



Circular Letter 2023/04

15 February 2023

Subject: **IALA position on ITU WRC-23 Agenda Item 10**

To: IALA members

Dear IALA member,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radio Conference (WRC-23) is scheduled to take place 20 November to 15 December 2023, and the Committees and the Secretariat have been working hard to represent the interests of our members.

In this regard, your attention is drawn to IALA's position on WRC-23 agenda item 10 that has been submitted to the ITU in the attached document. The document outlines IALA's position on key issues related to the use of the radio frequency spectrum in the maritime sector, especially on R-Mode and VDES, and it is critical that these are supported by ITU.

The outcomes of the WRC-23 will have a significant impact on the future of the maritime sector, and it is essential that IALA members work together to ensure that our collective interests are protected.

Your support for IALA's position document is important, and you are encouraged to liaise with your national ITU representatives on this matter. If you have any thoughts or questions regarding the document, the Secretariat would be happy to address them.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Zachariae
Secretary-General



Radiocommunication Study Groups



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Subject:

Document
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English only

International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities

IALA POSITION ON WRC-23 AGENDA ITEM 10

General

IALA supports the retention of agenda item 2.10 of Resolution 812 (WRC-19) containing the preliminary agenda for WRC-27, to consider improving the utilization of the VHF maritime frequencies in Appendix 18, in accordance with Resolution 363 (WRC-19), which may need to be amended.

WRC-23 Agenda item 10

10 to recommend to the Council items for inclusion in the agenda for the next WRC, and items for the preliminary agenda of future conferences, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention and Resolution **804 (Rev.WRC-19)**

Background

IALA participates in the harmonisation of marine aids to navigation services, including radio navigation systems. IALA initiated a study on ranging mode (R-Mode) and contributed to the technical development of the VHF data exchange system (VDES) and found that VDES is capable of supporting R-Mode signals in the VHF band, i.e. VDES R-Mode.

In addition to VDES R-Mode, during the development of VDES, IALA also initiated a study on digital VHF voice communication for safer and more efficient maritime radiocommunication such as VTS communication.

IALA Position

IALA supports possible agenda items on digital communication aspects to be considered at WRC-23 for WRC-27:

- providing a means to accommodate digital voice communications in the VHF maritime mobile band;
- providing a radionavigation allocation in Article 5 of the Radio Regulations for VDES frequencies under Appendix 18 footnotes w) and z) for R-Mode to support resilient position, navigation and timing.

Actions requested



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IALA kindly asks ITU-R WRC 23 to take into consideration these proposals for further work on digital voice communications and radio navigation.
