

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION**



**STATUTES OF THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN  
HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NIOHC)**

*(corrected February 2014)*

## **STATUTES OF THE NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (NIOHC)**

### **Article 1**

- a) The North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission herein after referred to as “The Commission” is constituted in conformity with Resolution T1.3 of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), vide Annexure ‘A’. Members of the Commission shall be the countries within International Hydrographic Organization INT charting scheme Area ‘J’, included as Annexure ‘B’, herein after referred to as “Region”, who are members of the International Hydrographic Organization and whose representatives are signatories to the Statutes.
- b) The countries within the region who are not members of the International Hydrographic Organization, but who wish to co-operate in the work of the Commission, and whose representatives are signatories to the Statutes, become Associate Members.
- c) Other Member States of the International Hydrographic Organization outside the region may become Associate Members as signatories to the Statutes of the NIOHC, if they contribute to the safety of navigation by their activities in the fields of hydrography including training, nautical charting, and nautical information in the region of the NIOHC. Their applications shall be considered by the ordinary Conference mentioned in Article 4. The admission of these applications requires a simple majority of the Members of the Commission.
- d) Associate Members shall have the same rights and obligations as the Members of the Commission, except the right to vote or be elected Chairman.
- e) At the conclusion of the Conference the Vice Chairman for the next Conference shall be elected and shall take up his duties within four months following the Conference. In the normal course of events the Vice Chairman will succeed as the Chairman within four months from the end of the Conference.

### **Article 2**

The aims of the Commission, which is an integral part of the International Hydrographic Organization, shall be:

- a) To provide, in pursuance of the resolutions and recommendations of the International Hydrographic Organization, regional co-operation and co-ordination with regard to nautical information, hydrographic surveys, production of nautical charts and documents, training, technical assistance and advice. The activities of the Commission do not extend to matters concerning international political issues.
- b) To examine the implications, in its area of interest, of matters of general interest with which the International Hydrographic Organization is concerned, avoiding any interference with the prerogatives of the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) and of any other bodies/Working Groups set up by the International Hydrographic Organization.
- c) To stimulate all countries in the region to widen hydrographic activity in the area and to encourage them to seek technical advice and assistance from the IHB in establishing and strengthening their hydrographic capabilities.
- d) To facilitate the exchange of information concerning surveys, research or scientific and technical developments, to aid in the planning and organization of hydrographic activities in the widest sense of the term, but without interference in the national responsibilities of each Hydrographic Office.

- e) To carry out certain studies as an International Hydrographic Organization Working Group when considered appropriate.
- f) To liaise with the adjacent Regional Hydrographic Commissions in the subjects of mutual interest.
- g) To implement the INT chart scheme for the region keeping it suitably under constant review.

### **Article 3**

Members and Associate Members forming the Commission undertake to participate, of their own free will, on all possible occasions - whether in the form of advice or of assistance - in those hydrographic programmes requiring concerted action, but without prejudice to or interference with their national activities.

### **Article 4**

The Commission shall meet annually, in ordinary Conference, within the region.

### **Article 5**

a) At the end of each Conference, the Members desirous of hosting the following Conference shall put forward their candidatures. Priority shall be given to a country, which has not yet hosted a Conference, or to the one, which did so the longest time ago. In cases of equal priority a ballot shall be held, the decisions being taken by a simple majority of Members present. The Chairman shall take up his duties within four months from the end of the Conference.

b) Members and Associate Members shall be represented at Conferences by heads of Hydrographic Services or their representatives and where such services do not exist, by heads of national authorities responsible for Hydrography and navigation. They may also be accompanied by members of their staff.

c) The Commission may set up small committees of Members and Associate Members interested in particular projects with the object of examining and executing such projects.

d) The host country undertakes to assist with the arrangements for participants in the Conference to obtain any necessary authorisations and visas to enable them to attend the Conference.

e) An invitation to attend the Conference shall invariably be addressed to the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau.

f) The presence of two thirds (2/3) of the Members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

g) Countries within the region who are not Members or Associate Members of the Commission, as well as countries which are outside the region and are Members of the International Hydrographic Organization, but not Associate Members of the NIOHC, if they contribute to the safety of navigation by their activities in the fields of hydrography including training, nautical charting, or nautical information in the region of the NIOHC area, and those organizations, which are active in the region of the NIOHC area in the fields of hydrography, including training, nautical charting, nautical information or aids to navigation, can be invited to send representatives to attend its meetings, as observers. The observers may take part in the discussion but shall not have voting rights.

h) Co-ordinators of adjacent INT chart regions and the countries bordering the region, who are not Members or Associate Members of the Commission, can be invited to send representatives to attend its meetings, as observers. The observers may take part in the discussions but shall not have voting rights.

**Article 6**

- a) In the interval between two Conferences, the outgoing Chairman shall conclude the business of the last Conference within four months. Thereafter, the incoming Chairman shall provide the Secretariat for the Commission and shall attend to all matters of interest by correspondence.
- b) If the Chairman is unable to officiate, he shall be replaced by his successor or his deputy at the Hydrographic office.
- c) The Chairman shall be responsible for the organization of the Conference for which his country shall pay the expenses.

**Article 7**

- a) Decisions taken during each meeting should be prepared in written form by the Chairman and supplied next day to the Members present.
- b) At the end of the Conference, the Chairman shall read the text of the decisions taken during the Conference, which will be adopted according to the provisions of Article 10.
- c) The Chairman shall despatch within two months of the close of the Conference a copy of the summary report, containing the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the Conference, for approval to each Member and for comments to Associate Members and Observers. Members shall notify within one month of the receipt their approval or objections, if any, which shall be settled by correspondence.
- d) A copy of the final report of the Conference shall be sent to the Full Members, Associate Members, Observers and the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB).

**Article 8**

- a) Proposals to be included in the Agenda of a Conference must be sent to the Chairman at least four months before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference.
- b) The Chairman shall prepare the Provisional Agenda and forward it to the participants at least eight weeks before the opening of the Conference.

**Article 9**

- a) The Agenda shall be adopted by the Commission at the beginning of each Conference.
- b) The Commission may modify in the course of the Conference the order in which Agenda items are to be discussed.

**Article 10**

- a) All decisions should, as far as possible, be taken by consensus, failing which a two-thirds majority of Members present would be required for approval, the exception being the admission as Associate Members of International Hydrographic Organization members outside the region as referred to in Article 1 c. or changes to the Statutes referred to in Article 13.
- b) Only Members are entitled to vote, each country having the right to one vote. The voting shall be by show of hands.

**Article 11**

- a) The Chairman may call an extraordinary meeting of the Members of the Commission when their representatives are assembled for an International Hydrographic Conference, having made prior arrangements with the International Hydrographic Bureau.
- b) In the case of urgent matters, which cannot be treated by correspondence and which cannot be postponed until the next Conference, the Chairman, having taken the opinion of the Members, shall convene an Extraordinary Meeting, to be held in the country of the next Conference or the place considered most appropriate.
- c) The provisions of Article 6 are not applicable to the meetings defined in paragraphs a) and b) above, which shall be organised and presided over by the Chairman, who will remain in office after the meeting has concluded.
- d) Experts who are not Members of the Commission may be invited to Conferences or Extraordinary Meetings as observers. Experts can be defined as:
- Commercial Industry
  - Relevant Organisations
  - Subject matter experts
- e) When these meetings do not include all Members, the decisions reached shall be reported to the next Conference of the Commission, or by correspondence if the matter is urgent.
- f] Experts may be excluded from NIOHC plenary for specific agenda items at the request of Member States.

**Article 12**

Travelling and boarding and lodging expenses of the delegates shall be defrayed by their respective countries.

**Article 13**

Members and Associate Members of the Commission may propose amendments to the present Statutes. These amendments shall be discussed at a Conference and the decisions, which must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Members of the Commission, will be included in the Report of the Conference.

**Article 14**

The official language of the Commission shall be English.

**Article 15**

The Chairman will report the Commission's activities and future plans to the relevant sessions of the International Hydrographic Conference and make contributions to the International Hydrographic Organization Annual Report. Between sessions the reports of studies or other activities, which are considered of general interest to all International Hydrographic Organization Member States, should be sent by the Chairman to the International Hydrographic Bureau for general dissemination.

**Article 16**

The IHB shall be the repository of the Statutes signed by the Members and Associate Members.

**RECORD OF SIGNATURE BY MEMBER / ASSOCIATE MEMBER STATES**

<b>Signature Number</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Member / Associate Member</b>	<b>Signature and Date</b>
1.	IHB	-	xxx
2.	Bangladesh	Member	Captain M.I. HAQUE, BN Director 30/12/2009
3.	Egypt	Member	
4.	India	Member	Rear Admiral B.R. Rao, Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India 28/02/2007
5.	Myanmar	Member	Commander Min Thein Tint Commanding Officer, Central Naval Hydrographic Depot 05/04/2007
6.	Pakistan	Member	
7.	Saudi Arabia	Member	
8.	Sri Lanka	Member	Mr. M.A. Ariyawansa, Hydrographer, National Hydrographic Office 28/02/2007
9.	Thailand	Member	Vice Admiral Congvat Neelasri, Director General, Hydrographic Department, Royal Thai Navy 04/03/2008
10.	UK	Member	Rear Admiral I. Moncrieff, RN, UK National Hydrographer 28/02/2007
11.	Australia	Associate Member	Commodore Rod NAIRN, AM, RAN, Hydrographer 26/04/2012
12.	France	Associate Member	Ing. Gén. de l'Armement G. Bessero Hydrographer 15/02/2008
13.	Oman	Associate Member	Commander Mansoor Al Karousi, Head of Oman NHO 24/08/2009
14.	Mauritius	Associate Member	Mr. A. N. OOZEER Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Lands 01/03/2011

<b>Signature Number</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Member / Associate Member</b>	<b>Signature and Date</b>
15.	Seychelles	Associate Member	Major M. Rosette, Chief Hydrographer, Seychelles People's Defence Forces 28/03/2007
16.	USA	Associate Member	Captain J. Cousins, USN, Commanding Officer, US Naval Oceanographic Office 28/02/2007
17.	Malaysia	Observer	