C1-1.5

# 1ST MEETING

# OF THE IHO COUNCIL

**Monaco, 17-19 October 2017**

*«RED BOOK»*

# COMPENDIUM OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBER STATES ON PROPOSALS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE IHO COUNCIL

# PROPOSALS

## PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 1st MEETING OF THE IHO COUNCIL

| Agenda Item | Object of the Proposal | Submitted by | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.3** | Election of the Vice-Chair | Secretary-General | CCL 07/2017 |
| **2.2** | Revision of IHO Resolutions 5/1957, 1/1969, 9/1967, 5/1972, 1/2014, 4/1957, 8/1967, 1/1965 and 2/1965 | Secretary-General | C1-2.2 |
| **2.3** | Consideration of Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure for the Council | Secretary-General | C1-2.3 Rev1 |
| **2.4** | Methodology and timetable to deal with each year's financial statements and adjustments to the basic documents | Secretary-General | C1-2.4 |
| **5.1** | Review of the Strategic Plan | Secretary-General | C1-5.1 |
| **5.2** | Proposal to evaluate status, requirements and options to integrate the IHO Strategic Plan/Performance Indicators, budget and work programme activities | USA | C1-5.2 |
| **6.1** | Proposed theme for World Hydrography Day 2018 | Secretary-General | C1-6.1 |
| **6.2** | Proposal to amend the General Regulations to address the medical fitness of candidates for election to the positions of Secretary-General or Director, and the conditions of service of Directors | Secretary-General | C1-6.2 |
| **6.3** | Council consideration of the definition of the term "*hydrographic interest*" | Secretary-General | C1-6.3 |
| **6.4** | Proposal to amend the General Regulations concerning the election process for electing the Secretary-General and Directors | Canada<br>supported by: Australia, France and Norway | C1-6.4 |

## LIST OF MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS

| Agenda Item | Object of the Proposal | Submitted by | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.3** | Election of the Vice-Chair | Secretary-General | CCL 07/2017 |

**CAMEROON:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

[Cameroon] acknowledges Rule 10 of the Procedures of the Council of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) regulating the electoral body for the election of the Vice-Chair of the IHO Council.

**CANADA:**

Canada supports the Secretary-General's proposal for a run-off election for the Vice-Chair of the Council during C-1 between the two candidates who obtained the equal highest number of votes in the postal votes.

This approach is consistent with the IHO General Regulations Article 23 (b) dealing with a tie vote during the elections for Secretary-General and the Directors. It is appropriate to apply the same method in this case.

**ECUADOR:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish)*

This Member State has no remarks concerning the recommended procedure for the election, and that he considers it would be relevant to carry out a second round during the First Meeting of the Executive Council of the International Hydrographic Organization, amongst the candidates who obtained the highest number of votes during the voting process made by correspondence.

**KOREA (REPUBLIC OF):**

I believe every measure should be taken to ensure sufficient preparation of the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council along with the required timetable. Having reviewed the C1-2.3 Rev1 document, I support your proposal to endorse the revisions to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

**MOROCCO:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The Kingdom of Morocco has no objection in relation to the election of the Vice-Chair of the Council at the 1st meeting of the Council and fully supports the proposal of the Secretary-General on this issue.

**NORWAY:**

Norway supports the proposal made by the SG for the election of chair and vice-chair of the IHO Council.

**SPAIN:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

The Hydrographic Institute of the Spanish Navy agrees with the procedure proposed for the election of the Vice-Chair of the IHO Council through Council Circular Letter No. 07/2017.

| Agenda Item | Object of the Proposal | Submitted by | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2.2** | Revision of IHO Resolutions 5/1957, 1/1969, 9/1967, 5/1972, 1/2014, 4/1957, 8/1967, 1/1965 and 2/1965 | Secretary-General | C1-2.2 |

**ECUADOR:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

Ecuador has no comment to the list of proposals submitted to the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**FRANCE:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

Resolutions 5/1957 ; 1/1969 ; 5/1972 ; 1/2014 ; 4/1957 ; 8/1967 : no comments

Resolution 9/1967:

> Article 5: The 35-day deadline for the candidate to take up their duties after election is short and could be insufficient to allow a candidate to free themselves from their existing duties. To maintain the deadline period between the date "X" and start date we propose to restrict the candidate's declaration deadline from "X+90" to "X+35" and, as a consequence, to move the other milestones in the voting process and to fix the deadline for taking up appointment at the latest to "P+90" instead of "P+35".

**JAPAN:**

With regard to the proposed revised Resolution 8/1967 as amended shown in Annex G to C1-2.2, if the deadline to submit comments on the proposals to the Secretariat is "at least three months before the opening day of the session of the Assembly", the period between December and January falls on a holiday season and Member States would not be able to ensure enough time to consider the documents.

Therefore, Japan would like to suggest that the deadline to submit comments should be "at least two months and two weeks before the opening day of the session of the Assembly".

**MOROCCO:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The Kingdom of Morocco supports all the proposals to be considered by the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**SPAIN:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

The Hydrographic Institute of the Spanish Navy agrees with the suggested proposals to be considered by the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council.

**UNITED KINGDOM:**

UK reserves comment for discussions at the 1st Council meeting.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

The United States commends the IHO Secretariat and staff for the detailed examination of the "IHO Resolutions" (M-3), and supports this proposal on IHO Resolutions in order to bring the relevant IHO documents in line with the new Convention and Basic Documents.

We would like to note a few editorial observations, as follows:

1. In Annex C on the "Procedure for Election of a Secretary-General or Director by Correspondence, specifically new paragraph 10 b), we believe that the reference in the last phrase of that paragraph should be to article 9 (not article 7).

2. Similarly in Annex C on the "Procedure for Election of a Secretary-General or Director by correspondence, specifically new paragraph 10 c), we believe that the reference in the last phrase of that paragraph should also be to article 9 (not article 7).

3. In Annex E on the "Guiding Principles for IHO Funds", paragraph 4.1.2.1; the word connexion" should be correctly spelled "connection".

4. In Annex E on the "Guiding Principles for IHO Funds", paragraph 4.9.2.2, is a little unclear in meaning and appears to be incomplete sentence (lacking a verb).

| Agenda Item | Object of the Proposal | Submitted by | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2.3** | Consideration of Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure for the Council | Secretary-General | C1-2.3 **Rev1** |

**ECUADOR:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

Ecuador has no comment to the list of proposals submitted to the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**FRANCE:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

No comment.

**MOROCCO:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The Kingdom of Morocco supports all the proposals to be considered by the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**SPAIN:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

The Hydrographic Institute of the Spanish Navy agrees with the suggested proposals to be considered by the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council.

**UNITED KINGDOM:**

UK supports this proposal.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

The U.S. notes the intent of the member states in Assembly-1 Decision 20 to confirm the selection of the Chair and Vice Chair before the Council meeting following the Assembly.

There may be additional methods to select candidates in the event of voting ties beyond the procedures put forth in the draft revision of Rule 12. An additional option the Council may wish to consider may be "Instant Run off" ballot. See for example: http://instantrunoff.com/instant-runoff-home/the-basics/

The U.S. also wishes to note as the Council will have completed the selection of Chair/Vice Chair this year, the Council can take some time before finalizing the revisions to Rule 12 on this matter. After the Chair/Vice Chair selection is completed this year, the Council will not be selecting a new Chair and Vice Chair until 2020.

Over the upcoming years, the Council may also identify additional procedural and other considerations beyond the selection of Chair and Vice Chair which it may wish to incorporate as well in any revisions to the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

| Agenda Item | Object of the Proposal | Submitted by | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2.4** | Methodology and timetable to deal with each year's financial statements and adjustments to the basic documents | Secretary-General | C1-2.4 |

**CHILE:**

We have no problem with the proposal itself, but with the "object of the proposal" as it is written. In fact there are no "adjustments to the basic documents", therefore it is recommended to re-write the object that could read as follows: "Procedure for Considering the Annual Financial Statement and the Forthcoming Budget Estimate".

**ECUADOR:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

Ecuador has no comment to the list of proposals submitted to the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**FRANCE:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

No comment.

**MOROCCO:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The Kingdom of Morocco supports all the proposals to be considered by the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**SPAIN:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

The Hydrographic Institute of the Spanish Navy agrees with the suggested proposals to be considered by the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council.

**UNITED KINGDOM:**

UK are content that it is proposed that the Annual Financial Statements are first approved by Council Chairs and the members of the Finance Committee before being circulated to members for their approval and that budget and forecasts is an agenda item for approval at each Council meeting in October.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

No comment at this time.

| Agenda Item | Object of the Proposal | Submitted by | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **5.1** | Review of the Strategic Plan | Secretary-General | C1-5.1 |

**ECUADOR:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

Ecuador has no comment to the list of proposals submitted to the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**FRANCE:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

No comment.

**ITALY:**

Italy agrees with the overall proposal.

However, Italy suggests the following addition in para 6 of C1-5.1:

- the early identification of the deficiencies (if any) in the existing Plan;
- the consideration of appropriate provisions that could address any identified deficiencies;
- the timetable for developing and drafting any proposed revisions to the existing Plan; and *the identification of the Council team or the specific Working Group to be tasked with the drafting of the new Strategic Plan*;
- what, if any, input may be required from Member States, Subsidiary Organs or Observer Organizations and when and how that input might be obtained and processed.

**MOROCCO:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The Kingdom of Morocco supports all the proposals to be considered by the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**SPAIN:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

The Hydrographic Institute of the Spanish Navy agrees with the suggested proposals to be considered by the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council.

**UNITED KINGDOM:**

UK reserves comment for discussions at the 1st Council meeting.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

The U.S. would like to offer three points for comment and clarification. The U.S. welcomes early dialogue with member states on this proposal in order to foster the most fruitful discussions and decisions possible at the First Council meeting on this task.

**1) Clarifying the Assembly Direction to the Council**

The U.S. interprets Decision 3 of the Assembly to be that the Council shall conduct a "comprehensive review" of the revised Strategic Plan ("Plan") adopted in April 2017. Based upon the outcome of the review and subsequent Council deliberation, the Council would decide whether or not to undertake a full revision or further refinement of the Plan. And, finally, is it the intent of Decision 3 that if the Council decides to revise the Plan, then that revision should be completed and approved by the Third Council meeting in 2019 in order to go forward to the Assembly in 2020? The U.S. wishes to confirm if these points are correct.

Alternatively, may the Council interpret the direction of the First Assembly that it conduct the "comprehensive review" over the upcoming two-year period in order to submit a report to the Second Assembly with recommendations regarding a subsequent update of the Strategic Plan (2017) thereafter, if warranted? This would allow the Council to carefully consider the work of the IRCC and HSSC in their development of working level performance indicators as called for in Assembly Decision 2 approving the proposed revisions to the IHO Strategic Plan.

**2) Timeline and Deliverable**

As the Council considers C1-5.1, the U.S. suggests special consideration be made to the timeline provided, specifically to the following:

- A+6 (Oct): The Council considers the instruction given by the Assembly and agrees on the implementation plan.
- A+30 (Oct): The Council submits its report and proposals for the consideration of the Assembly.

Accordingly, it is important for the member states to deliberate and confirm early the intent of where they wish to be at the conclusion of the Third Council meeting in October 2019.

The U.S. would like to underscore early the importance of the forthcoming consideration of instructions from the Assembly and the referenced implementation plan called for at the upcoming Council meeting (A+6). Expectations should be set for the deliverable at the Third Council Meeting (A+30) for forwarding to the Second Assembly.

**3) The Strategic Plan (2017)**

The U.S. has reviewed the Strategic Plan as revised this year by the Secretariat. We have not identified any deficiencies within the current Plan as revised which would preclude any collaboration or other activities of the organization in the near term.

The function and deliberations of the Council itself over the next 3 years will likely provide additional insights about the future of hydrography. These may contribute to subsequent considerations in updating the IHO Strategic Plan at the Second Assembly.

The U.S. welcomes close dialogue between the Council and the IRCC and HSSC on this topic.

| Agenda Item | Object of the Proposal | Submitted by | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **5.2** | Proposal to evaluate status, requirements and options to integrate the IHO Strategic Plan/Performance Indicators, budget and work programme activities | USA | C1-5.2 |

**CHILE:**

Surely there must be a connection between the Strategic Plan and the Work Programme and Budget. Now if there is a need to have another document that expressly refers to this is an option, but the most important issue is to update the Strategic Plan as decided in the Assembly (Decision 3). Probably the intention of this proposal and the discussion to take place at the Council might be useful, but we need to keep in mind that the target is to "Update the Strategic Plan", a stand-alone referential document. The Work Programme and the Budget must be separate documents.

**ECUADOR:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

Ecuador has no comment to the list of proposals submitted to the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**FRANCE:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)
It would be appreciated to have access to a more cohesive documentation to improve the steering of the Organization. As for the revision of the Strategic Plan (see C1-5.1) it would be essential to control the workload associated with this documentation overhaul.

**MOROCCO:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The Kingdom of Morocco supports all the proposals to be considered by the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**SPAIN:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

The Hydrographic Institute of the Spanish Navy agrees with the suggested proposals to be considered by the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council.

**UNITED KINGDOM:**

UK fully supports this proposal as previously outlined during discussions on the topic at the 1st Assembly.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

No comments at this time.

| Agenda Item | Object of the Proposal | Submitted by | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **6.1** | Proposed theme for World Hydrography Day 2018 | Secretary-General | C1-6.1 |

**CHILE:**

We fully agree with the central theme proposed for the WHD 2018. This places the IHO in an excellent position as the subject is absolutely in line with the Agenda 2030 and particularly its Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14). We strongly support the theme "*Bathymetry – the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways*".

**ECUADOR:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

Ecuador has no comment to the list of proposals submitted to the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**FRANCE:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The proposed theme for WHD 2018: "Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways" using the term "bathymetry" is too simplistic and does not reflect the great diversity of data and referenced products elaborated by the hydrographic services. For example, the very nature of the ocean floor has as much importance as its geometry for many applications.

We propose :

"Depiction of the marine physical environment, the foundation of sustainable development of seas, oceans and waterways".

Alternatively:

"Depiction of the ocean floor, the foundation of sustainable development of seas, oceans and waterways".

**ITALY:**

Italy does not agree with the use of the word *Bathymetry* in the theme of a World Hydrography Day. Italy deems it essential to reiterate the word *Hydrography* as a communication tool to raise awareness on the importance of hydrography.

Furthermore, Italy thinks that "Bathymetry – the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways" largely conveys the same idea as "Mapping our seas, oceans and waterways - more important than ever" (2017), "Hydrography - the key to well-managed seas and waterways" (2016) and "Our seas and waterways - yet to be fully charted and explored" (2015).

As the theme for WHD 2018, therefore, Italy suggests "***Hydrography – the key to Blue Growth***", a topic that has not been suggested since 2013, when the WHD theme was "Hydrography - underpinning the Blue Economy".

**MOROCCO:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The Kingdom of Morocco supports all the proposals to be considered by the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**NORWAY:**

Norway believes the proposed theme for World Hydrography Day 2018 by the SG (Bathymetry - the foundation for sustainable seas, oceans and waterways) is a good theme, building further on this year's theme. Perhaps we could make a stronger connection to the UN Sustainable Development Goals: "Hydrography – the knowledge foundation for United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 Life below water".

**SPAIN:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

The Hydrographic Institute of the Spanish Navy agrees with the suggested proposals to be considered by the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council.

**UNITED KINGDOM:**

UK reserves comment for discussions at the 1st Council meeting.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

For the 2018 theme, the US (NOAA) can envision sharing some of our 3D bathymetric data and fly-throughs

videography on social media. We may be able to create a video montage marking the day. In 2015 we created a" what is hydrography" infographic (https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/news/2015/whd2015.html) to mark the day. My communications specialist has offered to do one along the lines of "what is bathymetry" if that would be of interest. She feels she could develop this here by December for review and consideration.

Thinking ahead to 2019, one idea of a possible theme could focus on emerging and new technologies in hydrography as relate to the emergence and promise of autonomous vehicles.

My communications specialist has offered to help support the IHO efforts and can be contacted directly at

Kristen.Crossett@noaa.gov if this would be helpful.

| Agenda Item | Object of the Proposal | Submitted by | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **6.2** | Proposal to amend the General Regulations to address the medical fitness of candidates for election to the positions of Secretary-General or Director, and the conditions of service of Directors | Secretary-General | C1-6.2 |

**ECUADOR:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

Ecuador has no comment to the list of proposals submitted to the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**FRANCE:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

No comment.

**MOROCCO:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The Kingdom of Morocco supports all the proposals to be considered by the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**SPAIN:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

The Hydrographic Institute of the Spanish Navy agrees with the suggested proposals to be considered by the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council.

**UNITED KINGDOM:**

Having considered the IHO Convention and General Regulations it seems clear that amendment of the General Regulations is an Assembly matter, not an issue for Council. Proposals for amendment need to be put to the Assembly and only the Assembly can decide on them, either by consensus or by a majority of two thirds of Member States present and voting. There is no mechanism available that would enable an amendment to be decided by correspondence between Assemblies. Perhaps the best way ahead would be for the Proposals to be withdrawn, with the intent of submitting them as formal Proposals at the next Assembly in 2020.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

No comments at this time.

| Agenda Item | Object of the Proposal | Submitted by | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **6.3** | Council consideration of the definition of the term "*hydrographic interest*" | Secretary-General | C1-6.3 |

**ECUADOR:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

Ecuador has no comment to the list of proposals submitted to the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**FRANCE:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The "tonnage" criterion is a criterion by default. A criterion according to geographical responsibility would be more in keeping with hydrographic responsibilities, subject to Member States agreeing on a measurement method.

**ITALY:**

Italy suggests the following addition:

10. The Council is invited to:

a. **agree** that the Council include in its work programme the consideration of the definition and use of the terms *hydrographic interests* and *interest in hydrographic matters* in relation to the composition of the Council, and ;

*b. **agree** that the Council task a specific team, composed of one representative from each Member of the Council wishing to volunteer, to discuss possible alternatives to national flag tonnage as a definition of the terms in question, to be reported to the second session of the Assembly in 2020; and to*

*c.* **take any other actions** that may be appropriate

**JAPAN:**

It would be significant to discuss the definition of what constitutes an interest in hydrographic matters at the Council prior to the second Assembly. Therefore, Japan supports this proposal.

**MOROCCO:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The Kingdom of Morocco supports all the proposals to be considered by the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**SPAIN:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

The Hydrographic Institute of the Spanish Navy agrees with the suggested proposals to be considered by the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council.

**UNITED KINGDOM:**

UK reserves comment for discussions at the 1st Council meeting.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

The U.S. appreciates the context provided to this issue and the reference to the prior consideration of this topic by the Strategic Plan Working Group as summarized in CONF.17/DOC1.

The U.S. supports the proposal.

| Agenda Item | Object of the Proposal | Submitted by | Reference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **6.4** | Proposal to amend the General Regulations concerning the election process for electing the Secretary-General and Directors | Canada<br>supported by: Australia, France and Norway | C1-6.4 |

**CHILE:**

1.- We do not support the proposal related to Art. 21 of the General regulations. We believe that Candidates are people well known from its managerial and technical capabilities to the IHO community, they are not newcomers. The submissions of their application have normally been circulated well in advance and Member States have closely examined their background to adopt a decision. Normally those MS putting forward candidates will be seeking support through the diplomatic channels from other MSs, and at the end, Head of Delegations arrive to the Assembly with a clear decision on their voting preferences. Having candidates expressing their position now in person does no add any new element to the process; on the contrary, this sort of speeches will give the impression of a political election. In our opinion is a loss of time and creates an ambience not necessarily good for the health of the Organization.

2.- We do not support the revised version of Art 20, 24 and 26. We do not agree to have a regulation with such a flexibility, just to accommodate individual´s wishes. In the past there was no problem for candidates to commit their position for 5 years, and while we agree that there might be candidates that are impeded to commit themselves for a period of 6 years, then the solution is to move to a 3 years tenure with the possibility for a re-election for a second term of 3 year. Having said that, we confirm that we do not support the proposal to amend Art 20, 24 and 26. But we would be prepared to move from a 6-year tenure to a 3-year tenure if that is to be considered to solve the issue. In that case Art 20 would remain as it is; Art 24 should read "*Individuals elected to the posts of Secretary-General and Directors by the Assembly shall serve a term of office of three years*" and Art 26 letter b) should be amended to read "*(b) In no circumstances shall any individual occupy the post of Secretary-General or Director or a combination of both for an aggregate period of more than six years.*"

By the way this change from 6 to 3 years might give more energy to the IHO.

3.- We support the proposal to amend Art 23. Nevertheless, we strongly oppose to the inclusion of the following sentence "*The two candidates that received the largest number of votes would be offered an additional 15 minute time to present themselves a last time before the last ballot is held.*" As indicated above, we do not agree to offer the candidates with the opportunity to address the Assembly with speeches that in our opinion have no merit at all to the election process.

**ECUADOR:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

Ecuador has no comment to the list of proposals submitted to the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**FRANCE:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

France supports this proposal. The following points could be discussed:

- Presentation of the candidates: it is proposed at the beginning of the Assembly and for no more than 15 minutes per candidate.
- Term of office: it is not desirable to make this a commitment as this could become a strong selection criterion in the choice of candidate and create a distortion whereas nothing prevents the elected candidate who had initially stated the intention of staying for 6 years to withdraw after 3 years.

The process must be standardized according to the practice of other similar international organisations.

**ITALY:**

Italy agrees to addition of clause 21 only.

Italy does not agree to the suggested amendments to Articles 20, 23, 24 and 26 of the General Regulations.

The new Convention on the International Hydrographic Organization was approved only few months ago and Italy does not consider it necessary for the Council to discuss the issue of the terms of office again, for the following reasons:

1. in all major organizations the length of the mandate is set by the Statute and not by the holder of the position;
2. Member States might be tempted to choose a candidate in the view of their preferred terms of office, rather than for their potential as Secretary-General or Director;
3. in the past, candidates very seldom reached a "50% + 1" majority. If should the suggested amendment to Article 23 be accepted, in most cases Member States would be forced to choose between two candidates. This could lead to lobbying practices, and a candidate having received a much larger amount of votes in the first election could lose in the ballot.

**JAPAN:**

- Japan concerns that changing the length of initial services of the Secretary General and Directors would have significant impact on the stability of the IHO Secretariat and is of the view that it is premature at the moment to discuss this proposal, considering that the new IHO convention has just come into effect.
- Japan basically agrees that it is necessary to change the current procedure for the election of the Secretary General and Directors in order to ensure more stable and convincing results. However, we still need further consideration about the specific procedure.

**MOROCCO:**

(*Original submission provided in French*)

The Kingdom of Morocco supports all the proposals to be considered by the 1st meeting of the IHO Council.

**SPAIN:**

(*Original submission provided in Spanish*)

The Hydrographic Institute of the Spanish Navy agrees with the suggested proposals to be considered by the 1st Meeting of the IHO Council.

**UNITED KINGDOM:**

The UK has sympathy with elements of the suggestions but we are also very aware that the proposals will generate much discussion, debate and will take up significant time before they could be approved by the Assembly. Having considered the IHO Convention and General Regulations it seems clear that amendment of the General Regulations is an Assembly matter, not an issue for Council. Proposals for amendment need to be put to the Assembly and only the Assembly can decide on them, either by consensus or by a majority of two thirds of Member States present and voting. There is no mechanism available that would enable an amendment to be decided by correspondence between Assemblies. Perhaps the best way ahead would be for the Proposals to be withdrawn, with the intent of submitting them as formal Proposals at the next Assembly in 2020.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

No comment at this time.