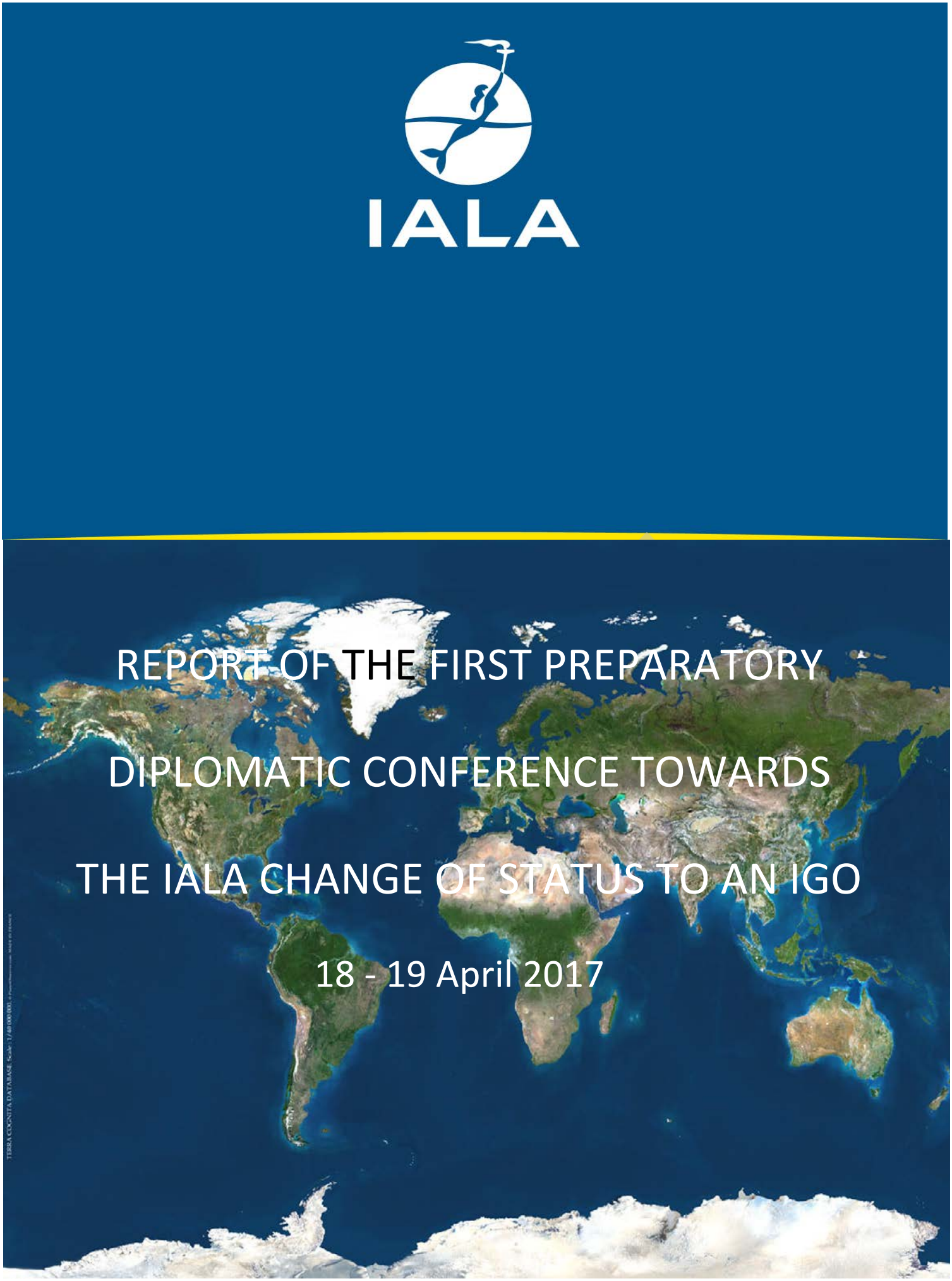

REPORT OF THE FIRST PREPARATORY DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE TOWARDS THE IALA CHANGE OF STATUS TO AN IGO

18 - 19 April 2017

19 April 2017

Report of the First Preparatory Conference towards the IALA Change of Status to an IGO

18 - 19 April 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the Republic of France, IALA's host country, a preparatory diplomatic conference took place in Paris from 18 to 19 April 2017 to consider the concrete steps needed to achieve IALA's planned change of status to that of an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO).

Chaired by His Excellency, Mr Serge Ségura, French Ambassador for the Oceans, the Conference agreed a Roadmap towards a Diplomatic Conference to adopt a new treaty instrument. As stipulated by the IALA General Assembly, in its resolution of 27 May 2014, the envisaged "IALA Convention" will be open for signature by all United Nations member States.

The large attendance at the Paris conference set the scene for two days of active participation by 172 delegates representing 56 countries from around the world where IALA has National members (IALA has 84 National members at present). The programme was designed to widen understanding and allow for an open exchange of views and comments on various aspects pertaining to the transition of IALA as an Association under French law to effective IGO status.

After receiving an update on the activities of IALA and the World-Wide Academy (WWA) by the Secretary-General, Mr Francis Zachariae, and the WWA Dean, Mr Omar Frits Eriksson, respectively, delegates were informed about the substantive work already done by the Council and its subsidiary bodies on the legal and financial framework for the future IGO. This information also covered the background and structure of the draft IALA Convention and the draft General Regulations, the two key documents that will govern IALA as an IGO.

In addition, international legal experts provided an insight into the processes involved in preparing for and convening a Diplomatic Conference.

Speaking on behalf of IALA's Industrial Members Committee, which represents almost half (48%) of IALA's total membership, Mr Lars Mansner, Chief Executive Officer, Sabik Oy (Finland) reaffirmed the support of the Industrial members for the transition to an IGO which would preserve their status and role within the marine aids to navigation community.

A special session on cooperation with other international organizations benefited from presentations by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr Kitack Lim, and the Secretary-General of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), Mr Robert Ward. Both emphasized the importance of the long-established cooperation between the IMO, the IHO and IALA as partner international organizations and expressed the wish for the IALA-IHO-IMO 'trinity of excellence' to continue into the future.

The main outcome of the conference was a clear indication of a genuine willingness to move forward towards multilateral negotiations at a follow-up conference with the widest possible participation. A second preparatory diplomatic conference is therefore planned for early 2018 and will commence consideration of the provisions of the draft IALA Convention, Article by Article, and those of the draft General Regulations.

The conference further agreed to invite National members to submit any comments they may have on these two key documents at their earliest convenience, in writing, and **not later than 30 September 2017**, via e-mail to secgen@iala-aism.org. For their ease of reference, all the relevant background information, briefings, reports and input papers are available on the dedicated web site http://www.iala-aism.org/meetings/1-7/ .

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Report of the First Preparatory Diplomatic Conference towards the IALA Change of Status to an IGO

GENERAL

The first Preparatory Diplomatic Conference towards the change of the IALA status to that of an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) was held in Paris on 18 and 19 April 2017. The conference was chaired by His Excellency, Mr Serge Ségura, Ambassador for the Oceans, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the Republic of France. An abbreviated list of participants is attached as Annex B.

DAY 1 – 18 APRIL 2017

OPENING AND WELCOME ADDRESSES

By His Excellency, Ambassador Serge Ségura

Opening the Conference, Ambassador Serge Ségura said that IALA had come to play a central role in the provision of marine aids to navigation, working closely with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) for improved maritime safety and better protection of the environment.

In his view, it was rather unusual for an organization of such stature, and with members in many countries around the world, to have merely the status of an association. The purpose of the Conference was indeed to build on the resolution adopted by the IALA General Assembly in May 2014 to change the status to that of an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) to consolidate IALA's work, strengthen and develop it.

The Government of France, as a maritime nation, wished to provide full support to this process. The Conference had therefore been organized with and by IALA to conduct an open consultation with the membership. The presence of so many countries showed both the interest in and support for IALA.

Mr Ségura concluded by expressing the hope that the two days of discussions would increase awareness of IALA, stimulate a fruitful exchange of views and provide helpful answers about outstanding issues.

By IALA President Juan Francisco Rebollo

IALA President Juan Francisco Rebollo then took the floor, welcoming everybody and thanking in particular the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France, Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault, for his support. He also thanked the companies, Mobilis and Sabik, who have sponsored the Conference.

He reminded delegates that the Conference was the culmination of many years of intensive work on the change of status by the Council and its subsidiary organs. He looked forward to a thorough exchange of views to enhance common understanding of what the envisaged IGO status aimed to achieve. This was to support and strengthen IALA in an ever-more complex world so that it could continue to fulfil its role as the peak technical organization for improving the harmonized provision of marine aids to navigation and related services through international co-operation. Further in this regard, he drew attention to the increase in expressions of interest in IALA on the part of non-member countries which, he said, were related to the growing activities of its World-Wide Academy.

1. SESSION 1 – BACKGROUND TO THE PREPARATORY DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, AND PRESENTATIONS ABOUT IALA AND THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY (WWA)

1.1 Background to the Preparatory Diplomatic Conference agenda and process

Introducing the first session of the Conference, the Chair encouraged all participants to take part in a genuine exchange of views and raise any questions they might have about the change of status. This approach would help to prepare the ground for detailed negotiations on the draft texts of the IALA Convention and General Regulations. It was however not the purpose of this Conference to commence a detailed reading of these two draft documents, which would be the focus of a second preparatory diplomatic conference, to be organized at a later date.

He encouraged all participants to bear in mind, during their deliberations about the future effectiveness of IALA, that its work to improve safety of navigation and protection of the environment was in perfect harmony with ongoing, intergovernmental efforts to better protect the oceans and their marine resources. In this context, two major initiatives of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) had particular relevance. First, its post-2015 strategy on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) included the goal "to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development" (SDG 14).

Second, in its resolution 69/292 of 19 June 2015, the General Assembly had decided to develop an international legally binding instrument, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Mr Ségura said that many states involved in the preparatory talks wished a new international convention on biodiversity to include provisions on capacity building, which was also an important remit of IALA's World-Wide Academy.

Mr Ségura then opened the floor for any general statements participants wished to make. A total of 24 delegations spoke and their views and comments are summarised in Section 3.3.2 of this report.

1.2 Presentations about IALA and the IALA World-Wide Academy (WWA)

Presentation by IALA Secretary-General Francis Zachariae

IALA Secretary-General Francis Zachariae started out by noting that IALA's work was concerned with marine aids to navigation that are external to ships, while the IMO was concerned with the safety of ships at sea, their cargoes and people carried on board.

Major challenges for IALA in the 21st century included embracing advances in digital technology, alongside maintaining traditional, visual aids to navigation, the prevention of marine accidents, and resilient positioning, navigation and timing.

Mr Zachariae then moved on to a brief overview of IALA's principal aims, membership, structure and technical work of its four Committees ("the powerhouse of IALA") – aided by workshops and seminars ("the IALA toolbox"), publications, and the recent work on the development of IALA standards.

He also briefly described IALA's governance structure and the Strategic Vision and Goals for 2026. These focus on harmonizing marine aids to navigation systems and related services through international co-operation and the provision of standards (Goal 1), and on capacity building in coastal States and sharing of expertise to enable all coastal States to contribute to an efficient global network of aids to navigation and services (Goal 2).

At this point, WWA Dean Omar Frits Eriksson took over from Mr Zachariae to present a brief overview of the Academy's principal aims and activities (see below for the summary of his presentation).

Mr Zachariae then took the floor again and briefly highlighted the main considerations and anticipated benefits pertaining to IGO status:

- Direct participation by Governments will improve implementation, around the world, of existing IALA Recommendations and Guidelines and increase acceptance of standards developed by IALA. Harmonization will be enhanced as a result.

- International cooperation between intergovernmental organizations and IALA as equal partners will enhance IALA's existing liaison with the IMO, the IHO, the ITU and the WMO. Achieved synergies will result in more efficient use of available resources.
- A Headquarters agreement with the host nation – France - will provide additional financial, operational and human resources capabilities. Reduction of 'red tape' and a significantly enhanced service for Members will also be gained from greater flexibility and anticipated savings.

He also stressed that the core activities of IALA will remain the same and will continue to focus on global harmonization and common standards. The new organization's functions, as outlined in the draft IALA Convention (draft Article 3,) provide clear safeguards that IALA as an IGO will remain a technical organization of a consultative and recommendatory nature. IALA's Industrial Members, whose input is vital to the high quality and integrity of IALA's work, will be entitled to continued membership when IALA becomes an IGO.

Presentation by WWA Dean Omar Frits Eriksson

WWA Dean Omar Frits Eriksson identified the five principal objectives of the Academy as follows:

- conducting needs assessments for coastal States most in need of training and capacity building for the provision of aids to navigation, taking account of their obligations under the International Convention for the Safety Of Life At Sea (SOLAS Convention);
- undertaking progress reviews in target countries;
- synchronizing capacity-building initiatives with those of the IMO and the IHO;
- encouraging life-long learning through maintaining regular contacts with former trainees; and
- contributing to the technical research and development work of the IALA Committees.

In addition, it was important to work towards establishing at least one training hub in each target region of the world. Progress in this regard included the new Accreditation Scheme for those training organisations that wished to deliver the IALA Model Courses.

Mr Eriksson said there was great potential for expanding distance learning courses, initially via e-mail and eventually through an online, e-learning platform.

He concluded by welcoming the fact that the Academy's work was attracting new members to IALA from countries wishing to build their maritime economy and therefore in need of cadres of competent people.

2. SESSION 2 – CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2.1 Co-operation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim highlighted the long-standing co-operation between the IMO and IALA to enhance accident prevention and protection of the environment. The contribution made by IALA to maritime safety was well understood and clearly recognized by the IMO, where IALA had enjoyed consultative status since 1961. Moreover, all the countries where IALA had gained National Members were also IMO Member States.

Making the best use of modern communications technologies for the delivery of critical safety information to seafarers had become an important priority in the digital age. Mr Lim welcomed the fact that the IMO, IALA and other stakeholders were working closely together to address opportunities for enhancing safety of navigation through a work programme underpinned by IMO's Strategy Implementation Plan for e-navigation and coordinated by the IMO.

Mr Lim also commented on the importance of the activities of both the World-Wide Academy and the IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme to assist coastal States with capacity building.

Referring to this year's IMO World Maritime Day theme of "Connecting Ships, Ports and People", Mr Lim explained that the theme had been chosen to highlight the value of integration in the maritime and transport logistics sectors – both from a policy and a practical perspective. All kinds of aids to navigation were an

essential element in the interface between ships and ports and IALA's technical work was therefore a real asset for the logistics chain.

Concluding his address, he wished IALA well in reaching the most desirable decision on its future status. Whatever the outcome of that decision, he looked forward to continued and strengthened collaboration between the IMO and IALA for many years to come.

In response to a question from the floor on the possible impact of IALA becoming an IGO on the nature of the collaboration with the IMO, Mr Lim reiterated he expected there would be "no change", because there was already a lot of "very productive" collaboration, which had been "very beneficial" to both organizations.

In response to another question from the floor on possible duplication between IALA as an IGO and the IMO, he commented it was up to governments to decide and any legal issues that might arise could be addressed by legal experts. As the IMO and IALA shared the common objective of working for the safety of the maritime industry, he expected the industry would wish to continue to co-operate with both organizations.

2.2 Co-operation with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

IHO Secretary-General Robert Ward gave an extensive account of the workings of the International Hydrographic Organization as an intergovernmental organization dedicated to the adequate surveying and charting of the world's seas and oceans through collaboration with governments. He elaborated on the four main areas of IHO's activities:

- developing standards and guidelines, leaving the responsibility for implementation to individual governments;
- awareness raising;
- regional and global coordination of nautical charting services; and
- hydrographic capacity building, taking account of the obligations of coastal States under the SOLAS Convention.

Like IALA, the IHO, which had been established in 1921 as the International Hydrographic Bureau, had evolved towards an IGO. The international convention on the IHO had been adopted in 1970, following a preparatory period of some five years to draft all the necessary documentation. It had taken 11 years to satisfy the ratification requirements, which he attributed to many governments always having a multitude of other priorities to address, and the fact that in many cases they also need to secure parliamentary approval.

Mr Ward provided a very useful insight into the IHO as a lean and efficient IGO, which has 87 member States today. He stressed that engagement with the membership, collaboration with governments, and outreach to partner organizations and other stakeholders with relevant expertise were essential.

In his view, there was a valid case to be made for IALA's change of status in view of UN Member States' commitment to the Sustainable Development Goal 14 pertaining to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources. Both the IHO and IALA supported good maritime and ocean governance and their close collaboration would therefore continue into the future, based on their shared aims, common partner organizations, and excellent liaison between their respective secretariats.

2.3 Co-operation with other International Organizations

IALA Deputy Secretary-General Michael Card gave an overview of IALA's co-operation with three UN bodies (i.e. the IMO, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)), six intergovernmental organizations and other international organizations on the development of harmonized standards.

He then explained in some detail the operational and technical aspects of this wide-ranging maritime collaboration. An important consideration was to take note of the needs of the practicing mariner.

He proceeded with illustrating the benefits of IALA's international co-operation by way of three work items currently in progress. These concerned a universal and harmonized system for the data modelling of shore-based services to mariners at sea, a new digital communications channel for shore-ship transfer of

information by both terrestrial and satellite links, and harmonized voice procedures for Vessel Traffic Services worldwide.

2.4 The point of view of the IALA Industrial Members Committee (IMC)

Speaking on behalf of IALA's Industrial Members Committee (IMC), Mr Lars Mansner, Chief Executive Officer, Sabik Oy (Finland) explained how the industry, based on its ability to define and provide technical solutions meeting the requirements of aids to navigation users, had been an integral part of IALA's work – and indeed worldwide success – since the mid-1960s. Today, it represented almost half (48%) of IALA's total membership, with 132 Industrial Members.

He explained why Industrial Members valued, in particular, their joint contribution to the IALA Committees with the competent aids to navigation authorities (the National Members), who normally identified new user needs and provided the specifications. This close collaboration, as equal partners, was a winning formula for both effective outcomes and efficient use of resources for research and development in an industry sector that was highly specialized and relatively small.

In concluding, Mr Mansner reaffirmed the support of the Industrial Members for the transition to an IGO which would preserve their status and role within the maritime aids to navigation community. The IMC also welcomed the benefits it expected the IGO process would bring to IALA in terms of a stronger organization, an enhanced international environment, and stronger support from all maritime community stakeholders.

DAY 2 – 19 APRIL 2017

Conference Chair Ambassador Ségura reminded the participants that all members had had the opportunity to take part in the development of the draft texts of the IALA Convention and the General Regulations. He added that the aim of the conference was to continue and amplify the exchange between members and between members and the Secretariat with comments and proposals that will enable a new text to be proposed. Question and answer sessions would be held after each presentation[1].

He then handed the floor to IALA Secretary-General Mr Francis Zachariae, who informed the conference about the current status of the project.

3. SESSION 3 – LEGAL FRAMEWORK, DRAFT CONVENTION TEXT, ROADMAP TOWARDS A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE

3.1 Status of the IGO project

The IALA Secretary-General recalled highlights in the success story of IALA, dating back to its inception in 1957, when it was established with an aim that is still relevant today – to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels through improvement and harmonisation of marine aids to navigation worldwide. Evidence of its success was the growing number of members that had reached 276 at the time of the conference, 84 of them being National members, that is to say, national authorities legally responsible for marine aids to navigation.

He briefly described the work achieved so far on the IGO project, which had started in 2010, in cooperation with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the milestone reached in May 2014, when the IALA General Assembly had adopted a resolution, stating its firm belief that IGO status would best facilitate IALA's aims in the 21st century and determining that the status should be achieved as soon as possible, through the development of an international convention (GA Resolution A.01 of 27 May 2014).

He then listed the identified benefits for the maritime community, for IALA members and for IALA as an organisation. He also mentioned the administrative and economic benefits flowing from the Headquarters Agreement that would be signed with the Host Nation, the Republic of France.

[1] Although questions were raised at any moment of the Conference, to facilitate the reading of the report they are all gathered under section 3.3 – Roadmap towards a Diplomatic Conference and Legal Explanations on Page 11.

He then explained that there were also a number of areas of concern for its members, which had been brought to the attention of the IALA Council and the Secretariat and on which the participants would be invited to comment during the conference.

These areas of concerns so far had been identified as – among others and in no particular order of priority – a potential loss of members, the relationship with the European Union, the calculation of annual contributions, the number of Contracting Parties needed for the Convention to enter into force, the potential overlap with the IMO, and the transition arrangements and period.

3.2 Background and structure of the draft IALA Convention and the draft General Regulations

The Chair of the IALA Legal Advisory Panel, Mr Jon Price, took the floor after the Secretary-General in order to present the mechanism used to develop both the draft IALA Convention and the draft General Regulations.

After having introduced himself and the role of the Legal Advisory Panel, which acts in an advisory capacity to the IALA Council on legal issues, he explained that the Panel had commenced its work drawing on the existing IALA Constitution – which gives IALA its flexibility and fast reaction ability – and, in addition, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and the texts of the conventions of other IGOs, notably the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and some others. The draft Convention text had been made available to all National members, who had been invited to participate in two dedicated meetings, in October 2013 and March 2014.

Mr Price then went through each Article of the draft Convention text, explaining the aim of each one.

He concluded by explaining briefly the purpose and content of the draft General Regulations, emphasizing that this document was not part of the Convention but had been developed as a stand-alone document in order to provide the Organization with a more flexible amendment process than would be the case if the Convention itself effectively had to be amended in order to change the General Regulations.

3.3 Legal explanations and Roadmap towards the Diplomatic Conference

3.3.1 Legal explanations

Explanations about what convening a Diplomatic Conference involves were given by Mr Pierre Boussaroque, Deputy Director in charge of international law at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He started by explaining that an IGO is an association of States concluded through a convention, with a common aim and permanent bodies. There is great freedom in the negotiations to obtain the status, provided that all States are in agreement, which means that IALA as an IGO can retain as much as is agreed to be desirable from its present Constitution. The result of the negotiation process is the creation of an entity governed by international law, able to sign agreements with other IGOs and States, for example, the Headquarters Agreement with the French Government. He commented that the operation of an IGO was not very different from that of a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

Regarding the Diplomatic Conference Mr Boussaroque identified the various steps that needed to be considered, as follows:

- Find a host nation for the Diplomatic Conference, bearing in mind that the negotiation process culminating in the Conference being called can take several years.
- Identify who should be invited. All membership categories should be invited but some external bodies may also wish to attend. Prior decision on who should be allowed to attend is needed.
- Decide on the operational process, especially the voting requirements: voting can be by consensus, simple majority or qualified majority.
- Consider if there is a need to alternate plenary sessions and working groups. In the case of a Conference with working groups the following should be considered:
    - How many working groups?
    - Should they vote by consensus?
    - How to aggregate the work?

The Diplomatic Conference must have temporary, internal bodies. At the closure of the Conference final acts are signed, which are not the Convention. The Convention will enter into force after the required number of States have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval. National rules ordinarily govern the process to be followed by each State. Some States can commit by simple signature of the Convention; others have more complex rules for approbation or ratification, which may require a decision by Parliament.

Mr Boussaroque concluded by stressing the need to carefully consider the case of those States that will not be part of the Convention when it enters into force.

3.3.2 Questions and comments on the future IGO status of IALA and the process to achieve it

This section deals with questions raised during all sessions of the conference. For ease of reading they have been gathered and summarized in the table below, with comments where appropriate.

Over thirty countries took the floor.

Topic	**Issue**	**Comments** (where appropriate)
Case for change	The risks of changing status should be assessed against the benefits. One identified risk is that discussions become more political resulting in erosion of the technical nature of IALA. Another risk concerns overlapping with the work of the IMO.	An overwhelming majority of participants were supportive of the IGO project and assured IALA of their active collaboration in the drafting of a convention that will satisfy all parties. All participants who spoke emphasized their wish to safeguard IALA as the peak organization in its field of expertise which delivers vital technical work in the interests of world maritime safety, improved harmonization of marine aids to navigation, marine accident reduction, enhanced efficiency, and better protection of the environment. The respective work of the two organizations is already and will continue to be – complementary and at the same level. It is important also to bear in mind that the essential nature of IALA is technical, consultative and recommendatory, and that its publications are not binding in the legal sense, and this will remain so when IALA becomes an IGO.
Membership categories	The current draft Convention text refers to "Contracting Parties". It may be best to use the term "Member States". Associate and Affiliate member categories were questioned: suggestions were made to have, in addition to Member States, only one other category, which could be "Observers". Another suggestion was to limit Associate membership to the current National members and to other IGOs, and to call Affiliate members "partners". Generally, the terms Associate and Affiliate members should be better defined.	The first comment was supported by a number of participants.
Languages	The more languages the Organization will have the more costly its operation will be. English was proposed as the sole official and working language. This would ease the work while considerably reducing costs. It was suggested by some participants that Spanish should be an additional working language. Arabic may be added at a later stage, by decision of the General Assembly, if and when appropriate.	With regard to having English as the sole language, the comment was made that it is commonly accepted to have the language of the Host Nation as one of the official and working languages (i.e. French, in IALA's case).

Finance	**Contributions** The amount of annual contributions by States should not depend on the number of States that are Contracting Parties to the IALA Convention. There is a need for more clarity in the calculation of the annual contributions. Having the same amount for all States may not be the best solution: this amount can be significant for one State and negligible for another. Contributions and fees may increase to meet increased finance obligations. **Budget** The annual budget should be approved by the General Assembly, or at least limits should be set to annual variations in the budget. **Arrears** Non-payment of contributions might result from technical issues outside the control of the State concerned, and other IGOs do not charge interests to States that have fallen into arrears. Removing interest payments should be considered.	A detailed study was made by the Council and the conclusion was that the risk of a significant increase is limited. At present, the Council agrees the annual budget.
Draft IALA Convention	There is a need to provide for reservations. The clause on disputes might be revised, leaving the Contracting Parties concerned to decide on the best way to solve any dispute between them. Definitions of all terms used in the Convention and the General Regulations should appear in the Convention or General Regulations as appropriate under a dedicated Article in each case.	The draft Convention currently provides for the parties to a dispute to agree upon an alternative mode of settlement in the event that they do not wish to use arbitrators appointed by the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
Draft General Regulations (which include draft Financial Regulations)	There is a need to provide greater clarity as to the status of the General Regulations, that is to say, where they sit in relation to the Convention. **Financial Regulations** There is a need to clarify how the organs (General Assembly, Council, Secretariat and Finance and Audit Committee) work together in the annual budget calculation.	

Transition period	There might be some disruption until all signatory countries can ratify the IALA Convention and effectively join the new IGO. Transitional arrangements might need clarifying.	The draft Convention provides for transitional arrangements to ensure a smooth transition that will ensure that the activities of IALA's organs and its technical work will continue uninterrupted, and that its responsibilities towards the maritime community will be maintained at the customary high level.
Roadmap	More time is needed for careful consideration of the draft texts of both the Convention and the General Regulations.	The proposed Roadmap was revised by agreement of the participants and will be discussed again at the Second Preparatory Diplomatic Conference in early 2018.

3.3.3 Roadmap towards the Diplomatic Conference

A proposal for a Roadmap towards the Diplomatic Conference was presented by Mr Charles Tellier, Directorate of the Relations with the United Nations and the International Organizations at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He stressed that the Roadmap was indicative and did not set 2018 as a fixed deadline for the Diplomatic Conference, which will only be held when all States have reached an agreement that is satisfactory to all.

In the light of comments and concerns expressed, the conference agreed to revise the proposed Roadmap in order to allow a somewhat longer period for the submission of written comments, until the end of September 2017. The proposed meeting with all members tentatively scheduled for early October 2017 was accordingly postponed to the end of October (29 and 30 October). It was also agreed to hold a second Preparatory Diplomatic Conference in early 2018. The revised Roadmap is attached at Annex A.

3.4 Invitation to the 19th IALA Conference in Incheon, Republic of Korea, May-June 2018

Ms KIM Youngshin, Director of Aids to Navigation, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, took the floor to extend her Government's invitation for the 19th IALA Conference, scheduled to be held from 27 May to 2 June 2018, to all IALA members.

She presented the selected city – Incheon – and briefly described the facilities and arrangements made for the Conference.

The Secretary-General expressed his sincere thanks for the continuous support of the Republic of Korea to IALA.

4. CONFERENCE CLOSURE

At the closure of the Conference, the Chair briefly summarized the discussions and said that the issues in need of further consideration had become clearer as a result of the rich debate during the two days of discussions. Only two countries had voiced reservations on the IGO project, but all were willing to cooperate towards its success.

He encouraged all participating countries to actively contribute to the further work to be done on the draft texts of the Convention and General Regulations and to send their comments, in writing, to the Secretariat[2].

He then closed the conference in thanking all participants and the organisers.

[2] Comments may be sent to secgen@iala-aism.org and must be received **not later than 30 September 2017**.

ANNEX A **ROADMAP TOWARDS A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE**

As agreed at the First Preparatory Diplomatic Conference on 19 April 2017

1. General

The Conference considered the steps needed to achieve the change of IALA's status to that of an Intergovernmental Organization and developed a Roadmap towards a Diplomatic Conference to adopt the IALA Convention.

2. Roadmap

18-19 April 2017:	First Preparatory Diplomatic Conference, Paris.
May - September 2017:	The Secretariat receives invited written comments on the draft IALA Convention and the draft General Regulations until the end of September 2017.
October 2017:	The Secretariat collates all received written comments and makes them available on the dedicated web site.
30-31 October 2017:	The IALA Legal Advisory Panel, open to all National Members, develops amended draft texts for the IALA Convention/General Regulations, as appropriate.
February 2018:	Second Preparatory Diplomatic Conference, hosted by an IALA National Member. Two-day event; dates to be decided.

IALA Conferences (General Assembly) and Symposia:

May/June 2018:	19th IALA Conference, scheduled to be held from 27 May to 2 June, in Incheon, Republic of Korea.
May 2020:	14th VTS/ENAV Symposium, scheduled to be held from 25 to 29 May, in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
2022:	20th IALA Conference, Brazil.

3. BACKGROUND papers AND INVITED INPUTS

The draft texts of the IALA Convention and the General Regulations (which include financial regulations), together with other input papers considered at the First Preparatory Diplomatic Conference and speakers' presentations, can be found on the IALA web site http://www.iala-aism.org/meetings-events/diplomatic-conference/meetings/

Please submit your comments on the draft IALA Convention and the draft General Regulations in writing to secgen@iala-aism.org as soon as possible and **not later than 30 September 2017**.

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