



IMO A 33 Meeting Summary January 17, 2024

The 33rd meeting of the IMO's Assembly was held from 30 November to 6 December at the IMO Headquarters in London. It was an in-person meeting supplemented by remote (online) participation. Part of the meeting was broadcast to the public online.

LISCR participated in the following committees held during the session of the Assembly meeting:

ID	Subject
Committee 1	Administrative, Financial, Legal and Technical Cooperation matters
Committee 2	Technical matters

Election of Council Members

A 33 elected 40 Council Member States, including Liberia as a Category A Council Member, for the 2024 - 2025 term.

Work plan and budget

Six-year strategic plan

A 33 adopted *Strategic Plan for the Organization for the six years 2024 to 2029* and *Application of the Strategic Plan of the Organization*:

- .1 Capacity development;
- .2 New and emerging technologies;
- .3 Climate change;
- .4 Ocean governance;
- .5 Facilitation of trade;
- .6 Human element;
- .7 Regulatory effectiveness; and
- .8 Organizational effectiveness

Two-year output (work programme) list and budget

The above-mentioned Six Year Plan includes the list of output (work programme) for 2024-2025.

A 33 also approved the IMO's budget for the period.

Communication to the public and copyright of IMO documents

A 33 noted that the Council will further address the public

livestreaming of the IMO meeting and protection of the copyright of the IMO documents.

Safety, Legal, Protection of Marine Environment and Facilitation

A 33 adopted various resolutions following the discussion at the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), Facilitation Committee (FAL), Legal Committee (LEG) and/or the IMO Council.

Revised Guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance

This resolution addresses coordination and harmonization among coastal States and relevant stakeholders, including introduction of common notification forms.

Procedures for Port State Control, 2023

Key updates include clarification of PSC inspection on GHG reduction measures, financial security under MLC 2006, Anti-Fouling Systems and scope of re-inspection.

Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), 2023

2023 Guidelines include mandatory instruments entered into force between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2023. It also included remote surveys on a case-by-case approval basis.

2023 Guidelines on implementation of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code by Administrations

2023 Guidelines include the remote audit scheme on a case-by-case approval for shipboard audit. A remote audit under "normal" circumstances is limited to company audits.

Threats caused by organized crime in the maritime industry

A 33 adopted the resolution, which stresses the importance of security awareness and building resilience, highlighting the devastating effects of organized crime and calling for potential amendments to existing IMO frameworks to combat organized crime in the maritime sector.

A 33 invited interested Member States and international organizations to submit relevant proposals for new outputs to MSC and the Facilitation Committee for further improvements.

Promoting actions to prevent illegal operations in the maritime sector by the "dark fleet" or "shadow fleet"

The resolution focuses on ship to ship cargo transfer (STS) operation at high seas, regardless of type of ship/cargoes, and urged actions by stakeholders, including the flag State.

While A 33 adopted the resolution, further improvement for clarifying terminologies was tasked to relevant IMO Committees.

Hong Kong Ship Recycling Convention

While the Convention will enter into force on 26 June 2025, the resolution addresses technical cooperation programmes, voluntary assessment of recycling facilities, compliance with the Convention, and to increase in the number of ships recycled at Hong Kong Convention-compliant ship recycling facilities pending the entry into force of the Convention.

COVID-19

A 33 adopted recommendations to review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world's transport workers and the global supply chain (JAG-TSC).

Support to Ukraine

A 33 adopted a resolution calling for IMO and its Member States' support of Ukraine and neighbouring coastal States, sending an IMO-led technical assistance mission to Ukraine.

Security at Red Sea

In addition to the concerns expressed during the opening remarks, A 33 also addressed further attacks that happened in the south of the Red Sea in the second week in conjunction with the report of the Maritime Safety Committee.

London Convention

A 33 noted the outcome of the London Convention/London Protocol meeting, including the Revised guidance on best management practices for the removal of anti-fouling coatings from ships.

External relations

World Maritime Day theme

A 33 adopted 2024 World Maritime Day theme "Navigating the future: safety first!".

IMO Gender equality award

The award was granted to Ms. Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou, nominated by Cyprus.

International maritime prize

The prize was granted to:

- 2021: Prof. David Joseph Attard (Malta); and
- 2022: Ms. Anneliese Jost (Germany)

IMO also recognizes the contribution to the Organization by the late Capt David Bruce (the Republic of Marshall Islands).

IMO Honours for Exceptional Bravery at Sea

A 33 noted that the prize was granted as follows:

- 2022 Prize: Mr. Bo Xu, Chief Officer of the M/T Jian Qiao 502, nominated by China, for his exceptional bravery, determination and endurance displayed in the rescue of two survivors, found in a life raft, of the sunken cargo vessel Tian Feng 369, in severe weather and heavy seas
- 2023 Prize: Aviation Survival Technician Second Class Caleb Halle, Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, United States Coast Guard, nominated by the United States, for his outstanding courage, endurance; and
- determination displayed in the rescue of seven crew members of the tugboat Legacy, which was disabled and adrift, in rough weather and heavy seas

Special recognition for merchant vessels and their crew involved in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea

A 33 also adopted amendments to resolution A.1093(29) on Special recognition for merchant vessels and their crew involved in the rescue of mixed migrants at seas to allow the submission of nominations by intergovernmental organizations in cooperation with IMO (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO (NGOs) for this recognition.

The Secretariat would notify the relevant flag State when such nominations were received by IGOs or NGOs, to avoid duplication or objection.

Status of various IMO conventions (

HNS Protocol

A 33 noted slow progress of ratification of the 2010 protocol of the HNS Convention.

Appointment of the new Secretary General and the Farewell to the outgoing Secretary-General

A 33 approved the decision of the Council to appoint Mr. Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco as Secretary-General of IMO.

A 33 adopted a resolution recording the Organization's appreciation of the services of Mr. Kitack Lim.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

A 33 – Summary of Major Decisions

PROVISIONAL LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

- A.1173(33) Strategic plan for the Organization for the six-year period 2024 to 2029
- A.1174(33) Application of the Strategic Plan of the Organization
- A.1175(33) Appreciation of the Services to the Organization of Mr. Kitack Lim
- A.1176(33) Approval of the appointment of the Secretary-General
- A.1177(33) Arrears of contribution
- A.1178(33) Presentation of audited financial statements and report of the external auditors
- A.1179(33) Results-based budget for the 2024-2025 biennium
- A.1180(33) The enhancement of multilingualism at IMO
- A.1181(33) Appointment of the external auditor
- A.1182(33) Amendments to the financial regulations of the International Maritime Organization
- A.1183(33) The impact of the Russian armed invasion of Ukraine on international shipping
- A.1184(33) Guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance
- A.1185(33) Procedures for port State control, 2023
- A.1186(33) Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), 2023
- A.1187(33) 2023 Non-exhaustive list of obligations under instruments relevant to the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code)
- A.1188(33) 2023 Guidelines on the implementation of the ISM Code by Administrations
- A.1189(33) Recommendations emanating from the joint action group to review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world's transport workers and the global supply chain (JAG-TSC)
- A.1190(33) Enhancing the framework of the fight against organized crime in the maritime sector
- A.1191(33) Implementation of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009
- A.1192(33) Urging Member States and all relevant stakeholders to promote actions to prevent illegal operations in the maritime sector by the 'dark fleet' or 'shadow fleet'
- A.1193(33) Appreciation of the Services to the World Maritime university (WMU) of Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry
- A.1194(33) Relations with Non-Governmental Organizations
- A.1195(33) Special recognition for merchant vessels and their crew involved in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea.