

IMO A 34 Meeting Summary

22 December 2025



The 34th meeting of the IMO's Assembly (A 34) was held 24 November – 3 December 2025 at the IMO Headquarters in London supplemented by hybrid (remote) participation.

LISCR participated in the following Committees of A 34 in addition to the plenary as follows:

Group	Agenda
Committee 1	Administrative, financial, legal and technical cooperation matters
Committee 2	Technical matters

At Assembly, the chair is called “President” and a working group is called “committee”.

Election of IMO Council members

Liberia was elected as a Category A (States with the largest interest in providing international shipping services) council State.

IMO Strategy and work plan

The Revised Strategic Plan contains the mission and vision, overarching principles, eight Strategic Directions (SDs), performance indicators, and the IMO organs’ work programme for 2026–2027.

- Mission: Promote safe, secure, environmentally sound and sustainable shipping through effective implementation of IMO instruments.
- Vision (2024–2029): IMO remains the global regulator of shipping, addressing technology, climate, environment, seafarer well-being, supply chain resilience and supporting the 2030 Agenda.
- Overarching principles include inclusivity, transparency, capacity-building of developing countries, human element, gender equality, multilingualism, UN collaboration and organizational efficiency.
- Strategic Directions (SDs) address:
 - Implement IMO instruments with capacity-building;
 - Integrate new and emerging technologies;
 - Address climate change and reduce GHG emissions;
 - Strengthen ocean governance;
 - Enhance global facilitation and supply chain resilience;
 - Address human element issues;

- Improve regulatory effectiveness;
- Improve organizational efficiency.
- Performance indicators: quantitative measures such as ratifications, implementation rates, CO₂ emissions, women in maritime workforce, incident reductions, and on-time outputs.
- Work Programme (2026–2027): consolidated outputs across committees covering Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships, alternative fuels, GHG reduction, ocean governance, Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas, facilitation, human element, maritime security, environmental protection, and regulatory matters.
- Application of the Strategic Plan: provides uniform procedures for planning, resource prioritisation, and coordination across IMO's organs, ensuring consistency with the Strategic Plan and results-based management.

Subsequently, the Assembly adopted the following resolutions:

- A.1196(34) on Revised Strategic Plan for 2024–2029; and
- A.1197(34) on Application of the Strategic Plan.

Review of the outcome of the Council and Committees

Adoption of resolutions

A 34 adopted the assembly resolutions listed in the annex.

Technical resolutions

- **A.1202(34) on Charges for distress, urgency and safety communications through recognized mobile satellite services in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS):** The amendments accommodate non-geostationary satellite services without any major changes to the charging scheme and revoke A.707(17).
- **A.1203(34) on Criteria for the provision of mobile satellite communication systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS):** The amendments address non-geostationary recognized mobile satellite services and revoke A.1001(25).
- **A.1204(34) on Code on Alerts and Indicators, 2025:** The revision takes into account the recent developments of the IMO instruments, including non-mandatory instruments that include alerts and indicators for clarifying their priority, alert and monitoring locations, etc., and revokes A.1021(26).
- **A.1206(34) on Procedures for Port State Control, 2025:** This resolution is updated every two years by the Assembly to reflect regulatory developments. Key changes include:
 - Inclusion of guidelines on security measures, including:
 - A clear distinction between Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) and Duly Authorized Officers (DAOs) who have special authority to access security-related information;
 - Inclusion of ISPS Code Part B, in addition to Part A, for reference only;
 - A list of instruments related to security matters; and
 - Updating the list of instruments relevant to port State control procedures, taking into account new requirements adopted by MEPC 81, MSC 108, MEPC 82, and MSC 109.
- **A.1207(34) on Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), 2025:** This resolution is updated every two years by the Assembly to reflect regulatory developments. The amendments include:

- Survey items that entered into force (entering into force) between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025, inclusive;
- Removal of survey requirements related to non-mandatory instruments;
- Deletion of footnotes that repeat content already cited in the mandatory requirements;
- Inclusion of survey requirements related to the International Code of Safety for Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel (IP Code); and
- Deletion of provisions related to the Anti Fouling System (AFS) Certificate, as the AFS Convention provides for certification but does not require any surveys beyond the initial issuance.

IMO Number scheme

A 34 adopted resolution A.1215(34) on Integrated IMO identification number scheme.

This resolution integrated all existing circulars and circular letters concerning the information and procedures for assigning IMO Numbers to ships, ISM companies, and registered shipowners.

Other Administrative matters

IMO Awards

The Secretary-General reported on IMO's principal awards and related developments. The report introduced new Guidelines for the International Maritime Prize, approved by the Council in 2024, and noted the recent recipients: Captain Ian Finley for 2023 and Dr Rosalie Balkin for 2024.

It also covered revisions to the Guidelines for the IMO Honours for Exceptional Bravery at Sea, which clarify award categories and submission deadlines. Under the revised Guidelines, awards were granted in 2024 to joint recipients from the Marlin Luanda and Pemex Maya crews, and in 2025 to Mr Lee Tae-young. In addition, certificates of special recognition were issued, pursuant to resolution A.1195(33), to 15 merchant vessels involved in migrant rescue operations.

With regard to the IMO Gender Equality Award, Ms Karin Orsel (Netherlands) received the 2025 Award, and Professor Momoko Kitada (Japan) was recommended for the 2026 Award. A 34 endorsed both the Council's nomination and the revised guidelines proposed by the Council.

Further information

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

Annex

Provisional list of resolutions

Resolution number	Title	Date of adoption
A.1196(34)	Revised strategic plan for the Organization for the six-year period 2024 to 2029	3 Dec 2025
A.1197(34)	Application of the strategic plan of the Organization	3 Dec 2025
A.1198(34)	Arrears of contributions	3 Dec 2025
A.1199(34)	Presentation of audited financial statements and report of the external auditor	3 Dec 2025
A.1200(34)	Results-based budget for the 2026-2027 biennium	3 Dec 2025
A.1201(34)	Relations with non-governmental organizations	3 Dec 2025
A.1202(34)	Charges for distress, urgency and safety communications through recognized mobile satellite services in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)	3 Dec 2025
A.1203(34)	Criteria for the provision of mobile satellite communication systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)	3 Dec 2025
A.1204(34)	Code on alerts and indicators, 2025	3 Dec 2025
A.1205(34)	Capacity development strategy	3 Dec 2025
A.1206(34)	Procedures for port State control, 2025	3 Dec 2025
A.1207(34)	Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), 2025	3 Dec 2025
A.1208(34)	2025 non-exhaustive list of obligations under instruments relevant to the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code)	3 Dec 2025
A.1209(34)	Consolidated text of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization	27 Nov 2025
A.1210(34)	Urging Member States to accept the 2021 amendments to the Convention on the International Maritime Organization	3 Dec 2025
A.1211(34)	Framework and procedures for the IMO Member State Audit Scheme	3 Dec 2025
A.1212(34)	Improving the efficiency of the contributions incentive scheme	3 Dec 2025
A.1213(34)	Rules of procedure of the Assembly	27 Nov 2025
A.1214(34)	Criteria and procedures for live-streaming to the public of IMO Assembly plenary meetings	27 Nov 2025
A.1215(34)	Integrated IMO identification number scheme	3 Dec 2025
A.1216(34)	Apportionment of expenses among Member States	3 Dec 2025
A.1217(34)	The inclusion and the use of Arabic as a working language of the Assembly	27 Nov 2025