

**8<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO-INTER REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO IRCC-8**

**ABU DHABI, UAE, 29-31 MAY 2016**

**REVISION OF THE IHO STRATEGIC PLAN AND IRCC INPUT TO THE LONG-TERM WORK PROGRAMME**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	IHB
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This document seeks input from the Committee as part of the process to review the Strategic Plan and to formulate the long-term work programme for the forthcoming Inter-Conference / Assembly period.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	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> CONF.18/WP.3 - <i>Report by the IRCC</i>
<b>Related Projects:</b>	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. A copy of the current Strategic Plan (2009) is available from the IHO website at: [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > Letters & Documents > Basic Documents.
4. A copy of the current IHO Work Plan 2013-2017 is available from the IHO website at: [www.iho.int](http://www.iho.int) > Home > About IHO > IHO Work Program.

### **Analysis/Discussion**

5. The Strategic Plan is reviewed periodically to ensure that it continues to reflect the requirements and the object of the Organization as determined by its Member States. The current Strategic Plan has been in force since 2009. In its report to the XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference in 2012, IRCC noted that the Strategic Directions were still highly relevant and recommended that the Conference postpone any revision to the next ordinary session of the Conference / Assembly.
6. The existing Strategic Plan states the vision, mission and object of the Organization. The Plan is then built upon several assumptions, which are stated in the document. This is followed by the identification of a number of Strategic Directions which aim to ensure that the vision, mission and objective of the Organization can be met. The Strategic Directions then form the basis upon which the IHO Work Programme is formulated. The Strategic plan

concludes with comprehensive guidance on progress monitoring and risk management. This last section is considered in a separate agenda item addressing performance monitoring.

7. Given that the Strategic Plan provides the over-arching justification for all aspects of the IHO Work Programme, it is important for the Members of the Committee to confirm the current key strategic drivers for the Organization together with any specific and emerging new requirements and priorities and to consider whether they are covered under the Strategic Plan.

8. In accordance with the Strategic Plan, the IHO Work Programme is divided into the following three programmes:

- Programme 1: Corporate Affairs under the responsibility of the International Hydrographic Bureau (to be replaced by the Secretary General when the revised IHO Convention enters into force);
- Programme 2: Hydrographic Services and Standards under the responsibility of the Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC),
- Programme 3: Inter Regional Coordination and Support under the responsibility of the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC).

9. The Terms of Reference of IRCC includes a provision requesting that the Committee “prepare a Committee Work Program and propose it to each ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference (“each ordinary session of the International Hydrographic Conference” to be replaced by “each ordinary session of the Assembly through the Council” when the Assembly and the Council are established).”

10. Programme 3 of the IHO Work Programme for 2013-2017 is based on the following concept:

*This programme refers primarily to the Organization’s strategic direction “Facilitate global coverage and use of official hydrographic data, products and services” through enhancing and supporting cooperation on hydrographic activities among the IHO Member States (MS) under the aegis of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs). It also contributes to the strategic direction “Assist Member States to fulfil their roles” through the IHO capacity-building programme in supporting MS as well as non Member States to build national hydrographic capacities where they do not exist and to contribute to the improvement of the already established hydrographic infrastructure. The programme includes major topics that require a regionally coordinated approach, such as ENC adequacy, availability, coverage and distribution, maritime safety information and ocean mapping.*

and consists of ten elements, including the element on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures which was transferred from Programme 2 to Programme 3 as of 1 January 2015:

- Element 3.0 Inter Regional Coordination Committee
- Element 3.1 Co-operation with Member States and attendance at relevant meetings
- Element 3.2 Increase Participation by non-Member States
- Element 3.3 Capacity Building Management
- Element 3.4 Capacity Building Assessment
- Element 3.5 Capacity Building Provision
- Element 3.6 Coordination of Global Surveying and Charting
- Element 3.7 Maritime Safety Information
- Element 3.8 Ocean Mapping Programme
- Element 3.9 Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures

Each element of the Programme is broken down in tasks associated with key activities and deliverables.

11. The Committee is invited to consider if the progress of the current IHO Work Programme, together with any specific and emerging new requirements and priorities, would require any revision of the current structure of Programme 3 and to discuss the preparation of its proposals for the next edition of the multi annual IHO Work Programme.

**Action Required of IRCC**

12. The IRCC is invited to:
- a. consider whether any amendments are required to the vision, mission or object of the Organization, noting that the object of the Organization is embedded in Article II of the amended Convention on the IHO;
  - b. identify any specific new areas of potential IHO activity that do not fit within the existing Strategic Plan;
  - c. consider whether the existing Strategic Directions remain suitable to drive the work programme of the IHO or require amendments or additions; and
  - d. consider its contribution to the preparation of the multi annual IHO Work Programme for the forthcoming Inter-Conference / Assembly period.