



International Oil Pollution
Compensation Funds

Agenda Item 7	IOPC/OCT22/7/2	
Date	5 September 2022	
Original	English	
1992 Fund Assembly	92A27	●
1992 Fund Executive Committee	92EC79	
Supplementary Fund Assembly	SA19	●

INFORMATION SERVICES

Note by the Secretariat

Summary:	This document sets out new, ongoing and future projects relating to the website and provides an update on the latest publications and other projects completed or under development.
Action to be taken:	<u>1992 Fund Assembly and Supplementary Fund Assembly</u> Information to be noted.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The IOPC Funds' website (www.iopcfunds.org) comprises the main site and the Document Services section. 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. The Document Services section is a key tool for delegates attending IOPC Funds' meetings in particular, as it contains a searchable library of documents presented for discussion at the meetings and circulars, the online meeting registration system, document templates and the full set of resolutions adopted by Member States over the years.
- 1.2 The Secretariat regularly reviews and endeavours to improve the website and general information services it provides. This document sets out the new, ongoing and future projects relating to the website and provides an update on the latest publications and other projects completed or under development since the November 2021 meeting.

2 Website

Traffic

- 2.1 For the period 31 July 2021 to 1 August 2022, the IOPC Funds' website attracted some 44 500 unique visitors, representing 78 000 sessions and 176 000 page views. This represents a 24% increase in visitors compared to the previous year. Of these visitors, 63% viewed the English site, 21% the Spanish site and 16% the French site.

Social media presence

- 2.2 The IOPC Funds have continued to actively use 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 Twitter and the [IOPC Funds page](#) on LinkedIn.

Short introductory video

- 2.3 The Secretariat has published an updated version of the IOPC Funds' introductory video, which features words from the new Director and members of staff, latest figures and a number of other improvements. 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. To assist viewers whose first language is not English, French or Spanish and to enable the video to be more accessible, each version includes subtitles. The video can be found on the About Us section of the website.

Document services accounts

- 2.4 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/>.

Ongoing projects – Submission of national legislation

- 2.5 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 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.
- 2.6 As at 19 August 2022, the following States had submitted copies of their national legislation to the Secretariat.

Australia	Ireland	Poland
Bahamas	Italy	Republic of Korea
Bulgaria	Japan	Thailand
Canada	Mexico	Turkey
China (HKSAR)	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Denmark	Nicaragua	
France	Philippines	

- 2.7 The submitted information for these States has been made available via their country profiles.

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 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).

- 2.9 The 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 the 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).
- 2.10 Information on the EEZ or designated areas has so far been submitted by 32 of the 120 States for which the 1992 Fund Convention will be in force at the time of the 27th session of the 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

3 Publications

Recent publications

- 3.1 The 2020 Financial Statements of the 1992 Fund and Supplementary Fund were published as online publications and the Annual Report 2021 was made available in early 2022. As part of the Secretariat's efforts to provide clear, concise and accessible information on the Funds' key processes, it developed three illustrative information sheets on the subjects of the claims process, oil reporting and contribution, and what to expect as a delegate. Those three sheets were included as pull-out sections of the Annual Report and are available to download separately on the Funds' website.
- 3.2 In June 2022, the Secretariat also published an updated version of the general overview brochure. This is a short, six-page publication, summarising the role of the IOPC Funds, incidents, membership and general structure and functioning of the organisations.

Publications in other languages

- 3.3 In August 2021, OSPRI (Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative in the Caspian Sea, Black Sea and Central Eurasia) contacted the Director, through IPIECA (the global oil and gas industry association), in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), expressing an interest in producing the 1992 Fund Claims Manual, Guidelines for presenting claims for clean-up and preventive measures and the Guidelines for presenting claims for environmental damage, in Russian. The Members of OSPRI confirmed that they were willing to support the project financially, and UNEP agreed to provide a suitably qualified and experienced translator to undertake the project. The Director welcomed the proposal, particularly given that several Member States and non-Member States would potentially benefit from the availability of this important guidance in the Russian language and the project got underway in the latter part of 2021. The completed translations were verified by the IOPC Funds, however, since these are unofficial translations, a disclaimer has been included in each publication.

- 3.4 The Russian publications are now available under the 'Other publications' section of the organisation's website, together with a number of other claims publications which were published in Arabic and Chinese as part of previous projects undertaken in collaboration with the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the Chinese Ship-source Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (COPC Fund).
- 3.5 As previously stated, making such 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 other Member States to undertake the translation of the Funds' publications in their own language, should the need arise.

4 Contact information

- 4.1 The Secretariat has recently implemented a new customer relationship management (CRM) system, which has significantly improved the way in which communications are delivered to Member States and other key stakeholders. The implementation of this system was timely as it coincided with the enforced uptake in remote working due to the pandemic and the resulting need to use electronic means for all official communication, including meeting documents, invitations and circulars.
- 4.2 While the system has simplified internal practices for large electronic mailings, 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 in specific contact details, in particular email addresses. Any updates should be sent to externalrelations@iopcfunds.org.

5 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.
