



TERMS OF REFERENCE
For the Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS)
of the
International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and
the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)
(as amended 11 December 2006)

OBJECTIVE:

To provide advice on technical aspects of the Law of the Sea.

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1. To provide advice, guidance and, where applicable, offer expert interpretation of the technical aspects of the Law of the Sea to the parent Organizations, their Member States or to other organizations on request.
- 1.2. To review State practice and jurisprudence on Law of the Sea matters which are relevant to the work of ABLOS so as to be in a position to provide expert advice when needed.
- 1.3. To study, promote and encourage the development of appropriate techniques in the application of the technical provisions contained within the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- 1.4. To review and update IHO Special Publication S-51 "A Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982" (TALOS Manual).
- 1.5. To prepare, review and update other ABLOS publications as required by the parent organizations.

2. Rules of Procedure

- 2.1. ABLOS shall be composed of eight full members, preferably chosen with wide geographic representation. Each parent Organization shall appoint four members. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the UN Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS), and the IHB as the Secretariat shall have representatives in an ex-officio capacity without voting rights.
- 2.2. ABLOS should normally take decisions by consensus. Should a vote be necessary then a simple majority of those present and voting is required, subject to a minimum of 4 voting members being present. In the case of a tied vote the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 2.3. The Member States of the IHO, the IAG and ABLOS through its Chairman may nominate additional observers to ABLOS. Observers may participate in correspondence and attend meetings but may not vote.

- 2.4. The term of office of a full member is four years, after which he/she may be re-appointed or replaced by his/her parent organization. Members are expected to attend every meeting of ABLOS. Where a member fails to attend two consecutive meetings the Chairman should raise the matter with the Parent Organization with a view to rectifying the situation.
- 2.5. Whilst members of ABLOS are appointed by their parent Organizations, to whom they are accountable, members are expected to serve as individual experts in their own right. No statements or publications may be issued in the name of ABLOS without ABLOS's prior approval.
- 2.6. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected by ABLOS and should normally come from different parent Organizations on a rotational basis. They will serve for a two-year period, after which the Vice-Chairman becomes Chairman and a new Vice-Chairman is elected. If the Chairman is not present or available, the Vice-Chairman shall act in this capacity until the next meeting. Should the Vice-Chairman not be available to take office as Chairman when required, a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be elected.
- 2.7. ABLOS may establish Working Groups to carry out specific tasks.
- 2.8. ABLOS will have its permanent Secretariat at the International Hydrographic Bureau, Monaco. The Secretariat will publish the documents and publications produced by the Board as required.
- 2.9. Members of ABLOS are expected to be supported by their own organizations for travel expenses and work.
- 2.10. ABLOS will normally meet once a year at a venue and time that minimize cost and conduct business by correspondence between meetings.
- 2.11. ABLOS may organise conferences and seminars. A biennial technical conference will normally be held in Monaco in conjunction with an ABLOS Meeting. ABLOS may operate a fund to cover the receipts and expenses of running such a conference. Guidelines for the operation of this fund are appended to these terms of reference.
- 2.12. The Chairman shall provide an annual report on ABLOS's activities to the IHO and IAG and a report covering the inter-sessional period to the Conferences/General Assemblies of the parent Organizations.
- 2.13. These TOR should be reviewed by ABLOS as required and not less frequently than every 4 years. Amendments, recommended by ABLOS, are to be submitted to the parent Organizations for approval.