

REPORT OF WORLDWIDE ENC DATABASE WORKING GROUP (WEND-WG) TO IRCC4

Chair: Captain Jamie McMICHAEL-PHILLIPS (UK) June 2010 onwards
Captain Abri KAMPFER (South Africa) 2009 to 2010

Vice Chair: Captain Carlos Augusto Medeiros De ALBUQUERQUE (Brazil) July 2012 onwards

Members:

RHCs:

Mr Juha KORHONEN (Finland) (BSHC);
Mr NG Kwok-Chu (China) (EAHC)
Capt Ayo OLUGBODE (Nigeria) (EAHC);
Ms Kathryn RIES; (USA) (MACHC);
Ing en Chef Yves GUILLAM (France) (MBSHC);
Mr Jens Peter HARTMANN (Denmark) (NHC);
Capt Vinay BADHWAR (India) (NIOHC)
Capt Jamie McMICHAEL-PHILLIPS (United Kingdom) (NSHC)
Cdr Thani AL MAHOKI (Oman) (RSAHC)
Capt Abri KAMPFER (South Africa) SAIHC
Capt Carlos Augusto MEDEIROS DE ALBUQUERQUE (Brazil) (SWAtHC)
Mr Mike PRINCE (Australia) (SWPHC)
Mr Sean HINDS (Canada) (USCHC)

Member States:

Dr Mathias JONAS (Germany)
Mr Satoshi SATO (Japan)
Mr Jae-Yon LEE (Republic of Korea)
Capt Evert FLIER (Norway)
Dr Parry OEI (Singapore)
Dr Paul CANHAM (UK)

RENCs:

Mr Kjell Magne OLSEN (PRIMAR)
Mr James HARPER (IC-ENC)

IHB:

Capt Robert WARD

Note: this report details the WEND WG report, presented through IRCC, to XVIIIth IHC, the two WEND WG Proposals considered by XVIIIth IHC, and the results of those conference discussions.

1. Notes on Formation and Terms of Reference of WEND-WG

The First Meeting of the IHO Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) held in Monaco on 05 June 2009, approved the formation of the IRCC WEND Working Group as proposed by the earlier WEND report, and continues many of the responsibilities and activities formerly undertaken by the WEND Committee and the WEND Task Group. Both these latter bodies were dissolved in 2009 upon the formation of the IRCC.

The former WEND TG was constituted as a small group in order to reduce overheads and to speed up any decision making processes required in the execution of investigation or the formulation of proposals for subsequent consideration by WEND Committee. This proved to be most successful. The IRCC WEND-WG Terms of Reference (ToRs) and Rules of Procedures (RoPs) have maintained a similarly limited membership to build on the success of the WEND TG. The WEND-WG membership comprises a representative from each RHC, a representative from each RENC (to reflect an emphasis on RENC-based services), two members of IRCC, the IHB, and invited expert contributors as required to address specific issues.

This report includes, where appropriate, agenda material and conclusions derived from the WEND Committee and the WEND TG activities since the IHC XVIIth IHC in May 2007.

2. Meetings:

- 13-14 October 2011 in Wollongong, Australia (WEND-WG Foundation Meeting)
- 2-5 September 2008 in Tokyo (WEND Committee)
- 30-31 August 2007 in Paris (WEND TG)

3. Conclusions:

- a. The main conclusions and recommendations from the WEND-WG meeting are:
 - i. A Proposal to IHC would be drafted to revise and update the text contained in the WEND Principles and the associated Guidelines to take account of the IMO mandatory carriage of ECDIS; this would include amplification of processes for dealing with gaps and overlaps. Implementation of a structured approach to tackling the issue of ENC gaps and overlaps is necessary. The priority at the moment, linked to the phased introduction of the mandatory carriage of ECDIS, should also focus on meeting the requirements of the cruise sector and the tanker sector. The process will involve the RHCs. In the case of gaps, the proposal is that, as a last resort, the gap should be filled as an interim ENC by an HO with the support of IHO; the steps will be time bound to bring the process to a conclusion. For overlaps a risk based approach will be taken; the final stage is for IHO to support withdrawal of overlapping coverage. This would, of course create a gap and so a mechanism for completing coverage is in place.
 - ii. The proposition, subject to IPCC and IRCC ratification, that the RENC co-operation will be taken forward by the WEND-WG which will subsume the role of the IPCC. A RENC Harmonisation Sub-Group was established, to be co chaired by the Chairs of the IC-ENC Steering Committee and the PRIMAR Advisory Committee. Other members will be the operators and general managers of the two RENCs, plus the China delegate and a delegate from NOAA/OCS. This will take forward the topics identified as outstanding in the latest report to IPCC and other issues related to cooperation and harmonisation.
 - iii. The need to make RENC membership more attractive; noting the perception that part of the problem was a lack of transparency in the way the RENCs operated their business. It was agreed that, in order to improve transparency, the RENCs would publish, on line, appropriate documents concerning their governance and their operational models.
 - iv. The creation of a new WEND Task Force to take forward detailed policy work. France would chair and membership would be drawn from UK, Australia, Brazil and the IHB.
 - v. Good progress had been made at the inaugural WEND-WG meeting and it was agreed that another meeting would be scheduled either immediately preceding or following the 2012 HSSC meeting (circa November 2012).

b. Significant conclusions and achievements of the WEND Committee and WEND TG are as follows:

- i. Progress has been made in achieving better worldwide ENC coverage. Since the beginning of 2008, small scale ENC coverage has risen and is now approaching 100%. There has been a 28% increase in medium scale ENC coverage and a corresponding 34% increase in large scale ENC coverage over the same period. Five coastal states (and Antarctica) still have to produce five or more medium scale ENCs to match paper chart coverage. Seven coastal states have yet to produce large scale ENCs to match paper chart coverage. RHC chairs have been encouraged to address gaps within their region and a number of regions have been particularly successful in addressing resolution of gaps in this period.

Comparison of ENCs with corresponding paper charts for international voyages				
	May 2008	May 2009	May 2010	May 2011
Small scale ENCs (planning charts)	>90%	~100%	~100%	~100%
Medium scale ENCs (coastal charts)	60%	77%	84%	88%
Large scale ENCs (top 800 ports)	60%	84%	91%	94%

- ii. At IRCC3, RHC chairs were requested to report on the implementation of each item of the WEND Principles and on the validity of coverage and overlap analysis. Responses were received from the majority of the 48 ENC producer nations, either individually or collectively through the appropriate RHCs. Some 15 producer nations did not respond to the Circular Letter. Of the responses received all were in broad support of the WEND Principles
- iii. Since 2009, there has been a modest increase in RENC membership with 5 new members joining and a sixth nation seeking dual membership.

RENC Membership Status		
	Current Membership (Sept 11)	New Members since 2007 (IHC)
PRIMAR	12^{*#}	1^{**}
IC-ENC	26[*]	5^{***}
Non Members	16	n/a
[*] <i>Russia, Greece & Brazil have dual membership.</i> ^{**} <i>Brazil</i> ^{***} <i>Colombia, Ecuador, New Zealand, Romania & Uruguay</i> [#] <i>PRIMAR also distributes ENCs from a number of hydrographic organisations that are not RENC members.</i>		

RENCs need to take a view on how they might increase membership to encompass more producer nations.

- iv. WEND-sponsored RENC-to-RENC discussions have been particularly active since the XVIIth IHC and significant progress has been made towards achieving closer cooperation and harmonising RENC policies in several important respects. Progress reports have been sent to the IHB and the chairs of both IC-ENC and PRIMAR.

4. **Proposals for adoption by the XVIIIth I.H. Conference:**

The Conference was invited:

- i. to note the report;
- ii. to consider the following proposals:

PRO WENDWG-1 – Re-affirmation of the IHO's commitment to full ENC coverage

Re-affirmation of the IHO's commitment to full ENC coverage, subject to the needs of changing traffic patterns, and the availability of suitable source data and resources.

Recognizing that the Decision 20 and 21 from the 17th International Hydrographic Conference committed to achieving 'adequate coverage', availability, consistency and quality of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) by 2010 in support of a carriage requirement for ECDIS;

Recognizing that the 54th meeting of the Safety of Navigation sub-committee (NAV54) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) agreed a proposal for the adoption of a carriage requirement for ECDIS given assurance from the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) that sufficient coverage of ENCs would be met by the dates being considered. NAV54 agreed the definition of sufficiency as being "equivalent to the best available paper chart coverage of either a Hydrographic Office providing global coverage or the Hydrographic Office of the Coastal State";

Noting that at NAV54 IHO predicted that the coverage of ENC in 2010 would be 100% for small scales, 95-100% for medium scales and 95-100% for large scales (for the top 800 priority ports);

Considering that the IHO report to IMO NAV57 in June 2011 indicated that 100% of small scale ENCs, 88% of medium scale (coastal charts) ENCs and 94% of large scale ENCs (covering the top 800 priority ports) had been completed. That there are now only six States, and Antarctica, where five or more ENCs remain to be produced in order to match corresponding paper chart coverage at medium scale. For the world's top 800 ports (by total tonnage), only eight coastal States have yet to produce ENCs that match the coverage provided by paper charts of those same ports;

Noting that ENCs currently on issue cover over 90% of the top 1500 ports (by tonnage) worldwide (through which approximately 95% of international trade is conducted) but that the ENC coverage required for the full range of international voyages evolves over time and that cruise vessels have additional requirements (often not catered for by paper charts);

Considering the IHO as a consultative and technical body bound together by only 80 Member States representing less than 50% of the larger Coastal State community of the IMO;

Understanding that the IHO is highly respectful of the national rights of Coastal States and so has invested significant resources to urge States at the international level and at the regional level through the Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) to find internal, bilateral or multi-lateral arrangements to complete the ENC coverage in all waters and ports requested by NAV54 to support the carriage of ECDIS and will

continue to do so, via the World-wide ENC Database (WEND) Principles and Implementation Guidelines (as amended);

Considering that the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) and the WEND Working Group (WENDWG) recommend that RHCs continue to assess and address the outstanding areas for future ENC coverage, quality and service improvements, along with subsequent reporting mechanisms;

Recognizing that the quality and consistency of ENCs is now a greater challenge than coverage given that the standard source for a majority of ENCs has been paper nautical charts and that these often contain inefficiencies stemming from historic data and technological limitations. Whilst more large scale ENCs are progressively being produced from modern, high data density surveys based on the WGS84 datum there are still very large areas of the world where available hydrographic survey data is inadequate to fully meet navigational requirements. This is especially true for remote regions of the globe where surveys are either non-existent or of sparse reconnaissance nature where even paper charts need to be used with considerable caution by the mariner;

Recognizing that hydrographic survey technology and navigational technology is evolving at unprecedented rates, that the maritime shipping industry is continually embracing technical solutions intended to facilitate navigation at the margins of safety in response to global economic competition, and that these realities continue to challenge the capacity of the international hydrographic community to improve its services on several fronts simultaneously;

Noting the resources and time associated with obtaining adequate hydrographic survey coverage needed to meet all the requirements of modern navigation (especially of remote regions) is a challenge that requires new thinking, new technologies and new methodologies by Hydrographic Offices, navigation regulators and the maritime shipping industry;

Recognizing these challenges need to be undertaken in a collaborative and transparent fashion between the hydrographic community and the maritime community at large, so that priorities are understood and risks are shared and mitigated;

Considering the recommendations from the WENDWG to improve management of ENC services, including more transparency in service and greater ease of access, through cooperation among ENC Producer Nations, End-User Service Providers, RHCs, Regional ENC Centres (RENCs), Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and the Mariner User community they serve;

Concludes that the Member States of the International Hydrographic Organization should commit to:

- continuing through best international collaborative efforts and technological innovation to complete the outstanding requirement established for adequate ENC coverage as outlined at IMO NAV54;
- working with IMO Member States to promote the need for improved hydrographic survey and nautical charting services as required by SOLAS Chap. V, Reg. 9 and to provide support through the respective IHO and IMO capacity building programs;
- encouraging bilateral and multilateral cooperation within and across RHCs to improve consistency and harmonization of ENC cells (including the removal of any overlapping data) and services;
- establishing a systematic methodology, through the IRCC and the WEND-WG and in conjunction with the RHCs and RENCs, for monitoring evolving ENC

coverage requirements, agreeing production priorities and for supporting the provision of integrated ENC services;

- Informing mariners, through such things as IMO Safety of Navigation circulars and other national and international navigational warning mechanisms, the areas of national waters where the use of electronic navigation systems is not possible due to the limited quality or absence of source hydrographic data reflected in the nautical charts.

PRO WENDWG-2 - Implementation of the WEND Principles

The WEND Principles require updating to take account of the IMO mandatory carriage of ECDIS. The guidelines to the WEND Principles should also be expanded to include a process that amplifies the details already contained within the Principles and Guidelines that acknowledge, as a last resort, that existing paper chart producers can fill the gaps in ENC coverage and a similar process that can identify areas of overlapping data that impacts on safety of navigation, and after notification to the Producer States and the observance of due process, inform mariners and IMO if the matter cannot/will not be resolved by those Producer States. These revised guidelines should be added to the existing WEND Principles. This process will involve the RHCs.

Recognising that Technical Resolution K 2.19, Principles of the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Database (WEND), was revised last at the 9th WEND Committee meeting in April 2005 and the revision was approved by Member States in August 2005;

Recognising that the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, at its 82nd Session (MSC 82), adopted revisions to the High Speed Craft Codes, making the carriage of ECDIS compulsory for new build craft from 1 July 2008 and for existing craft from 1 July 2010; and at the 86th Session (MSC 86 in June 2009), this was extended to a wide range of vessels (including all vessels over 10,000GT) in a rolling programme commencing from July 2012 and running until July 2018;

Noting that the 1st WEND Working Group met in October 2010 and endorsed minor updates to the main text of K 2.19, the Principles of WEND, taking into account the IMO mandatory carriage of ECDIS; No changes were proposed to the Annex to K 2.19, the Principles of WEND.

Recognising that the Guidelines for the Implementation of the WEND Principles were endorsed at the 11th WEND Committee Meeting in September 2008;

Noting that the 1st WEND Working Group meeting in October 2011 endorsed both minor amendments to the Guidelines for the Implementation of the WEND Principles to take into account the IMO mandatory carriage of ECDIS; and the inclusion of an amplifying annex on processes for dealing with gaps and overlaps in ENC coverage.

Concludes that the Member States of the International Hydrographic Organization should approve:

- the minor updates to the main text of K 2.19, the WEND Principles, as per the attached draft text at Annex A;
- the amendments to the Guidelines for the Implementation of the WEND Principles as per the attached text at Annex B;
- The inclusion of an amplifying Annex to the Guidelines for the Implementation of the WEND Principles as per the attached text at Annex C.

5. Proceedings of XVIIIth IHC

Captain McMICHAEL-PHILLIPS (United Kingdom), speaking as Chair of the Worldwide ENC Database Working Group (WEND WG), introduced the report of the Working

Group. He drew attention to an amendment to section 5 - Conclusions in the report. The following sentence should be inserted after the third sentence in conclusion a: "The proposed process below was generally accepted but there remain some participants who have not endorsed the process in its entirety and agree these can be further advanced through the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference discussion."

The Working Group had met three times since the previous Conference, and in 2011 had become a Working Group of the IRCC. [Section 4] of the report set out the items on its agenda. At its third meeting in 2011 [Section 5], the Working Group had agreed on the need to revise and update WEND principles and associated guidelines on proposals concerning the RENCs, and on the establishment of a WEND Task Force to undertake detailed policy work. There had been significant progress since the previous Conference in expanding worldwide ENC coverage, although there was a need to improve ENC quality and consistency. There had been a modest increase in RENC membership, and also active RENC-to-RENC discussions.

He drew attention to the proposals submitted to the Conference. The proposal PRO WENDWG-1 – Re-affirmation of the IHO's commitment to full ENC coverage, would need to take account of needs relating to changing traffic patterns and to the availability of suitable source data and resources. The proposed updating of the WEND principles and guidelines, set out in PRO WENDWG-2 – Implementation of the WEND principles, would take into account the IMO mandatory carriage of ECDIS. It would include some amplification of the processes for dealing with gaps and overlaps in ENC coverage, and the requirement to notify the IMO and mariners of unresolved problems in that regard. That in turn would call for greater involvement by RHCs.

Commodore NAIRN (Australia), speaking as Chair of the IC-ENC Steering Committee, and Mrs. KINDERBERG (Sweden), speaking as Chair of the PRIMAR Advisory Committee, explained that they were Joint Chairs of the recently constituted WEND RENC Harmonization Sub-Group on RENC-RENC cooperation. They gave a comprehensive joint presentation on the status, governance, financing and work of the Regional ENC organizations (RENCs), the benefits of RENC membership and the RENC-RENC cooperation programme, which included a joint RENC stand at the current Conference. The overall aim was to provide a harmonized, seamless ENC database product, compliant with IHO standards and the SOLAS chart carriage requirements and available through worldwide integrated services. RENC members currently included 36 IHO Member States, which represented more than half of the ENC producer nations in the IHO. Other Member States were urged to consider becoming RENC members and to distribute ENCs through RENCs.

The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to take note of the report of the WEND Working Group report, with the tabled amendment.

The Conference took note of the report, as amended.

Captain SHEMETOV (Russian Federation) expressed appreciation of the work undertaken by the RENCs. He would be interested to see a map indicating regions that were not yet covered by RENC activities.

Mr. HARTMANN (Denmark), endorsing the WEND Working Group, suggested that the guidelines for the implementation of WEND principles should state explicitly that the coastal State concerned had control over the production of ENCs to cover gaps for waters within its jurisdiction. Greenland, for example, was a large area in a remote Arctic location with a low density of maritime traffic, and no available systematic hydrographic surveys of its coastal waters. Depth conditions and source data were often lacking or of poor quality, and there were some significant inaccuracies. Few ENCs were currently

available, and indeed the use of electronic navigation could endanger safety. The quality of data in existing paper charts was such that radar had to be used as the primary positioning instrument. His country would not want other countries to produce ENC's using the existing source data. Moreover, SOLAS Chapter V stated that nautical charts and ENC's should be issued by or on the authority of a Government-authorized hydrographic office or other relevant government institution. ENC's for Greenland coastal waters would therefore have to be authorized by the Danish Government, and such authorization was unlikely in present circumstances. He noted that not all Member States had ratified SOLAS. Were the guidelines in conflict with SOLAS Chapter V, and did they have to be amended?

Vice Admiral MIRANDA (Brazil) recalled that RENC cooperation had been under discussion for some time. Had any progress been made in encouraging the establishment of additional RENC's?

In reply to Captain Shemetov, Mrs. KINDERBERG (SWEDEN), speaking as Chair of the PRIMAR Advisory Committee and Joint Chair of the WEND RENC Harmonization Sub-Group on RENC-RENC cooperation, said that a map was available in the PRIMAR catalogue, and could be consulted at the joint RENC stand.

In reply to Vice Admiral Miranda, Commodore NAIRN (Australia), speaking as Chair of the IC-ENC Steering Committee and Joint Chair of the WEND RENC Harmonization Sub-Group on RENC-RENC cooperation, said there had been no requests for the establishment of new RENC's. However, the matter could be taken up at meetings of the IC-ENC Standing Committee or the PRIMAR Advisory Committee. Consideration could be given to the establishment of regional RENC offices if there was sufficient demand from Member States.

Captain McMICHAEL-PHILLIPS (United Kingdom), speaking as Chair of the WEND WG, said that the current WEND Principles and Guidelines satisfy Denmark's concerns, since the Annex to IHO Resolution 1/1997 as amended (formerly Resolution K2.19) stated, in paragraph 2, that a country was normally the ENC producing country for waters within its national jurisdiction, and, in paragraph 3, that responsibility for ENC production could be delegated in whole or in part by a country to another country. Those provisions implied that a country had the right either to produce or to delegate production of ENC's for waters within its national jurisdiction. The IHB Directors might wish to comment further.

Captain WARD (IHB Director) said it was his understanding that Denmark wished the guidelines to be as explicit as the WEND Principles themselves in stipulating that the coastal State had primacy in deciding how and by whom ENC's for its waters should be produced. He suggested that the Conference might wish to incorporate a clarification into the Guidelines.

Mr. SAHEB-ETTABA (Canada) was in favour of clarifying the Guidelines to ensure that ENC producer nations could not decide on the production of ENC's for the coastal waters of another State. The coastal State should retain the authority for such a decision. RHC's and the IHB could facilitate liaison between producer nations and coastal States.

Mr. HARTMANN (Denmark) supported the suggestion by the IHB Director, which would meet his country's concerns.

The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to take note of the report of the WEND Working Group contained in document CONF.18/WP.3.

The Conference took note of the report.

PRO WENDWG-1 – Reaffirmation of the IHO’s commitment to full ENC coverage

Captain McMICHAEL-PHILLIPS (United Kingdom), speaking as Chair of the WEND Working Group, said that several years had passed since the matter had last been discussed by the IHO as a whole. The proposal had simply been intended to reaffirm the Organization’s commitment to achieving full ENC coverage and to assess the progress made so far, both in accordance with the definition agreed at the 54th meeting of the Safety of Navigation Sub-Committee of the IMO and SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 9, and in respect of support from respective IHO and IMO capacity building programmes.

Dr. NARAYANAN (Canada) said she fully supported the proposal. It would be the best way for Member States to improve ENC coverage and quality in the waters over which they had jurisdiction.

The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Conference approved the proposal.

It was so agreed.

PRO WENDWG-2 – Implementation of the WEND Principles

Captain McMICHAEL-PHILLIPS (United Kingdom), speaking as Chair of the WEND Working Group, said that the Working Group had decided to propose minor updates to the main text of Resolution 1/997, as amended, (the Principles of WEND), to reflect the current situation. Some draft text was contained in the annex to the proposal together with minor amendments to the Guidelines on the WEND Principles, including an annex to the Guidelines amplifying the implementation of the WEND Principles, especially in dealing with gaps and overlaps in ENC coverage.

Captain CAVALHEIRO (Brazil) endorsed the remarks by the representatives of Canada and Denmark. The question of amendments to the WEND Principles and Guidelines should be referred back to the Working Group, because they were not in conformity with the IHO and SOLAS Conventions.

Ms RIES (United States) commended the Working Group on its work. The Regional Hydrographic Commissions ought to take a proactive role in enabling Member States to address the question. Nevertheless, while she supported the main revisions to the Principles, some changes were needed to Annex C which in its current form gave decision-making authority to Regional Hydrographic Commissions rather than individual Member States. In accordance with Regulation 45 of the Rules of Procedure, she recommended that the second proposal be divided into two sections. Annex A should be considered for approval by the Conference, and Annexes B and C should be sent back to the Working Group for further refinement and subsequent consideration by Member States.

Mr. NG (China) recalled that following the inaugural meeting of the WEND Working Group, held in Wollongong, Australia, members of the Regional Hydrographic Commission had expressed the view that the wording of Annex C gave too much power to Regional Hydrographic Commissions, particularly in the absence of a legal framework. He agreed with the representative of the United States that further discussion was needed.

Dr. NARAYANAN (Canada) commended the Working Group on tackling a complex and sensitive issue. Although she fully supported the proposed changes to the WEND Principles contained in Annex A, she agreed with the representative of the United States that Annexes B and C should be sent back to the Working Group for further consideration.

IGA FRACHON (France) concurred with the views expressed by the representative of the United States. Member States that had reservations about the wording of Annexes B and C should put them in writing and submit them to the Working Group for consideration at its next meeting.

Mr. HARTMANN (Denmark) and Captain SHEMETOV (Russian Federation) supported the suggestion by the representative of the United States.

Mr. PRINCE (Australia) said that, as a member of the drafting group, he felt there had been a misunderstanding over the wording. Responding specifically to the concerns expressed by the representative of Denmark about the closing of gaps from existing paper chart coverage, he explained that no Regional Hydrographic Commission would instruct any country to make an ENC in such an area, nor was that written into the draft text. On a careful reading of the suggestion that Regional Hydrographic Commissions might direct a nation to produce ENCs, it was clear that that would only apply where two nations already produced paper charts under a cooperative agreement with the Coastal State. The text merely sought to ensure that two producers of paper charts did not produce an ENC at the same time, thereby accidentally creating another overlap.

IGA FRACHON (France) suggested that the Conference should ask Member States to supply written contributions to the WEND Working Group.

Captain McMICHAEL-PHILLIPS (United Kingdom), speaking as Chair of the WEND Working Group, thanked the representatives of Member States for their comments on the proposals to amend the WEND Principles. He looked forward to receiving their written feedback, which the Working Group would take up in its future meetings.

Mr. SAHEB-ETTABA (Canada) said Canada would be submitting its comments in writing.

Captain WARD (Director, IHB) said that if the Conference agreed to the suggestion by the representative of the United States, and the WEND Working Group subsequently produced an amended draft, he wondered whether the Working Group would then submit it to the IRCC and afterwards to the Directing Committee, for adoption by Circular Letter.

The PRESIDENT said that was his understanding. He invited the Conference to approve Annex A to the second proposal, and to agree that Annexes B and C should be referred back to the Working Group for further consideration.

It was so decided.

6. Summary of future work of WEND WG

The WEND WG report to XVIIIth IHC was considered and noted.

The PRO WENDWG-1 – Reaffirmation of the IHO's commitment to full ENC coverage, was considered and agreed.

The PRO WENDWG-2 – Implementation of the WEND Principles, was considered. The proposal and Annex A to the proposal were agreed. However Annex B and Annex C

were referred by the conference back to the WEND WG for further refinement and subsequent consideration by Member States.

The XVIIIth IHC also invited Member States to supply written contributions to the WEND WG in order that the Working Group might fully address the detailed refinement of Annex B and Annex C.

The WENG WG will continue that work by correspondence and at the next meeting.

- 7. Next meeting: Taunton, United Kingdom, October 2012 (to coincide with HSSC meeting, 2-4th October)**