



# REPORT OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IALA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*(3 June 2023, Windsor Convention Center, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)*

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## OPENING

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The 14<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the IALA General Assembly was held at Windsor Convention Center, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 3 June 2023. The meeting was opened by Mrs Youngshin Kim, IALA President, who welcomed and thanked all participants and the organizers. A signed list of attendees is attached to this report as Annex 4.

## 1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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The Agenda was approved and is attached at Annex 1.

## 2. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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The Secretary-General, Francis Zachariae, welcomed all participants and indicated that he would refer to the speech he gave at the opening of the conference the previous Monday and that it could be found as an annex to the conference report.

He indicated that IALA was doing well and that a growth in membership could be observed. IALA managed to go through the pandemic with the implementation of virtual meetings. Over 200 meetings were held that way and it was a real tribute to the members, particularly the committee leadership and their commitment that made it possible.

He then said that the World-Wide Academy had celebrated its 10-year anniversary. The success of the WWA was due to hard work of the small team, the commitments from members and of course to the support from the sponsors.

He also reminded the audience about the change of status of IALA into an IGO. 50 states have signed the Convention by January 2022 and to the General Assembly's date, 22 states had also ratified or acceded to the Convention. He then indicated that the Convention could enter into force at the end of this year or in 2024. He also reported that Singapore offered to host the first General Assembly of the new organization.

## 3. FINANCE REPORT

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The finance report was presented by the IALA Treasurer Captain Ian McNaught of Trinity House, National member of the United Kingdom (see General Assembly input paper A-14.3).

He reported that over the period 2018-2022, the Organization has implemented financial and regulatory measures to ensure business continuity despite the Covid pandemic. Boosted by the change of status project, IALA continued to attract new members and closed its financial years with net consolidated surpluses. The surpluses were mainly affected to the capital as financial reserves to meet expenses related to the change of status.

A new external auditor, RSM Paris, was appointed by Council 68, to conduct annual audits in accordance with professional standards applicable in France but also to assist the Organization in its transition to an IGO. RSM Paris provides for IALA its experts experienced in the non-profit sector. In particular, Carlara Avocats, a French law firm was appointed by the Secretariat to provide legal assistance with respect to the administrative formalities required by French law for the transfer of the rights, interests, assets and liabilities in favour of the new IGO. Carlara Avocats will assist IALA throughout the transition period and until the winding up of the Association is complete.

He reported that the membership contributions were paid annually in the amount determined by the Council on recommendation from the Finance and Audit Committee. The contributions consist of three different rates depending on the category (National, Industrial or Associate). The rates for the National members have been increased overall by 3% each year while the contributions for Industrial and Associate members have remained unchanged for five years. Despite some resignations and terminations for non-payment, the number of IALA members has grown by 14% between 2018 and 2022.



He then added that the Organization was funded primarily by assessed contributions from its members, within the framework of a Budget approved by the Council. The budget for expenditure was divided into Personnel costs (on average 66% of the overall budget), running expenses (33%) and investment costs (1%). In December 2022, IALA had 13 permanent staff members and nine consultants.

## 4. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

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The Secretary-General introduced the proposed change to the Convention Article 7.3, second bullet point and aims to clarify voting rights for National members in the Council elections when one country has more than one National member.

He explained that very few countries have more than one National member in IALA and that the Constitution permits this. However, Article 8.1 already restricts the declaration for candidature to the Council in such a situation as it states that “...only one National member from any country may be elected to the Council”.

While the issue of voting rights was not a problem during the Council election at the General Assembly in 2018, a Country with two National members has in the meantime specifically raised that question.

The Legal Advisory Panel has discussed the issue and identified a gap in the text of the Constitution. In order to guarantee equal rights in Council elections when a country has more than one National member, it is suggested to limit the vote per country. Otherwise, countries could be encouraged to increase the number of their National members with the sole purpose of obtaining more than one vote and as such enhancing the probability of being elected to the Council. This violates the main principles of IALA and international cooperation which are based on equal rights.

At its last meeting, the Legal Advisory Panel has prepared and agreed the following proposed change the Constitution:

### 7.3. RULES ON VOTING

- Only National members have voting rights at a General Assembly.
- Each National member has one vote. *[When a country has more than one National member, that country still has only one vote.]*
- Decisions of the General Assembly, other than those relating to the Constitution (see Article 12) are taken on a simple majority of the votes cast. In the event of a tie vote, the President shall have a second, and deciding, vote.

## The General Assembly approved the amended Constitution and adopted the associated Resolution A14-01.

Resolutions appear at Annex 2 and the revised Constitution is at Annex 3.

Japan did not oppose the proposed amendment but concerned that as all national members pay a contribution, they should all be allowed to vote as well, other than the election of councillors.

The General Assembly agreed to send the comment from Japan to the Legal Advisory Panel for further discussion.

## 5. APPROVAL OF THE STANDARDS AND THE MBS

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The Technical Operations Manager Minsu Jeon introduced the standards version 1.0, that were approved at the General Assembly in 2018 and have been reviewed by the committees, the Policy Advisory Panel and the Legal Advisory Panel as part of the 2018-2023 work programme. These efforts have concluded in the revised versions of the standards, version 2.0, which include some improvements and relevant changes, including enhancement of the scope and the new recommendations.

The committees also reviewed the Maritime Buoyage System (MBS), resulting in a revised edition that includes updates such as the incorporation of electronic and mobile applications, the inclusion of Mobile Aids to Navigation, and the addition of points on Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships and sustainability, as well as minor updates.

Upon approval of the new standards and the MBS, the secretariat will disseminate them to the wider maritime community and integrate them into ongoing work of the committees. The dedication to provide high-quality standards will continue to drive the organization to provide optimal solutions that cater for the evolving needs of members and relevant stakeholders.

#### **Related documents**

- A14-5.1 Draft S1010 AtoN Planning and Service Requirements Ed2.0
- A14-5.2 Draft S1020 AtoN Design and Delivery Ed2.0
- A14-5.3 Draft S1030 Radionavigation Services Ed2.0
- A14-5.4 Draft S1040 Vessel Traffic Services Ed2.0
- A14-5.5 Draft S1050 Training and Certification Ed2.0
- A14-5.6 Draft S1060 Digital Communication Technologies Ed2.0
- A14-5.7 Draft S1070 Information Services Ed2.0
- A14-5.8 Draft Maritime Buoyage System Ed2.0

**The General Assembly approved the seven Standards and the MBS as submitted as input papers A14-5 and A14-5.1 to A14-5.8. and adopted the associated Resolution A14-02.**

## **6. APPROVAL OF THE STRATEGIC VISION**

The Secretary-General introduced the changes to the Strategic Vision. Since the publication of Edition 1.0 of the SV in 2018, the Council and its Strategy Group have been working to update the contents of the vision. In 2019, a Council workshop agreed on a Drivers and Trends document, which has been regularly updated with inputs from different members of the Council and the Industrial Members Committee. This document (A14-6.2) is now an annex to the SV and is regularly updated by the Council.

The Council agreed to task the Strategy Drafting Group (SDG) to make a total review of the SV to align the vision with the guiding documents of the association and prepare for the change of status.

The SDG, under the leadership of Mr. Christian Forst, Germany, and Mr. David Gordon, South Africa, supported by a small group of Councillors made a draft updated SV, which was then distributed among the National members for their comments.

The updated SV edition 2.0 highlights the significance of embracing emerging trends and technologies, as well as the value of international cooperation and partnerships in achieving IALA's goals. By fostering a culture of continuous improvement and shared knowledge, the vision underscores IALA's dedication to maritime safety and efficiency while staying true to its core mission.

In the new edition, the name of the document was changed to remove the year range 2018-2026, making it a more open-ended document.

**The revised Strategic Vision was approved as submitted as input paper A14-6.1 and the associated Resolution A14-03 was adopted.**



## 7. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS

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The chair gave the floor to the Russian Federation to introduce their proposals and comments to the IALA Disaster Recovery fund included in the paper A14-7.1. The paper mentioned a number of changes in the Disaster Recovery Fund Terms of Reference approved at the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the Council, and in particular regarding the preamble, the budget and the role of the World-Wide Academy.

As a response to Russia's proposal, the Secretary-General introduced the paper A14-7 and made the following statements:

According to the different functions of the organs of IALA, as clearly included in the Basic Documents, the Secretary-General had the right to ask the Council as its supervising organ for approval of the decision to establish a Disaster Recovery Fund as a dedicated fund to be implemented and operated by the WWA. Furthermore, the Council had the authority to approve the Terms of Reference of the Disaster Recovery fund without seeking confirmation of this decision by the General Assembly.

With regard to the proposal of the Russian Federation of changing the wording in several parts in the Terms of Reference of the Disaster Recovery Fund and as there was no obligation for the General Assembly to discuss these, it was recommended as a measure of good cooperation to discuss these at a future meeting of the newly elected Council.

A number of countries took the floor to support the Secretary-General's proposal.

**The chair noted the support for the Secretary-General's proposal, that was agreed by the General Assembly.**

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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A signing ceremony of four Memorandum of Understanding took place. There was one between IALA and Türkiye on support to provide facilities for IALA and the WWA, and then between IALA and Korea, IALA and Malaysia and IALA and Singapore on Renewal of the Sponsorship to the World-Wide Academy.

Japan took the floor and indicated that the preparations for hosting the meeting on the General Regulations of the new IGO in November were ongoing and the invitation to member states would be sent out shortly.

## 9. ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL

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The Secretary-General announced that he had received 29 nominations for the 21 seats available at the Council and such nominations had been made available to all members as General Assembly input paper A14-9.1. He mentioned that a late candidacy was received from Venezuela and was also made available on the website as input A14-9.1.1. The General Assembly accepted this late submission. He reminded the participants that there were three permanent seats as follows:

- the National member having invited the last Conference (Centro de Sinalização Náutica "Almirante Moraes Rego", Brazil);
- the National member inviting the next Conference (Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships, India); and
- a National member of the Host country (Direction des Affaires Maritimes, France).

The President, in accordance with the General Regulations Article 3.5.5, announced that she had appointed the head of delegation from Albania, Admiral Agnastra, and the head of delegation from Kenya, Capt. Abdalla to be the scrutineers.

The Heads of each delegation were then invited by the President to bring their ballot forms to the ballot box and at the same time remit their voting cards to the Secretariat staff members who were watching the process together with the scrutineers.

When all National members had been to the ballot box the Secretariat staff, together with the scrutineers, left the General Assembly room for the counting of votes.

As a result of these votes the following National members were elected:

- Australia: Australian Maritime Safety Authority (54)<sup>1</sup>
- Canada: Canadian Coast Guard (56)
- Chile: Directorate General of the Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine (Directemar) (48)
- Denmark: Danish Maritime Authority (52)
- Finland: Finnish Transport Agency (47)
- Germany: Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency (49)
- Ireland: Commissioners of Irish Lights (41)
- Italy: Italian Coast Guard (54)
- Japan: Japan Coast Guard (60)
- Malaysia: Light Dues Board, Peninsular Malaysia (53)
- Morocco: Direction des ports et du Domaine public maritime (53)
- Norway: Norwegian Coastal Administration (52)
- People's Republic of China: Maritime Safety Administration (48)
- Republic of Korea: Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (58)
- Singapore: Maritime and Port Authority (60)
- Spain: Puertos del Estado (57)
- Sweden: Swedish Maritime Administration (51)
- The Netherlands: Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, Directorate of Maritime Affairs (51)
- Türkiye: Directorate General of Coastal Safety (52)
- United Kingdom: Trinity House (51)
- USA: US Coast Guard (48)

## 10. INVITATION TO THE 2027 CONFERENCE

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During the counting of votes, the National member of India invited the delegates to the 2027 IALA Conference which will be held in Mumbai, India around the same time of the year. A video was played for the audience.

## 11. CLOSURE

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The President closed the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the IALA General Assembly thanking all participants and inviting the newly elected Council to take up its duties and meet at its 78<sup>th</sup> session scheduled on 3 June at 16:00.

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<sup>1</sup> The number into brackets is the number of votes.



## ANNEX 1 – AGENDA

| ITEM  | ACTION REQUESTED |
|---|------------------|
| 1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA                             | Approve          |
| 2. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL | Note             |
| 3. FINANCE REPORT                                     | Note             |
| 4. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION         | Approve          |
| 5. APPROVAL OF THE STANDARDS AND THE MBS              | Approve          |
| 6. APPROVAL OF THE STRATEGIC VISION                   | Approve          |
| 7. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS   | Note / Decide    |
| 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS                                 | Note             |
| 9. ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL                            | Vote             |





## ANNEX 2 – RESOLUTIONS

### **A14-01**

The General Assembly approved the amended Constitution.

### **A14-02**

The General Assembly approved the seven Standards and the MBS as submitted as input papers A14-5 and A14-5.1 to A14-5.8.

### **A14-03**

The General Assembly approved the revised Strategic Vision as submitted as input paper A14-6.1.



## **ANNEX 3 – IALA CONSTITUTION AS APPROVED BY THE 14TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Article 1 - Name**

The International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities, hereinafter referred to as “IALA”, formerly called the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities / Association Internationale de Signalisation Maritime, is an international association established and governed by the French law of 1st July 1901 and the decree of 16th August 1901.

The term “Marine Aid to Navigation” referred to in the present Constitution should be understood to be a device, system or service, external to a vessel, designed and operated to enhance safe and efficient navigation of individual vessels and vessel traffic.

### **Article 2 - Aim**

The aim of IALA is to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels, through improvement and harmonization of Marine Aids to Navigation worldwide and other appropriate means, for the benefit of the maritime community and the protection of the environment.

IALA is secular and non-political.

IALA brings together services and organizations concerned with the provision or maintenance of Marine Aids to Navigation and allied activities, at sea and on inland waterways.

### **Article 3 - Functions**

The aim of IALA is achieved by, among other things:

- Developing international cooperation by promoting close working relationships and assistance between members.
- Collecting and circulating information about the activities of its members as well as encouraging, supporting and communicating recent developments.
- Facilitating mutual exchange of information with organizations representing the users of Marine Aids to Navigation.
- Formulating and publishing appropriate standards, recommendations and guidelines, manuals and other appropriate papers.
- Encouraging members to take into account the development of multi-purpose systems which may also be used, for instance, to monitor the marine environment.
- Establishing committees, working groups or other such bodies as may be appropriate to study special issues.
- Facilitating assistance to services or organizations requesting help within the Marine Aids to Navigation and allied fields, whether technical, organizational or training.
- Organizing conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops and other events relevant to its work.

### **Article 4 - Relationship with other organizations**

IALA will maintain liaison and cooperate with relevant intergovernmental, international and other organizations, offering specialized advice where appropriate.

## Article 5 - Membership

### 5.1. MEMBER GROUPS

IALA comprises National members, Associate members, Industrial members and Honorary members.

National membership may be applied for by a national authority of any country, or any part of that country, legally responsible for the provision, maintenance or operation of Marine Aids to Navigation within that country, or any part of that country (hereinafter referred to as national authority).

Associate membership may be applied for by any other service, organization or scientific agency that is concerned with Marine Aids to Navigation or related matters.

Industrial membership may be applied for by manufacturers and distributors of Marine Aids to Navigation equipment for sale, or organizations providing Marine Aids to Navigation services or technical advice under contract.

Honorary membership may be conferred for life upon any individual who is considered by the Council to have made an important contribution to the work of IALA.

### 5.2. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

All applications for membership and changes in the type of membership are subject to acceptance by the Council. The Council may require an application for Industrial or Associate membership to be reviewed by a national authority of the area where the applicant carries out his activities or has his principal place of business.

Application for membership constitutes an agreement to pay the appropriate annual contribution as laid down from time to time.

### 5.3. SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

#### 5.3.1. SOME OR ALL MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS MAY BE SUSPENDED:

by decision of the Council for non-payment of contribution; or

by decision of the Council for any justifiable cause in the best interest of IALA

until the member has met such financial or other obligations.

#### 5.3.2. MEMBERSHIP MAY BE TERMINATED:

by resignation of the member;

by decision of the Council for non-payment of contribution; or

by decision of the Council for any justifiable cause in the best interest of IALA.

## Article 6 - Seat

The Headquarters and registered office of IALA is in the vicinity of Paris in Saint Germain en Laye, France. The location of the Headquarters may be changed by decision of the IALA Council, which will be ratified by the General Assembly.

## Article 7 - General Assembly

General Assemblies of members are held at intervals not exceeding five years and, normally, concurrently with IALA Conferences. A General Assembly will be convened by order of the Council (see Article 8).

In the case of urgency, other than a change of the Constitution (as set out in Article 12), the Council may decide to determine a matter requiring the approval of the General Assembly by a postal or electronic vote. The rules on voting shall be as set out in Article 7.3.



The quorum for a meeting of the General Assembly or a postal or electronic vote is one third of all National members, one of whom must be the President or Vice President.

### **7.1. FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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The General Assembly, among other things:

- Decides the overall policy of IALA.

- Elects the members of the Council (see Article 8). Councillors are elected for the period between two General Assemblies. Councillors may be re-elected

- Decides upon changes to the Constitution.

- Approves IALA standards.

### **7.2. RULES ON PARTICIPATION**

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Members of all categories may attend General Assemblies.

### **7.3. RULES ON VOTING**

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Only National members have voting rights at a General Assembly.

Each National member has one vote. When a country has more than one National member, that country still has only one vote.

Decisions of the General Assembly, other than those relating to the Constitution (see Article 12) are taken on a simple majority of the votes cast. In the event of a tie vote, the President shall have a second, and deciding, vote.

## **Article 8 - Council**

### **8.1. ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL**

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IALA is administered by a Council comprising up to twenty-one elected councillors and three non-elected councillors as follows:

Elected councillors:

- The heads of National member authorities or their representatives elected by ballot of all National members attending a General Assembly; only one National member from any country may be elected to the Council.

- Elected councillors shall, as far as possible, be drawn from different parts of the world with a view to achieving as widespread a representation as possible.

Non-elected councillors:

- The head, from time to time, of the national authority of the IALA Host nation or his/her representative.

- The head, from time to time, of the national authority of the country wherein the next IALA Conference will be held or his/her representative.

- The head, from time to time, of the national authority of the country wherein the last Conference was held or his/her representative.

The post of Councillor is honorary.

### **8.2. DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL**

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The Council will meet regularly and at least once a year. Such meetings will be convened by the President or the Vice President, or the Secretary-General, or at the request of two councillors.

#### **8.2.1. THE COUNCIL UPON ELECTION OR, WHEN NECESSARY, WILL:**

From among its members elect a President and a Vice President on a personal basis. The President and the Vice President shall not hold their office for longer than the term of Council.

From among its members elect a Finance and Audit Committee, comprising at least three persons, to assist the Council as necessary and elect a committee member as Treasurer and Chair.

Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair of each committee for the term between regular General Assemblies.

#### **8.2.2. APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

The Council shall appoint a Secretary-General to act as legal representative and Chief Executive of IALA. The Secretary-General's powers and responsibilities and his terms and conditions of employment will be decided by the Council. The Secretary-General will be assisted in his tasks by a permanent Secretariat.

#### **8.2.3. FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL:**

The Council, among other things:

Implements the overall policy of IALA as defined by its aims or by the General Assembly.

Decides membership matters.

Establishes committees relevant and/or facilitates other such bodies as may be appropriate and their terms of reference.

Determines General Regulations and Financial Regulations.

Approves recommendations, guidelines, manuals and other appropriate papers.

Approves submissions to other organizations.

Decides the venue and the year of the next IALA Conferences and Symposia.

Establishes rules for participation in IALA Conferences and Symposia.

Convenes General Assemblies.

Approves the annual budget and accounts.

Determines the rate of contributions.

Decides upon the location of the Headquarters and registered office of IALA.

May authorize the purchase, sale, renting or letting of property and the granting and obtaining of loans whether or not secured by mortgage, required for the running of the association.

May grant any power of attorney as required.

#### **8.3. COUNCIL MEETINGS**

A Council meeting shall ordinarily only be held when at least the President or the Vice President and one member of the Finance and Audit Committee are present.



## **8.4. VOTING PROCEDURES**

A Council decision can be made by a simple majority of those present at the meeting, subject to a minimum of seven votes being recorded in its favour. No Councillor may have more than one vote. In case of a tie vote, the President will have a second, and deciding, vote.

The President or the Vice President may decide to carry out a postal or electronic vote among the councillors.

### **Article 9 - Committees**

Committees are established by the Council to study matters relevant to the aim of IALA with the objective of preparing standards, recommendations, guidelines and manuals for IALA members and submissions to other organizations.

Committees will work under the rules stated in the General Regulations.

### **Article 10 - Conferences and Exhibitions**

All categories of IALA members are entitled to be represented at an IALA Conference.

Non-members may only participate in an IALA Conference with the approval of the Council.

An exhibition of Marine Aids to Navigation equipment will be organized during the Conference period. Only IALA Industrial members who have paid the equivalent of the contributions for the two years immediately prior to the year of the Conference plus the year of the Conference will have the right to exhibit their equipment.

### **Article 11 - Funding**

IALA shall be funded from contributions, grants and gifts as generally permitted by law.

### **Article 12 - Changes to the Constitution**

Alterations to the Constitution can normally only be made by a two-thirds majority of National members attending a General Assembly. The Council can decide as an emergency measure to carry out a postal or electronic vote. Alterations to the Constitution by this method require a two-thirds majority of National members taking part in the vote.

### **Article 13 - Duration and Termination**

The duration of IALA is unlimited.

Except as noted below, the termination of IALA can be decided upon under the same conditions as required for the alterations to the Constitution. On termination, the Council is responsible for the winding up of IALA and distribution of assets to charitable or technical organizations connected with Marine Aids to Navigation.

In the event of IALA being constituted as an international organization based on an international agreement the Council must arrange for the winding up of IALA and the formal transfer of ownership of all assets free of charge and without reservation into the possession of the organization constituted according to the international agreement. This Constitution will terminate without further action when the formalities for termination required by French law commenced by the Council are complete.

**ANNEX 4 – Signed list of attendees on separate pdf file.**



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International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities  
Association Internationale de Signalisation Maritime