



Circular Letter 2023/06

17 April 2023

**Subject: Invitation to the Conference on the draft General Regulation and Financial Regulations for the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation, Tokyo 7 to 10 November 2023**

**To: National members of IALA, Signatory States and Acceding States**

Dear All,

As you are aware the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) will change status to an Intergovernmental Organization once the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (the Convention) enters into force.

The text of the Convention was agreed at the Diplomatic Conference in Kuala Lumpur in February 2020. The initial signing ceremony of the Convention was held on 27 January 2021 in Paris and, as depositary State of the Convention, France was the first State to sign the Convention.

This ceremony marked the opening for signature of the Convention for a period of one year. All Member States of the United Nations, and in particular the other signatories of the Final Act of the Kuala Lumpur Conference, were invited to sign the Convention at the Protocol of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and then to proceed to its ratification.

As of today, 17 April 2023, 50 States have signed the Convention and 18 States have ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the Convention. The Convention enters into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

In accordance with the Convention Article 7 (c) the General Assembly will “Review and approve the General Regulations of the Organization”, which will now be prepared at a Conference generously hosted by Japan Coast Guard in Tokyo. The draft regulations will then be submitted to the first General Assembly of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation when it is established as an Intergovernmental Organization.

Provision has been made for a four-day Conference to be held from Tuesday 7 November to Friday 10 November 2023.

Due to the capacity of the venue, the National members, Signatory States and Acceding States who intend to participate are kindly requested to limit the numbers of the participants to up to three for each delegation.



On Monday 6 November p.m. a Seminar will be hosted by the IALA World-Wide Academy. Participants and invited guests are welcome to join the Seminar. Independent registration will be arranged for this event.

All relevant papers, practical information etc. and a link to register will soon be available on the web site <https://www.iala-aism.org/the-igo-project/>.

Should you have any questions related to the conference or the change of status, please contact the Secretariat at [Lorraine.mbong@iala-aism.org](mailto:Lorraine.mbong@iala-aism.org).

I look very much forward to seeing you in Tokyo.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "F. Zachariae". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Francis Zachariae  
Secretary-General