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S-23 WG Letter No. 02/2012

### S-23 WORKING GROUP REPORTING TO MEMBER STATES

Reference: S-23 WG Letter NO. 01/2011 dated 19 January 2012

Dear Member of the S-23 WG,

Comments on the reference have been received from Australia, Republic of Korea, Japan, China, Oman, Morocco, Venezuela and Singapore. They have been posted on the IHO web site under [http://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/com\\_wg/S-23WG/S-23WG2/Proposals/S-23\\_Proposals.htm](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/S-23WG/S-23WG2/Proposals/S-23_Proposals.htm) (see "Comments received following S-23 WG Letter 01/2012"). Some of the comments provided have been used to improve the final text of the "Report to Member States", which has been passed to the Directing Committee for dispatch to Member States by Circular Letter.

I would like, on behalf of the Chair-Group, to thank you all for your efforts and contributions during the past two and a half years in progressing the work of the WG and trying to come up with a new edition of S-23, as the S-23 WG was tasked by Member States and in accordance with its Terms of Reference (ToR). Unfortunately this important task has not been achieved. Progress was made however on two of the three areas of concern that had been identified by the WG for examination and consideration: the administrative location of Malacca and Singapore Straits; and the Chinese proposals. The third area of concern regarding the naming of the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago was the main reason of the failure of the WG to come up with a new edition, as the interested States in this area could not reach a compromise, despite the efforts made and the additional time that was devoted to this purpose. It should also be noted that the work of the S-23 WG was undoubtedly affected by political and diplomatic lobbying by some members of the WG.

The Directing Committee will report on this issue to the Conference in April taking due note of the comments made by Member States. The Conference, as the highest organ of the organization, will consider the matter and take the appropriate decision regarding publication S-23.

The final S-23 WG report which has been sent to IHO Member States with CL 24/2012 is available on the IHO web site under [http://www.iho.int/mtg\\_docs/com\\_wg/S-23WG/S-23WG\\_Misc/Final S-23\\_WG\\_Report\\_to\\_MS.pdf](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/S-23WG/S-23WG_Misc/Final_S-23_WG_Report_to_MS.pdf).

Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
Chairman