



IHB File N° S3/7020

9 November 2009

**LIST OF AREAS OF CONCERN
RESPONSES FROM MEMBERS OF S-23 WG
ACTION ON STEP 5**

To: S-23 WG Members
Ref: IHB e-mail of 8 July 2009 forwarding a draft list of areas of concern

Dear Sir/Madam,

In accordance with step 4 of the agreed "Ways of Progressing the Work of the S-23 WG", the reference forwarded a list of possible areas of concern for S-23 WG members to review and comment. Below are the outcomes of the consideration of the responses received and the action to be taken in accordance with step 5.

1. WG members have not proposed any new "area of concern". So the three areas that were indicated and posted on the IHO web site (Sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago; Malacca Strait; and South China Sea – East China Sea) are the three ones that need to be considered.

2. The IHB has posted on the IHO web site, all responses/comments to the reference which have been received from WG members on these three areas of concern. It should be noted that the response received by fax from the DPR of Korea was hardly legible, and the IHB has asked the DPRK to send it again. We have also posted a letter from India, confirming their position that the "Malacca Strait with the existing limits" should be maintained in the Indian Ocean.

3. Based on the first sentence of step 5 of the "ways to progress the work", WG members are asked to comment on these three areas of concern, should they so wish and have not already done so, **before the 10th of January 2010**.

4. Based on the second sentence of step 5, the following Member States' views will be sought, as they do not participate in the WG but directly border the areas of concern:

- For the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago: Russian Federation;
- For the Malacca Strait: Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia; and
- For the South China Sea – East China Sea: Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines.

The above Member States will be asked to provide their comments, also before the 10th of January 2010.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', is written over a horizontal line.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS,
Chairman of the S-23 WG