



International Oil Pollution
Compensation Funds

Agenda Item 7	IOPC/OCT17/7/3	
Date	2 August 2017	
Original	English	
1992 Fund Assembly	92A22	●
1992 Fund Executive Committee	92EC69	
Supplementary Fund Assembly	SA14	●

INFORMATION SERVICES

Note by the Secretariat

Summary:	New, ongoing and future projects relating to the website are described and an update on the latest publications under development is also provided.
Action to be taken:	<u>1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly</u> Information to be noted.

1 Information services

The Secretariat makes every effort to ensure that the most relevant and accessible information is provided to Member States, the organisations' key partners, stakeholders and wider audience, whilst maintaining value for money. Two of the main information services provided by the Secretariat are the Funds' website (www.iopcfunds.org) and publications. Developments in respect of those services since October 2016 are set out below.

2 Website

Traffic

- 2.1 For the period June 2016–June 2017, the IOPC Funds website attracted some 28 000 unique visitors, representing 54 000 sessions and 180 000 page views. Of these visitors, 70% viewed the English site, 18% the Spanish site and 12% the French site.

Improvements to meeting registration system

- 2.2 Improvements to the online meeting registration system were introduced in late 2016, enabling one account user to more easily register multiple members of its delegation. In addition, a new function was introduced to allow delegations to submit their credentials via the registration system. The improved system with its new functions was used ahead of the April 2017 sessions of the governing bodies and proved very useful. Delegations are encouraged to register online for the meetings as soon as they have confirmation of their attendance and to submit credentials via the same system as soon as possible.

Introduction of social media

- 2.3 As part of the Secretariat's efforts to improve communication and increase awareness of the work of the organisation, a link to the social media platform Twitter was introduced to the website in July 2017 and the organisation has been posting information as well as following other organisations, individuals and companies since the account was established under the name [@IOPCFunds](https://twitter.com/IOPCFunds). The IOPC Funds' policy for the use of such social media has been developed to follow, as far as possible, that of IMO and the United Nations Communications Group.

Ongoing projects

- 2.4 Detailed country profiles are published under the Membership section of the website. In January 2016, Circular [IOPC/2016/Circ.2](#) was issued formally inviting Member States to submit copies of relevant national legislation to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience for inclusion in the country profiles in the form of a link to the relevant pages of a government website or in the form of a PDF. Such documents are made available in their original language, unless the State is in a position to provide them in English, French and/or Spanish.
- 2.5 As at 2 August 2017, the following States had submitted copies of their national legislation to the Secretariat.

Australia	France	Nicaragua
Bahamas	Ireland	Poland
Bulgaria	Japan	Turkey
Canada	Mexico	
Denmark	Netherlands	

The submitted information for these States have been made available via their country profiles.

Planned future developments

- 2.6 The content management system (CMS) which sits behind the IOPC Funds' website is due to be upgraded and, in order to maintain stability of the site and avoid any major issues to the website, such upgrade must be carried out this year. However, rather than pursuing the upgrade within the current system, following a full review of the options available, the decision has been taken to migrate the existing website to an alternative, more suitable and widely used platform. This work will take several months to complete and will not affect the user experience in the interim. The changes brought about by this migration will only impact the Secretariat in its management and maintenance of the website. In addition, whilst the site is being rebuilt within the new platform, the Secretariat intends to take any opportunity to identify areas for improvement on the front end of the website and to develop those areas as far as possible.

3 Publications*Recent publications*

- 3.1 The Annual Report 2016 was made available in March 2017. The sixth edition of the 1992 Fund Claims Manual was published online in November 2016 and printed versions were made available in June 2017. Both publications are available in English, French and Spanish in hard copy on request or to download from the Publications section of the website.

Future publications

- 3.2 The governing bodies are currently examining draft guidelines to assist claimants with the submission of claims for environmental damage. A draft text was initially submitted at the April 2016 sessions of the governing bodies and revised texts were submitted for consideration at their October 2016 and April 2017 sessions. A final revised version is expected to be submitted for the approval of the governing bodies at their October 2017 sessions.
- 3.3 Eventually, once approved by the governing bodies, the Secretariat will publish the document as a new addition to the Claims Information Pack, which currently contains the Claims Manual, a number of other guidelines relating to specific sectors and an example Claim Form. The information pack is available in

hard copy upon request or via the Publications section of the IOPC Funds' website. That pack is expected to be updated and reproduced with new logos, addresses and other items in 2018.

Publications in other languages

- 3.4 As noted in October 2016, the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the Secretariat have been collaborating on a project to produce a number of IOPC Funds' publications in Arabic since October 2016. The Text of Conventions and the Claims Manual have now been finalised and published in Arabic and are available to download via the Publications section of the website. A limited number of printed versions are also available on request.
- 3.5 PERSGA has also requested that other Guidelines within the Claims Information Pack be made available in the same way. As such, the IOPC Funds' Secretariat has continued to assist PERSGA in checking the translations in cooperation with IMO and in editing the publications, whilst PERSGA has undertaken the translation and printing of them. Since these are unofficial translations, a disclaimer will be included in each publication.
- 3.6 As previously stated, making such publications available assists the IOPC Funds in its endeavours to engage with more States, particularly in relation to the implementation of the Conventions and also in relation to raising States' and potential claimants' awareness of the liability and compensation regime and claims processes. At the October 2016 sessions of the governing bodies, the Director confirmed that he would positively consider offers from other Member States to undertake the translation of the Funds publications in their own language, should the need arise.
- 3.7 In June 2017, the Director received a request from China via the Chinese Ship-source Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (COPC Fund) to provide assistance in the verification of the text of the 1992 Fund Claims Manual in Chinese. The Secretariat has identified a suitable IMO-approved translator to review and revise the Chinese text to ensure that the relevant terminology is used throughout.

4 Action to be taken

1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly

The 1992 Fund Assembly and the Supplementary Fund Assembly are invited to take note of the information contained in this document.
