



International Oil Pollution
Compensation Funds

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SUPPORT PROVIDED TO MEMBER STATES

Note by the Secretariat

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| Summary: | This document sets out details of the training, educational and outreach activities delivered by the Secretariat since November 2021 and looks ahead to the activities and support services it is able to offer to Member States in 2023. |
| Action to be taken: | <u>1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly</u> Information to be noted. |

1 Introduction

- 1.1 During 2020 and 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions on international travel, the Secretariat adapted a number of its practices to ensure it was able to continue to engage with Member States, non-Member States and other stakeholders to provide support and training, and to increase awareness of the international liability and compensation regime in general. This included the delivery of a number of remote national and regional workshops, the participation of the Secretariat in a number of educational webinars and the adaption of the IOPC Funds' annual Short Course to a fully remote event.
- 1.2 During 2022, the Secretariat was pleased to be able to return to delivering or participating in a number of activities in person. However, following the experience gained in the previous year and the increased acceptance of and demand for remote activities, it has also continued, where appropriate, the practice of organising or taking part in a large number of online events.
- 1.3 This document sets out details of the activities delivered by the Secretariat in 2022 and looks ahead to the activities and support services it is able to offer to Member States in 2023.

2 Remote training and educational activities

2.1 Workshops and webinars

- 2.1.1 The Secretariat has contributed to a number of webinars since the November 2021 sessions of the governing bodies, including events organised by the Malaysian Marine Department, the European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia (EUCAP), the Ibero-American Institute of Maritime Law (IIDM) and Cedre.
- 2.1.2 The IOPC Funds participated in Interspill 2022, the European oil spill conference and exhibition which took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 21 to 23 June 2022. This was one of the first face to face events for the oil spill industry since the pandemic and provided a great opportunity for the Secretariat to reconnect with fellow organisations and representatives from the spill response community. Having supported Interspill for many years as a member of the Interspill Committee, the

IOPC Funds' Secretariat was involved in the organisation of the 2022 event and delivered a number of activities and presentations during the week. The IOPC Funds also had a joint exhibition stand, shared with the International Group of P&I Associations (International Group), which enabled the Secretariat to discuss the latest developments directly with delegates, create awareness and provide information on the international liability and compensation regime.

- 2.1.3 In August 2022, the IOPC Funds participated in Oil Spill India, an international conference and exhibition focusing on oil spill prevention, preparedness and response in New Delhi, India. The IOPC Funds were pleased to be a strategic partner for the sixth edition of the Oil Spill India Conference, which was supported by the oil industry and the Ministry of Shipping of India. The event provided an opportunity for the IOPC Funds to increase awareness among stakeholders about the work of the organisation and the regime in general, with the Director speaking at the inaugural session and at other times in the programme. The IOPC Funds had a stand at the exhibition, which it shared with the International Group, and met directly with other stakeholders and answered questions.
- 2.1.4 The Secretariat continues to speak at such conferences as part of its commitment to create awareness and increase knowledge about the role of the organisation. In addition to the events described above, it also attended the 10th International Conference of Maritime Law in Piraeus, Greece and the International Group of P&I Clubs Correspondents' Conference in London, United Kingdom.
- 2.1.5 The Secretariat is pleased to have been able to once again host visits from universities and other educational institutions in 2022 and welcomed students from the University of Deusto in May. The Director was also pleased to accept invitations from the World Maritime University in Sweden and the International Foundation of the Law of the Sea in Germany to lecture on the subject of the international liability and compensation regime to maritime students, diplomats and law practitioners.
- 2.1.6 Before the end of the year, the Secretariat will continue to engage with Member States by taking part in various planned activities. In October, it will participate in the RAMOGEPol 2022 exercise as part of a group of evaluation experts assessing the coordinated response to a simulated incident. It will also contribute to a national two-day sub-regional workshop on liability and compensation in Tunisia, which is organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC). In November, the IOPC Funds will participate in a four-day bi-annual regional GI WACAF conference on spill preparedness and response in Ghana and will also attend a regional workshop, in Singapore, on incident and cost recovery, organised by the IMO-IPIECA Global Initiative for South East Asia (GI SEA Project). The same month, the Secretariat will contribute to a claims management workshop in Portugal organised by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).
- 2.1.7 The Secretariat welcomes requests from any Member States that may consider it useful to organise activities similar to those described above.

2.2 Short Course

- 2.2.1 As reported previously, in 2021, the annual IOPC Funds Short Course was held online for the first time with an adapted programme that ran three hours per day over the course of two weeks. This enabled participants from various time zones to actively participate. The positive feedback received from participants confirmed that the online format of the course had proved to be successful and could be developed to possibly run alongside or as an additional option to the London-based course in the future.

- 2.2.2 However, from the Secretariat's point of view, it should not replace the in-person course which provides many advantages over the remote version, including a far more interactive environment, a more comprehensive programme with more time for discussion and questions, as well as the opportunity to visit key partners in London. For this reason, since travel restrictions were lifted in 2022, this year's course was held in person during the week of 27 June.
- 2.2.3 It was attended by participants from 13 Member States of the 1992 Fund, representing maritime administrations, national coast guards and others, with three Member States participating in the course for the first time. This year, the course was supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Group, the Standard Club, INTERTANKO, the ITOPF and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).
- 2.2.4 Participants were provided with concise but comprehensive training which covered all aspects of the work of the IOPC Funds and the international liability and compensation regime. The programme included presentations from various speakers from the Secretariat and other organisations, practical exercises allowing participants to study a theoretical incident and the subsequent claims submission process. Visits were also organised to the IMO headquarters, the International Group of P&I Associations, and the Standard Club. A guided tour of the Lloyd's of London building was also organised courtesy of the International Group.
- 2.2.5 Dates for the 2023 in-person course will be confirmed later in the year. General information on the annual Short Course can be found under the What We Do section of the IOPC Funds' website. Further consideration will be given to whether this course could be delivered to Member States remotely again, in a hybrid format or in an alternative location to London.

2.3 Induction course

- 2.3.1 It has not been possible to organise the Induction Course, which is a half-day course designed specifically to prepare new delegates, since 2019. However, on Monday 24 October 2022, the day before the opening of the October 2022 sessions of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies, the Induction Course will take place at the organisation's headquarters in London. The Induction Course was developed in response to a continued demand from Member States to provide meeting delegates with a better understanding of the functioning of the organisation and the interaction between a Member State and the IOPC Funds in the event of an oil spill.
- 2.3.2 The course is open to all interested delegates; however, it is designed to particularly benefit those who are either new to the IOPC Funds or have little prior knowledge of the organisation.
- 2.3.3 More information and details on how to register can be found in circular IOPC/2022/Circ.5.

3 Looking ahead/Director's considerations

- 3.1 Given our shared interests, the Secretariat continues to work in close cooperation with IMO in particular, as well as the International Group and ITOPF, to coordinate participation in events and share information in respect of activities planned to assist States. The intention for 2023 is of course to continue that cooperation and hopefully to be able to offer further joint activities, including national and regional workshops. Interested States are encouraged to contact the IOPC Funds' Secretariat directly or to discuss their training needs with the IMO Technical Cooperation Division.
- 3.2 The lessons learned from organising remote activities have been invaluable, and the IOPC Funds is keen to encourage more Member States to take part in the various training activities that it has to offer by providing activities that are accessible to all.

- 3.3 Following the experience gained in the previous year and the increased acceptance and demand for remote activities, the Secretariat has been able to develop mini online training workshops focusing on specific subjects, such as Reporting and Contributions. These are particularly useful for a targeted audience, such as representatives of government departments or national oil companies who are tasked with submitting oil reports. States are encouraged to take advantage of this training which can easily be arranged with the Secretariat and conducted during a short two-hour remote session.
- 3.4 As previously reported, the Secretariat is looking to develop a series of short webinars, which would be open to a wide audience, covering the key areas that form the basis of the IOPC Funds and the work of the organisations, such as claims handling. It is also looking into options for providing an online self-paced learning tool.
- 3.5 Finally, as set out in paragraph 2.2.5 whilst the Secretariat intends to continue to deliver its annual Short Course in person in London, further consideration will be given to whether this course could be delivered to Member States remotely again, in a hybrid format or in an alternative location to London.

4 Action to be taken

1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly

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