

**4th Session of the IHO Assembly (2026),
International Hydrographic Organization, Monaco**

Monaco, 19-23 April 2026

REPORT

By

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17th June 2026

The Assembly is the principal decision-making body of the IHO (Article V of the IHO Convention), and it is essential that all IHO Member States be represented not only to review the Organization's activities to date but also to adopt the IHO Work Programme and Budget for the next three years. The 4th Session of the IHO Assembly was held in Monaco from Monday, April 20, to Thursday, April 23, 2026. The Finance Committee and Heads of Delegation meeting were held the day before, on Sunday afternoon, April 19, 2026, in the Rainier III Auditorium.

Assembly Format and Programme

The Assembly was held in the Auditorium Rainier III. Registration was opened from Sunday 19 April at the Auditorium. Other meetings and events which held during the Assembly period are as follows:

- a. The Finance Committee met on Sunday 19 April 2026 afternoon in the Auditorium Rainier III to review and discuss the finance and budget proposals. The Finance Committee was open to every Member State but no more than two representatives from each Member State may attend the meeting.
- b. The Heads of Delegation meeting for Member States was held on Sunday 19 April 2026 afternoon at the Auditorium Rainier III following the meeting of the Finance Committee. Attendance was limited to Member State Heads of Delegation only.
- c. The Opening Ceremony was take place on Monday morning, 20 April 2026. New Member States who joined the Organization between the third and fourth Sessions of the IHO Assembly were invited to present their flag on this occasion.
- d. Industry Stakeholders and Member States were invited to exhibit their work and hydrographic, nautical and cartographic activities in two separate areas within the Auditorium Rainier III. Exhibitions were open on Monday, 20 April 2026 following the Opening Ceremony and will remain open until Thursday 23 April 2026, closing at 12:00.
- e. The Election for the positions of the IHO Secretary-General and one of the two Directors was held on Thursday morning, 23 April 2026.

The Assembly met in plenary session to examine the reports of the Council Chair and Secretary-General regarding the IHO Work Programme, together with any proposals submitted either by Member States, the Council or the Secretary-General for the consideration of the Assembly, including the report on the second three-year cycle of the current IHO Strategic Plan 2023-2026, the proposed 2027-2029 IHO Work Programme and Budget, and the proposed revised Strategic Plan 2027-2032. All submitted proposals referred to one of the three categories of the IHO Work Programme: corporate affairs, hydrographic services and standards, or interregional coordination and support.

All reports were prepared by the IHO Secretariat, based on information available to the IHO Secretariat and input from the Chair of the IHO Council (supported by the IHO Committees – Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC), Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC), and Finance Committee (FC)

The Assembly is the principal organ and most important decision-making body of the IHO, and it was essential that all IHO Member States were represented to consider the proposals and reports that were submitted, to formulate and adopt appropriate Resolutions, to approve the 2027-2029 IHO Work Programme and Budget, and agree to the renewed Strategic Plan, shaping the future of the Organization for the term 2027 - 2032.

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The **SECRETARY-GENERAL Dr Mathias JONAS** welcomed participants and noted that the Assembly was being held in full compliance with the Convention on the IHO and the General Regulations, Financial Regulations and Rules of Procedure of the IHO Assembly, as set out in the Basic Documents of the IHO (publication M-1), and with the Resolutions of the IHO (publication M-3). A total of 93 delegations of Member States had registered for the session, and 88 Member States were present in the room, making the 4th IHO Assembly duly quorate.

CONFIRMATION OF THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE ASSEMBLY

The **SECRETARY-GENERAL** announced that **Mr Michel Amafo** (Suriname) had been elected as Chair of the Assembly through the usual correspondence procedure. The election of Mr Amafo was confirmed by acclamation. The Secretary-General ceded the chair to Mr Amafo.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE ASSEMBLY

The **CHAIR** announced that **Mr Laurent Kerléguer** (France) had been nominated as Vice-Chair of the Assembly. Mr Kerléguer was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation.

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

A team of scrutineers was appointed, consisting of one representative each from Brazil, Denmark, the Republic of Korea, Portugal and Singapore.

APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEURS

A team of rapporteurs was appointed, consisting of one representative from Canada and two representatives each from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

OPENING CEREMONY

His Serene Highness Prince Albert II was escorted into the Assembly Hall. The **SECRETARY-GENERAL** delivered his opening address, which is reproduced in these proceedings. The **CHAIR** delivered his opening address, which is reproduced in these proceedings. **HIS SERENE HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT II** delivered an address declaring open the 4th Session of the Assembly of the International Hydrographic Organization; the address is reproduced in these proceedings. **HIS SERENE HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT II** awarded the Prince Albert 1st Medal for Hydrography to Mr Parry Oei (Singapore), acknowledging his lifelong dedication to hydrography.

FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The representatives of six new Member States – **Cabo Verde, Kiribati, The Gambia, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Lithuania and Panama** – were invited, in the order of their date of accession to IHO, to present their flag as is the tradition. The Secretary-General presented each representative with the IHO crest. His Serene Highness Prince Albert II was escorted from the Assembly Hall.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Dr MITSUYUKI UNNO, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation, Ocean Affairs Department, delivered a keynote address, which is reproduced in these proceedings.

Ms KO BARRETT, Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), delivered a keynote address, which is reproduced in these proceedings.

Mr FRANCIS ZACHARIE, Secretary-General of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA) delivered a keynote address, which is reproduced in these proceedings.

DECISIONS OF THE 4th SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY

1. **The Assembly confirmed the election of Mr Michel Amafo (Suriname) as Assembly Chair** by acclamation.
2. **The Assembly elected Mr Laurent Kerléguer (France) as Assembly Vice-Chair** by acclamation.
3. The Assembly adopted the Agenda (Doc. A4_2026_G_01_EN_Rev2).
4. Report of the Council: The Assembly:
 - a) endorsed the Council Report subject to the specific approval of the proposals submitted by the Council, namely PRO 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4.
 - b) took note of the dissolution of the IHO Fund Generation Project Team.
 - c) took note of the inactive status on the way forward for the definition of hydrographic interest.
 - d) took note of the effects of the dual fuel concept for S-100 ECDIS and its consequences for the ongoing maintenance of parallel production and dissemination arrangements for S-57 ENC and S-101 ENC data services.
 - e) tasked the Council to initiate and update of IHO Publication S-11 Article 3.14.1.d. - access of digital chart materials to the IHO Secretariat for its internal use.
5. The Assembly endorsed the Report of the Work Programme 1.
6. PRO 1.1: The Assembly:
 - a) approved the proposed Resolution on the IHO Infrastructure Centre.
 - b) approved the proposed amendment of IHO Resolution 1/2014 Guiding Principles for IHO Funds.
7. The Assembly tasked the Secretariat to undertake practical steps for the establishment and governance of the Infrastructure Centre in close cooperation with Republic of Korea/KHOA and report to C-10 accordingly.
8. PRO 1.2: The Assembly:
 - a) approved the proposed Host Agreement as presented in Annex A of PRO 1.2 and agreed with the subsequent signature by parties.
 - b) tasked the SG to sign the Host Agreement between the IHO and the Government of Republic of Korea, "on behalf of the IHO".
9. PRO 1.3: The Assembly:
 - a) approved the proposed modifications and enhancements of IHO M-7 Staff Regulations as presented in Annex A of PRO 1.3, which are required to enable the future employment of local and international staff at the IHO Infrastructure Centre.
 - b) tasked the Secretariat to create a consolidated Version of the revised Staff Regulations based on the decisions made and set into force by 1st June 2026.
10. PRO 1.4: The Assembly:
 - a) approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the IHO and ProtectedSeas in accordance with Article 6 (g)(ix) of the IHO Convention.
 - b) tasked the Secretary-General to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the IHO and ProtectedSeas, "on behalf of the IHO".

11.PRO 1.7: The Assembly:

- a) approved the Strategic Plan for 2027 – 2032.
- b) tasked the Secretary-General to adapt the IHO 3-year Work Programme 2027-2029 and the IHO 3-year Budget estimates 2027-2029, in accordance with IHO Resolution 12/2002, as amended to be presented for endorsement to C-10 and subsequent final approval by Member States through Circular Letter.
- c) took note that implementation of the Strategic Plan 2027-2032 will be monitored by the Council through annual assessment of the Strategic Performance Indicators.
- d) confirmed the IHO Secretariat's responsibility for tracking and reporting on the indicators through existing tools and established monitoring processes in place under IRCC and HSSC.

12.PRO 1.9: The Assembly:

- a) adopted a new IHO Resolution to improve the visibility, discoverability and appropriate access to hydrographic data, aggregated hydrographic data products and related marine information held by IHO Member States.
- b) tasked the IHO Council, supported by relevant subordinate bodies, to discuss suitable instruments to facilitate the implementation and report progress to the next ordinary session of the Assembly.

13.The Assembly endorsed the report of the HSSC Chair on the HSSC activities undertaken under Work Programme 2.

14.PRO 2.1: The Assembly:

- a) approved the two proposed new IHO Resolutions addressing the management of metadata for tide and current recordings.
- b) approved the amendments of the existing IHO M3 Resolutions 4/1919, 5/1919, 9/1919, 5/1932, 6/1932, 2/1947, 1/1967, 2/1977 addressing aspects of the unified definition and promulgation of tide and current information.

15.PRO 2.2: The Assembly:

- a) approved the amendments of the existing IHO resolution 2/2007 - principles and procedures for making changes to IHO technical standards and specifications, including the new Annex B – Instructions for Maintaining IHO Technical Standards and List of Technical Standards and Specifications that must follow the 2/2007 Resolution.
- b) approved that the Council should have the mandate to approve any future new editions of the new Annex B to IHO resolution 2/2007.

16.PRO 2.3: The Assembly approved the implementation of the New IHO Data Protection Scheme subscription model and invited the Secretariat to report annually on the intended operational cost recovery based on the subscription model to Council.

17.The Assembly endorsed the report of the IRCC Chair on the IRCC activities undertaken under Work Programme 3.

18.PRO 3.1: The Assembly:

- a) approved the update of IHO Publication C-47 - Training Courses in Hydrography and Nautical Cartography to focus exclusively on full IBSC Recognized Programmes and other Programmes containing Recognized Subjects.
- b) approved the change of the name to "Recognized Training Programmes on Hydrography and Nautical Cartography and Training Programmes Containing Recognized Subjects".

- c) tasked IBSC via IRCC to review the information structure and update the IHO Publication C-47 in accordance, maintaining alignment with the IBSC List of Recognized Programmes and Schemes.

19.PRO 3.2: The Assembly:

- a) approved the renaming of the “Capacity Building” Strategic Pillar to “Capacity Development”.
- b) approved the corresponding renaming of the “Capacity Building Sub-Committee (CBSC)”.
- c) instructed the IHO Secretariat and CDSC to subsequently update all relevant IHO documents, publications and communications to reflect this change.
- d) approved the use the phrase “capacity development” as the overarching general term in all communications related to all activities undertaken under the (re)named strategic pillar.

20.PRO 3.3: The Assembly:

- a) approved the IHO Resolution on support inspire, recruit and maintain a competent workforce.
- b) invited the Secretariat to apply this resolution internally.
- c) tasked the Council to coordinate the respective implementation by the subordinate bodies.

21.PRO 3.4: The Assembly:

- a) approved the creation of a GEBCO Secretariat as described in Annex A.
- b) approved the consequential adjustments to IHO Res. 1/2014 presented at Annex B.
- c) tasked the IHO Secretariat in consultation with the GEBCO Guiding Committee to develop a dedicated new IHO Resolution addressing the operational and functional (including staffing, administration and finance) aspects of the new entity.
- d) tasked the GEBCO Guiding Committee to make the consequential amendments to the GEBCO Guiding Committee Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure and submit to IRCC accordingly.

22.PRO 3.5: The Assembly, noting the situation as described by Ukraine in PRO 3.5:

- a) tasked the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) and invited the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC) to conduct a comprehensive technical assessment of impact of the ongoing aggression of the Russian Federation on hydrographic matters.
- b) encouraged Member States to consider providing the national hydrographic service of Ukraine with technical assistance, facilitating its performance of coastal state responsibilities associated with surveys, nautical charts, publications for seafarers and WWNWS operation.

23.PRO 1.8: The Assembly:

- a) took note of the approval of the S-130 Product Specification ready for the creation of compliant S-130 datasets.
- b) approved the adoption of Edition 1.0.0 of the S-130 global IHO dataset as principal reference maintained by the IHO Secretariat as the independent source of information on demarcations of global sea areas. Edition 1.0.0 is released and published for initial implementation, testing and evaluation and further stakeholder review “Capacity Development Sub-Committee (CDSC)”.

- c) reaffirmed that the limits expressed by the demarcations contained in the S-130 Global IHO Dataset have no political significance whatsoever and are of recommending nature only. This statement is to be included in the disclaimer forming metadata of the dataset.
 - d) recognized the technical possibility and the option for Member States to create national variants of regional and/or global S-130 compliant datasets.
 - e) tasked the Secretary-General, supported by the S-130PT under revised ToRs overseen by HSSC, to pursue the further evolution process of the S-130 Product Specification and Editions of S-130 Global IHO Dataset and report on the progress to Council.
 - f) tasked the Council with the development of the process on how Member States can propose updates on the demarcations to be included in the S-130 Global IHO Dataset.
24. The Assembly noted the Reports of the Regional Hydrographic Commissions and the Hydrographic Commission of Antarctica.
25. The Assembly approved the Finance Report 2023–2025.
26. The Assembly approved the Annual Finance Report 2025
27. The Assembly approved the Secretary-General’s recommendations on the use of the 2025 surplus.
28. The Assembly approved the re-appointment of CABINET TARAMAZZO (Monaco) to audit the fiscal years 2026 – 2028.
29. The Assembly took note on the expected positive deviations of the budget for 2027, 2028 and 2029 to be approved annually by Council from the three-year budget estimates 2027–2029 presented for Assembly approval.
30. The Assembly took note of the re-election of the Ms Isabelle Rosabrunetto (Monaco) as Finance Committee Chair and the re-election of Ms Sonia Chanell (UK) as Finance Committee Vice-Chair for the term 2027 – 2029.
31. PRO 1.6: The Assembly approved the 3 years’ budget estimates 2027 – 2029.
32. PRO 1.5: The Assembly:
- a) endorsed the 3-year Work Programme 2027 - 2029.
 - b) tasked the Secretary-General to create a modified version adapted to the Strategic Plan 2027 – 2032 to be approved by Member States via Circular Letter before 15th July.
33. The Assembly approved the Table of Tonnages 2027 – 2029 (Doc.A4_2026_G_03_EN_FR).
34. **The Assembly elected Rear Admiral Luigi SINAPI (Italy) to serve as the Secretary-General of the IHO** for a term of office of 3 years starting on 1 September 2026.
35. **The Assembly elected Mr Adam GREENLAND (New Zealand) to serve as Director of the IHO** for a term of office of 6 years starting on 1 September 2026.
36. The Assembly endorsed the selection process of the Members of the Council 2026-2029 (Doc. A4_2026_G_07_EN) and approved the Members of the Council 2026-2029 (Doc. A4_2026_G_08_EN).
37. The Assembly agreed to plan the 5th Session of the Assembly (A-5) for 23 - 27 April 2029.
38. The Assembly agreed to start the seating order of 5th Session of the Assembly (A-5) with Character “D” of the French alphabet.
39. The Assembly:

Recognizing the continued close association and **significant support of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II and the Government of the Principality of Monaco** in hosting the International Hydrographic Organization, Appreciating the kind generosity of His Serene Highness and the Government of the Principality of Monaco in providing premises for the Organization, Further appreciating the provision of the Port Facilities of Monaco for the ships that called during the 4th Session of the Assembly, Expresses its profound gratitude to His Serene Highness Prince Albert II and the Government of the Principality of Monaco for their graciousness and kind hospitality extended to the Organization, and Requests the delegation of the Principality of Monaco to convey to His Serene Highness and the Government of the Principality of Monaco the sincere sentiments of the Assembly expressed above.



Group photo of participants at the 4th Session of the IHO Assembly (2026), International Hydrographic Organization in Monaco

Gdynia, 17th June 2026

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