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Circular Letter No.4504  
24 February 2022

To: IMO Members and other Governments  
United Nations and specialized agencies  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **World Maritime Day and Day of the Seafarer, 2022**

1 The Secretary-General has the honour to advise that:

- .1 **World Maritime Day** will be celebrated at IMO Headquarters on 29 September 2022;
- .2 the **2022 World Maritime Day Parallel Event** is expected to be celebrated in South Africa. Arrangements will be announced in due course, depending on the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- .3 the annual **Day of the Seafarer** will be celebrated on 25 June 2022.

2 This year's World Maritime theme is "**New technologies for greener shipping**" and a background paper is annexed to this circular letter to assist Member Governments and international organizations in preparing their own activities and communications related to the theme and for use in observing **World Maritime Day**.

3 The 2022 logo is already available to download from the IMO website in all of the Organization's official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish (click [here](#) for direct access). In addition, the Secretary-General's message on this year's theme will be distributed in due course.

4 In order to promote the theme more widely, Member Governments and observer international organizations are encouraged to organize, wherever possible, suitable events throughout the year and inform the Secretariat as early as possible of any planned activities. Social media participation is also encouraged via Twitter, by using the hashtag **#WorldMaritimeTheme** through the year and **#WorldMaritimeDay** for the celebration of the Day. Photographs of the events can also be sent to: [media@imo.org](mailto:media@imo.org).

5 For 2022, the focus of the Day of the Seafarer campaign, as usual, will highlight the key role of seafarers, while thanking them for their invaluable contribution. It will also link to the World Maritime theme and a social media campaign will be organized to mark the Day. Details of the campaign and how to participate, together with a variety of materials and "content opportunities" to assist participation, will be posted on the IMO website ([www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)) in due course.

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## **ANNEX**

### **WORLD MARITIME THEME FOR 2022 NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR GREENER SHIPPING**

#### **Background paper**

#### **Sustainable maritime transport and greener shipping**

The imperative of maritime transport to support global sustainability is clear. Safe, secure, energy-efficient, affordable, reliable, low-carbon, climate-resilient and rule-based maritime transport systems contribute to achieving economically efficient, socially equitable and environmentally sound development.

The ongoing implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development); 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), highlight the importance of partnerships and implementation to achieve these goals.

To support the sustainable development agenda, maritime transport will need to fully integrate economic, social and environmental sustainability considerations into relevant planning processes, policies and investment decisions. Greener shipping is central to this aim.

#### **New technologies for greener shipping**

Greener shipping requires new and greener technologies. Technology will continue to transform the world, and the greening of shipping will be no exception. Around the world, technology boundaries are being tested. Examples of cutting-edge science and engineering leading to technologies for green shipping abound.

New technologies to increase energy efficiency of ships as well as alternative fuels and the technologies to produce such fuels are important for greener shipping, especially those that can harness renewable energy. Several other technologies are being developed, aiming to assist in the reduction and prevention of adverse impacts to the marine environment and its biodiversity.

New technologies to make greener and more efficient ports are also needed to complement the transition of shipping into a greener future. Digitalization enhancements to reduce turn-around times in ports can also contribute to the greening of shipping, by promoting and enabling optimization of resource and energy use.

#### **Inclusive innovation for greener technologies**

Embracing inclusive innovation and technology deployment is key to the success of the transition to greener global shipping. However, inclusive innovation needs close collaboration between governments, industry and academia and the entire maritime value chain to realize its true benefits. Inclusive innovation also needs strong South-South and North-South Cooperation, where all stakeholders come together, especially for green technology demonstrations, diffusion and uptake at the local level in developing countries. All these efforts need to be supported with innovative financing strategies so that no one will be left behind in this green transition.

## **IMO initiatives to promote inclusive innovation and technology cooperation**

IMO is implementing several global technical cooperation projects that incorporate innovation and the demonstration of green technologies. In relation to SDG 13 on Climate Action, the projects include the GreenVoyage2050 project and the Global MTCC Network (GMN) project, both of which include the demonstration and piloting of technological solutions in support of the implementation of the initial IMO GHG strategy. Further, the GHG SMART training programme shares knowledge on research and development (R&D) needs and technologies in relation to maritime decarbonization with small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs). To pilot GHG solutions, in ASEAN countries the Blue Solutions project is in development.

In relation to SDG 14 on the Oceans, IMO has been supporting green technologies and their inclusive deployment. The GloFouling project, and its complementary TEST Biofouling project, pilots and demonstrates biofouling management technologies. The GloLitter project trials solutions to address marine plastic litter from shipping and fisheries.

A number of additional IMO initiatives aim to further address specific challenges related to green technologies development and deployment. Examples include the Global Industry Alliances, which bring together key industry stakeholders, the FINSMART round table that creates a platform to provide financial solutions for maritime decarbonization, and the Global Maritime Innovation Forum, which aims to support inclusive innovation, with a focus on developing countries, especially LDCs and SIDS. Moreover, the NEXTGEN platform connects ongoing maritime decarbonization projects, technology pilots and initiatives around the world.

Through the GMN project, which established the Global Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC) network, IMO has created regional centres of excellence for maritime technology development and cooperation, initially focusing on GHG emission reductions. IMO is currently developing a new coordinating mechanism that would connect the existing MTCC network in the global south to various R&D initiatives in the global north, and to the finance and private sector communities, to catalyze inclusive innovation and technology development for greener shipping. IMO will launch this initiative, titled IMO-CARES (Coordinated Actions to Reduce Emissions from Shipping), in April 2022.

To move forward sustainably, all stakeholders need to showcase maritime innovation, R&D and demonstrate and deploy best practices, including supporting innovative financing solutions.

## **Strengthening partnerships for greener technologies**

If new technologies are essential to meeting the sustainable development challenges of the maritime sector, then partnerships are key to enable the development and deployment of these new technologies. Enhanced partnerships are encouraged among IMO Member States, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the United Nations system and related industry sectors. IMO currently has several partnership arrangements to support greener technologies and is progressing on a number of new and innovative partnership arrangements.

## **Showcasing initiatives**

The 2022 World Maritime theme provides a good opportunity for the IMO Secretariat, Member States and observer organizations to focus on the importance of a sustainable maritime sector and the need to build back better and greener in a post-pandemic world. It also allows for activities to delve into specific topics related to the promotion of inclusive innovation and uptake of new technologies to support the needs for a greener transition of the maritime sector. This is especially relevant in the context of developing countries, in particular SIDS and LDCs. The theme allows for a coordinated outreach and communications campaign by all stakeholders to highlight IMO initiatives to make shipping greener.

Additionally, through key international events, IMO will have the opportunity to contribute and to showcase the maritime industry's efforts in greening the shipping sector and promoting inclusive innovation. Throughout the year, IMO will provide targeted input into the global conversation on how to move towards a sustainable maritime transport future, in light of the Organization's achievements and ongoing work. All stakeholders are encouraged to do the same.

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