

# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA SIGNS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARITIME AIDS TO NAVIGATION (IALA)

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 26 States signed the Convention on the International Organization for the Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA) at a signing ceremony which took place at the IALA headquarters in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, near Paris. The ceremony was hosted by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs representing the Depositary, the Government of France.

IALA is a non-profit, international technical association. Established in 1957, it gathers together Marine Aids to Navigation authorities, manufacturers, consultants and scientific and training institutes from all parts of the world and offers them the opportunity to exchange and compare their experiences and achievements.

IALA encourages its members to work together in a common effort to harmonize Marine Aids to Navigation worldwide and to ensure that the movements of vessels are safe, expeditious and cost-effective while protecting the environment.

The prestigious ceremony marked the end of the one-year signature period which commenced on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, in Paris which, as the Depositary State, was the first to sign the Convention.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, represented by His Excellency Dwight C. R. Gardiner Ambassador Extraordinaire and Plenipotentiary and



*Ambassador Dwight C. R. Gardiner signing the IALA Convention on behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda government*

Director/Registrar General of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping, is proud to be able to count itself as one of the founding fathers of this important Convention the signature of which is a milestone for the future of the IALA and maritime safety. The Convention seeks to establish Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) status which will strengthen IALA's hand in the development and harmonization of Marine Aids to Navigation Worldwide.