



International Oil Pollution
Compensation Funds

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1992 Fund Assembly	92A30	●
1992 Fund Executive Committee	92EC85	
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SUPPORT PROVIDED TO MEMBER STATES

Note by the Secretariat

Summary:	This document sets out details of the training, educational and outreach activities delivered by the Secretariat since November 2024 and looks ahead to the activities and support services it is able to offer to Member States in 2026. These include customised online and in person training, and support with implementation of the 1992 Civil Liability Convention, the 1992 Fund Convention and, where relevant, the Supplementary Fund Protocol within Member States.
Action to be taken:	<u>1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly</u> Information to be noted.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of its commitment to regularly actively engage with Member States, enhancing their preparedness for any major oil pollution incident and increasing general awareness of the international liability and compensation regime, the Secretariat continues to organise and contribute to international conferences, exhibitions, national and regional workshops, and other training events. This includes the delivery of both in person and remote activities.
- 1.2 This document sets out details of the training, educational and outreach activities delivered by the Secretariat since November 2024 and looks ahead to the activities and support services it plans to offer to Member States in 2026.

2 Activities delivered since November 2024

2.1 Working with IMO on regional activities

- 2.1.1 Since the November 2024 sessions of the governing bodies, the Secretariat has continued to collaborate with, and support activities organised under the umbrella of, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) or by other organisations with whom the IOPC Funds work closely.
- 2.1.2 This has included participating in two events organised as part of the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) project, namely the 10th GI WACAF bi-annual regional conference, held in November 2024 in Lomé, Togo, and a sub-regional workshop on the handling and administration of claims for oil pollution damage, held in Cape Town, South Africa in July 2025.
- 2.1.3 The IOPC Funds were also pleased to participate in two events organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), namely a meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, which was held in May 2025 in Sliema, Malta, and a sub-regional workshop on liability and compensation for oil pollution damage in Koper, Slovenia in June 2025.

- 2.1.4 The Secretariat contributed to a regional workshop on IMO Civil Liability Conventions in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, in January 2025, joining experts from IMO and the International Group of P&I Associations (International Group) to deliver a five-day workshop to representatives from 14 States, including seven 1992 Fund Member States and seven non-Member States.
- 2.2 Other activities in Member States
- 2.2.1 In March 2025, the IOPC Funds participated in the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) Marine Casualty Workshop in Bristol, United Kingdom. The workshop was jointly organised by Ambipar Response, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and brought together government officials from three Member States and two non-Member States.
- 2.2.2 In April 2025, IOPC Funds' Director, Gaute Sivertsen, delivered a presentation during a panel entitled 'Dark Fleet: Sanctions Circumvention and Increasing Risks', organised by the Nordic Association of Marine Insurers (CEFOR) as part of its 2025 annual seminar in Oslo, Norway.
- 2.2.3 At the invitation of the Comité Maritime International (CMI), the Director, Gaute Sivertsen, and Gillian Grant, HNS Project Manager, were pleased to participate in a panel on the Future of the IOPC and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Funds at the CMI Colloquium 2025, held in Tokyo, Japan in May 2025.
- 2.2.4 In July 2025, the IOPC Funds visited the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in Lisbon, Portugal, and took the opportunity to pay a courtesy visit to the Institute for Mobility and Transport (IMT) in Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2.2.5 The same month, at the invitation of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in Madagascar and the national agency responsible for responding to marine pollution incidents (OLEP), the Secretariat contributed to the delivery of a national workshop on the international liability and compensation regime.
- 2.2.6 The IOPC Funds contributed to a two-day tabletop exercise on 3 and 4 September 2025 on the handling of claims and compensation for oil pollution damage. The event, which took place in Vancouver, Canada, brought together representatives from the four core organisations involved in maritime spill compensation: the Ship Fund of Ship and Rail Compensation Canada, the IOPC Funds, the International Group and ITOPF.
- 2.2.7 Also in September 2025, the Secretariat participated in the 4th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS), in Rome, Italy, which brought together representatives from coast guards and maritime agencies from all world regions.
- 2.2.8 The same month it contributed to a regional symposium on marine pollution emergency response organised by the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The event, which was hosted by Fiji, took place in Suva and was attended by several Pacific Island States that are Members of the 1992 Fund.
- 2.2.9 The Secretariat has also contributed to a number of webinars since the November 2024 sessions of the governing bodies, including events organised for the Petroleum Association of Japan (PAJ), the Irish Coast Guard, the Ecuadorean Navy, the Kenya Maritime Authority, and the Malaysian Marine Department and Malaysian Maritime Transport Training Institute (MATRAIN). The focus of these events has varied, with some organisations requesting training specifically on the claims and compensation process, others on oil reporting and contributions, and some requiring more general training on the work of the IOPC Funds, and roles and responsibilities of Member States.

2.3 Conferences and exhibitions

The Secretariat continues to speak at international and regional conferences as part of its commitment to creating awareness and increasing knowledge of the role of the organisation. The IOPC Funds has actively supported Interspill, an international oil spill conference and exhibition, for many years and is a member of the Interspill Committee. The Secretariat was involved in the organisation of the 2025 event which was held in London, United Kingdom in April 2025, and delivered a number of activities and presentations during the course of the week. Members of the Secretariat were also available to provide information and answer questions about the work of the organisation in the exhibition hall, where the IOPC Funds shared a stand with IMO and the International Group.

2.4 Universities and other educational institutions

In line with its efforts to train the future members of the maritime community, the Secretariat is pleased to have hosted visits from universities and other educational institutions in 2025. This year the Secretariat welcomed students from the VIVES University of Applied Economic Sciences, University of Deusto, Queen Mary University of London, the Erasmus University Rotterdam and the University College of Ghent. It also delivered lectures for the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI). The Director delivered a lecture on the IOPC Funds and the 2010 HNS Convention to participants of IMLI's course on Maritime Protection and Ocean Governance at the Institute in Malta. 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 in person on the subject of the international liability and compensation regime to maritime students, diplomats and law practitioners.

3 Annual Academy

3.1 The IOPC Funds' Annual Academy was held in person in London during the week of 9 June 2025.

3.2 It was attended by participants from 14 Member States of the 1992 Fund, representing a range of backgrounds, including several in legal, financial and diplomatic positions within their administrations, industry stakeholders and others. Some of the participants had attended meetings of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies previously, while others were completely new to the work of the organisation. In either case, their active participation in the Academy provided the Secretariat with an excellent opportunity to strengthen its relationship with each Member State present, and to establish a confirmed IOPC Funds focal point.

3.3 Throughout the week, participants were provided with interactive and comprehensive training which covered all aspects of the work of the IOPC Funds and the international liability and compensation regime for ship-sourced oil pollution. The programme included presentations from various speakers from the Secretariat as well as from other organisations who kindly support the event and with whom the IOPC Funds work closely, namely IMO, the International Group, Steamship Mutual P&I Club, INTERTANKO, ITOPIF and the International Chamber of Shipping.

3.4 The participants spent time at the IOPC Funds' offices and had a tour of the IMO headquarters building. They visited the International Group, Steamship Mutual P&I Club and the Lloyd's of London building, which included a guided tour organised courtesy of the International Group. Towards the latter part of the week, they undertook practical exercises which allowed them to study a theoretical incident and the subsequent claims submission process.

3.5 The Academy provides an excellent opportunity for the Secretariat to deliver important training. It also allows the Secretariat to connect with delegates to IOPC Funds' meetings and government officials who have a responsibility in the areas of oil reporting and oil spill preparedness and response.

3.6 The dates for the 2026 Academy and the deadline for nomination by governments will be announced early next year.

4 Induction course

4.1 Course for Member States

4.1.1 The IOPC Funds ran an Induction Course for delegates of 1992 Fund Member States on 4 November 2024 at the Funds' headquarters in London.

4.1.2 This half-day training, which is held annually, immediately prior to the regular sessions of the governing bodies, is specifically aimed at providing meeting delegates with a better understanding of the interaction between delegates and the IOPC Funds. The course is open to all interested delegates; however, it is designed in particular to benefit those who are either new to the IOPC Funds or have little prior knowledge of the organisations.

4.1.3 Representatives of 16 States attended the 2024 course. Members of the Secretariat from various departments contributed to the delivery of presentations and addressed the participants on the various areas of responsibility of the organisation.

4.1.4 The programme provided an introduction to the organisation and detailed what to expect as a delegate to IOPC Funds' meetings, the types of decisions that are often requested and how to prepare for a meeting, including the tools available to support meeting delegates. In addition, the course highlighted the important role of a Member State representative in the various areas of work of the IOPC Funds outside of meetings.

4.1.5 The 2025 course is set to take place the day before the opening of the November 2025 sessions of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies on 3 November 2025. More information and details on how to register can be found in 1992 Fund circular [IOPC/2025/Circ.7](#).

4.2 Course for States and organisations with observer status

4.2.1 On 28 April 2025, the IOPC Funds held an Induction Course for States and organisations with observer status to the IOPC Funds. This was the first Induction Course focused specifically on observers, presenting a valuable opportunity to engage on matters of mutual interest.

4.2.2 Following a general introduction to the role and structure of the organisation and the various roles and responsibilities of an IOPC Funds' delegate, the course was divided into two dedicated sessions tailored to each category of participants. The session for observer States addressed the steps required to join the 1992 Fund and the implementation of the Conventions into national law. Participating States asked questions about the ratification process and learnt about the various outreach and training activities offered by the Secretariat. Discussions during the session dedicated to observer organisations, on the other hand, focused on areas of common interest and shared challenges currently facing the maritime and oil spill response community. Time was also spent exploring different areas for further collaboration.

4.2.3 Other aspects of the course focused on the various tools and support available to delegates and the latest developments at the IOPC Funds, including anticipated topics for discussion during the April 2025 meeting of the governing bodies.

- 4.2.4 The course was attended by representatives from Brazil, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kuwait, Lebanon and Ukraine. The observer organisations represented were the International Association of Classification Societies Ltd (IACS), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), IMO, Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), World Liquid Gas Association (WLGA) and Cedre.
- 4.2.5 The feedback received from participants of this new course was very positive, and depending on demand, the Secretariat will look to deliver a second course in 2026.

5 Regional lunch meetings

- 5.1 On 25 February 2025, the Director hosted an informal lunch meeting for the UK-based representatives of Asia and Pacific States at the IOPC Funds' offices. A second such event for representatives of European States is planned for mid-September 2025.
- 5.2 These events provide an excellent opportunity for all those attending to discuss and engage informally with members of the Secretariat about the work of the organisation and on various subjects, such as the management of incidents, the running of meetings of the governing bodies, the oil reporting and contributions system, and the status of the 2010 HNS Convention.
- 5.3 These events are always very useful and a valuable occasion to strengthen engagement with Member States and promote the international regime. Further such meetings for other regions are planned for 2026.

6 Webinar series

- 6.1 In October 2023, the Secretariat launched a series of short webinars. Each webinar featured a concise 15-minute presentation followed by a 15-minute Q&A session. The comprehensive programme included 11 events covering a wide range of key topics. From the basic understanding of the Conventions to the financing of the system, the series also explored the various types of claims arising from tanker incidents and offered guidance on the claims submission process. In March and May 2025 the final two sessions of the series were delivered. They focused on the 2010 HNS Convention, offering participants valuable insights into both the Convention itself and the HNS reporting system.
- 6.2 The webinar series proved very popular, with many of the sessions attracting over 200 registrations from a global audience. Given the success of the series, the Secretariat is now exploring alternative ways to deliver such short, focussed and accessible online training. These efforts aim to further enhance knowledge sharing, strengthen engagement with Member States and provide flexible learning opportunities that can reach a broad and diverse audience across regions.

7 Further planned activities in 2025

The IOPC Funds has further training and outreach activities planned before the end of the year. These are set out in detail under the upcoming events section of the [IOPC Funds' website](#).

8 New initiatives for 2026

8.1 Establishing contacts with inactive Member States

- 8.1.1 Despite having a membership of 122 Member States, the number of those States represented at meetings of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies tends to fluctuate between 60 and 70. The 1992 Fund Assembly often has difficulty achieving the quorum requirement of a majority of Member States present at the opening of the session.

- 8.1.2 There are several States which, although absent from meetings, continue to engage with the Secretariat and fulfil their obligations without issue with regards to the submission of oil reports and payment of contributions. There are others, however, which have very little engagement with the Secretariat and have some ongoing issues.
- 8.1.3 As previously stated by the Director and endorsed by the governing bodies on many occasions, it is vital that as many States as possible attend the meetings and contribute to discussions and decisions to ensure the fair and proper functioning of the international liability and compensation regime. The Academy, induction course and regional lunch meetings referred to above have assisted in reestablishing contact with some States, and on several occasions those States have renewed their attendance at meetings of the governing bodies. However, overall attendance figures have not shown any significant improvement. From September 2025, the Secretariat is therefore taking a proactive and structured approach to establishing contact with and encouraging participation from certain inactive Member States.
- 8.1.4 For those States with representation in London, the Secretariat is making efforts to actively engage with delegates at IMO meetings and during other opportunities for direct contact. The Secretariat is also contacting States through more formal written approaches, as necessary, to invite relevant persons to attend the sessions of the governing bodies, and to meet with the Director separately.
- 8.1.5 For those States without representation in London, every effort is being made to establish a contact within the relevant government authority to encourage them to make use of the new hybrid facility and attend the IOPC Funds' meetings remotely.
- 8.1.6 For those States who currently regularly attend the meetings and contribute actively to discussions, in order to maintain continued cooperation despite rotation of staff or other developments, the Secretariat intends to continue to actively engage with representatives intersessionally to ensure a focal point for each State is maintained and any support needs are met as far as possible.
- 8.2 Support with implementation of the Conventions in Member States
- 8.2.1 The Secretariat has regularly offered support to Member States with implementation of the 1992 Civil Liability and Fund Conventions and, if relevant, the Supplementary Fund Protocol, into national legislation. As part of the presentations given to States during workshops and other events, the Secretariat always emphasises the importance of correct implementation in order to ensure the proper functioning of the international regime. This applies to all areas, including the financing of the system through oil reports and contributions, the recognition of the 1992 Fund's rights pursuant to the 1992 Fund Convention, and the claims process in the event of an incident.
- 8.2.2 In the past, the Secretariat was instructed by the 1992 Fund Assembly to explore with IMO whether the 1992 Conventions could be included in its audit scheme. After discussion with IMO and further discussion with the sessions of the governing bodies, it was concluded that this would not be practical or possible. In the absence of any formal scheme, a small number of States have welcomed the Secretariat's offer of general assistance, and worked together successfully to ensure there are no anomalies or oversights in their implementing legislation that could cause issues for the State in the future.

- 8.2.3 Given the positive results of undertaking such reviews with those States, the Secretariat wishes to extend this service further, making it available in a more simplified and accessible manner, with the aim of encouraging more States to participate. With this in mind, the Secretariat has developed a short questionnaire for States to complete and return. The purpose is to confirm that all necessary areas have been covered during the implementation process and to identify any areas where the Secretariat could offer support or guidance utilising the legal and or policy expertise within the organisation.
- 8.2.4 The Director would like to propose that this questionnaire be completed on a voluntary and trial basis by a small group of States which are diverse in terms of geographical location, volume of contributing oil reported, size of shipping fleet etc. The Secretariat would then provide feedback to those States and offer any support, as required. The results of the specific questionnaires would not be published. However, the Director would report back to the governing bodies at a future session in general terms regarding whether the questionnaire service was beneficial or not and whether it should continue to be offered.
- 8.2.5 The proposed questionnaire is set out at the Annex to this document.
- 8.2.6 Any States willing to volunteer to participate in the trial of the questionnaire should contact the Secretariat on info@iopcfunds.org.

9 Director's considerations

- 9.1 The Director is pleased to see regular direct engagement between the organisation and its Member States throughout this past year.
- 9.2 In addition to many of the activities described in this document, the Director was pleased to welcome a number of newly appointed representatives of Member States, fellow organisations and industry representatives to the IOPC Funds' offices in London for brief but valuable meetings during 2025. He would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that he remains available for such informal discussions with States. States wishing to have this direct engagement are encouraged to contact the Secretariat and take advantage of the different training activities offered by the IOPC Funds.
- 9.3 Given our shared interests, the Secretariat continues to work in close cooperation with IMO in particular, as well as the International Group and ITOPF. This collaboration involves coordinating participation in events and sharing information in respect of activities planned to assist States. The intention for 2026 is of course to continue that cooperation. The Secretariat aims 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.
- 9.4 The lessons learned from organising remote activities in recent years have been invaluable. The Director strongly encourages more Member States to make use of this service, either through requesting customised individual events or through joining any public online training sessions offered by the Secretariat in the future.
- 9.5 For further information, please contact the Secretariat on externalrelations@iopcfunds.org.
- 9.6 Finally, the Director would like to encourage States to accept the offer of assistance by the Secretariat in relation to the correct implementation of the Conventions into national legislation and invites States to volunteer to participate in the questionnaire at the Annex to this document.

10 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.

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ANNEX

Questionnaire for 1992 Fund Member States

1	Institutional arrangements and coordination
1.1	Does your State have a designated coordinating authority or interagency mechanism responsible for overall compliance with the 1992 Fund Convention (the 'Convention') requirements (e.g. oil reporting, focal point updates, pollution response)?
1.2	Is there a national legal or policy framework that outlines the roles and responsibilities of various entities involved in implementing the Convention (e.g. ministries, agencies, port authorities)?
1.3	Are there training programmes, manuals, or standard operating procedures to guide staff responsible for 1992 Fund-related obligations?
1.4	Are there procedures in place to ensure continuity in fulfilling responsibilities during institutional or personnel changes (e.g. handover documents or contact protocols)?
2	Implementation of the 1992 Fund Convention
2.1	Has your State implemented the key clauses and Articles of the Convention into domestic legislation, including:
	(a) the definitions of 'ship', 'person', 'oil', 'pollution damage', 'preventive measures', 'incident' and 'organisation', in accordance with Article 1.2 of the 1992 Fund Convention?;
	(b) the application of the Convention in the territory, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone or equivalent in accordance with Article 3 (a) and (b) of the Convention?;
	(c) the time bar limits detailed within Article 6 of the Convention?;
	(d) ensuring that the 1992 Fund shall have the right to intervene as a party to any legal proceedings instituted in accordance with Article IX of the 1992 Civil Liability Convention before a competent court of your State against the owner of a ship or their guarantor; and
	(e) recognising that the 1992 Fund shall, in respect of any amount of compensation for pollution damage paid in accordance with Article 4.1 of the Convention, acquire by subrogation the rights that the person so compensated may enjoy under the 1992 Civil Liability Convention against the owner or their guarantor?
3	Oil reporting and contributions compliance
3.1	Does your State have legislation, regulations or official procedures in place to ensure annual submission of oil reports or nil declarations?
3.2	Does your State have any written procedures, legal instruments or control mechanisms to ensure that submitted reports accurately include the names and quantities of all persons liable to contribute?
3.3	Does your State have a procedure to keep the contact details of your government's oil reporting focal point up to date for communication with the IOPC Funds' Secretariat?

3.4	Are there procedures in place to maintain records of the operational status and active contact for all contributors that may still be liable for contributions (i.e. contributors who have reported oil for the years prior to any open major incidents)?
3.5	Are there procedures in place to trigger a notification to the IOPC Funds when a contributor enters liquidation?
3.6	Please specify the organisation designated as your national oil reporting authority.
3.7	Does your State have a mechanism to identify all entities receiving more than 150 000 tonnes of contributing oil annually?
3.8	Are there administrative or legal procedure to address non-compliance by your contributors?
4	Pollution incident cooperation
4.1	Does your State have legislation, regulations or administrative procedures to report oil pollution incidents to the IOPC Funds without delay?
5	Government participation
5.1	Does your State have internal arrangements or designated personnel to ensure participation in sessions of the 1992 Fund Assembly or 1992 Fund Executive Committee?
5.2	Does your State have a procedure to keep the contact details of your government's focal point related to meetings of the 1992 Fund Assembly up to date for communication with the IOPC Funds' Secretariat?
5.3	Does your State have a procedure in place for the timely preparation and submission of credentials for participation in sessions of the 1992 Fund Assembly?
5.4	Has your State taken any steps (e.g. workshops, circulars, guidance notes) to raise awareness of Convention obligations among relevant ministries, agencies, or stakeholders?