



Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee

Report of ABLOS to HSSC 8

14-18 November 2016,

Monaco

Presented by Yves Guillam (IHB) on behalf of
John Brown (ABLOS Chair)

Principal activities and achievements

- ✦ The 22nd meeting of ABLOS was held at the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monaco on 19th and 22nd October 2016.
- ✦ The 8th ABLOS Conference titled “UNCLOS: Advances in Managing the Blue World” took place 20-22 October 2015 and was held at the Novotel Monaco.
- ✦ All ABLOS members and observers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom were present and a representative from Suriname also attended both events.



Principal activities and achievements

- ✦ The first session of the business meeting completed the final preparations for the 8th ABLOS Conference.
- ✦ The revisions identified for chapter 3 of Edition 5.0.0 of the Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - 1982 (TALOS Manual - C-51) were discussed. The revision time frame and process were decided with a target completion in 2016 for consideration by the 8th meeting of the HSSC.
- ✦ Japan agreed to provide the revised Chapter 3 text for review by the Editorial Board to progress this work.



Principal activities and achievements

- ★ ABLOS members and observers discussed notable topics from the various conferences, seminars and workshops that they had attended and undertaken since the previous business meeting. The meeting also discussed the material for the ABLOS capacity building training course and reviewed ways to develop it further.



Principal activities and achievements

- ✦ The meeting reviewed the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the ABLOS, noting there was no requirement for amendments at present.
- ✦ They agreed that the future of ABLOS and its work should be considered by all members before the next business meeting. It was noted that the Terms of Reference should be used as the basis for a review of the tasks set and the work undertaken.



Principal activities and achievements

- ★ The 8th ABLOS Conference was attended by approximately 60 delegates. 25 different IHO Member States were represented, namely Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Japan, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Suriname, Thailand, United Kingdom and USA.



Principal activities and achievements

- ✦ . The Conference included 28 presentations covering a wide variety of topics and issues in relation with the theme “UNCLOS: Advances in Governing the Blue World”.
- ✦ . The presentations on various aspects of the Law of the Sea generated numerous questions and comments in plenary and much discussion in the margins during the breaks.



Principal activities and achievements

- ✦ A presentation was given at the 8th ABLOS Conference by DOALOS, which highlighted the effectiveness of S-121 (Marine Limits and Boundaries) as a medium for maritime limits and boundaries data. It was strongly recommended that States Parties consider using this format for lodging information to which they desire the UN to give due publicity.



Principal activities and achievements

- ✦ On completion of the ABLOS Conference, Mr John Brown (UK) assumed the role of Chair and Dr Niels Andersen (Denmark) was elected as Vice-Chair. It was agreed that the next Business Meeting would take place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 26-28 October 2016



Major tasks of future work programme

- ✦ Work commenced on preparations for 9th ABLOS Conference in Monaco scheduled for October 2017 under the theme “*Pushing the Limits of UNCLOS*”
- ✦ Next round of revisions for the TALOS Manual, from sections that were identified as requiring revision during the final stages of review of Edition 5.0.0, has commenced.



Problems Encountered

- ✦ It is noted that 4 of the 8 ABLOS members are now serving their second term; it is of concern that, whilst there are 4 IHO observers, there are no IAG observers gaining experience potentially to progress as IAG appointed members.



Action requested of HSSC

- a. Note this report
- b. Endorse the continuation of ABLOS to pursue its work under its Terms of Reference
- c. Review and endorse the work program of Annex B

