



**Signing Ceremony of the Convention on the International Organization for
Marine Aids to Navigation
January 26, 2022 at IALA Headquarters**

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Introductory speech of Mr Fabien Penone

Director, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign affairs, United Nations, International Organizations, Human Rights and Francophonie Directorate

Mr. Secretary General of the International Association of Maritime Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities,

Mr. Dean of the World Academy and Deputy Secretary General of IALA,

Mr. Minister,

Mrs. and Mr. Ambassadors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank you, on behalf of the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, for accepting our joint invitation to this signing ceremony.

I would like to thank Mr. Francis ZACHARIAE and the IALA Secretariat for having made it possible to organize this ceremony, which symbolically comes at the end of the period open to signature by States. For France, the depositary State of the Convention, our meeting today is an important step.

I would also like to salute the role played by Malaysia and recall that the international convention framing the transformation of the IALA into an international organization was adopted by 52 delegations at the diplomatic conference held in Kuala Lumpur from 25 to 28 February 2020.

After several years of work, we are in the final stretch:

- *The member states that will have signed the convention until today will be considered as the 50 founding states of the new international organization.*
- *Mrs. And Mr. Ambassadors, I am delighted that your 26 Member States have signed today. 24 States had already signed the convention, including France, which was the first State to do so on*

January 27, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Denmark, Spain, Finland, Panama, Canada, Morocco, Romania, Brazil, Belgium, Turkey, Ecuador, Italy, Argentina, Chile, Germany and Russia, whom I would like to congratulate. I am not forgetting, of course, Japan, Norway, Singapore, India and Malaysia, which have even ratified the convention. The same will soon be true of France. The examination of the French bill for ratification will take place on February 17 in the public session of the National Assembly.

- *The next step is ratification: the creation of the Organization will be effective when 30 States have ratified the text, which can then enter into force. Let's hope that this process can take place quickly in our respective countries, to allow the rapid creation of this new international organization.*
- *As of tomorrow, the Member States of the United Nations who have not signed the Convention will also be able to join the future international organization by depositing an instrument of accession with my Ministry.*
- *Finally, I would like to tell you that France is delighted to host the headquarters of the IALA, created in 1957, the future international organization.*
- *France is particularly attached to the missions of IALA in favor of the harmonization and improvement of the quality of maritime aids to navigation. IALA's work is essential for the safety of men and goods at sea and for the efficiency of maritime navigation.*
- *The transformation of IALA into an international organization represents a significant step forward in ocean governance. Complementary to the International Maritime Organization, this new international organization will strengthen the consideration of issues specific to the ship environment. This transformation also reflects the recognition of the major and growing role of the association in this field.*

I thank you once again for your presence today and for your commitment.