

IHO File No. S1/3094

**CIRCULAR LETTER 58/2019**  
**22 November 2019**

**VANUATU - SUSPENSION OF RIGHTS  
OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE IHO**

References:

- A. Financial Regulations of the IHO - Article 16 - *Suspension of rights of a Member*
- B. Convention on the IHO as amended - Article XV

Dear Hydrographer,

1. I am writing to inform you that, despite repeated attempts to make contact with the nominated representative of Vanuatu, the IHO Secretariat has been unable to obtain payment of the annual contributions to the IHO. The Secretariat of the IHO has not received any payment and Vanuatu is now three years in arrears with its payments.

2. According to Article 16 of the Financial Regulations of the IHO, "*If a Member State is in arrears in its contributions for two years, having been advised of its outstanding arrears, and fails to make payment in full or fails to agree to a schedule of payments, the Member State shall be suspended with effect from the next 1st of January*".

3. Under the circumstances, Vanuatu must now be considered as suspended from membership of the IHO from 1 November 2019. According to Article XV of the Convention on the IHO this means that Vanuatu "*shall be denied all voting rights and benefits conferred on Member States by the Convention and the Regulations until such time as the outstanding contributions have been paid*".

4. The Secretariat has informed the Government of the Principality of Monaco as the Depositary and Host State of the IHO and has asked that the Government of Vanuatu be formally informed of the situation and the fact that it has been suspended as a Member State of the IHO.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS  
Secretary-General