



International Oil Pollution
Compensation Funds

Agenda Item 7	IOPC/NOV23/7/2	
Date	12 October 2023	
Original	English	
1992 Fund Assembly	92A28	●
1992 Fund Executive Committee	92EC81	
Supplementary Fund Assembly	SA20	●

INFORMATION SERVICES

Note by the Secretariat

Summary:

The Secretariat provides a wide range of accessible information services to support Member States, contributors and, in particular, those affected by oil spill incidents involving the IOPC Funds. It also endeavours to ensure the availability of suitable materials and tools to support the organisation's efforts to increase awareness of the international liability and compensation regime.

This document highlights some of the existing key information services available and sets out new, ongoing and future related projects.

Action to be taken:

1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly

Information to be noted.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Secretariat provides a wide range of accessible information services to support Member States, contributors and, in particular, those affected by oil spill incidents involving the IOPC Funds. It also endeavours to ensure the availability of suitable materials and tools to support the organisation's efforts to increase awareness of the international liability and compensation regime to wider audiences.
- 1.2 Key tools under those services are the IOPC Funds' website (www.iopcfunds.org) and the publications it produces. This document highlights some of the existing key information services available and sets out new, ongoing and future related projects.

2 Website

- 2.1 The IOPC Funds' website comprises the main site and the Document Services section.
- 2.2 The main site sets out general information about the organisation, details of both current and historical incidents involving the IOPC Funds, membership data, including individual country profiles, and access to both the latest and historical publications, as well as news articles, upcoming events and more.
- 2.3 The Document Services section is a key tool for delegates attending IOPC Funds' meetings in particular, as it contains a searchable library of circulars and meeting documents presented for discussion by the governing bodies, the online meeting registration system, document templates and the full set of resolutions adopted by Member States over the years.

- 2.4 The Secretariat regularly reviews and endeavours to improve the website and general information services it provides. Since the October 2022 meeting of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies the Secretariat has introduced the facility to register online for the Annual Academy, the Induction Course and the Webinar sessions. This has made it a far more efficient service for the participants when registering, and also for the Secretariat in terms of management of the event.
- 2.5 The occurrence of the *Princess Empress* incident in February 2023 prompted the creation of a specific 'Information for Claimants' area for that incident, which has proved useful. This new page was made available in Tagalog, as well as the three official languages of the IOPC Funds. Relevant claim forms were also made available in this section in English and Tagalog.
- 2.6 Document services accounts
- 2.6.1 Despite the various benefits to account holders, particularly in terms of meeting document notifications, registration and the facility to submit credentials online, there remain a significant number of delegates who have not yet registered for an IOPC Funds' document services account. The Secretariat would therefore urge all delegates to register for an account to avoid missing key updates and encourages the use of the online system to upload credentials. To register for an account, please visit <https://documentservices.iopcfunds.org/meeting-registration/>.
- 2.6.2 The Secretariat remain available to assist with registering for or managing accounts, registering for meetings or submitting credentials.
- 2.7 Ongoing projects – Submission of national legislation
- 2.7.1 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 the 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 as 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.
- 2.7.2 As at 6 October 2023, the following States had submitted copies of their national legislation to the Secretariat.
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|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | France | Philippines |
| Australia | Ireland | Poland |
| Bahamas | Italy | Republic of Korea |
| Bulgaria | Japan | Thailand |
| Canada | Mexico | Turkey |
| China (HKSAR) | Netherlands | United Kingdom |
| Denmark | Nicaragua | |
- 2.7.3 The submitted information for these States has been made available via their online country profiles.
- 2.8 Ongoing projects – Notification of the establishment of an EEZ or designated an area under Article 3(a)(ii) of the 1992 Fund Convention
- 2.8.1 At its 1st session, the 1992 Fund Assembly noted that the geographical scope of application of the 1992 Fund Convention included the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It was recognised that in order to determine the geographical scope of application of the 1992 Fund Convention in respect of a given Member State, it was necessary for the 1992 Fund to know whether that State had established an EEZ or designated an area under Article 3(a)(ii) of that Convention (document 92FUND/A.1/34, paragraph 21.1).

- 2.8.2 The 1992 Fund Assembly adopted a Resolution at its 1st session (1992 Fund Resolution N°4) to the effect that States which established an EEZ or designated an area under Article 3(a)(ii) of the 1992 Fund Convention before ratifying the 1992 Fund Convention were invited to notify the Secretary-General of IMO accordingly when they deposited their instruments of ratification in respect of that Convention, and that States which established an EEZ or designated an area after ratification were invited to notify the Director accordingly (document 92FUND/A.1/34, paragraph 21.2 and Annex IV).
- 2.8.3 Information on the EEZ or designated areas has so far been submitted by 32 of the 121 States for which the 1992 Fund Convention will be in force at the time of the 28th session of the 1992 Fund Assembly, as listed below:

Algeria	Estonia	Jamaica	Portugal
Australia	Fiji	Latvia	Spain
Bahamas	Finland	Marshall Islands	Sweden
Belgium	France	Mauritius	Tunisia
Brunei Darussalam	Germany	Mexico	United Kingdom
Canada	Grenada	Netherlands	Uruguay
Croatia	Ireland	New Zealand	Vanuatu
Denmark	Italy	Norway	Venezuela

- 2.8.4 Following the suggestion of one Member State at the October 2022 sessions of the governing bodies, the Secretariat has contacted the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN DOALOS) to request permission to use the information relevant States have already provided to that office on the same subject, and which already appears on the DOALOS section of the UN website.
- 2.8.5 It is hoped that, in the event that permission is granted, the Secretariat will be able to obtain the information pertaining to many of the States which have not yet provided it to the Director. However, in the meantime, Member States are still kindly requested to directly forward the missing information to the Director in accordance with 1992 Fund Resolution N°4.

3 Publications

- 3.1 The 2022 Financial Statements of the 1992 Fund and Supplementary Fund were published as online publications and the Annual Report 2022 was made available both online and in printed version in early 2023. The Secretariat continues to assess demand for printed copies of publications and, as stock of printed copies of specific items is exhausted, consideration is always given as to whether there is a genuine requirement to reprint, with further publications expected to be made available in electronic format only in the coming year.
- 3.2 All IOPC Funds' publications are available in English, French and Spanish under the publications section of the website. In addition, as a result of projects with certain States and other organisations, there is a sub-section on the website which makes available a number of publications in other languages (Arabic, Chinese and Russian).
- 3.3 As previously stated, making certain publications available in languages other than the three official languages of the organisation can assist 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. As such, the Director would like to reiterate to the governing bodies that he would positively consider offers from Member States to undertake the translation of the Funds' publications in their own language, should the need arise.

4 Social media presence

The IOPC Funds have continued to actively use X (formerly known as Twitter) and LinkedIn to post relevant news and information, provide key facts and figures relating to the liability and compensation regime and share interesting posts from fellow organisations and industry colleagues. These accounts greatly assist with the Secretariat's efforts to improve communication and increase awareness of the work of the organisation. Delegates to the Funds' meetings are therefore encouraged to follow the [@IOPCFunds](#) account on X and the [IOPC Funds page](#) on LinkedIn.

5 Short introductory video

The IOPC Funds' introductory video is a useful educational tool which is accessed regularly on the About Us section of the website. The video, which is available in all three official languages of the organisation, covers the role, structure and activities of the IOPC Funds, as well as an overview of the legal framework behind the international liability and compensation regime. It is intended to provide a general introduction for those not familiar with the organisation and its work and brings all the basic information from reporting of contributing oil to the claims admissibility criteria together in one place.

6 Contact information

- 6.1 The Secretariat continues to use a customer relationship management (CRM) system to manage its contact records. The system has significantly improved the way in which communications are delivered to Member States and other key stakeholders, however, its value remains dependent on the contact information stored within it. As such, and to ensure important information and documents are sent to the appropriate contacts, delegations are urged to keep the Secretariat informed of any changes in staff, in particular Heads of delegations, or changes in specific contact details, in particular email addresses.
- 6.2 Recently, the Secretariat contacted individual Member States to request confirmation of a designated general focal point for IOPC Funds' matters. A general focal point is the person who the Secretariat would contact in the first instance to report changes to meeting dates, to discuss any issues with credentials or meeting registrations or to ask for assistance in organising a bi-lateral meeting or in identifying who should be contacted in the event of an incident, etc. Whilst in some cases this will be the Head of Delegation to IOPC Funds' meetings or the person responsible for decisions relating to IOPC Funds' matters, in other cases it may be someone at a more operational level who is more easily contactable and frequently in touch with the Secretariat.
- 6.3 The Secretariat maintains a separate record of a State's focal point for oil reporting matters. This may or may not be the same person as the general focal point.
- 6.4 The Secretariat is very appreciative of all those States who have responded to the request so far and would kindly encourage all those yet to respond to do so at their earliest convenience. In general, any updates to contact details should be sent to externalrelations@iopcfunds.org.

7 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.
