



AD HOC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON  
THE ORGANIZATION'S STRATEGIC PLAN  
10th session  
Agenda item 5

CWGSP 10/5(b)  
21 August 2009  
ENGLISH ONLY

**GUIDELINES ON THE APPLICATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN  
AND HIGH-LEVEL ACTION PLAN**

**(b) Migration plan**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**SUMMARY**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Executive summary:</b>   | This document recalls discussions at the Working Group's ninth session on the development of a migration plan to support an effective transition from current arrangements to full implementation, throughout the Organization, of the future Guidelines on the application of the Strategic Plan and High-level Action Plan. |
| <b>Strategic direction:</b> | 4   |
| <b>High-level action:</b>   | 4.5.1   |
| <b>Planned output:</b>      | 4.5.1.1   |
| <b>Action to be taken:</b>  | Paragraph 9   |
| <b>Related documents:</b>   | CWGSP 10/5(a); C 102/D (paragraphs 3(a).2(i) to 3(a).2(iii)); C 102/3(a) (annex 1); C 102/9/Add.1 (paragraph 67); CWGSP 8/3; resolutions A.989(25) and A.990(25)  |

**Introduction**

1 At its ninth session, the *ad hoc* Council Working Group on the Organization's Strategic Plan (hereinafter the Working Group) finalized a draft Assembly resolution and draft Guidelines on the application of the Strategic Plan and High-level Action Plan (hereinafter the draft Guidelines), as requested by the Assembly in operative paragraph 4 of resolution A.990(25). The work so finalized had as its basis submissions from a Correspondence Group and individual Member States. On completion of that work, and at its Chairman's suggestion, the Working Group concluded that it would be desirable to develop a migration plan to facilitate the changeover from current working arrangements to full implementation of the draft Guidelines throughout the Organization, following their approval and adoption by the forthcoming twenty-sixth Assembly.

2 As indicated in document CWGSP 10/5(a), the draft Guidelines were subsequently considered by a Meeting of Chairmen and MSC 86 (May 2009), C 102 (June 2009) and MEPC 59 (July 2009), with views being expressed and decisions taken thereon, as set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of that document. In particular, the following views on the aforementioned migration plan were relayed to the Council in paragraph 67 of document C 102/9/Add.1 (outcome of MSC 86):

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- “4 the Committees and the sub-committees should apply the Guidelines as far as reasonably practicable after adoption by A 26, taking into account that full implementation thereof would not be possible unless the Committees have aligned their own Guidelines with the new Guidelines;
- .5 the current practice for approving new work programme items under the current Committees’ Guidelines should continue until the Committees are ready to implement the new Guidelines;
- .6 views of the Chairmen of the MSC, the MEPC and the sub-committees should be taken into account in the development of the migration plan by CWGSP detailing the practical steps required to support the effective transition from current arrangements to full implementation of the Guidelines throughout the Organization; and
- .7 the new responsibilities envisaged for the Chairmen of the Committees and sub-committees should be described in the Council’s migration plan.”

### Possible ways forward

3 From the foregoing – indeed, from earlier discussions in the Working Group itself – it would appear evident that, once approved by A 26 at the end of 2009, it will not be feasible to implement the draft Guidelines fully as of 1 January 2010, because the relevant IMO organs will have to adjust the Guidelines on the organization and method of their own work to conform to the texts adopted by the Assembly.

4 This circumstance was envisaged by A 25 when authorizing the development of the draft Guidelines, since it included operative paragraph 5 in resolution A.990(25) which “requests the Council and the committees to review and revise the guidelines for the organization and method of their work in the light of the guidelines developed by the Council on the application of the Strategic Plan and the High-level Action Plan”.

5 It was equally envisaged under the terms of reference of the aforementioned Correspondence Group (i.e. “consider any consequential modifications to the guidelines on the organization and method of work of the various IMO organs”) and, therefore, in its reports to the Working Group (see documents CWGSP 8/3 and CWGSP 9/2). The latter document, in paragraphs 2.17 and 2.18 thereof, even provided guidance on just how the guidelines on the organization and method of work of the various IMO organs might need to be revised following adoption of the Guidelines on the application of the Strategic Plan and High-level Action Plan.

6 It might therefore be said, with respect to the concerns expressed in the **subparagraphs numbered 4 and 5**, under paragraph 2 above, that:

- .1 while it may not be feasible to implement fully the draft Guidelines as of the beginning of the next biennium, every effort should nevertheless be made by all IMO organs to apply them as far as reasonably practicable;
- .2 relevant IMO organs will nevertheless need to begin immediately the process of adjusting their own Guidelines;
- .3 pending the conclusion of that process, the current practice for approving new work programme items under the current Committees’ Guidelines should continue;
- .4 the adjustment process is likely to begin only in the second half of 2010, taking into account that the agendas of relevant IMO organs are already established for the first half of the year;

- .5 the process is likely to require two sessions from each relevant organ, as indicated hereunder (all suggested timings being purely indicative):

Council: November 2010 (C 105) and sometime in 2011 (C 106);  
FAL: September 2010 (FAL 36) and sometime in 2011 (FAL 37);  
LEG: November 2010 (LEG 97) and sometime in 2011 (LEG 98);  
MEPC: October 2010 (MEPC 61) and sometime in 2011 (MEPC 62);  
MSC: December 2010 (MSC 88) and sometime in 2011 (MSC 89);  
TCC: June 2010 (TC 60) and sometime in 2011 (TC 61); and

- .6 in carrying out the adjustment work, relevant IMO organs should be steered by the guidance set out in paragraphs 2.17 and 2.18 of document CWGSP 9/2 and any further advice that the Working Group may wish to provide.

- 7 With respect to the remaining concerns quoted under paragraph 2 above:

- .1 the views and active participation of all Chairmen in the development of the draft Guidelines have been uniformly and consistently sought by the Correspondence Group and its Coordinator, the Working Group and its Chairman, and the Council itself, and there is therefore every reason to believe that similar and equal opportunity will be afforded to all Chairmen by CWGSP 10 when developing the migration plan (see the **subparagraph numbered 6**); and

- .2 the responsibilities of all the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Secretaries of relevant IMO organs (see the **subparagraph numbered 7**) are described in general in section 7 of the draft Guidelines and the Working Group may therefore wish to consider what further guidance it may wish to provide to the Chairmen.

8 In considering the latter point, the Working Group will want to note that the Secretariat has been creating a database on the Strategic and High-level Action Plans (eventually to become a GISIS module), in order to ensure the continuous monitoring and updating of the two Plans during a biennium. Because the database records their biennial agendas, unplanned outputs, post-biennial agendas and all adjustments thereto (i.e. the nature of all adjustments, by which organ, why, when, the Council's endorsement thereof (as applicable), etc.), it will be an especially useful tool for the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Secretaries in their tasks of managing the Organization's workload, reporting on outputs (whether planned or unplanned) and planning for future outputs.

#### **Action requested of the Working Group**

9 In developing the migration plan it had previously envisaged, the Working Group is invited to consider the information provided in this document and decide as appropriate, in particular in respect of the comments at paragraphs 6, 7 and 8.