



**STATUTES  
OF THE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN  
AND ISLANDS  
HYDROGRAPHIC  
COMMISSION  
(SAIHC)**

# **STATUTES OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SAIHC)**

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **GEOGRAPHIC LIMITS AND MEMBERSHIP**

- a. The Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (hereinafter referred to as “The Commission”) is established in conformity with Administrative Resolution T1.3 of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO). Members of the Commission shall be the national hydrographic authorities of those countries who are Members of the IHO, bordering the Indian and Atlantic Ocean, within IHO Charting Area H (Hereinafter referred to as “The Region”).
- b. The countries within the Region, who are not Members of the IHO and whose representatives are signatories to the present Statutes, become Associate Members. They are represented by their national authorities responsible for hydrography and navigation.
- c. Portugal, who has traditional and historic links with States in the Region, as well as vast hydrographic and topographic information and who produces charts of the Region, will be an Associate Member.
- d. Countries within the Region who are not Members or Associate Members of the Commission may be invited to send representatives to attend its conferences and meetings as observers. The observers may take part in the discussions but shall not have voting rights.
- e. Organisations active within the Region in providing assistance in the enhancement of hydrography may, at the discretion of the Commission, be invited to send representatives to conferences and meetings. These representatives will have no voting rights but may be asked to provide expert advice on matters relevant to the purposes of the Commission.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **AIMS**

The aims of the Commission, which is an integral part of the IHO, shall be:

- a. To promote technical co-operation in the domain of hydrographic surveying, marine cartography, and nautical information within the Region.
- b. To examine the implications, in its area of interest, of matters of general interest with which the IHO is concerned, avoiding any interference with the prerogatives of the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and of any other commissions set up by the IHO.

- c. To stimulate all countries within the Region to widen hydrographic activity in the area and to encourage them to seek technical advice and assistance from the IHB in establishing and strengthening their hydrographic capabilities in order to promote safe navigation and create an environment within which economic development may take place.
- d. To facilitate the exchange of information concerning surveys, research or scientific and technical developments, to aid in the planning and organisation of hydrographic activities in the widest sense of the term, but without interference in the national responsibilities of each Hydrographic Office.
- e. To carry out certain studies as an IHO Working Group when considered appropriate.
- f. To encourage Members and Associate Members forming the Commission to participate, of their own free will, on all possible occasions – whether in the form of advice or of assistance – in those hydrographic programmes requiring concerted action, but without prejudice to or interference with their national activities.

### ARTICLE 3

#### **CONFERENCES**

- a. The Commission shall convene in plenary Conference in the country of one of its Members or Associate Members, within the Region, at least twice between two successive ordinary International Hydrographic Conferences.
- b. At the end of each Conference the Members and Associate Members desirous of hosting the following Conference shall put forward their candidatures. Priority shall be given to a country which has not yet hosted a Conference, or to the one which did so the longest time ago. In cases of equal priority a secret ballot shall be held, the decisions being taken by a simple majority of Members and Associate Members present.
- c. If it is in the interest of the Commission and unanimously agreed upon by the Members and Associate Members an alternative venue may be selected.
- d. Members and Associate Members shall be represented at Conferences by heads of Hydrographic Services, or, where such services do not exist, by heads of national authorities responsible for hydrography and navigation. They may also be accompanied by members of their staff, but it is most desirable that their number be kept to a minimum.
- e. The Commission may set up small committees of Members and Associate Members interested in particular projects with the object of examining and executing such projects.

- f. An invitation to attend the Conference shall invariably be addressed to the Directing Committee of the IHB.
- g. The presence of two thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum at all conferences.
- h. All expenses connected with the participation of the delegates in the Conference, shall be defrayed by their respective countries.

#### ARTICLE 4

##### **CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.**

- a. The activities of the Commission are conducted by the Chairman. The representative of the country in which the Conference takes place shall be its Vice-Chairman. At the conclusion of the Conference he shall become Chairman and remain in office until the end of the next Conference.
- b. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be volunteering Members elected during the Conference and shall take office six months after the end of the Conference.
- c. The Chairman shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission regarding all questions to be dealt with by correspondence. He will prepare a Provisional Agenda for the next Conference and will present as the first item, his report on the activities of the Commission since the last Conference.
- d. The Chairman shall be responsible for the organisation of the Conference, in accordance with the Hydrographic Authority of the country hosting the conference.
- e. If the Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman, is unable to officiate, he shall be replaced by his successor or his deputy in his office.

#### ARTICLE 5

##### **ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES.**

- a. The Chairman shall issue invitations at least one year before the Conference.
- b. Proposals to be included in the Agenda of a Conference must be sent to the Chairman at least four months before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference.
- c. The Chairman shall prepare the Provisional Agenda in consultation with the Vice-Chairman and forward it to the participants at least eight weeks before the opening of the Conference.

## ARTICLE 6

### **CONFERENCE AGENDA.**

- a. The Agenda shall be adopted by the Commission at the beginning of each Conference.
- b. The Commission may modify in the course of the Conference the order in which the Agenda items are to be discussed.

## ARTICLE 7

### **DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.**

- a. Decisions taken during each meeting should be prepared in written form by the Chairman and supplied next day to the participants present.
- b. At the end of the Conference, the Chairman shall circulate the decisions taken during the Conference. These decisions shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure described in Annexure 1, the exception being amendments to the present Statutes as provided for in Article 9 below. However, when the Chairman considers that the text under review concerns a limited number of Members and Associated Members, the unanimous decision of such Members and Associated Members is required.
- c. Members and Associated Members are entitled to vote, each having the right to one vote.
- d. All decisions become operative immediately after the Conference, except in the case where a Member or an Associate Members objects and asks that the matter be referred to the IHO for a decision. However, such a procedure shall not be applicable to the provisions of paragraph b. of Article 3 concerning the hosting of Conferences.
- e. The Chairman shall despatch within one month of the close of the Conference a copy of the Summary Report containing the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the Conference for approval to each, and for comments to Observers. The Members and Associate Members shall notify within one month of the receipt their approval or objections, if any, which shall be settled by correspondence.
- f. Any decision which may be of interest to the Member States of the IHO as a whole shall be brought to the attention of the IHB. This fact shall be mentioned as part of the text of the decisions reached.

## ARTICLE 8

### **EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS**

- a. The Chairman may call a meeting of the Members of the Commission when their representatives are assembled for an IHO Conference.
- b. In the case of urgent matters, which cannot be treated by correspondence and which cannot be postponed until the next Conference, the Chairman, with the agreement of the Vice-Chairman, having taken the opinion of the Members and Associate Members, shall convene an Extraordinary Meeting, to be held in the country of the next Conference or the place considered most appropriate.
- c. The provisions applicable to Conferences shall apply to all meetings except that the provisions of Article 4b are not applicable to the meetings defined in paragraphs a. and b. above, which shall be organised and presided over by the Chairman, who will remain in office after the meeting has concluded.
- d. When these meetings do not include all Members and Associate Members, the decisions reached shall be reported to the next Conference of the Commission, or by correspondence if the matter is urgent.

## ARTICLE 9

### **STATUTES**

- a. The International Hydrographic Bureau is the Custodian of these Statutes.
- b. Members and Associate Members of the Commission may propose amendments to the present Statutes. These amendments shall be discussed at a Conference and the decisions, which must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Members of the Commission, will be included in the Report of the Conference and passed on to the IHB for updating of statutes.

## ARTICLE 10

### **LANGUAGE OF THE COMMISSION**

The official language of the Commission will be English.

**NATIONAL SIGNATORIES – STATUTES OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SAIHC)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Title/Rank - Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>
<b>Angola</b> <b>Associate Member</b>			
<b>France</b> <b>Member</b>			
<b>Kenya</b> <b>Associate Member</b>			
<b>Madagascar</b> <b>Associate Member</b>			
<b>Malawi</b> <b>Associate Member</b>			
<b>Mauritius</b> <b>Member</b>			
<b>Mozambique</b> <b>Member</b>			
<b>Namibia</b> <b>Associate Member</b>			

<b>Norway</b> <b>Member</b>			
<b>Portugal</b> <b>Associate Member</b>			
<b>Republic of South Africa</b> <b>Member</b>			
<b>Seychelles</b> <b>Associate Member</b>			
<b>Tanzania</b> <b>Associate Member</b>			
<b>United Kingdom</b> <b>Member</b>			