INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU

BUREAU HYDROGRAPHIQUE INTERNATIONAL

4, Quai Antoine 1er
B.P.445 - MC 98011 MONACO Cedex
PRINCIPAUTE DE MONACO

IHB File No. S3/7020 23 December 2011

S-23 WG Letter No. 06/2011

CONCLUSIONS OF DELIBERATIONS ON S-23 WG PENDING ISSUES

References:
a) S-23 WG Letter No 03/2011 dated 24 May 2011
b) S-23 WG Letter No. 05/2011 dated 26 August 2011
c) IHB CL 55/2011 dated 31 August 2011
d) S-23 WG Letter No. 04/2011 dated 22 July 2011
e) S-23 WG Letter No. 06/2010 dated 20 December 2010

Dear Member of the S-23 WG,

Members of the S-23 WG agreed on the continuation of its work until early 2012 as reported in reference b), in order to give more time to progress the issues where agreement had not been reached. Member States were informed on this issue with reference c). The issues to be considered further concerned: the naming of the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago; China's proposals; and the Important Notice, as indicated in bullets 2, 3 and 4 of paragraph 4.1 of reference d). Regarding the actions taken and the results achieved on these issues please note the following:

- **Naming the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago:** The Chair and Secretary of the S-23 WG held separate meetings with delegations from Japan and Rep. of Korea on 10 and 18 October, respectively. The aim of these meetings was to discuss this specific issue, to consider the positions of the two delegations and to explore possible ways forward. The two delegations remained firm on the positions they had expressed in the past, which have been presented in previous S-23 WG letters and are known to the members of the S-23 WG. Japan's position is that only the name "Japan Sea" should appear in S-23. Also, Japan could go along with the Chair Group's proposal stated in reference e), i.e. one name on the appropriate page of S-23, with the inclusion of a reservation(s) and the details to be provided in an Annex, if a consensus could be formed around that proposal. Rep. of Korea's position is that the name "East Sea" should be used concurrently with the name "Japan Sea". A bilateral meeting that took place between Japan and Rep. of Korea in Tokyo on 4 November had the same results, without finding a compromise. The reports of these three meetings have been posted on the IHO website under S-23 WG (http://88.208.211.37/mtg_docs/com_wg/S-23WG/S-23WG2/Proposals/S-23_Proposals.htm). As there was no flexibility for considering options that could form the basis for further discussions and as consensus on this issue could not be reached, the Chair Group considers that, at this stage, the issue cannot be progressed further.

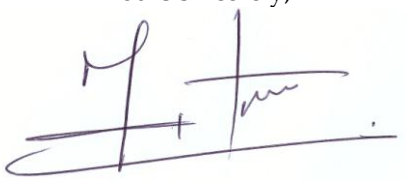
- **Proposals by China:** Two of the Chinese proposals presented in Annex A to reference a) needed further action, i.e. action no. 3 "To rename Beibu Gulf the existing Gulf of Tonkin" and action no. 5 "To consider Bo Hai a separate body from the Yellow Sea". The Chair Group communicated with those members of the S-23 WG that had expressed comments /

reservations on these two issues in order to investigate whether they can accept the views expressed by China. For the first one referring to "Beibu Gulf", three members had expressed comments on this issue, as indicated in the relevant column of Annex A to reference a): USA, UK and Japan. There has been no agreement for this change. Considering the comments provided and as consensus cannot be reached, the name "Gulf of Tonkin" will be retained, until Vietnam, which has applied for membership of IHO, clarifies its position. China can insert a reservation on this topic with details appearing in an annex to S-23. For the second one referring to "Bo Hai", considering that the comment expressed by USA in the relevant page of Annex A to reference a) will be included in the "Important Notice" and in the absence of any disagreement, it is concluded that there is consensus for this proposal and "Bo Hai" will be considered as a separate body from the Yellow Sea. A letter has been sent to China on these issues, based on the views expressed by USA, UK and Japan. It has been posted on the IHO website under S-23 WG (http://88.208.211.37/mtg_docs/com_wg/S-23WG/S-23WG2/Actions/Letter_to_China_22Dec11.pdf).

- **Important Notice.** The Chair Group is preparing an improved text of the "Important notice" with the inclusion of comments received.

The Chair Group is preparing a draft "Report to Member States" that will be sent to the members of the S-23 WG for consideration in early January 2012.

Yours sincerely,



Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
Chairman