

**8TH MEETING OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
IHB, Monaco, 15-18 November 2016**

Paper for Consideration by HSSC

HSSC Contribution to the revision of the IHO Strategic Plan

Submitted by:	HSSC Chair Group
Executive Summary:	This paper reports on the contribution of the Chair Group to the revision of the IHO Strategic Plan as agreed at HSSC-7.
Related Documents:	IHO Resolution 12/2002 as amended - <i>Planning cycle</i> IHO CL 17/2016 dated 31 March - <i>Call for submissions to update the IHO Strategic Plan</i> IHO CL 31/2016 dated 11 July - <i>Responses to the call for submissions to update the IHO Strategic Plan</i> IHO Assembly Circular Letter 10 dated 2 September 2016 - <i>Proposals for consideration by the 1st session of the IHO Assembly</i>
Related Projects:	HSSC Work Plan.

Background

1. At its 7th meeting, the HSSC tasked the Chair Group to prepare inputs for the revision of the IHO Strategic Plan and the IHO 3-year Programme of Work in accordance with IHO Resolution 12/2002 as amended. A formal call for input to the revision of the Strategic Plan was issued by the IHB on 31 March 2016, requesting submissions no later than 1 July 2016.
2. As agreed at HSSC-7, the Chair Group met in Paris, France on 1 and 2 June 2016 to consider the input to the revision of the Strategic Plan and the preparation of the HSSC contribution to the preparation of the next inter-sessional Work Programme. This document reports on the input to the revision of the Strategic Plan submitted by the Chair Group on behalf of the Committee.

Input submitted by the Chair Group

3. The Chair Group agreed that a full-scale revision of the current Strategic Plan was not required. It offered comments related to the structure of the Plan and proposed amendments as detailed in Annex A (document HSSC-CG-2016).

Status of the revision of the Strategic Plan

4. The IHB Directing Committee reported the outcome of the consultation of the Member States and the two Committees (HSSC and IRCC) in IHO CL 31/2016 dated 11 July.
5. Besides the Committees, only four Member States provided input. The Directing Committee further noted that all but one of the contributions received could be accommodated through a modest revision of the current edition of the Strategic Plan and/or considered when preparing the draft IHO Work Programme 2018-2020. This would indicate that the Member States are generally satisfied with the overall aims and objectives of the Organization as set out in the current Strategic Plan. One Member State (UK) proposed that a new edition of the Strategic Plan is warranted.

6. Accordingly, the Directing Committee proposed to prepare a draft revised version of the existing Strategic Plan, taking into account the input received, and circulate the draft by early February 2017, together with the other documents to be considered by the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly.

7. Member States were invited to consider any alternative or additional proposal related to the Strategic Plan and its implementation in response to the call for proposals to be considered by the Assembly. As reported in Assembly Circular Letter (ACL) No. 10 dated 2 September 2016, proposal PRO 4 submitted by UK invites the Assembly to consider a full rewrite of the Strategic Plan. The proposal is attached in Annex B for ease of reference.

8. In accordance with the revised timeline applicable to preparing sessions of the IHO Assembly, ACL 10 invited Member States to submit comments on the proposals already submitted and consider submitting additional proposals, if any, by 15 December 2016.

Action required of HSSC

9. The HSSC is invited to:

- a. **note** this report,
- b. **consider** additional input, if any, to the revision of the IHO Strategic Plan,
- c. **take** any other actions considered necessary.

**WORKSHOP OF THE CHAIR GROUP
OF THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Paris/Saint-Mandé, France 1 - 2 June 2016**

OUTCOME

Input to the Revision of the IHO Strategic Plan

Submitted by:	HSSC Chair Group
Executive Summary:	This document reports on the outcome of the workshop of the HSSC Chair Group which considered the input of the HSSC to the preparation of the 19 th International Hydrographic Conference / 1 st Session of the IHO Assembly. It provides the HSSC Chair Group input to the revision of the IHO Strategic Plan.
Related Documents:	IHO Resolution 12/2002, as amended – <i>Planning Cycle</i> IHO CL 17/2016 dated 31 March - <i>Call for submissions to update the IHO Strategic Plan</i>
Related Projects:	None

Introduction / Background

1. IHO Resolution 12/2002 as amended sets out the timetable for the review of the IHO Strategic Plan and the Inter-Conference / Assembly Work Programme. According to the Resolution, twelve months prior to the next Ordinary International Hydrographic Conference (which is anticipated to be held as the first session of the Assembly subject to the entry into force of the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO), Member States and the two programme committees – the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) and the Hydrographic Standards and Services Committee (HSSC), should be invited to submit any proposals to update the Strategic Plan and the Work Programme.
2. In accordance with the Resolution, IHO CL 17/2016 invited Member States and the Chairs of IRCC and HSSC to submit to the Directing Committee any proposals to update the Strategic Plan no later than 1 July 2016, so that any such proposals can be compiled and circulated in accordance with the review timetable.
3. This document provides the input of the HSSC Chair Group to the revision of the current Strategic Plan adopted by the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (2009).

Overview of the Strategic Plan

4. The Chair Group is of the opinion that a full-scale revision of the current Strategic Plan is not required. It offers the following comments as regard the structure of the Plan:
 - The Chair Group considers that it would be helpful to include in the Preamble a flow diagram linking the Strategic Directions to the definition of the Elements and Tasks of the IHO Work Programme and to the designation of the associated Performance Indicators.
 - The Chair Group considers that the classification of the strategic assumptions as “strengths” (S), “weaknesses” (W) “opportunities” (O) or “threats” (T) does not serve any valuable purposes.
 - The Chair Group is not aware that the risk management framework referred to in section 5.2 of the Plan and described in Annex A has ever been implemented, noting that currently no targets are associated to the performance indicators. The Chair Group recommends that Chapter 5 of the Strategic Plan be retained, subject to implementing it when preparing the

next edition of the IHO Work Programme (WP) and suggests that both Annexes A and C be revisited and inserted in the Work Programme rather than in the Strategic Plan itself.

Proposed amendments to the Strategic Plan

5. The amendments proposed by the Chair Group to update the Strategic Plan are shown below as addition and deletion.

Vision, Mission and Object

...

*The **mission** of the IHO is to create a global environment in which States provide adequate, standardized and timely hydrographic data, products and services and ensure their widest possible use.*

...

Strategic assumptions

...

1.1 An adequate data-centric hydrographic infrastructure is an essential geospatial foundation layer to support the move to an open data environment.

...

2.2 GrowingThe development of the Blue Economy and environmental concerns, related in particular to climate change, awareness will generate increasing demands and wider uses for hydrographic information beyond solely core navigational safety use.

...

4.1 Technological developments (digital era, high rate communication systems, sensor technology and integrated services and precise positioning systems) are a major driving force for changes and require interoperable data management and portrayal.

...

Strategic Directions

...

2.6 promoting the use of new technologies and the opportunities offered by globalization, and international cooperation and crowd-sourcing.

...

6. In addition, the Chair Group suggest inserting sub-headings in Chapter 6 - *Progress Monitoring* as follow:

6. Progress monitoring

6.1 Monitoring mechanism

The mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan and identify any needs for revision includes the following elements:

...

6.2 Implementation

The implementation of performance indicators is based on a two level approach:

...

6.3 Assessment and review

Accordingly, the assessment of the working level PIs and the review of progress with the strategic directions ...

7. Considering that the six-month reporting mechanism put in place by the EIHC-5 provides little added value, the Chair Group recommends returning to an annual reporting mechanism, in accordance with the provision of Chapter 6 of the current Strategic Plan and with the annual cycle of the Committees and of the Council (when established). A common report template would be welcome. The Council or the Committees could decide that some specific critical tasks require more frequent reporting but this should not be systematic.

PRO 4 - REWRITE OF THE IHO STRATEGIC PLAN

Submitted by: United Kingdom

- References:
- A. IHO CL 17/2016 dated 31 March - *Call for Submissions to update the IHO Strategic Plan*
 - B. IHO CL 31/2016 dated 11 July - *Responses to the call for submissions to update the IHO Strategic Plan*

PROPOSAL:

It is proposed to rewrite the IHO Strategic Plan.

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

In accordance with Reference A, the UK provided comments on the review of the 2009 IHO Strategic Plan for the Directing Committee to consider. The UK considered that a complete re-write of the Strategic Plan to reflect the many changes that have taken place over the last 7 years and the coming in to force of the new IHO constitution would be the most appropriate way ahead.

Reference B, noted that five of the six contributions received from Member States could be accommodated through a modest revision of the current edition of the Strategic Plan and/or considered when preparing the draft IHO Work Programme 2018-2020.

Since the implementation of the IHO Strategic Plan in 2009, we know that the hydrographic domain has changed dramatically, particularly with the updated International Convention for the Safety Of Life At Sea (SOLAS) to allow for the carriage of electronic navigational charts. The pivotal role of the IHO in this area over the last seven years or so has been a key tenet to the successful uptake of ECDIS and ENCs. Similarly, the focus on hydrographic Capacity Building has contributed towards the drive for quality hydrographic data, and is, in our view, something which should be continued and invested in further.

In light of the above, the UK considers that a modest revision of the current edition of the Strategic Plan is not sufficient and continues to recommend a full rewrite of the Strategic Plan, to ensure it not only takes in account of the changes which have occurred since it was written, but also reflects and sets new priorities to enable progress against limited resource levels.

The work plan should clearly identify IHO strategic priorities and be flexible to deal with emerging requirements over the duration of the plan. With this in mind, and if a rewrite of the Strategic Plan is endorsed, we would like to offer our support to taking forward this work.