



International Mobile Satellite Organization

ASSEMBLY

Twentieth Session

Malta, 29 September to 3 October 2008

Agenda item 8.1

ASSEMBLY/20/8.1

Origin: Chairman of
Advisory Committee

Date: 26 June 2008

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Executive Summary:	this document summarises the activities of the Advisory Committee since the Eighteenth Session of the Assembly.
Action to be taken:	to note the activities of the Advisory Committee;
Related documents:	ASSEMBLY/20/INF/5 Reports of the Seventeenth to Twenty-First Sessions of the Advisory Committee

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Since the Eighteenth Session of the Assembly in September 2006, the Advisory Committee has held five Sessions, with the Twenty-First Session being held in Madrid, Spain. Copies of the reports of each meeting were sent to all IMSO Parties at the conclusion of each meeting, and are available as Annex VIII to ASSEMBLY/20/INF/3. The Chairman of the Committee from the Seventeenth Session was Mr William Azuh of Nigeria, with Mr Arsenio Dominguez of Panama as Vice-Chairman. The Twenty-Second and Twenty-Third Sessions of the Committee will be held in July and September 2008, respectively, and the outcome of those sessions will be reported separately as Addenda to this document.

2 ACTIVITIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee meets on a regular basis, and its Agenda is agreed on the basis of ongoing issues and its work programme.

Information is provided in the following sections on the wide ranging discussions held during its Sessions, including advice and guidance given to the Director and agreements reached. Only a summary of discussions is given in this document together with references to the relevant sections of each Report which provide details.

3 IMSO GMDSS BUDGETS FOR 2007 AND 2008 AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2006

References: AC/17/Report, Section 6.1 and 6.2
 AC/18/Report, Section 3
 AC/19/Report, Section 4.6 and 7
 AC/20/Report, Sections 7.1 and 7.2

3.1 The budgets for financial years 2007 and 2008 were discussed and agreed at the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Sessions and the Nineteenth Session respectively, as follows. (For comparison, the budgets for 2005 and 2006 are also shown).

	2008	2007	2006	2005
Salary Costs:	432,100	419,207	341,050	344,250
Office Maintenance:	63,022	60,450	49,960	50,150
Rental:	46,863	46,640	25,422	25,422
Travel and				
Hospitality:	53,017	50,000	41,400	40,500
Meeting Costs:	99,000	70,000	77,500	39,000
Contingency:	6,990	6,463	5,353	0
One off Costs	5,000	65,700	0	0
TOTAL:	705,992	718,460	540,685	499,322

3.2 The Committee has also discussed and noted the audited financial statements for 2006 and will consider the 2007 audited financial statements at its Twenty-Second Session in July 2008.

4 AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ASSEMBLY

References: AC/19/Report, Section 3.3
AC/20/Report, Section 3.2
AC/21/Report, Section 3.1

As requested by the Eighteenth and Nineteenth (Extraordinary) Sessions of the Assembly, the Committee discussed and agreed proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the Assembly. The Admittance of Observers to Sessions of the Assembly and Advisory Committee will be discussed at the Twenty-Second Session of the Committee in July 2008. The Director will submit proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the Assembly in document ASSEMBLY/20/5 and its Addendum.

5 AMENDMENTS TO TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

References: AC/19/Report, Section 3.1
AC/20/Report, Section 3.1

As requested by the Eighteenth and Nineteenth (Extraordinary) Sessions of the Assembly, the Committee discussed and agreed proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee. The Committee will discuss further amendments at its Twenty-Second Session. The Director will submit proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee in document ASSEMBLY/20/8.3 and its Addendum.

6 AMENDMENTS TO FUNCTIONS OF THE IMSO DIRECTOR

References: AC/19/Report, Section 3.4
AC/20/Report, Section 3.3
AC/21/Report, Section 3.2

As requested by the Eighteenth and Nineteenth (Extraordinary) Sessions of the Assembly, the Committee discussed and agreed proposed Amendments to the Functions of the IMSO Director. The Committee will discuss further amendments at its Twenty-Second Session. The Director will submit

proposed amendments to the Functions of the Director in document ASSEMBLY/20/10.2 and its Addendum.

7 DIRECTORATE ACTIVITIES

References: AC/19/Report, Section 4 and 8.3
AC/20/Report, Section 4
AC/21/Report, Section 4

7.1 As the Assembly is aware, the contract of the first IMSO Director, Mr Jerzy Vonau ended on 14 April 2007. At its Nineteenth Session, the Committee agreed *“to recommend to the Assembly that Jerzy Vonau be designated as Director Emeritus of IMSO, in recognition of his services to the Organization without any consequent financial or other obligation placed upon IMSO.”* The Committee also noted that the Government of Poland has nominated Mr Vonau for the World Maritime Prize 2007. A submission by the Chairman of the Committee on these issues is contained in document ASSEMBLY/20/10.5.

7.2 The new Director, Captain Esteban Pacha-Vicente, appointed at the Eighteenth Session of the Assembly, took office on 15 April 2008. At its Nineteenth Session, the Committee agreed *“for administrative convenience and in the light of the extended functions of the Organization, to recommend to the Assembly that it may wish to consider amending the title of the Head of the IMSO Directorate to Director General. Such redesignation could be adopted by the Assembly and/ or could eventually require amendment to the IMSO Convention in accordance with Article 19. The Committee also noted that such action may require consequential redesignations of titles of other members of the Directorate and that, in any event, no financial implications would be involved.”* A submission by the Chairman of the Committee on this issue is contained in document ASSEMBLY/20/10.6.

7.3 The Advisory Committee receives and notes regular reports on the activities of the Directorate, a welcome initiative by the Director to keep the Committee well informed. The Director will report to the Assembly on the activities of the Directorate in document ASSEMBLY/20/10.3.

8 GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)

8.1 Inmarsat GMDSS services

References: AC/19/Report, Section 5
AC/20/Report, Section 5.1
AC/21/Report, Section 5.1

The Committee has been kept fully informed of all matters related to GMDSS services provided by Inmarsat, under its public services obligations, including meetings of the Public Services Committee, contingency exercises and closure of the Inmarsat-A services. The Director's submission to the Assembly on these matters is contained in document ASSEMBLY/20/6.1.

8.2 GMDSS Public Services Agreement

References: AC/17/Report, Section 4
AC/19/Report, Section 3.2 and 8.1
AC/20/Report, Section 5.2
AC/21/Report, Section 5.2

As the Assembly is aware, IMSO has been invited by IMO to undertake oversight of future satellite providers in the GMDSS. In this regard, IMO adopted Resolution A.1001(25) on Criteria for the provision of Mobile Satellite Communication Systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), which revoked previous Resolution A.888(21) and MSC/Circ.1077.

At its Twenty-First Session, the Committee agreed the text of the draft Reference Public Services Agreement (PSA), as submitted by the Director which took account of IMO Resolution A.1001(25) as well as a request by the Party of Denmark for clarification of the definition of "Provider". This issue is submitted to the Assembly in document ASSEMBLY/20/6.2.

9 LONG RANGE IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING OF SHIPS (LRIT)

References: AC/17/Report, Section 4
AC/18/Report, Section 3
AC/19/Report, Section 3.5 and 6.2
AC/20/Report, Section 6.1 and 7
AC/21/Report, Section 6

Following the decision at the Nineteenth (Extraordinary) Session of the IMSO Assembly that *“the Organization may assume the functions and duties of the LRIT Co-ordinator with effect from 7 March 2007, at no cost to Parties, in accordance with decisions of IMO, where Article 4 of the amended Convention will be applied on a provisional basis”*, the Committee has concentrated its efforts on the following related items, including progress made at relevant IMO meetings:

- the role of IMSO as the LRIT Coordinator and measures required to fulfil these functions;
- the Request for Proposals issued by the Director for the Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of the International Data Exchange (IDE) and/or International Data Centre (IDC), responses thereto, discussions in relevant IMO fora, and contractual arrangements;
- LRIT start up funding, cost recovery and charging – in this regard, the Committee agreed *“that the Director should continue his efforts to identify possible sources of LRIT start up funding, and should write once again to Member States reiterating the need for start up funds for commencement of LRIT project and specifying the amounts sought.”*
- LRIT business plan;
- Provision by Turkey of a Technical Assignee
- LRIT budget and financial matters.

The Committee has discussed at length the Director’s LRIT business plan, in particular the charging principles and procedures, although no firm agreement was reached. The Director was requested to bring the outcome of these discussions to IMO MSC 84 and is continuing to develop the business plan.

Although the Committee has agreed the LRIT budgets for 2007 and 2008, and noted illustrative LRIT budgets for 2009 and 2010, which are based on the fundamental principle that Inmarsat is not responsible for paying any budgetary elements relating to LRIT, these are subject to review following MSC 84.

It should be noted however, that, although some funding has been received and is expected to be received from IMSO Member States during 2007/08, the Director has been unable to undertake any significant LRIT activities, including recruitment, until these are fully funded.

The Committee will continue to discuss these issues at its Twenty-Second Session, taking into account the outcome of MSC 84. The report of its Twenty-Second Session will be made available to the Assembly as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Session. The Director will submit a number of documents to the Assembly regarding LRIT under Agenda item 7.

10 **AMENDMENTS TO THE IMSO CONVENTION AND DRAFT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY USA**

References: AC/19/Report, Section 8.4
AC/20/Report, Section 8.2
AC/21/Report, Section 7

The United States submitted proposed amendments to the IMSO Convention and a draft Assembly Resolution which have been circulated by the Director and are discussed in various Assembly documents under Agenda item 13. Although the Committee recognized that it was outside its mandate to discuss the amendments, the Committee discussed the legal and procedural implications of the amendments and requested the Director to seek legal advice. The Committee also noted that the United States had established an informal correspondence group.

The Committee advised the Director to provide as much detailed information as possible in his submission to the Assembly under Agenda item 13.

11 IMSO WEBSITE

References: AC/17/Report, Section 5
AC/19/Report, Section 4.4

The development and launch in February 2008 of the IMSO website (www.imso.org) has been discussed at various sessions of the Committee and the Director's submission on this matter is contained in document ASSEMBLY/20/10.3.

12 IMSO HEADQUARTERS

References: AC/17/Report, Section 7.1 - IMO
AC/19/Report, Section 4.5

The Committee has discussed the possible need for IMSO Headquarters to be relocated when new GMDSS providers are accepted by IMO and/or to provide for possible expansion for LRIT activities. The Director has kept the Committee informed of his enquires relating to accommodation in the Inmarsat and IMO Headquarters buildings as well as other possibilities. Arrangements are in hand with Inmarsat to sign a three year sub-lease, with a one year notice period, for the current premises in the Inmarsat Headquarter building.

The Director's submission on this matter is contained in document ASSEMBLY/20/10.4.

13 CONCLUSION

To conclude I would like to thank members of the Committee for their excellent spirit of cooperation. I would like also to thank Mr Esteban Pacha, the IMSO Director, as well as his predecessor, Mr Jerzy Vonau, the Deputy Director, Mr Andy Fuller and the Head of Administration, Finance and Conferences, Ms Jenny Ray, for their work in organizing, convening and reporting sessions of the Committee, and for their unreserved assistance to the Chairman in helping him to properly fulfil his task. I would also like to

take this opportunity to thank the Technical Assignee, Mr Ozkan Istanbulu, who has assisted both the Chairman and the Directorate.

14 **ACTION REQUIRED**

The Assembly notes the reports of the Seventeenth to Twenty-First Sessions of the Advisory Committee, and that the Reports of the Twenty-Second and Twenty-Third Sessions will be submitted at the conclusion of each session.
