

# Report of ABLOS to HSSC 11 6-9 May 2019, Cape Town, South Africa

Presented by Dr Niels Andersen (ABLOS Chair)



# Principal activities and achievements

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- The 25<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting of ABLOS was held at the Hilton Doha Hotel in Doha, Qatar on 22 and 25 October 2018. It encircled a two day seminar titled “Challenges in the Implementation of UNCLOS – A Regional Perspective” on 23<sup>rd</sup> - 24<sup>rd</sup> October.
- ABLOS members and IHO appointed observers from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom were present and two observers from Qatar.
- Miss Mariam Nasser al-Hail, on behalf of the Secretary to the Qatari Standing Committee of the Convention on the Law of the Sea, welcomed all to Doha



# Principal activities and achievements

- ABLOS members and observers discussed notable topics from the various conferences, seminars and workshops that they had attended and undertaken since the previous business meeting. The meeting also discussed the material for the ABLOS capacity building training course and reviewed ways to develop it further.
- The revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Board were reviewed and the proposed amendments were agreed for submission to HSSC11 and the IAG Executive Council.



# Principal activities and achievements

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- The TALOS manual (C-51) was discussed and provided with additional comments. It was agreed that the draft edition 6.0.0. should be presented to HSSC11 for endorsement. It was further agreed that the French and Spanish translations should be available to be published in coordination with the English version after adoption in early 2020.
- Capacity building (CB) is still important and relevant for the Regional Hydrographic Commissions, especially the South West Pacific (SWP) region which may be the most deserving target area for LoS CB.
- Engagement with Project Team developing S-121 will be maintained through continued representation at future meetings of the Project Team.



# Principal activities and achievements

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- The meeting continued its preparations for the 10<sup>th</sup> ABLOS Conference, which is going to be held in Monaco on 8 and 9 October 2019.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> ABLOS conference had been a success and also the venue at the IHO Secretariat worked very well, so it was agreed to continue and very much appreciated to have IHO Secretariat as venue.
- The title of the 10<sup>th</sup> ABLOS conference is “*Opportunities and Challenges in the Governance of the Planet Ocean*” with key note speaker professor Ronan Long, Director of the WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute



# Principal activities and achievements

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- The ABLOS meeting was encircled by a two day Law of the Sea seminar titled “Challenges in the Implementation of UNCLOS – A Regional Perspective”, which was hosted by the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Standing Committee of the Convention on the Law of the Sea at Ritz-Carlton, Doha.
- The seminar was attended by more than 100 delegates from across the region, including Iran and Bahrain and a wide selection of Qatari government ministries, technical authorities and universities.
- The key note speak was given by Professor Natalie Klein with title: “Settlement of Disputes”



# Principal activities and achievements

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- The status of current Board members was reviewed. The ABLOS noted that two IHO appointed members were due to end their terms in October 2018 and three AIG appointed members in July 2019. All members were requested to advise whether they would be available for re-nomination by their respective host organizations or whether they were aware of suitable candidates to fill the forth coming vacancies.



# Problems Encountered

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- It is noted that 5 of the 8 ABLOS members will complete their second terms between October 2018 and July 2019; it is of concern that, whilst there are 4 IHO observers, there are no IAG observers gaining experience potentially to progress as IAG appointed members.
- Since then two IHO members have been appointed and the IAG Executive Council been asked to prolong the three IAG members terms and approve one IAG observer





# Action requested of HSSC

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- a. Note this report
- b. Note excellent IHO Secretariat support to ABLOS
- c. Endorse the continuation of ABLOS to pursue its work under its Terms of Reference
- d. Review and endorse the work program of Annex B

