

1st General Assembly
International Organization for
Marine Aids to Navigation



18-21 February 2024
Singapore

I - Consideration of reports and proposals received from member States, the Council or the Secretary-General

I.2.1– Decision on the next ordinary session of the General Assembly

Submitted by the Secretariat

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (the Convention) the first General Assembly of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (the Organization) must take place within six months of the entry into force of the Convention, and in accordance with the Transitional Arrangements of the Convention.

As a consequence, the date for the first General Assembly (18-21 February 2025) is related to the entry into force of the Convention on 22 August 2024 and not to a regular cycle of meetings. The time between August 2024 and February 2025 is needed to complete all necessary tasks of the transition phase such as the transition of staff and the transfer of assets and liabilities.

According to Article 7.4 of the Convention and Article 3.1 of the General Regulations (IGO) the regular session of the General Assembly shall ordinarily take place once every three years.

Article 3.2 of the General Regulations states the regular session of the General Assembly should, where possible, be convened during the same period and at the same location as the Organization's conference "but in any case, must be held no earlier than June of the General Assembly year".

As explained above, the first General Assembly will take place in February 2025 and not as foreseen in the General Regulations "no earlier than June of the General Assembly year". In that sense the date of the first General Assembly must be seen as an exception due to the restraints of the entry into force of the Convention.

As anticipated by the General Regulations the General Assembly goes normally together with the IALA Conference. In a General Assembly year there are normally no Committee meetings in the spring in order to favour wide participation of technical experts at the IALA Conference. The work programme of the Committees, meetings of the Council and all other subsidiary bodies are fully adapted to this schedule.



At the General Assembly of the association in 2023, India offered to host the IALA Conference and General Assembly no earlier than June 2027, which reflected the four-year term used in the association. At that time the date of entry into force of the Convention was unknown. The preparations conducted by India are already advanced for both the General Assembly and the IALA Conference in the second half of 2027.

Recognising this, and in order to establish the schedule of three-yearly General Assemblies taking place “no earlier than June of the General Assembly year”, it will be necessary to adapt the date of the second General Assembly.

Having the second General Assembly of the Organization in the second half of 2027 would shorten the 3-year-period between the first General Assembly and the second General Assembly to about 2.5 years. The second General Assembly however will still take place once every three years in line with the Convention, Article 7.4.

In addition, the second General Assembly will take place no earlier than June and will take place at the same location as the IALA Conference as foreseen in Article 3.2 of the General Regulations.

In accordance with the General Regulations, Article 3.2, the Council may for reasons of necessity, determine an alternative time for convening the General Assembly. The Transition Council made such a decision at its meeting in June 2024.

This decision is in line with the reasons set out above and being mindful regarding resources and sustainability when planning international events.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS REQUESTED TO

The General Assembly is requested to confirm the second General Assembly of the Organization together with the IALA Conference will take place in India in the second half of 2027 by passing Resolution GA01-09 as attached to this paper.