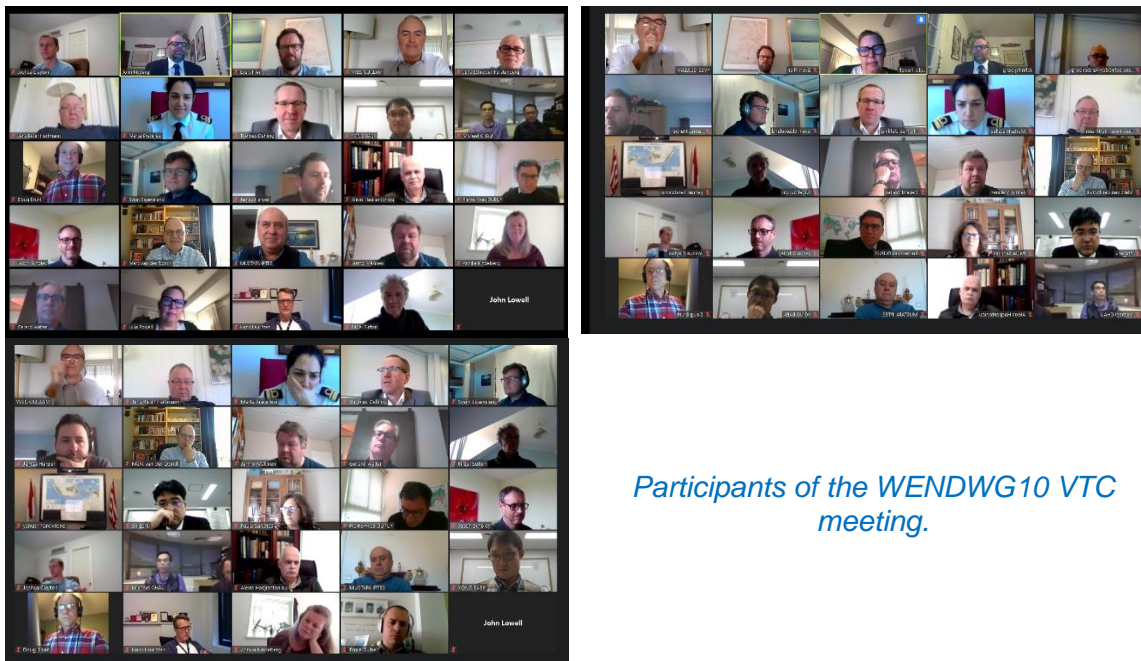
<sup>1</sup> Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group.

<sup>2</sup> Nautical Information Provision Working Group.

With such a focus, and after lengthy discussions on the acronym “WENS” which was somewhat disputed at C-3, the WENDWG finally agreed to simply adopt “WEND100<sup>3</sup>” from now for the new set of principles related to the products to be used in S-100 Navigation Systems and to submit this proposal for endorsement at the next IRCC meeting.

The meeting considered that the current Terms of Reference (TORs) of the WENDWG were adequate for the development phase of the WEND100 Principles, and therefore agreed to put on hold the revision of its TORs until a consolidated version of the WEND100 Principles is available and approved as a new IHO Resolution.

At the end of the meeting, Ms Annika Kindeberg (Sweden) was elected as Vice-Chair of the WENDWG. All participants agreed that this on-line meeting experimentation had been fruitful, thanks to the excellent management of the speakers by the Chair, to the discipline applied by all participants (microphones muted, time zone differences...), and to the simultaneous consideration of multiple discussion “chat” thread during sessions.



*Participants of the WENDWG10 VTC meeting.*

In conclusion, despite the challenges and Covid-19 in particular, the Chair shared his ambition that the working group should do its best between sessions to meet the deadlines given by the Council so he would be in a position to submit a proposal on WEND100 Principles at the next IRCC and Council meetings, even if some pending issues still need further consideration at a later stage. A list of tasks was decided accordingly and the meeting agreed to reconvene for a second VTC WENDWG10 session at the end of August, once a more consensual and consolidated version of WEND100 Principles becomes available.

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WENDWG is scheduled to be held in the USA, from 17 to 19 February 2021.

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<sup>3</sup> Which stands for ....WEND100 and is not an « expandable” acronym.