



IHO File No. S1/6100/2020

**ASSEMBLY CIRCULAR LETTER N°11
09 December 2019**

2nd SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY (A-2)

Monaco, 21-24 April 2020

APPROVAL OF THE LISTS OF INVITED OBSERVERS

References:

- A. General Regulations of the IHO - *Article 4*
- B. ACL No. 7/Rev.1 dated 28 August 2019 - *Invited Observers*.

Dear Hydrographer,

1. In accordance with the General Regulations of the IHO (Reference A), Assembly Circular Letter No. 7/Rev.1 (Reference B) requested Member States to consider approving the lists of Observers to be invited to attend the 2nd session of the IHO Assembly (A-2) and to provide further comments, if any, on the lists.

2. The Secretariat thanks the 63 Member States that have replied: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay.

3. All Member States indicated in paragraph two supported the adoption of the lists of Observers to be invited to A-2. One Member State offered a comment in addition to their vote. The comment and the outcome of its review by the Secretariat are provided in Annex A to this letter.

4. There are currently 93 Member States of the IHO with four States suspended. Therefore, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article VI of the Convention on the IHO that was applicable when Reference B was issued, the majority required for adoption of the lists of Observers to be invited to attend the 2nd session of the IHO Assembly was 60. As a result, the lists of invited Observers are approved.

5. Consequently, invitations to attend A-2 will be issued, taking into account the comment received as indicated in Annex A.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

Annex-A: Response to IHO ACL No. 7/Rev1 and Comment from the Secretariat

**RESPONSE TO IHO ACL NO. 7/REV1 AND COMMENT FROM THE SECRETARIAT
INVITED OBSERVERS - SUBMISSION OF FINAL LISTS FOR APPROVAL**

CHILE

Vote = YES

CHILE proposed to invite the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat, considering the close relationship the IHO has with it, particularly through the Antarctic Hydrographic Commission and the joint efforts in progress, to increase the priority of hydrography in Antarctic. Nevertheless the IHO Secretariat stated that "there is currently no agreement or special arrangement made with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat to support its inclusion". CHILE strongly maintains its recommendation, since the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (ATS) is recognized as an Observer Organization to the IHO Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA). (Ref. IHO website) and the HCA is a special Hydrographic Commission of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO).

Secretariat comment: Comment provided from Chile is noted. The Secretariat considers that the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) is a special Hydrographic Commission, but not an integral part of the IHO in accordance with the IHO Convention and General Regulations. HCA was established in conformity with IHO Resolution 2/1997, as amended "Establishment of Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC). Regional Hydrographic Commissions and HCA conduct their activities according to their own statutes and they can invite any organizations and institutions to their meetings as observers, without any special agreement. However, General Regulations of the IHO - Article 4.c and d requires an agreement or special arrangement in order to be invited to the Assembly which is currently not the case for Antarctic Treaty Secretariat.

Meanwhile, the IHO Secretariat will consider to sign an agreement with the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat in the future which may facilitate the participation of Antarctic Treaty Secretariat to future IHO Assemblies as observer.