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PRINCIPAUTE DE MONACO

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**S-23 WG Letter No. 05/2011**

**PROGRESSING THE WORK OF THE S-23 WORKING GROUP**

References: a) S-23 WG Letter No. 04/2011 dated 22 July 2011  
b) S-23 WG Letter No 03/2011 dated 24 May 2011

Dear Members of the S-23 WG,

1. In paragraph 4.1 of reference (a) the S-23 WG Chair Group proposed some actions, based on the positions and views expressed by members of the S-23 WG on reference (b), that could be followed in order to progress the work of the WG and give some more time to concentrate efforts and examine possible ways to reach agreement on unresolved issues.

2. The following fifteen members of the S-23 WG have responded to reference (a): Argentina, Australia, China, Ecuador, Greece, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep of), Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey and UK. All responses 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#LET04-11](http://www.iho.int/mtg_docs/com_wg/S-23WG/S-23WG2/Proposals/S-23_Proposals.htm#LET04-11). There is an overwhelming support to the proposals of paragraph 4.1 of reference (a). Based on this the following actions will be undertaken:

- The Chair of the S-23 WG, in his capacity as the President of the Directing Committee, will inform Member States, through a Circular Letter, of the decision of the S-23 WG to extend its work till early next year, in order to further progress actions on issues that need further consideration;
- Based on the comments received and especially noting the views expressed by Japan and Rep. of Korea, the Chair Group will consider communicating soon with the interested Countries on the unresolved issues in order to examine possible ways that may allow progressing the work. At the same time any initiatives from Japan and Rep. of Korea and other members of the WG, that may contribute to the efforts of progressing the work, is welcome;
- The Chair Group will work to improve the content of the "Important Notice", considering the comments that have been provided on reference (b). The revised text will be provided to members of the WG for consideration and approval.

3. The Chair Group will keep the members of the S-23 WG informed of any progress on pending issues, as it may be considered appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
Chairman