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**STATUS REPORT ON VOTING APPROVAL FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION ON THE
IHO AND APPLICATIONS FOR NEW MEMBER STATES**

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Directing Committee would like to provide an update on the status of approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO and also on the status of admission of new Member States to the Organization.

Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO

2. In order for the proposed amendments to the Convention on the IHO to enter into force, the approval of at least 48 existing Member States, being two-thirds of the Member States entitled to vote at the time of the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (3EIHC) held in 2005, are required.

3. According to the information provided by the External Relations Department of the Government of Monaco at the end of 2012, 37 of the required 48 Member State Governments (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Mexico, Monaco, South Africa, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, UK and USA) have formally notified their approval of the Protocol of Amendments.

4. Since the 3EIHC, the IHO and the Directing Committee have been progressively adapting the administrative and the organizational arrangements of the IHO to conform to the structure envisaged under an amended Convention. This includes a three-part Work Programme, a strategic planning process, and programme performance monitoring. However, until such time as the proposed Amendments to the Convention are approved, the full effect of the revised arrangements cannot be achieved. These include simplified and more encouraging procedures for the admission of new Member States, improved governance of the organization through the establishment of a Council and more frequent Conferences (Assemblies) where the important strategic issues affecting the IHO can be regularly reviewed and addressed.

5. The Directing Committee is well aware that achieving and obtaining the necessary consideration at the highest levels in the Governments of Member States is sometimes difficult and is often a protracted process. Only three approvals were recorded in 2012. To assist the process, the Government of Monaco provides on a regular basis, through diplomatic channels, letters of reminder to those Governments that have not yet indicated their position regarding the Protocol of Amendments. The Directing Committee can provide copies of these letters and also stands ready to provide clarifications and support when requested. It is also available to brief relevant government or diplomatic staff, particularly those based in diplomatic missions in Europe. Members of the Directing Committee have recently undertaken a number of such briefings to Ambassadors in both London and Paris. In this context, the Directing Committee has prepared a short summary paper in English, French and Spanish outlining the principal effects of the Amendments. This is being used as a briefing paper. It is included as Annex A to this letter and can also be downloaded from the IHO website.

Accession of New Member States

6. The following States, whose application for membership had been approved in the preceding years, have not yet deposited their Instrument of Accession:

Mauritania (application approved in April 1991)

Bulgaria (application approved in April 1992)

Sierra Leone (application approved in September 2010)

7. Two applications for membership have been approved in 2012 and the two States concerned have been invited by the Government of Monaco to deposit their Instrument of Accession:

Montenegro (application approved in March)

Haiti (application approved in November)

8. The Directing Committee has been in communication with the authorities of these five States to encourage them to deposit their Instruments of Accession and offer assistance if appropriate.

Status of Voting for States Applying for IHO Membership

9. Viet Nam applied to become a Member State of the IHO in 2011. Brunei Darussalam and Georgia applied to become Member States of the IHO in 2012. The status of approvals at the end of 2012 was as follows:

Viet Nam had received 29 approvals out of a required 52.

Brunei Darussalam had received 28 approvals out of a required 52.

Georgia had received 18 approvals out of a required 52.

10. A list of those IHO Member States that have not yet indicated their position regarding the applications of new States for membership of the IHO is contained in Annex B.

Conclusion

11. The Directing Committee encourages those representatives of Member States that have not yet indicated their position on the approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO to actively follow up this matter with their government authorities, identifying any problems that may be present and, if needed, seek the assistance of the Directing Committee.

12. The Directing Committee also encourages those IHO Member States, whose Governments have not yet indicated their position on the approval of the applications for membership made by Viet Nam, Brunei Darussalam and Georgia to actively encourage their government authorities to consider doing so as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Robert WARD
President

Annexes:

- A. Summary Brief on the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO
- B. Status concerning Pending Applications for IHO Membership

SUMMARY BRIEF ON THE PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION ON THE IHO

The Member States of the IHO approved a Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO at the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in April 2005.

For the amendments to come into effect, at least two-thirds of the Member States existing in 2005 must formally accede to the Protocol of Amendments. This means a minimum number of 48 Member States. Monaco is the depositary government for the Convention on the IHO. Accession to the Protocol of Amendments must be indicated by each government communicating with the Government of Monaco through diplomatic channels, indicating its approval of the Protocol of Amendments.

By December 2012, 37 of the minimum number of 48 Member States had acceded to the Protocol of Amendments.

Principal Changes to the Convention

The Amendments to the Convention are intended to achieve a more efficient and responsive organization. The principal amendments to the Convention are as follows:

- Establish a Council to improve the governance and management of the Organization. The Council will meet annually.
- Reduce the programme cycle of the Organization to three years between Conferences (to be known as Assemblies), rather than the current five years between Ordinary Conferences. At present, the Organization needs the agreement of a majority of Member States to call an Extraordinary Conference at the mid-point between Ordinary Conferences in order to review the programme and address specific items.
- Remove the requirement for States applying for membership of the IHO to await the approval of two-thirds of the existing Member States. This will remove an average wait of two to three years before the required majority is achieved. No State has ever been refused entry into the IHO in 92 years.
- Change the elected position of President of the Directing Committee to that of Secretary-General. This will provide an organizational structure similar to most other intergovernmental organizations.

Impact on Existing Member States

The amendments to the Convention do not change any of the existing financial obligations placed on Member States. The amendments to the Convention do not introduce any additional obligations on Member States.

**MEMBER STATES THAT HAVE NOT YET NOTIFIED THEIR
APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR IHO MEMBERSHIP MADE BY
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, GEORGIA AND VIETNAM**

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Kuwait, Latvia, Malaysia, Morocco, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, UK, Uruguay, Venezuela.

GEORGIA

Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, France, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Latvia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, UK, Venezuela.

VIETNAM

Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, UK, Venezuela.
