

IHO File No. S1/1900/A

CIRCULAR LETTER 38/2025
28 October 2025

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)
AND THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARINE AIDS TO NAVIGATION (IALA)**

References:

- A: Co-operation agreement between the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) (Annex A).
- B: Summary Report of the 9th meeting of the IHO Council dated 14-16 October 2025, Decision C9/69.
- C: Agreement between the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA) (Annex B).
- D. **ACL07/2025 – Invited Observers – Submission of final lists for approval.**

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The change of the name and the status of IALA due to their recent transition to an intergovernmental organization requires the renewal of the cooperation agreement between IHO and IALA in place since 2001 (Annex A).
2. The resulting revised version (Annex B) was jointly drafted by both Secretariats of the IHO and IALA. The IHO Secretariat was informed that the Agreement as it reads was approved by the General Assembly of IALA in February 2025 with no further comments from the IALA members.
3. Member States are requested herewith to approve the revised version of the Agreement between IHO and IALA, attached as Annex B, via the IHO Online Form System, **no later than 30 November 2025**. If Member States experience technical difficulties with the IHO Online Form System, please contact the IHO Secretariat. The IHO Online Form System can be accessed at the following address: https://iho.formstack.com/forms/cl38_25.
4. Member States are requested to kindly note that the official signature procedure of the Agreement is planned to become part of the Opening Ceremony of the forthcoming 4th Session of the IHO Assembly in April 2026 in the presence of the IALA Secretary-General (subject to the requested approval by the required majority of votes in accordance with reference D).

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

Annex A: Present Agreement between IHO and IALA since 2001
Annex B: Revised Agreement



**CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN**

THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)

AND

**THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MARINE AIDS TO NAVIGATION AND
LIGHTHOUSE AUTHORITIES (IALA)**

(2001)



CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MARINE AIDS TO NAVIGATION AND
LIGHTHOUSE AUTHORITIES (IALA)
(2001)

The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities and the International Hydrographic Organization, being aware of the growing need for close co-operation in the technical and regional development activities of common interest to both organizations and their Members and Member States, and in accordance with the decision of the 2nd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference of May 2000 and the decision of the IALA Council of June 2001, agree on the following;

- a) to continue their long standing co-operation in:
- i) the development of maritime safety information services world-wide,
 - ii) the development of standards of mutual interests to both organizations and
 - iii) the implementation and support for joint proposals and initiatives.

This co-operation would include electronic charting, co-ordination of ENC, VTS and AIS symbology, the development of symbology and displays for inland-waterway navigational charting, and the assessing of horizontal positioning procedures and accuracy, in accordance with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO), and other international, conventions, specifically:

- b) co-operate closely, on an equal basis, in joint subsidiary bodies that may be established by the two organizations, with or without other co-sponsoring bodies,
- c) co-operate in the exchange of information of mutual interest to the two organizations and co-operate in the use, integration, promotion, and the dissemination of publications and information,
- d) co-operate in the formulation of proposals for, and in the execution of, technical co-operation projects having components which fall within the competence and the expertise of the respective organizations, such as in the amended Sea Convention Chapter V of the International Convention of Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS 74) (which will enter into force in July 2002), including advance exchange of relevant information and the formulation of other measures required to implement projects and promote the aims and objects of the two organizations,
- e) share the use of facilities, as far as practical
- f) to continue to accord to each other's representatives and experts observer status to attend and actively participate in meetings and conferences where subjects of specific interest to both organizations are being discussed,
- g) to continue to hold regular annual meetings between the IALA Secretary General and the IHB Directing Committee.

This Agreement should be reviewed and where necessary confirmed by future International Hydrographic Conferences and IALA Councils as technological developments require.

(original signed)
Secretary-General
IALA

(original signed)
President of the
IHB Directing Committee



1st General Assembly
International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation
06 March 2025
Original: English

GA01/Res.13

Resolution GA01.13

Adopted on 19 February 2025 (Agenda items I)

RESOLUTION ON AGREEMENT WITH IMO AND IHO

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING; the long-standing close cooperation with International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities;

FURTHER RECALLING the status of IALA as an international organization in relation to IMO and IHO;

MINDFUL that increased cooperation with IMO and IHO becomes more significant in relation to the development of international standards and conventions in mutual areas of interest;

NOTING the Convention Article 7.7(m) that the General Assembly has to approve agreements with international organizations;

1. APPROVES the request for formal cooperation between IMO and the Organization subject to the procedures and terms of cooperation included in IMO Assembly Resolution A.1168(32).
2. APPROVES the draft Agreement with IHO as included in the Annex to this Resolution.
3. APPROVES the draft Agreement with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea as in input paper GA01-I.6.1.b.

Annex

Agreement between the International Hydrographic Organization and International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation

The International Hydrographic Organization (hereafter “IHO”); and
The International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (hereafter “IALA”);
Hereafter individually and collectively termed “the Party” and “the Parties”;

RECALLING the long standing and close cooperation between the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities and the IHO;

CONSIDERING the mutual interest between the Parties in developing and harmonizing international standards in the maritime domain;

MINDFUL of the rapid changes in the development of technical standards and the need for increased cooperation and coordination between international organizations;

DESIRING to coordinate their efforts within their respective mandates and in relation to the International Maritime Organization;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Object and areas of cooperation

1.1 The object of this Agreement is to facilitate and reinforce the cooperation and coordination between the Parties and in relation to other international organizations, where appropriate, in the area of international standards that relate to the activities and commitments of the Parties.

1.2 Within the scope of their respective mandates, work programmes and budgets, the Parties agree to a general strengthening of their cooperation and coordination, notably in the development of international standards of mutual interest, training and capacity building, and the development and support for joint proposals and initiatives to other international organizations in relation to international conventions and developments and any other area of common interest.

Article 2

Reciprocal representation

2.1 On the basis of reciprocity, IALA is invited to represent itself at sessions of IHO bodies as observer in accordance with the rules and decisions adopted by these bodies, and, as appropriate, any other meetings held under the auspices of IHO.

2.2 On the basis of reciprocity, IHO is invited to represent itself at sessions of IALA bodies as observer in accordance with the rules and decisions adopted by these bodies, and, as appropriate, any other meetings held under the auspices of IALA.

Article 3
Sharing of information and disclosure

3.1 The Parties agree to exchange, by whatever means, information concerning their activities of mutual interest and cooperate in the use, integration, promotion and the dissemination of publications and information.

3.2 Subject to their existing rules and policies related to the disclosure of classified information and other related obligations, each Party will protect classified information of the other Party.

Article 4
Name, emblem, marks and logos

Neither Party may use the emblem, marks, or logos of the other Party without the prior written consent of the other Party, nor use the name of the other Party in a way that implies endorsement or authorship without prior written consent of the other Party.

Article 5
Staff members and facilities

5.1 Each Party will be responsible for its activities and for its staff members, including for their acts and omissions. A Party will not be liable for any damage or injury caused by the other Party or that other Party's staff.

5.2 As far as practicable and subject to availability and their respective existing rules the Parties may agree to share their facilities for meetings held under the auspices of a Party.

Article 6
Regular annual meetings

The Parties agree to hold regular annual meetings between their respective Secretary-General and as deemed necessary other staff members.

Article 7
Privileges and immunities

No provision of this Agreement shall be interpreted or considered as a renunciation, limitation, waiver or modification of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by either Party.

Article 8
Entry into force, amendment and termination

8.1 This agreement enters into force from the date of its signature by the Secretary-General of IALA, subject to approval by the General Assembly of IALA, and the Secretary-General of IHO, subject to approval by the Assembly of IHO.

8.2 This agreement may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Parties.

8.3 Either Party may terminate this Agreement at any time by written notice to the other Party of its intent to do so six months in advance.

Article 9
Settlement of differences

Any difference or dispute arising from the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through negotiation between the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement is done and signed at ## on ###, in two copies in the English language.

For the International Organization
for Marine Aids to Navigation

Secretary-General
Francis Zachariae

For the International Hydrographic
Organization

Secretary-General
Mathias Jonas