



To IALA National Members and Points of Contact

Our reference : 16-360

Saint Germain en Laye, December 6th 2016

**Subject: Change of status to IGO project – Pre-diplomatic Conference 18-19 April 2017**

Dear National member,

IALA, supported by the French Government as IALA host country, proposes that a two-day Preparatory Diplomatic Conference be held in Paris on 18 – 19 April, 2017 to address the planned change of status of IALA to that of an intergovernmental organization (IGO). We hope that the conference will help build a momentum that would ensure the success of a subsequent Diplomatic Conference for the adoption of the new IALA Convention.

The conference programme will centre on a number of presentations on the planned change of status, taking account of the great amount of preparatory work already completed by the Secretariat with respect to the four pillars identified in the IGO action plan. These pillars are the draft Convention, diplomacy, finance, and communication. All participants will be encouraged to express their views or comment on the aspects that appear the most critical. We therefore expect the widest possible participation in order to have the most relevant basis for the work.

This preparatory conference will be of critical importance for the effective and efficient progress of the diplomatic process. It is therefore essential that each National member that has not yet done so provides two points of contact (via e-mail to [secgen@iala-aism.org](mailto:secgen@iala-aism.org)), one within the maritime administration of their country and one within their Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the authority responsible for the diplomatic process.

You will find attached a copy of the draft Convention in English, French and Spanish, as well as an explanatory note providing background information.

The new IALA Convention will be designed to give IALA a clear legal identity as an IGO and this will bring several distinct advantages as our membership continues to grow. Interest in IALA is increasing from non-member countries, mainly due to the success of the World-Wide Academy. The prospect of this change of status seems to create positive expectations, which are evidenced by the increase in requests for information.



The added value of the IGO status will be a strengthened cooperation between States party to the Convention, in regulatory and technical developments in maritime safety, and an enhanced global harmonization of aids to navigation reducing the risk of accidents, improving efficiency and providing better protection of the environment.

We would be grateful if you could indicate, at the earliest possible time, your intention to attend the proposed Preparatory Diplomatic Conference. Please e-mail your reply to [secgen@iala-aism.org](mailto:secgen@iala-aism.org). Your participation will be a key element in building a consensus among member States. IALA counts on your active commitment to make a strong and confident IGO a reality, a significant milestone in IALA's evolution.

We look forward to welcoming you or your representative at the 2017 Preparatory Diplomatic Conference, on 18 – 19 April 2017 in Paris.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Rebollo'.

**Juan Francisco REBOLLO**

President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Zachariae'.

**Francis ZACHARIAE**

Secretary-General

Attachments:

Draft IALA Convention (in English, French and Spanish) and Explanatory Note.