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MARITIME SAFETY ADMINISTRATION OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
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22 June 2011

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS,
Chair of S-23 Working Group
President of International Hydrographic Bureau
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Comments by China on IHO S-23 WG Letter No. 03/2011

Dear Vice Admiral MARATOS,

With reference to S-23 WG Letter No.03/2011 dated on 24 May 2011, China would like to reaffirm the following points:

1. S-23 WG should strictly abide by the RoP of "decision-making by consensus", and further consultations should be conducted on dissented "areas of concern" until an acceptable resolution is agreed upon by all relevant parties.
2. In terms of the labeling of Taiwan Island, we would also like to reiterate our stand. Firstly, the sovereignty of any country should be fully respected by IHO and all WG member states. Taiwan Island, as an integral part of China's territory, should be labeled totally in the same way as the other Chinese islands, which has nothing to do with the names and limits of oceans and seas. Moreover, in accordance with Resolution 4 of the 1st UNCISG, 1967 and Resolution 8 of the 3rd UNCISG, 1977, the geographical names must follow the local principle, and the Romanization name of a Chinese island should consist of the island's Chinese Phonetic Alphabet (Pinyin) name and the word "Dao". Therefore, we strongly request that Taiwan Island be labeled as "Taiwan Dao".
3. China applauded the decision by the Chair Group of only using the name "Beibu Gulf", but strongly oppose any reservation or note on "the Gulf of Tonkin", neither by footnote nor annex.
4. China appreciates the commitment by the Chair Group that "the Chair Group of the S-23 WG acts on the decisions taken, respects and treats fairly all comments and amendments offered by members of the S-23 WG", which will definitely lay a solid foundation for moving forward the revision of S-23.

Yours sincerely,



Captain Chen Aiping
Executive Director-General
Maritime Safety Administration
The People's Republic of China