

2nd Meeting of the IHO S-23 Working Group
Singapore, 5-7 July 2010

Proposal to hold the 2nd S-23 WG Meeting: Members' positions

1. FRANCE

(English translation attached)

**Position de la représentation française au sein du groupe de travail S-23
sur la proposition de tenue d'une réunion du groupe de travail début juillet 2010**
(5 mai 2010)

La représentation française au sein du groupe de travail S-23 remercie le président pour le point d'avancement, factuel et très complet, qui a été porté à la connaissance des membres par la lettre du 12 avril 2010. Elle approuve les dispositions proposées, et en particulier celle qui consiste à organiser une réunion du groupe de travail. Elle souhaite cependant apporter les commentaires suivants :

1. sur l'espace maritime situé entre l'archipel du Japon et la péninsule coréenne :

- les commentaires disponibles à ce jour sur le site ne permettent pas de dégager de piste pour une approche consensuelle des questions en suspens.
- si ce sentiment est partagé par la plupart des membres (notamment par ceux qui n'ont exprimé aucun avis sur la proposition de la France), on peut se demander s'il n'est pas vain de faire se déplacer les membres du groupe S-23 à Singapour, tant qu'aucune piste susceptible de déboucher sur un consensus n'a été acceptée par toutes les parties, pour examen, préalablement à la réunion.
- tant que cette condition n'est pas remplie, la représentation française estime inutile d'inscrire ce point de discussion à l'ordre du jour de la réunion, puisque les parties directement concernées restent sur des positions inconciliables, telles que présentées dans les documents disponibles sur le site. Elle considère, que les pièces de correspondance diffusées à l'étape 5 suffisent en l'état, pour alimenter une rencontre des seuls pays riverains de la zone concernée en vue de la recherche de pistes susceptibles de déboucher sur un consensus.

2. sur l'ordre du jour et la durée de la réunion

- compte tenu des obligations nationales et internationales supportées par les Etats membres, il semble souhaitable, avant de fixer a priori la durée de la réunion à 3 jours, d'élaborer un projet d'ordre du jour détaillé, et d'examiner s'il n'est pas possible de se fixer l'objectif de limiter les échanges à 2 jours au plus, en considérant le fait que des propositions concrètes doivent être au préalable rendues disponibles.
- la justification des coûts de déplacements auprès des autorités gouvernementales est désormais une figure imposée à de nombreuses délégations des Etats membres : il paraît donc raisonnable de vérifier au préalable que la probabilité d'aboutir au moins à une ébauche de solution justifie la réunion afin que tous les membres déclarés comme participant aux travaux soient effectivement motivés, actifs et présents.

En résumé, la représentation française se tient prête à participer activement à cette réunion, sous réserve de chances raisonnables d'aboutir. Une proposition concrète susceptible d'être accueillie favorablement par les parties constitue donc un préalable : la France suggère que les parties concernées soient invitées à présenter leurs propositions **avant le 5 juin**, soit un mois avant la réunion.

A défaut, la représentation française envisage de ne pas participer physiquement à la réunion proposée et de se limiter à une contribution écrite, sur la base des points inscrits à l'ordre du jour définitif. Elle reprendra en particulier les arguments invoqués dans ses contributions au sein du groupe, pour les étapes 2 et 5, pour ce qui concerne la mer située entre l'archipel du Japon et la péninsule coréenne.

(IHB English translation)

**Position of the French Member of the S-23 Working Group
regarding the proposal to hold a WG meeting at the beginning of July 2010
(5 May 2010)**

The French member of the S-23 Working Group thanks the Chair for the factual and very complete status report, which was provided to the WG members under cover of the letter of 12 April 2010.

France approves the proposed arrangements and, in particular, the holding of a Working Group Meeting, but would nevertheless like to make the following comments :

1. With respect to the sea area between the Japanese Archipelago and the Korea peninsula :

- the comments posted on the site to date do not enable us to identify a path to a consensual approach to the pending issues.

- if this point of view is shared by the majority of the members (particularly those who have not expressed any opinion on France's proposal), we may ask if there is any point in getting the members of the group to travel to Singapore, until a way, which may lead to a consensus, has been accepted by all parties for examination prior to the meeting.

- until this condition is fulfilled, the French representative considers that it would be pointless to include this item on the agenda of the meeting, since the parties directly concerned stick to positions which are irreconcilable, as presented in the documents available on the site. France considers that the items of correspondence distributed in step 5 are sufficient as they stand to be used for a meeting of the bordering countries of the area concerned, with a view to seeking other options which may lead to a consensus.

2. With respect to the Agenda and the length of the meeting

- taking into account the national and international obligations which Member States must face, it would be desirable, before fixing the length of the meeting a priori to 3 days, to prepare a detailed draft agenda and to see if it is not possible to set ourselves an objective of limiting the discussions to 2 days maximum, bearing in mind that firm proposals must be submitted beforehand.

- justifying travel costs to government authorities is now mandatory for many Member State delegations : therefore it would seem reasonable to first ascertain that the probability of reaching at least a tentative solution justifies the meeting, so that all the members declared as participants may be effectively motivated, active and present.

To sum up, the French representative is prepared to actively participate in this meeting, on condition that there is a reasonable chance of success. A firm proposal likely to be favourably received by the parties concerned is therefore a prerequisite: France suggests that the parties concerned be invited to submit their proposals **by 5 June**, i.e. a month before the meeting.

Failing that, the French representative would not plan to physically participate in the proposed meeting but would simply provide a written submission, based on the items on the final agenda. France will reiterate the arguments contained in its submissions to the group for steps 2 and 5 concerning the sea situated between the Japanese Archipelago and the Korea Peninsula.

2. REP. OF KOREA

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May 6, 2010

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
Chairman of the Working Group on the Revision of Special Publication 23
International Hydrographic Bureau
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Principality of Monaco

Dear President VAdm. Alexandros MARATOS,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I am pleased to confirm receipt of the Report on the Status and Progress of the Work of the IHO S-23 Working Group dated 12 April 2010.

Expressing my appreciation for the efforts of the International Hydrographic Bureau in advancing the process of revising the S-23, I would like to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Korea supports the proposal for the holding of the Second Meeting of the S-23 Working Group on 5-7 July in Singapore.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm that the Republic of Korea will exert every possible effort for the success of the activities of the S-23 Working Group.

Yours sincerely,

Moon Bo SHIM

Representative of the Republic of Korea to the S-23 WG

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Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
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June 4, 2010

Reference: S-23WG2-05A, "Position of the French Member of the S-23 Working Group regarding the proposal to hold a WG meeting at the beginning of July 2010-05-31"

The Republic of Korea would like to express its appreciation for France's suggestions and efforts to reach a consensus on the naming of the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago.

To progress the work of the IHO S-23 Working Group, the Republic of Korea is ready to carefully examine France's suggestions on the naming issue.

The Republic of Korea will render its cooperation for the success of the work of the S-23 Working Group.

Moon Bo SHIM

Representative of the Republic of Korea to the S-23 WG

JAPAN

(E-mail of 10 May 2010)

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
Chairman of Working Group on the Revision S-23 (Limits of Oceans and Seas)

Dear VADM Maratos,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for your continuous efforts to facilitate the activities of S-23 WG.

Japan has no objection to your proposal to hold the face-to-face meeting from 5 through 7 July in Singapore.

I would like to ask you to send a provisional agenda to the WG members well in advance of the meeting.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Hideo Nishida
Japan's Representative to S-23 WG

CC: Ing. en chef Michel Huet
Secretary of S-23 WG

3. UNITED KINGDOM



THE UNITED KINGDOM
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**From: Rear Admiral Ian Moncrieff BA
The National Hydrographer**

Via post & email

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064-10 / NH

Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos
President
International Hydrographic Bureau
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7 May 2010

Alex Alexandros,

Status report of the IHO S-23 Working Group, dated 12 April 2010

UKHO very much supports the work of the IHO S-23 Working Group and has noted with interest the progress made since its inaugural meeting in June 2009.

The Working Group has clearly identified three possible areas of concern: the sea area between the Korea Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago, the Malacca Strait and the South China Sea – East China Sea.

UKHO has not commented directly on the 3 "areas of concern" since we are required to follow UK Government policy with regard to the placement of names on products that it produces, and has no discretion to do otherwise. Also, as you will no doubt be aware from previous correspondence on these matters, the UK view is that it is for the members of the relevant Regional Hydrographic Commissions to reach agreement on the areas of concern that have been identified.

We do of course share your concerns with regard to the credibility and value of S-23 and are keen to establish a means by which a revised version of the document can be published.

Accordingly, my Head of External Relations, Dr Rob Hensley, will attend the proposed meeting in July to participate in the discussion. Prior to the meeting we will of course seek advice from our Foreign and Commonwealth Office on UK Government policy with regard to the 3 "areas of concern" in the light of progress made during the last 12 months.

As Ever,

IA

