



IMO Council 120 Meeting Summary

July 6, 2018

The International Maritime Organization's Council held its 120th Session from 2-5 July 2018.

Liberia is a member of Council and participated in the discussions and decisions.

REFORM OF IMO COUNCIL

The Council has a responsibility to monitor progress and analyse, as necessary, any mechanisms required to review and update progress made under IMO's Strategic Plan [Resolution A.1110\(30\)](#) to ensure IMO achieves the objectives embodied therein. The Council considered three (3) documents proposing possible options for reform of Council to better position IMO to achieve these objectives. The first document led by Australia and co-sponsored by Liberia and Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas Canada, Georgia, Guatemala, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Spain, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates, the second submitted by Liberia and third submitted by Guatemala.

Following lengthy discussion, the Council:

- Agreed that it was timely to consider reforms to the Council to better position the Organization to achieve its objectives;
- Agreed on the establishment of an open-ended working group at the next session of Council (C121) to consider in more detail, the various Council reform proposals contained in the three papers;
- invited Member States to submit further proposals to C121 under the broader heading "Council reforms";
- requested the Secretariat to provide any relevant information on the composition and functions of the councils or equivalent governing bodies of other United Nations system organizations, in particular those of other specialized agencies, as appropriate, for consideration at C 121; and
- requested the Secretariat to provide information on any technical, administrative and financial implications of the Council reform proposals for consideration at C 121.

Access to information

The Council considered the issue of access to information published or distributed by the IMO Secretariat, Member

States, Associate Members, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations access is quite broad, while access by the public and the media is more limited. Following discussion, the Council agreed, as initial actions to:

- authorized the release of the audio files of the plenary meetings of the IMO Assembly to the public;
- removed any restrictions on sponsors of documents to release their documents to the public via IMODOCS prior to a meeting;
- authorized the release of Secretariat documents pre-meeting for committee meetings, with the ability for committees to designate specific Secretariat documents as private and non-releasable in advance;
- authorized the release of Council documents on IMODOCS to the public after a period of three years;
- authorized the Secretariat to report on the outcome of meetings prior to the meeting's conclusion, if necessary and appropriate, and only after the discussion of the relevant agenda item has been concluded; and
- agreed to NGOs and IGOs being given access to the Treaties section of IMODOCS.

The issue of access to information will be further considered at Council 121.

The Council decided to forward the Organization's audited financial statements for the financial year ended 2017 and the External Auditor's report and opinion thereon to the thirty-first regular session of the Assembly.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The Council endorsed the holding of two intersessional meetings: the ESPH Working Group, in 2019; and the fourth meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on

Reduction of GHG emissions from ships from 15 October to 19 October 2018. The Council approved the report of the seventy-second session of the Committee and transmitted it, with its comments and recommendations, to the Assembly at its thirty-first session. (See Liberia [MEPC 72 Summary Report](#)).

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Council endorsed:

1. the decision of the Committee to extend the NCSR Sub-Committee's meeting time for each session to eight days, for a trial period of two sessions starting from NCSR 6 in 2019;
2. the decision of the Committee to include two new outputs in its 2018-2019 biennial agenda;
 - i. Amendments to paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code concerning single fall and hook systems with on-load release capability; and
 - ii. Revision of the Standardized life-saving appliance evaluation and test report forms (MSC/Circ.980 and addenda); and
3. the intersessional meetings approved by the Committee for 2018 and 2019.
 - i. the fourteenth meeting of the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group on Maritime Radiocommunication Matters, from 3 to 7 September 2018;
 - ii. the thirtieth meeting of the Editorial and Technical (E&T) Group for the IMSBC Code, from 17 to 21 September 2018;
 - iii. the twenty-fifth meeting of the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on Search and Rescue, from 17 to 21 September 2018;
 - iv. the second meeting of the IMO/IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modelling (HGDM), from 29 October to 2 November 2018;
 - v. the fifteenth meeting of the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group on Maritime Radiocommunication Matters, to take place in 2019; and
 - vi. the twenty-sixth meeting of the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on Search and Rescue, to take place in 2019.

The Council approved the report of the ninety-ninth session of the Committee and transmitted it, with its comments and recommendations, to the Assembly at its thirty-first session. (See Liberia [MSC 99 Summary Report](#)).

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PRIZE

The Council determined the recipient of the International Maritime Prize for 2017 to be Mrs. Birgit Sølling Olsen of Denmark, for her valuable and lifelong commitment to the work and objectives of the Organization, in particular her invaluable contribution to maritime safety, security as well as seafarers' working conditions, which she championed throughout the development of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

The Council further expressed its appreciation to the other two candidates for the 2017 International Maritime Prize, Mr. Richard Schiferli, Secretary General of the Paris MOU on Port State Control, and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd. for their impressive credentials, and to all nominating authorities for proposing such outstanding candidates for the Prize.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The Council noted the information provided by the Secretary-General with respect to the view of the United Nations regarding the contents of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation and Directive (GDPR), and implications of both regulations on IMO, and of the information provided regarding IMO's privacy policy. The Council further requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed of any relevant developments.

Relations with intergovernmental organizations

The Council decided to seek observer status with the Arctic Council and authorized the Secretary-General to take appropriate action for IMO to obtain such status with the Arctic Council, and seek the endorsement by the IMO Assembly, at its thirty-first session in November 2019.

Relations with non-governmental organizations

The Council decided to grant consultative status to the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA International) and the Society for Gas as a Marine Fuel Ltd. (SGMF).

The Council further decided not to grant consultative status to the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), noting that EDF could provide further information, should it decide to re-apply for consultative status in the future.

The Council noted the information on the exchange of correspondence between the IMO Secretariat and the Executive Directors of Greenpeace International, pursuant to the request of the Assembly, at its thirtieth session, for the Secretariat to write to Greenpeace International to remind it of its obligations regarding the safety of navigation and maritime security when conducting protest activities.

The next session of Council (C 121) is scheduled for 19 – 23 November 2018.

For further information, please contact: imo@liscr.com