



IHO File No. S1/6000/2017

**ASSEMBLY CIRCULAR LETTER No. 10 bis-4
15 December 2016**

**1st SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY
Monaco, 24-28 April 2017**

**ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION BY
THE 1st SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY**

References:

- A. Conference Circular Letter No. 2 dated 22 April 2016 - *Submission of proposals to the Conference / Assembly*
- B. Assembly Circular Letter No. 10 dated 2 September 2016 – *Proposals for consideration by the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly*
- C. Assembly Circular Letter No. 8 dated 23 August 2016 - *Revision of the timeline for the preparation of the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly (A-1)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A invited Member States to submit proposals in accordance with the Rules of Procedure applicable to International Hydrographic Conferences. Reference B circulated the proposals received for comments and, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the IHO Assembly, invited additional proposals until 15 December 2016. Reference B indicated that the additional proposals would be circulated as soon as they were received.

2. A proposal submitted by the Republic of Korea is attached at Annex A. Member States are invited to forward any comments on this proposal to the Secretariat (by e-mail: cl-lc@iho.int or by fax: +377 93 10 81 40) **no later than 30 January 2017**, in accordance with the revised timeline at Reference C.

Yours sincerely,

Robert WARD
Secretary-General

Annex A: Proposal PRO-13 submitted for consideration by the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly.

PRO 13: THE FUTURE OF S-23

Submitted by: Republic of Korea

Reference: Report on Work to revise IHO Publication S-23 - "Limits of Oceans and Seas," IHO XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference 2012 Report of Proceedings Vol. 2 - Rev. 1 (CONF.18/WP.1/Add.1), pp. 108–110, April 2012.

PROPOSAL: It is proposed that the Assembly discuss the future of the outdated IHO Special Publication S-23, taking into account the Report on Work to revise IHO Publication S-23 (April 2012).

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

Special Publication S-23 has been considered to be the IHO's important publication in view of its use by cartographers, national institutions and commercial agencies over the past century. Nevertheless, S-23 has not been revised for the past six decades. As a result, the current 3rd edition is often described as being an outdated and ineffective publication, having adverse effects on the reputation of the IHO as a competent international organization.

The Republic of Korea is of the view that the IHO should continue to pursue the revision of S-23 in accordance with the relevant IHO Resolutions, no matter how complicated this might be. This would be in the best interests of the IHO as an authoritative worldwide hydrographic body, which is actively engaged in advancing maritime safety and efficiency.

At the International Hydrographic Conferences (IHCs), frustration has been expressed over the failure of the current S-23 to adequately serve States and international organizations. If the newly-launched IHO Assembly cannot take any action concerning the daunting task to revise it, there would be no choice but to discuss what might ensue. On this note, the Report on Work to revise IHO Publication S-23 (CONF.18/WP.1/Add.1) stated that "Member States must decide whether the current but out of date 3rd edition of S-23, which has not been revised for nearly 60 years [then in 2012], will continue to be an active, but ineffective, IHO reference publication or whether the publication should be discontinued."

Therefore, the Republic of Korea believes that the 1st Session of the IHO Assembly could serve as a valuable opportunity for interested Member States, together with the Secretariat, to discuss the future of the outdated Special Publication S-23.