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**STATUS REPORT ON APPROVALS OF AMENDMENTS TO
THE CONVENTION ON THE IHO
AND ON PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR IHO MEMBERSHIP
AND ACCESSION OF NEW MEMBER STATES**

Dear Hydrographer,

1. The Directing Committee and staff of the IHB are pleased to take advantage of this first Circular Letter of the year to renew their very best wishes for 2016 to all the IHO Member States and are looking forward to another busy and fruitful year for the International Hydrographic Organization. Below we provide an update on the status of the approvals of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention as well as of the pending applications from new Member States to the Organization.

Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO

2. In order for the proposed amendments to the Convention on the IHO to enter into force, the approval of at least 48 existing Member States, being two-thirds of the Member States entitled to vote at the time of the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC-3) held in 2005, are required.

3. According to the information provided by the Department of External Relations and Cooperation of the Government of Monaco at the end of 2015, 46 of the required 48 Member State Governments (Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America) have formally notified their approval of the Protocol of Amendments. Five approvals (Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, India and Ukraine) were recorded in 2015.

4. A list of those Member States that do not seem to have indicated to the Government of Monaco their position on the approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO is contained in Annex A.

5. A brief in English, French and Spanish outlining the principal effects of the Amendments is available on the IHO website at www.iho.int > Home > IHO Membership > Protocol of Amendments.

6. The 5th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference agreed in Conference Decision No. 2 that “ ... *those Member States that have not yet ratified the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention should do so as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the recruitment of new Member States*”. The objective to record an additional two approvals in time to hold the first Assembly in 2017 now seems within reach. The Directing Committee intends to take all necessary measures, in liaison with the Government of Monaco and with the relevant Member States, to achieve this goal, building on the initiatives undertaken since September 2012. In all cases, the Directing Committee remains available to brief relevant government or diplomatic staff, particularly those based in diplomatic missions in Europe.

Pending Applications

7. The States listed below, whose membership applications were approved in earlier years, have not yet deposited their Instrument of Accession to the IHO Convention:

<u>Mauritania</u>	(application approved in April 1991)
<u>Bulgaria</u>	(application approved in April 1992)
<u>Sierra Leone</u>	(application approved in September 2010)
<u>Haiti</u>	(application approved in November 2012)

The Directing Committee has continued to be in communication with the authorities of these States to encourage them to complete this final formality.

8. As announced in IHO CLs 32/2015, 62/2015, applications for membership of the IHO were received from Malta, Vanuatu, Congo and the Solomon Islands. To date these pending applications have obtained the following number of approvals: Malta – 25; Vanuatu – 25; Congo – 22; Solomon Islands – 22. A list of those IHO Member States that do not seem to have indicated their position is contained in Annex B.

Accession of New Member States

9. The Directing Committee was delighted to welcome Georgia, Viet Nam and Brunei Darussalam to the IHO (as announced in IHO CLs 30/2015, 33/2015) as full IHO Members bringing the IHO Membership to 85 Member States.

Conclusion

10. The Directing Committee encourages those representatives of Member States that have not yet indicated to the Government of Monaco their position on the approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO to actively follow up this matter with their government authorities, identifying any problems that may be present and, if needed, seek the assistance of the Directing Committee.

11. The Directing Committee also encourages those IHO Member States, whose Governments have not yet indicated to the Government of Monaco their position on the approval of the applications for membership made by Malta, Vanuatu, Congo and Solomon Islands to actively encourage their government authorities to consider doing so as soon as possible (see also IHO CL 67/2015).

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Robert WARD
President

Annexes:

- A. List of Member States that do not seem to have indicated their position on the approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention on the IHO.
- B. List of Member States that do not seem to have indicated their position on the pending applications for IHO Membership.

Copy to:

- Pending Member States whose application for membership has been approved: Bulgaria, Haiti, Mauritania, Sierra Leone.
- States applying for membership: Congo, Malta, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu.
- Department of External Relations and Cooperation of the Government of Monaco.

**LIST OF MEMBER STATES THAT DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE INDICATED
THEIR POSITION ON THE APPROVAL OF THE PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENTS
TO THE CONVENTION ON THE IHO**

Bahrain	Nigeria
Colombia	Oman
Croatia	Philippines
Ecuador	Singapore
Egypt	Syrian Arab Republic
Fiji	Thailand
Guatemala	Tonga
Indonesia	Trinidad & Tobago
Jamaica	Turkey
Kuwait	United Arab Emirates
Malaysia	Uruguay
Mozambique	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Myanmar	

**LIST OF MEMBER STATES THAT DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE INDICATED
THEIR POSITION ON THE PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR IHO MEMBERSHIP**

MALTA

The following Member States do not seem to have indicated to the Government of Monaco their position on the approval of the application for membership of the IHO made by Malta:

Algeria	Mozambique
Bahrain	Myanmar
Bangladesh	Netherlands
Brazil	Nigeria
Cameroon	Norway
Canada	Oman
Chile	Pakistan
China	Papua New Guinea
Colombia	Peru
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Philippines
Denmark	Poland
Ecuador	Portugal
Egypt	Qatar
Fiji	Republic of Korea
Guatemala	Russian Federation
India	Saudi Arabia
Indonesia	Singapore
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Slovenia
Ireland	Sweden
Jamaica	Syrian Arab Republic
Japan	Thailand
Kuwait	Tonga
Latvia	Trinidad & Tobago
Malaysia	Tunisia
Mexico	United Arab Emirates
Montenegro	Uruguay
Morocco	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

VANUATU

The following Member States do not seem to have indicated to the Government of Monaco their position on the approval of the application for membership of the IHO made by Vanuatu:

Algeria	Mozambique
Bahrain	Myanmar
Bangladesh	Netherlands
Brazil	Nigeria
Cameroon	Norway
Canada	Oman
Chile	Pakistan
China	Papua New Guinea
Colombia	Peru
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Philippines
Denmark	Poland
Ecuador	Portugal
Egypt	Qatar
Fiji	Republic of Korea
Georgia	Russian Federation
Guatemala	Saudi Arabia
India	Singapore
Indonesia	Slovenia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Sweden
Ireland	Syrian Arab Republic
Jamaica	Thailand
Japan	Tonga
Kuwait	Trinidad & Tobago
Latvia	Tunisia
Malaysia	United Arab Emirates
Mexico	Uruguay
Montenegro	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Morocco	Viet Nam

CONGO (Republic of the)

The following Member States do not seem to have indicated to the Government of Monaco their position on the approval of the application for membership of the IHO made by Congo:

Algeria	Morocco
Argentina	Mozambique
Australia	Myanmar
Bahrain	Netherlands
Bangladesh	New Zealand
Brazil	Nigeria
Cameroon	Norway
Canada	Oman
Chile	Pakistan
China	Papua New Guinea
Colombia	Peru
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Philippines
Denmark	Poland
Ecuador	Portugal
Egypt	Qatar
Fiji	Republic of Korea
Georgia	Russian Federation
Guatemala	Saudi Arabia
India	Singapore
Indonesia	Slovenia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Sweden
Ireland	Syrian Arab Republic
Jamaica	Thailand
Japan	Tonga
Kuwait	Trinidad & Tobago
Latvia	Tunisia
Malaysia	United Arab Emirates
Mauritius	Uruguay
Mexico	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Montenegro	Viet Nam

SOLOMON ISLANDS

The following Member States do not seem to have indicated to the Government of Monaco their position on the approval of the application for membership of the IHO made by the Solomon Islands:

Algeria	Morocco
Argentina	Mozambique
Australia	Myanmar
Bahrain	Netherlands
Bangladesh	New Zealand
Brazil	Nigeria
Cameroon	Norway
Canada	Oman
Chile	Pakistan
China	Papua New Guinea
Colombia	Peru
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Philippines
Denmark	Poland
Ecuador	Portugal
Egypt	Qatar
Fiji	Republic of Korea
Georgia	Russian Federation
Guatemala	Saudi Arabia
India	Singapore
Indonesia	Slovenia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Sweden
Ireland	Syrian Arab Republic
Jamaica	Thailand
Japan	Tonga
Kuwait	Trinidad & Tobago
Latvia	Tunisia
Malaysia	United Arab Emirates
Mauritius	Uruguay
Mexico	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Montenegro	Viet Nam