



International Oil Pollution
Compensation Funds

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STATUS OF THE 2010 HNS CONVENTION

Note by the Secretariat

Summary:	This document provides an update on the current status of the 2010 HNS Convention and the recent activities undertaken by the 1992 Fund Secretariat to prepare for its entry into force. It also provides information on the Director's proposed budget to support work on the 2010 HNS Convention in 2026.
Action to be taken:	<p><u>1992 Fund Assembly</u></p> <p>(a) Note the update on the current status of the 2010 HNS Convention and recent activities undertaken by the 1992 Fund Secretariat; and</p> <p>(b) Note the proposed HNS Fund appropriation of £548 200 which is presented to the 1992 Fund for approval in document IOPC/NOV25/9/1/1.</p>

1 Introduction

This document provides an update on the progress being made towards the entry into force of the Protocol of 2010 to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996 (2010 HNS Convention)^{<1>} as well as the work carried out by the 1992 Fund Secretariat since the last session of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies in April 2025. The document also provides details on the Director's proposed budget to support work on 2010 HNS Convention in 2026.

2 Progress towards entry into force of the 2010 HNS Convention

- 2.1 The 2010 HNS Convention will enter into force 18 months after the date on which it is ratified by at least twelve States, including four States each with not less than 2 million units of gross tonnage, and having received during the preceding calendar year a total quantity of at least 40 million tonnes of cargo that would be contributing to the general account. Further information regarding what constitutes contributing cargo and the different types of accounts can be found at www.hnsconvention.org.
- 2.2 As at 31 August 2025 there are eight Contracting States to the 2010 HNS Convention, namely Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Norway, Slovakia, South Africa and Türkiye.

^{<1>} Once the 2010 HNS Protocol enters into force, the 1996 Convention, as amended by the 2010 Protocol, will be called: 'the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 2010 (2010 HNS Convention)'.

- 2.3 As reported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in IMO circular HNS.2/Circ.14 in July 2024, five of the current Contracting States have more than 2 million units of gross tonnage. In total the eight Contracting States reported receiving in 2023 over 19.2 million tonnes of cargo which would contribute to the general account. The IMO circular reporting on contributing cargo received in Contracting States in 2024 is expected to be released before the end of 2025.
- 2.4 At the April 2025 meeting of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies, the delegations of Belgium, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Sweden reiterated the commitment they made in document [IOPC/NOV24/8/2/2](#) to simultaneously ratify the 2010 HNS Convention. The Director wrote to these States in July 2025 requesting an update on the status of work towards the 2010 HNS Convention and a corresponding timeline for their ratification or accession. All four administrations have responded that they have completed the necessary domestic implementing legislation and have been collecting data on contributing cargo received in their respective jurisdictions so that they will be in a position to become Parties to the Convention in the near future. Ratification or accession to the Convention by these four States is expected to trigger the entry into force of the 2010 HNS Convention.
- 2.5 In anticipation of this development, and consistent with Resolution 1 of the International Conference on the revision of the HNS Convention, which adopted the 2010 HNS Protocol, the 1992 Fund Secretariat continues to work internally and with relevant partners to prepare for the first session of the HNS Fund Assembly and to lay the groundwork to ensure that the HNS Fund will be fully operational from its creation.

3 Online HNS reporting system

- 3.1 The 1992 Fund Secretariat has developed an action plan to prepare for the entry into force of the 2010 HNS Convention. One of the key tasks included in the action plan is the development of an online HNS reporting system that builds on the oil reporting system used by the 1992 Fund.
- 3.2 Following a discovery exercise completed in 2024 and reported on at the November 2024 meeting of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies (see document [IOPC/NOV24/8/2](#)), the 1992 Fund Secretariat contracted a software company to develop an HNS reporting platform reflecting the results of the discovery exercise and based on the different reporting options set out in the 2010 HNS Convention. Work on the project was successfully completed in September 2025. In the coming months, the Secretariat plans to present and further test the platform with Contracting States to the 2010 HNS Convention. This effort will both improve the platform and allow users in Contracting States to become familiar with the system before the Convention enters into force.

4 The HNS website and additional tools

- 4.1 The 1992 Fund Secretariat continues to update and maintain the website www.hnsconvention.org which is an important tool for accessing information related to the 2010 HNS Convention and its progress towards entry into force. Since the April 2025 meeting of the governing bodies, information on recent HNS incidents has been added to the website and a new hot topics section has been implemented, considering subjects such as plastic pellets, creating a national reporting system, and the cost of establishing the HNS Fund.
- 4.2 The 1992 Fund Secretariat also manages the HNS Finder. The HNS Finder is an online database that allows users to search the list of all HNS as defined by the 2010 HNS Convention. It provides information on HNS classification criteria and verifies whether a substance qualifies as contributing cargo. Users can also obtain information on which accounts the contributing substances belong to. It has been in operation since 2011 and has been updated annually by the 1992 Fund Secretariat to reflect changes in the IMO instruments that define what constitutes HNS under Article 1.5 of the

2010 HNS Convention. The most recent update of the list (version 15, with HNS data from 2024 reports) was uploaded on 15 May 2025. Version 16, reflecting 2025 data, should be released well before the annual deadline for States to submit their 2025 contributing cargo reports to IMO (31 May 2026) and should assist in the completion of those reports.

5 Development of a draft 2010 HNS Convention Claims Manual

- 5.1 The 1992 Fund Secretariat has been working with several relevant organisations, namely IMO, Cedre, the International Chamber of Shipping, the International Group of P&I Associations and ITOPI, to develop a draft 2010 HNS Convention Claims Manual.
- 5.2 A working group with representatives from these organisations has met on several occasions since the November 2024 meeting of the governing bodies and is close to finalising the draft text of the Claims Manual. The manual will be presented for adoption to the first HNS Fund Assembly.

6 Outreach activities and technical assistance

- 6.1 Since the April 2025 meeting of the governing bodies, the 1992 Fund Secretariat has continued to take opportunities to promote the entry into force of the 2010 HNS Convention, to engage with interested States and other key stakeholders, and to share information with government and industry representatives through the delivery of various workshops or other training and outreach activities, often in close cooperation with the IMO Secretariat.
- 6.2 The Director and the HNS Project Manager were part of a panel dedicated to the 2010 HNS Convention at the Tokyo Colloquium of the Comité Maritime International in Japan in May 2025. In addition, the Director included a section on the 2010 HNS Convention in his recent lectures to students at the World Maritime University, International Maritime Law Institute and the International Foundation for the Law of the Sea summer academy.
- 6.3 The HNS Project Manager provided in depth presentations on the Convention to officials in Thailand and to the IOPC Funds Annual Academy. In September 2025 the HNS Project Manager was invited to deliver a keynote address about the Convention at the Coast Guard Global Summit in Rome, Italy. She will also provide a presentation to the 11th Annual Conference of Maritime Law organised by the Piraeus Bar Association in October 2025. The Director and the HNS Project Manager further welcome the opportunity to participate in a full day workshop devoted to the 2010 HNS Convention in Tokyo in October 2025 organised by the Japan Maritime Centre. Other members of the 1992 Fund Secretariat have included information about the 2010 HNS Convention as part of presentations at workshops related to the international liability and compensation regime, including at regional workshops hosted in South Africa in July and Fiji in September 2025, as well as for students from various universities visiting the IOPC Funds' offices.
- 6.4 Support available

States are encouraged to consider holding online workshops with relevant stakeholders for the purpose of highlighting to a wide audience the value of the 2010 HNS Convention, as well as explaining how to prepare HNS contributing cargo reports. The 1992 Fund Secretariat remains available to support such activities. The 1992 Fund Secretariat is also available to assist States considering ratifying or acceding to the 2010 HNS Convention.

7 Financial considerations and budget for HNS-related activities

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The Secretariat has developed a detailed action plan to prepare for the entry into force of the 2010 HNS Convention. The plan was presented to the 1992 Fund Administrative Council, acting on behalf of the 1992 Fund Assembly, in October 2022. Since 2002, activities related to the 2010 HNS Convention have been supported by loans from the 1992 Fund General Fund. As at 30 June 2025, the loans total £1 181 222. The full value of the money loaned by the 1992 Fund will be repaid by the HNS Fund with interest once the 2010 HNS Convention enters into force.

7.1.2 To support work related to the 2010 HNS Convention in 2026, the Director proposes that a new appropriation of £548 200 be included in the 2025 General Fund levy payable in 2026. Details of this appropriation and how it compares to the appropriation for 2025 are summarised below:

Expenditure type	2026	2025
1992 Fund management fee (based on twelve days)	276 000	264 000
Staff costs	115 000	125 000
Systems cost for online reporting	50 000	300 000
Operational costs	107 200	110 000
Total	548 200	799 000

7.2 Financing of HNS-related activities in 2025

In 2024, the 1992 Fund Assembly approved an appropriation of £799 000 to support work on the 2010 HNS Convention in 2025. This amount was higher than in previous years given increased momentum towards the entry into force of the Convention including the commitment of Belgium, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Sweden to jointly ratify. The budget included a management fee of £264 000 representing 12 working days that the staff of the 1992 Fund Secretariat collectively devoted to tasks relating to the establishment of the HNS Fund during 2025. The 12-day period was an increase from the seven days in the 2024 budget, reflecting the 1992 Fund Secretariat's expanded work towards entry into force of the 2010 HNS Convention and including work by the HNS Project Manager who joined the Secretariat at the end of 2024 to coordinate all activities related to the 2010 HNS Convention. The 2025 budget also included a one-off appropriation of £300 000 for the development of a new online HNS reporting system which has now been completed.

7.3 Financing of HNS-related activities in 2026

7.3.1 The Director proposes that the HNS budget for 2026 maintains the management fee based on 12 working days. This amount includes the HNS Project Manager's salary costs, as well as time that the rest of the 1992 Fund Secretariat devotes to activities relating to the 2010 HNS Convention, such as the provision of technical assistance, participation in workshops and work to implement the reporting system.

- 7.3.2 The management fee is calculated by taking the total cost to run the entire 1992 Fund Secretariat, based on the joint Secretariat budget for 2026 totalling £5 916 097, and dividing it by the 261 working days during the year. This yields a daily cost to run the joint Secretariat of £22 667. Rounding the daily cost up to £23 000, the HNS Fund should pay a management fee of £276 000 (12 x £23 000).
- 7.3.3 While the cost of the HNS Project Manager's salary in 2026 will be covered by the management fee, the Director recommends that if the entry into force of the 2010 HNS Convention is triggered in 2025 or 2026, the 1992 Fund Secretariat have the flexibility to hire an additional Project Officer at the P3 level or below to support work on the 2010 HNS Convention. This post would provide additional technical capacity to support HNS reporting to ensure that the HNS Fund will financially be on a firm footing from the beginning. While £115 000 has been budgeted for this position, it would only be filled if entry into force of the Convention is certain and the resource is needed.
- 7.3.4 As noted above, the 1992 Fund Secretariat completed work to develop an online HNS reporting system in 2025. The budget for systems development proposed for 2026 is thus significantly reduced. It is intended to cover ongoing maintenance and any adjustments that will need to be made in light of feedback received from Contracting States to the 2010 HNS Convention to assist with their adoption and use of the system.
- 7.3.5 Operational costs include those related to maintaining and updating the HNS Finder and website and outreach costs to assist States with the implementation of the Convention. The proposed budget for 2026 is consistent with that for 2025.

8 Action to be taken

1992 Fund Assembly

The 1992 Fund Assembly is invited to:

- (a) note the update on the current status of the 2010 HNS Convention and recent activities undertaken by the 1992 Fund Secretariat; and
 - (b) note the proposed HNS Fund appropriation of £548 200 which is presented to the 1992 Fund for approval in document [IOPC/NOV25/9/1/1](#).
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