

# Constitution Committee Discussion Paper

## MNA Groups Working Party

### Introduction

The MNA Groups are only relevant in so far as their respective representation on Council is concerned. Today Council has 43 members 3 of whom are non – voting (the two Presidents of Honour and the Treasurer). The voting members are comprised of 8 Executive Committee members (the President and 7 Vice Presidents); 4 non-MNA members (the International Classes representative, the Women’s representative, the Athletes representative and the Oceanic and Offshore representative); leaving 28 members who represent MNAs.

The concern of this Working Party is how the MNAs are allocated amongst those 28 members who will represent them on Council.

### MNA Groups

The ISAF presently has 138 MNAs (Full Members) listed on pages 1 and 2 of the “ISAF Members” Section of the 2013 ISAF Yearbook with a further 10 countries in the process of becoming MNAs, and 7 prospects.

In Process of becoming MNAs	Prospects
Albania	Cameroon
Jordan	Cape Verde
Bangladesh	Congo
Brunei	Ghana
Costa Rica	Somalia
Honduras	Swaziland
Nicaragua	Zambia
Dominica	
Turks & Caicos	
Malawi	

It is probably safe to assume that if the above 17 countries do eventually become MNAs (Full Members) of the ISAF the resulting 155 MNAs (138 existing plus 17 new countries) is most likely the maximum total number of MNAs the ISAF can expect for many years to come. Therefore if our allocation of MNAs today to the 17 ISAF Groups

(A – Q) takes into account the possibility of those 17 countries becoming Full Members we should have a system of MNA Groups which will last for many years to come.

The Working Group's challenge is to recommend to the Constitution Committee how to allocate those 155 MNAs amongst the 17 MNA Groups bearing in mind the weight of each Group as reflected by the number of Council seats each Group has. By no means an easy task as, to be fair, geographic, cultural and sailing experience must be taken into account whilst making the allocations.

As the process of allocation must start somewhere perhaps it makes most sense to start with the allocation we presently have (pages 3 and 4 of the "ISAF Members" Section of the 2012 ISAF Yearbook) and make adjustments (additions and subtractions) where we believe it is most advisable.

Attached you will find a spreadsheet with several columns as follows:

Group – Is the Group letter assigned to each MNA grouping

Council Seats – Is the number of Council seats allocated to each Group.

MNAs in each Group Today – are the 17 Groups as they stand today with the countries in each Group.

No. of Countries – Is the number of countries in each Group.

Recommended changes – These are the changes recommended by the Working Party assuming all prospective MNAs do eventually become Full Members of the ISAF. New countries are in BLACK; existing countries which are ADDED to a Group are in BLUE and existing countries which are removed from a Group are in RED.

Resulting countries – is the number of countries in each Group as a result of the recommended changes.

Whilst reading the spreadsheet bear in mind the points below which summarize the changes recommended by the Working Party to the existing allocation of MNAs.

- Colombia (COL) and Venezuela (VEN) have been taken out of Group O and inserted in Group N. Group O is already quite large with 23 MNAs and should shortly become considerably larger as we add MNAs from Central America and the Caribbean. Group N on the other hand seems quite light given that it only has Brazil and Paraguay. Brazil is a significant sailing country but Paraguay is not. If you look at Group M (Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay) it makes Group N (Brazil and Paraguay) look even lighter given that Argentina is probably no less a significant sailing country than Brazil.

- Lebanon (LIB) has been taken out of Group D and inserted in Group I. The WP feels that LIB makes more sense geographically and culturally in Group I.
- Algeria (ALG), Egypt (EGY), Morocco (MAR) Libya (LBA), Sudan (SUD) and Tunisia (TUN) have been removed from Group I and inserted in Group Q. The Working Party believes that all African countries should all be in one Group rather than split as it is today. In part the reason for this change is that all the African countries compete in the All African Games.
- Guam (GUM) has been removed from Group J and inserted into Group L. Guam competes in the Pacific Games with most of the countries in Group L therefore it would seem to have more in common with those countries.
- Latvia and Lithuania have been removed from Group C (East Europe) and added to Group G (Scandinavia). For geographic reasons this change was felt to make sense.
- Finally the Working Party feels that an additional Council member for Group Q is fully justified given the fact that it would be the largest group if the Working Party recommendations are adopted and if all 17 prospective new MNAs become Full Members of the ISAF. Even if the prospective members of this Group Q never become Full Members of the ISAF this Group Q would still have almost the same number of MNAs as Group O which today has 2 Council seats.

Constitution Committee