

# PRESSRELEASE

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## **Liberia ratifies major international conventions**

LIBERIA's Bureau of Maritime Affairs and the Liberian Registry and have confirmed that the Liberian Legislature has approved a number of important maritime conventions and protocols. Accordingly, the Liberian Permanent Mission to the International Maritime Organisation has deposited Liberia's ratification instrument at the International Maritime Organisation on each of the following:

- The International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunkers Oil Pollution Damage (BUNKERS) 2001
- The International Convention on Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships (AFS) 2001
- The International Convention on Control & Management of Ships' Ballast Water (BWM), 2004
- The Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims (LLMC) 1976 as amended by the 1996 Protocol.
- The 1994 Amendments to the Convention on International Maritime Satellite Organisation 1976 (INMARSAT Amendments 94).
- The 2007 Wreck Removal Convention (WRECK 2007)
- The Protocol on Preparedness, Response and co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances 2000 (OPRC/HNS Protocol)
- The International Convention on Salvage 1989 (SALVAGE 1989)
- The 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972, as amended (LC PROT 1996)

In addition, the Liberian legislature has approved the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS 1982), which paves the way for Liberia to deposit the instrument of ratification with the United Nations

George Arku, Liberia's permanent representative to IMO in London, says, "Actions speak louder than words. Liberia's ratification of these major international instruments

confirms its unswerving commitment to safe shipping and its recognition of the vital role which IMO and other international organisations play in helping to achieve it. Shipping is an essential contributor to Liberia's economy, and Liberia is an essential contributor to world shipping.”

Scott Bergeron, Chief Operating Officer of the Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry (LISCR), the US-based manager of the Liberian Registry, adds “The Liberian Registry takes its international shipping responsibilities and its commitment to IMO very seriously. As such, we have already started the process of developing appropriate guidance and procedures for shipowners, which is necessary to ensure smooth implementation of these important conventions and protocols. Our efficient, accurate and timely implementation of international maritime requirements is the foundation of our proud and hard earned reputation for commercial excellence, safety, and shipowners' welfare. Similarly, timely ratification and effective implementation of internationally agreed upon regulations further confirm Liberia's rightful place at the head of the international league of ship registers. ”

- The Liberian Registry is one of the world's largest and most active shipping registers, with a long-established track record of combining the highest standards for vessels and crews with the highest standards of responsive service to owners. It has recently surpassed all-time tonnage records, with over 2,800 ships exceeding 115 million dwt currently registered.

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