

IHO File No S1/3039

CIRCULAR LETTER 39/2026 13 July 2026

VENEZUELA'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Reference: Letter from the Hydrography, Oceanography, Meteorology and Nautical Mapping Service of Venezuela (SHN), dated 08 July 2026

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Hydrography, Oceanography, Meteorology and Nautical Mapping Service of Venezuela (SHN), acting as Venezuela's National Hydrographic Office, has informed the IHO Secretariat of the critical situation regarding the provision of navigational safety information and hydrographic services, following severe damage to their hydrographic equipment in the double earthquake that struck La Guaira, Venezuela, on 24 June 2026.
2. The letter in reference, indicates that SHN would appreciate any possible international donor assistance from the International Hydrographic Organization and its respected Member States to help restore SHN's technical capacity for the proper conduct of hydrographic surveys in Venezuelan waters.
3. The Annex to the letter includes the list of urgent and priority needs of the SHN for the restoration of its normal functioning and performance of its key functions at a permanently high level.
4. Member States are invited to consider how to respond to the requested support in the interest of safety of navigation and the preservation of the environment through the reinstatement of hydrographic services after this terrible natural disaster.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

Annex: Courtesy translation of the correspondence received from Venezuela

BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
BOLIVARIAN NAVY
HYDROGRAPHY, OCEANOGRAPHY, METEOROLOGY AND NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHY SERVICE

No.
08 July 2026
Catia la Mar, La Guaira

Admiral Luigi Sinapi
Director of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

Dear Admiral,

Please accept our warm and respectful greeting on behalf of the Hydrography, Oceanography, Meteorology and Nautical Cartography Service. Following on our letter No. 0023, I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate our best wishes for you to carry out your important responsibilities at the head of the Organization.

After a thorough technical assessment of our infrastructure after the June 24 seismic tragedy, I am pleased to report that fortunately the cartography room did not suffer catastrophic damage, so a good portion of the equipment stored there can be recovered and put back into operation.

However, that was not the case for the storage room for hydrographic equipment, which was severely damaged. For this reason, the replacement of this equipment is currently our top requirement. Recognizing the fundamental role that the IHO plays in fostering technical cooperation and assistance, I am appealing to your good offices to respectfully request your institutional support, with the aim of exploring emergency mechanisms or funds that could help replace the damaged hydrographic equipment, as per the detailed list attached to this letter.

We deeply appreciate your willingness and support, and from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela we greatly value any efforts the International Hydrographic Organization may undertake to restore the operational capabilities of our Hydrographic Office, so that we may continue to guarantee the safety of navigation in our waters and the fulfillment of our international commitments.

With no further ado, we reiterate our highest consideration and esteem.

Best Regards,

Rear Admiral JOSÉ FÉLIX BENCOMO FERNÁNDEZ
Head, Hydrography, Oceanography, Meteorology and Nautical Cartography Service

BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
BOLIVARIAN NAVY
HYDROGRAPHY, OCEANOGRAPHY, METEOROLOGY AND NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHY SERVICE

**LIST OF EQUIPMENT IMPACTED BY THE DOUBLE EARTHQUAKE IN 24 JUNE 2026 AT LA
GUAIRA, VENEZUELA**

No.	EQUIPMENT	BRAND	MODEL	QTY
1.	Multi beam echo sounder	Kongsberg	EM2000	01
2.	Single beam echo sounder with dual frequency transducer	ODOM	E-20	03
3.	Sound Velocity Profiler (SVP)	ODOM	Digibar	03
4.	Differential GPS with dual antenna	TRIMBLE	BX982	03
5.	Total Station	TRIMBLE	C5	03
6.	License 2023	HYPACK	MAX	03
7.	Handheld echo sounder	HONDEX	---	03
8.	Side Scan Sonar, with portable processing unit and tow cable	EDGETECH	4205	02
9.	Desk workstation (Desktop Computer)	---	---	03
10.	Mobile workstation (Rugged Laptop)	---	---	03
11.	Plotter	HP	DESIGNJET T650 36-IN PRINTER	02

JOSÉ FÉLIX BENCOMO FERNÁNDEZ
Rear Admiral
Head, Hydrography, Oceanography, Meteorology and Nautical Cartography Service