

Bogota, 2nd June 2016

FROM : VAdm. Pablo Emilio ROMERO ROJAS
Maritime General Director
DIMAR, Colombia

Attn. Captain Robert WARD
President of the Hydrographic Commission on the Antarctica (HCA)

Subject: Application of Colombia to join the Hydrographic Commission
on the Antarctica (HCA)

Concerning the 14th Conference of the IHO Hydrographic Commission on the Antarctica (HCA), to be held from 28th to 30th of June 2016 in Tromsø (Norway), I would like to ask you to please include the application of Colombia to join the HCA as an active member in the working agenda.

The reason of such an application is based on the contents of the HCA's Statutes, Article 2, subparagraph 2.1 that reads:

1. Colombia deposited before the Monaco Government his instruments of access to the International Hydrographic Organization on 11th December 1998; it is recognized as the IHO Member State Nr. 67, as mentioned in the IHO Circular Letter n° 1 of 1999;

Since then, the Maritime General Directorate, as responsible body of the Hydrographic Office of Colombia, has actively participated in the MACHC and SEPHC Regional Hydrographic Commissions, in regional bathymetric projects as the IBCCA and the IBCSEP, in the working committees MICC-MACHC, as well as in the organization of international meetings and seminars together with IHO Member States.

2. Under the Law Nr. 67 of 1988, Colombia acceded the Antarctic Treaty, from 31st January 1989. Since that moment, Colombia has participated in different scientific expeditions, in liaison with other South American countries, active members of such Treaty, and from 2014 it has carried out scientific expeditions with its own resources.
3. With information collected during the First Scientific Expedition of Colombia to the Antarctica "*Almirante Lemaitre*" (2014-2015), the National Hydrographic Office contributed with bathymetric information to cover the 22.18% of the total area of the Chart "INT 9103", "*Markmann Bay to Andvord Bay*".

Considering all the above, I would respectfully like to ask you to communicate to the HCA Member States the interest of Colombia in joining such a Commission, to support its tasks and help in strengthening the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS).

I take this occasion to express you, Mr President, my feelings of appreciation and respect,

Yours faithfully,

Vice-Admiral Palo Emilio ROMERO ROJAS

General Maritime Director

Courtesy translation by Ms Mary Paz Muro, Spanish Translator, IHB, Monaco (6 June 2016)