

## Report of the Advisory Board on Law of the Sea (ABLOS)

Submitted by: Chair, ABLOS

ABLOS is a joint board established by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)

**Chair:** Sunil Bisnath, Canada (IAG Member)  
**Vice-Chair:** John Brown, United Kingdom (IHO Member)  
**Secretary:** David Wyatt, IHB  
**Members IHO:** Brazil, Japan, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom  
**Members IAG:** Canada, Chile, Denmark, Indonesia  
**Ex Officio:** UN DOALOS and IHB  
**Observers:** Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Croatia, India, Japan, United Kingdom  
*see Annex A for full details*

### Meetings Held During Reporting Period

ABLOS 21 21 – 22 October 2014 Copenhagen, Denmark

### Future Meetings

ABLOS 22 19, 23 October 2015 Monaco

ABLOS 8 Conference 20 – 22 October 2015 Monaco

### Work Program

The 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of ABLOS was hosted by the DTU Space – the National Space Institute of Denmark, and held at the First Hotel King Frederik in Copenhagen, Denmark from 21 -22 October 2014. It was followed by a seminar titled “UNCLOS and the Arctic – Changes now and in the near future” on 23 October at the Technical University of Denmark in Copenhagen. ABLOS members and observers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Japan, Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom were present. The seminar was attended by approximately fifty people, and included presentations from Danish government authorities and ABLOS members.

The business meeting focused on preparations for the 8th ABLOS Conference under the title “UNCLOS – Advances in governing the blue world”, which will be held in Monaco in from 20 -22 October 2015. Detailed information for the Conference has been announced by IHO Circular Letter, on the ABLOS page of the IHO web site, and on the conference web site: [www.ablosconference.com](http://www.ablosconference.com).

The revised Manual on Technical Aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea -1982 (TALOS Manual -C-51) – edition 5.0.0 was accepted by the IHO and IAG and published. Main contributions to this edition include a complete reworking on the geodesy chapter.

The ABLOS Terms of Reference were slightly modified. Due to the special circumstances concerning ABLOS where it is the only working group reporting to two parent bodies i.e. the IAG as well as the IHO it is felt that the current wording of paragraph 2.1 of the HSSC ToRs does not take this into account. It is proposed that the second sentence be amended to read: The Chairs of the relevant subordinate bodies of the Committee *or their nominated representatives should* attend and report at all Committee Meetings. The modifications were accepted by both the IHO and the IAG.

2015 work includes completing preparations for the ABLOS 8 conference, the conference itself and associated ABLOS 21 business meeting. Also, reviewing the TALOS manual for any necessary updating, delivering standard training programmes on request, and providing advice and guidance on the technical aspects of the Law of the Sea.

## Annex A to ABLOS Report to IAG

### MEMBERS OF ABLOS

#### IHO representatives:

- **John Brown** (Vice-Chair) {October 2012 – October 2014}  
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- **Commander Izabel King Jeck** {July 2013 – July 2017}  
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#### IAG representatives:

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- **Prof. Sunil Bisnath** (Chair) {October 2012 – October 2016}  
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- **Dr Juan Carlos Báez Soto** {May 2013 – May 2016}  
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#### DOALOS ex officio representative:

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