

GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE IHO

Selection of Members of the Council

ARTICLE 16

The Council shall be composed of Member States. Its composition shall be determined in accordance with the following principles.

- (a) No Member State may hold more than one Council seat;
- (b) Two-thirds of Council seats shall be held by Member States selected by the RHCs. Each RHC shall be entitled to select at least one Member State, subject to the following:
 - (i) a Member State may only apply to be selected by a RHC of which it is a full member;
 - (ii) a Member State may only apply to be selected by one RHC;
 - (iii) a Member State must apply to the RHC for selection, copying its application to the Secretary-General, at least six months before an ordinary session of the Assembly;
 - (iv) the number of seats allocated to each RHC shall be calculated by the Secretary-General based on the principle of a proportional representation in order to arrive at the required two thirds of Council seats provided for in this sub-paragraph (b);
 - (v) for the purpose of deciding how many Council seats are allocated to each RHC the Secretary-General shall ensure that every Member State is counted as a full Member of one, but not more than one, RHC.
 - (vi) three months before the ordinary session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General shall inform all Member States of the number of seats allocated to each RHC and those Member States eligible for selection by each RHC; and
 - (vii) each RHC shall declare to the Secretary-General, before the last day of each ordinary session of the Assembly, the Member States it has selected to take seats on the Council from among those eligible for selection.
- (c) The remaining one-third of Council seats shall be held by Member States that have the greatest interest in hydrographic matters and have not been selected under the procedure described in sub-paragraph (b) above. The definition of what constitutes an interest in hydrographic matters shall be reconsidered at the latest at the second Assembly meeting. Meanwhile, the scale by which an interest in hydrographic matters is measured shall be national flag tonnage. The table of national flag tonnages is derived in accordance with the procedures set forth in Articles 5 and 6 of the Financial Regulations. The Secretary-General shall determine which Member States will hold this one third of Council seats by identifying them in descending order of their national flag tonnages, referring to the table of current national flag tonnages produced in accordance with Article 6(a) of the Financial Regulations, and by having ascertained the willingness of each of them to hold a seat on the Council.

- (d) Before the end of the ordinary session the Secretary-General shall submit the full list of Council members to the Assembly.
- (e) The Assembly shall review and endorse the selection process to ensure that these principles have been correctly followed.
- (f) In the event that a Member State holding a seat on the Council should be denied voting rights and benefits in accordance with Article XV of the Convention, that Member State shall immediately forfeit its seat and the Secretary-General shall initiate the appropriate procedure to replace it in accordance with this Article 16.