

Opening for signature of the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation in Paris, January 27, 2021

The signing ceremony of the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation, the text of which was adopted by the Kuala Lumpur Conference on February 28, 2020, was held on January 27, 2021 in Paris.

The International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation will take over from the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), an association created in 1957 and headquartered in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France. The objective of this organization is to enhance the safety and efficiency of maritime navigation by contributing to the improvement and harmonization of Marine Aids to Navigation worldwide. Its transformation into an international Organization reflects the development of its international action.

Decided in 2014, this process was launched at a preparatory Diplomatic Conference held in Paris on 18 and 19 April 2017. The Conference held in Kuala Lumpur from February 25 to 28, 2020 with 52 States represented¹, allowed the authentication of the text of the Convention and the signature, by 50 delegations, including France, of the Final Act.

As depositary State of the Convention, France, represented by Mrs. Annick Girardin, Minister for Marine Affairs, was the first State to sign the Convention during a ceremony held on January 27, 2021, in the presence of the Secretary-General of IALA, Mr. Francis Zachariae, and representatives of the Ministry for Marine Affairs and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

This ceremony, which was held in a restricted format, given the health restrictions, marks the opening for signature of the Convention for one year. All Member States of the United Nations, and in particular the other signatories of the Final Act of the Kuala Lumpur Conference, are invited to sign in turn this Convention at the Protocol of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs where it is kept, and then to proceed to its ratification (for any request for information concerning the signature of the Convention in the premises of the Ministry, please contact Mr. Alex Lavaud: alex.lavaud@diplomatie.gouv.fr).

Copies of the Convention will be sent to States. **Certified copies** of the Convention will be transmitted to all signatory States once the signature period is over.

States that have signed the Convention are then invited to transmit the instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval to France, the depositary State. Once the period for signature is closed (January 26, 2022), all Member States of the United Nations that have not signed it, may accede to the Convention, which will enter into force "on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession"².

¹Germany, Ireland, Angola, Italy, Argentina, Jamaica, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Bulgaria, Morocco, Cameroon, Canada, Mexico, Mozambique, China, Norway, Colombia, Oman, Côte d'Ivoire, Panama, Korea (Republic of), Denmark, Papua New Guinea, Netherlands, Ecuador, Spain, Peru, Portugal, United States, Fiji, Romania, United Kingdom, Finland, France, Russia, Senegal, The Gambia, Georgia, Singapore, Somalia, Greece, Guinea, Sweden, Tunisia, Iceland, Iran, Turkey, Uruguay.

²Article 20 of the Convention