

IHO File No. S1/6100/2026

ASSEMBLY CIRCULAR LETTER N°2 Bis4
14 October 2025

4th SESSION OF THE IHO ASSEMBLY (A-4)

Monaco, 19-23 April 2026

NOMINATION OF CAPTAIN BURAK İNAN

BY THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR

References:

- A. Assembly Circular Letter No.2 dated 29 April 2025 – *Call for nomination of candidates for the position of IHO Secretary-General and IHO Director.*
- B. General Regulations of the IHO, Article 21
- C. General Regulations of the IHO, Article 26 (a)

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Reference A invited IHO Member States to nominate candidates for the position of IHO Secretary-General and IHO Director and indicated that the names of candidates and their nomination forms will be published as soon as they are received.
2. The Republic of Türkiye has nominated **CAPTAIN BURAK İNAN** to stand for election (Reference C) at the 4th Session of the IHO Assembly for the post of **IHO Director**. The nomination form is enclosed.
3. As required by Reference B, the Secretary-General will collate all the nominations received and present a consolidated inventory as part of the documentation for the consideration of the Assembly.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General

Annex: Nomination Form from Republic of Türkiye.



Candidature for a post of¹
☐ SECRETARY-GENERAL
☒ DIRECTOR

Candidature à un poste de¹
☐ SECRETAIRE GENERAL
☒ DIRECTEUR

GENERAL – GENERALITES

1. **Nominating Member State - Etat membre qui présente le candidat:** Türkiye
2. **Name - Nom:** Burak İNAN
3. **Nationality - Nationalité:** Turkish
4. **Date of birth - Date de naissance:** 29.01.1974 (51 years old)
5. **Titles and decorations - Titres et decorations:**
 - a. **Titles**
 - Turkish Navy, Captain (Since August 2019)
 - Hydrographer of the Turkish Navy (Since August 2025)
 - Black and Azov Seas Working Group (BASWG) Chair (Since September 2025)
 - IC-ENC Chair (2023-2025), IC-ENC Vice Chair (Since July 2025)
 - b. **Décorations**
 - EU medal, mission ALTHEA for operations in the Former Yugoslavia mission (2017)
 - Turkish Navy Distinguished Service Medal (2012)

EDUCATION AND LANGUAGES - ETUDES ET LANGUES

6. **Education (periods, including specialized or special qualifications) - Etudes (durée, y compris les qualifications spécialisées ou particulières) :**
 - Command and Staff Officer Training, İstanbul-Türkiye (2013)
 - ENC Production Training, International Maritime Academy (IMA) Trieste-Italy (2005)
 - Cat B Nautical Cartography Training, International Maritime Academy (IMA) Trieste-Italy (2001)
 - Turkish Naval Academy, İstanbul-Türkiye (1993-1997)
7. **Languages (speaking and reading capacity) - Langues (niveau oral et écrit) :**
 - Turkish: Native language
 - English: Fluent in speaking and in reading

SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE - SERVICES ET EXPERIENCE

8. Hydrographic service - Services dans l'hydrographie :

- Chair, IC-ENC (2023–2025)
- Deputy Director, Turkish Hydrographic Office (2021–2025)
- Head, Chart Production Division & Secretary, BASWG (2016–2018)
- Commanding Officer, Survey Vessel TCG ÇEŞME (2014–2016)
- Head, Electronic Chart Production Division (2012–2014)
- Executive Officer, Survey Vessel TCG ÇEŞME (2007–2012)
- Head, Paper Chart Production Division (2002–2007)
- **Capacity Building Coordinator, MBSHC (2012–2014, 2016–2018, 2021–2024):**

As the MBSHC Capacity Building Coordinator, I was actively involved in the planning and execution of the following courses and workshops, ensuring their successful delivery and alignment with IHO procedures and standards.

- ENC Quality Assessment & Conversion Course (2024, Türkiye)
*(This course marked a historic milestone in the IHO's history, as it was the **first-ever Capacity Building training fully financed by a RENC (IC-ENC)**. This pioneering initiative not only demonstrated the growing role of RENCs within the global hydrographic community, but also set a precedent for future collaboration, innovation, and shared commitment to strengthening capacity worldwide. I had the privilege to lead this effort, and it remains one of the achievements I am most proud of.)*

- Workshop on MSI Development & Implementation (2024, Türkiye)
- Cartographic Data Management & MSDI Workshop (2022, Türkiye)
- Shallow Water Survey Course (2018, Italy)
- Maritime Safety Information (MSI) Workshop (2018, Türkiye)
- ENC Production & Distribution Workshop (2017, Türkiye)
- Maritime Boundary Delimitation Workshop (2017, Türkiye)

Within the framework of the IHO Capacity Building Programme, I took part in Technical Visits to support coastal States in the identification of requirements and the provision of recommendations in line with IHO standards, serving both as a team member and as a team leader. These visits included;

- Azerbaijan (2017)
- Montenegro (2016)
- Albania (2016)
- Lebanon (2014)

I also have been part of countless IHO meetings and working groups — moments of debate, cooperation, and discovery. I have seen how much this Organization can achieve when voices are heard and ideas are given a chance to grow.

9. **Non-Hydrographic service - Services autres qu'hydrographiques :**

- Chief of Staff, Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (MARSEC COE) (2024-2025)
- Chief of Staff, UN Black Sea Grain Initiative (UN BSGI) (2022-2023)
- Military Attache, Jakarta-Indonesia (2018-2021)
- Senior Analyst, Mission ALTHEA for operations in the Former Yugoslavia mission (2017)
- Branch Officer, Turkish Navy (1997-2001)

10. **Scientific Activities - Activités scientifiques :**

- Speaker, "*E-navigation in the Context of Freedom of Navigation*", 5th International Maritime Security Conference, Istanbul (June 2025)
- Speaker, "*The Future of Marine Geospatial Data: S-100 & IC-ENC*", Geospatial World Forum (GWF) Hydrospatial Infrastructure and Blue Economy Summit, Madrid (April 2025).
- Speaker, "*S-100 Based Next Generation Navigation and Unmanned Maritime Vehicles: Opportunities and Challenges*", Naval War Institute of the National Defense University, Istanbul, (April 2025)
- Speaker, *S-100: Shaping the Future of Maritime Navigation*, MAPit Conference-Next Generation Electronic Navigational Charts Powered by the S-100 Standards, Ankara (December 2024)

CANDIDATE'S POSITION - POSITION DU CANDIDAT
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When I look back at my journey in the Hydrographic Community, one thing was clear: I **wanted to be the voice for those who could not speak**. I opened the doors for dialogue, for new ideas, for different perspectives.

Guided by the idea that "*individually we are a drop, but together we are an ocean*" I worked to show that our true strength lies in unity — in collective action, in shared growth.

I ENVISION AN IHO TRANSFORMED FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

An Organization that does not fear change, but **leads it**.

An IHO that moves with confidence into the future — **modern, agile, and member-centered**.

• **Where S-100 is not a challenge, but a shared success story.**

The S-100 framework is more than a technical evolution; it is the foundation for a new era of navigation.

I envision an IHO where Member States progress together, supported by clear guidance, practical tools, and strong capacity-building.

Where knowledge is shared, not protected — and where no Hydrographic Office is left behind in the transition from vision to implementation.

• **Where automation and data interoperability enhance decision-making.**

The future of hydrography depends on our ability to connect systems, data, and people.

Automation should simplify the routine and empower innovation — giving experts the time to think, analyze, and collaborate.

Data should flow securely and seamlessly between nations, ensuring faster, smarter, and more transparent decisions.

- **Where technology becomes the common language connecting our community.**

From AI-supported production to cloud-based data platforms, I envision an IHO that makes technology accessible and meaningful to all.

The Organization must evolve into a *hub* of innovation — a living network that supports every HO, every day.

- **Where procurement and project delivery are agile, transparent, and professionally managed.**

Efficiency must become the new tradition.

IHO should adopt modern management models that ensure clarity, accountability, and speed — every resource aligned with a measurable result.

- **Where Commissions and Working Groups receive the professional and technical support they deserve — enabling them to focus on what truly matters: creating value.**

Our sub- bodies are the heartbeat of the IHO. They must be strengthened.

Dedicated expertise in project management, communication, and technology will turn good ideas into lasting achievements.

- **Where meetings are open, inclusive, and designed for collaboration, not hierarchy.**

The IHO should be a *forum of equals* — a place of dialogue, not monologue; participation, not protocol.

A space where innovation grows from shared respect and curiosity.

BUILDING A STRONGER FOUNDATION: CAPACITY BUILDING AND THE S-100 ERA

True leadership must turn vision into structure.

For this, the IHO needs to reshape its approach to **Capacity Building (CB)** and **S-100 transition** — the two engines of tomorrow's hydrography.

- **Redefining the Focus**

We should no longer ask *who funds the training*, but *how effectively the funds are used*.

IHO should act as a technical leader — offering complete, sustainable solutions rather than isolated financial support.

This means moving beyond one-off training sessions toward a continuous, results-driven support model — one that truly meets each HO's operational needs.

- **Going Beyond Training**

Capacity building is not just about classrooms. It's about coaching, mentoring, and hands-on experience.

By combining traditional training with online modules, interactive workshops, and case-based learning, we can turn knowledge into practice.

Real examples — such as how an HO improved data quality or chart production through IHO CB — will inspire replication and shared progress.

- **A Complete S-100 Toolkit**

IHO should deliver a *Complete S-100 Transition Kit*, including:

- Practical guides and manuals for all skill levels.
- Online software tools for validation, conversion, and data management.
- A global technical helpline for expert support.
- Structured roadmaps with measurable milestones.

This integrated package will give every HO a reliable path forward, ensuring no one is left behind.

- **Advanced Cartographic Training**

More Cat-B Cartography programs should be followed by short validation modules at RENCs — combining deep technical expertise with real-world application and member-focused mentoring.

- **Tailored Training and Global Partnerships**

Each HO faces unique realities. Bespoke, on-site training and practical support are essential.

In addition, an **IHO S-100 Training Consortium** — uniting software firms, local stakeholders, and service providers — can multiply resources, foster innovation, and strengthen global cooperation.

- **Filling Gaps and Ensuring Long-Term Value**

Success must be measured.

IHO should develop simple, transparent systems to monitor the real impact of training and technical support.

Combining funding with innovation and evaluation will keep the Organization a **trusted, long-term partner** for sustainable national growth.

LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT

I have actively participated and contributed in many IHO meetings and working groups — not as an observer, but as someone who has lived the Organization from within.

I have seen its strength, its struggles, and its enormous potential waiting to be unlocked.

I come from **the operational heart of hydrography** — where ideas meet reality, where responsibility cannot be postponed, and where every decision matters.

As an active naval officer, I have led teams through uncertainty, made decisions under pressure, and learned that unity turns complexity into strength.

With the insight of experience and the energy of a younger leader, I represent a new generation of leadership — ready to serve with endurance, empathy, and determination.

I am prepared to lead not from above, but from within — to build an IHO that listens, adapts, and inspires.

The IHO of tomorrow should be **faster, smarter, and more connected** — yet remain faithful to its spirit of trust and cooperation.

We owe it to those who built this Organization with paper charts and compasses,

and to those who will shape it with digital oceans and artificial intelligence.

Now, it is time to bring that new energy, courage, and unity to the IHO.

Together, we will shape an Organization that reflects who we are — and who we aspire to become.

Together, we will ensure that no one, and no nation, walks alone.

If you believe in me, let's walk this path together.

Because at the end, it is your vote that will shape the IHO's future which is Our future.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - RENSEIGNEMENTS COMPLEMENTAIRES
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As the Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces, I hereby formally approve and endorse the candidacy of Captain Burak Inan for the position of Director of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).

Captain Inan has served with distinction throughout his career, demonstrating exceptional leadership, professionalism, and commitment to the advancement of hydrography, oceanography, and maritime safety.

His active engagement in IHO bodies and regional commissions have made valuable contributions to international cooperation and to the overall development of the global hydrographic community.

I am confident that his leadership will bring new breath and perspective to the future of the IHO — combining deep professional experience with the creativity and drive needed to guide the Organization through its digital transformation. His balanced vision, open mind, and ability to connect people will help the IHO grow stronger, more agile, and more inclusive in the years ahead.

In recognition of his proven competence, strategic vision, and strong record of collaboration, I take great pride in authorizing and presenting his candidacy on behalf of the Turkish Naval Forces.

We are confident that Captain Burak Inan will serve the International Hydrographic Organization with honor, dedication, and distinction — upholding its values and contributing to its mission of global maritime safety and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Admiral Ercüment TATLIOĞLU, PhD
Commander of Turkish Naval Forces,

Date: 11 October 2025

Signature of candidate - Signature du candidat :

Forwarding Authority - Autorité qui transmet :

Signature of forwarding authority -Signature de l'autorité qui transmet :

ADMIRAL ERCÜMENT TATLIOĞLU, PHD
COMMANDER OF TURKISH NAVAL FORCES