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EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(e) Report on Day of the Seafarer 2014

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document reports on the celebrations of the Day of the Seafarer (25 June 2014)
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	11.1
<i>High-level action:</i>	11.1.1 and 11.1.2
<i>Planned output:</i>	No related provisions
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 15
<i>Related documents:</i>	Resolution A.1033(27) and Circular Letters Nos.3433 and 3441

Background

1 At its twenty-seventh regular session in November 2011, the Assembly adopted resolution A.1033(27), endorsing the designation of 25 June of each year as the "Day of the Seafarer", to recognize the invaluable contribution that seafarers make to international trade and the world economy.

2 The Assembly invited Governments, shipping organizations, companies, shipowners and all other parties concerned to promote and celebrate the Day of the Seafarer in an appropriate and meaningful manner; and further invited Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO to submit to the Secretariat, on a yearly basis, information related to the celebration of the Day of the Seafarer.

Action taken to mark the Day

3 By Circular Letters Nos.3433 and 3441, Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO were advised of arrangements being made to mark the Day of the Seafarer 2014. Additional information was posted on the relevant page of the IMO website.

4 This year's theme, "Seafarers brought me...." invited people to complete the sentence with a word denoting an object or something specific of their choosing, and thus giving the world an opportunity to say, "Thank you seafarers".

5 The online campaign, which ran for its fourth edition, called for all interested parties, including the public at large, to voice their support using social networks – by posting messages on Facebook and Twitter, as well as sharing photos and videos, adding the campaign slogan: "Thank you seafarers".

6 The campaign, once again, generated numerous web stories, videos, blog postings, news articles and opinion pieces from experts and media outlets, which together attracted thousands of individuals to the many social networks linked to the Day of the Seafarer. The level of participation was much greater than in 2013. The number of Twitter messages more than doubled – reaching over 25 million people, and Facebook reached 250,000 users.

7 For 2014, new promotional material was created, including a virtual wall, hosted on the IMO website, where people worldwide were invited to complete the "Seafarers brought me...." message. As a result, there were posts by thousands of people from 94 countries. Additionally, a "physical" wall was installed at IMO Headquarters on which the Secretary-General, staff and delegates posted their own messages using stickers that were specially designed with photos posted by participants from the 2013 campaign.

8 An animation, in the form of a short simple video – aimed at explaining the importance of seaborne trade and seafarers – was produced and reached a record number of views on the IMO YouTube channel (11,000 viewers).

9 The toolkit, which packages all campaign materials in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, was featured on the social media platform Slide Share, and received a special mention for "trending" on the platform as it was viewed over 23,000 times.

10 As in previous years, the message of the Secretary-General was copied onto DVDs and distributed on board vessels; it was watched by thousands of people in addition to the views generated on IMO's YouTube channel. The campaign effectively brought about a global "conversation" among individuals, organizations, industry players and seafarers themselves and raised awareness of the vital role that seafarers play in the global economy.

11 IMO staff gave interviews to United Nations Radio in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swahili.

12 Furthermore, the Secretariat was informed of celebrations held by various Member States and organizations. A list of these is given in annex 1. Any further messages and information received after issue of this document will be reported to the Council in an appropriate manner.

Message issued by the United Nations Secretary-General

13 This year, once again, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a message (attached in annex 2), to "ask people everywhere to recognize the seafarers who, with quiet dedication, keep the wheels of the world in motion".

14 This message was posted on the respective websites of the United Nations News Centre and that of the Spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General; it was also issued as a press release and widely distributed throughout the United Nations Information Centres.

Action requested of the Council

15 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided and to comment as it may deem appropriate.

ANNEX 1

INFORMATION RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DAY OF THE SEAFARER

(i) Messages received from IMO Member Governments

Australia	–	Royal Australian Navy
	–	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
	–	Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
Benin	–	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Port infrastructure
Canada	–	Transport Canada
Chile	–	Ministry of Environment
China	–	China Maritime Safety Administration
	–	Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Kingdom
	–	Ministry of Transport of China
Colombia	–	Maritime Authority of Colombia
Congo	–	Merchant Navy
Denmark	–	Danish Maritime Authority
France	–	Government of France
Georgia	–	Maritime Transport Agency
India	–	Ministry of Road Transport, Highways and Shipping
Jamaica	–	Maritime Authority of Jamaica
Lithuania	–	Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration
Madagascar	–	Ministry of Transport and Meteorology
Morocco	–	Merchant Navy
Mexico	–	Merchant Navy
Nigeria	–	Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency
Oman	–	Ministry of Transport and Communications
Philippines	–	Department of Foreign Affairs
	–	Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)
	–	Philippines Department of Transportation
Senegal	–	Ministry of Fishing and Maritime Affairs
Singapore	–	Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

South Africa	–	South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA)
Sudan	–	Maritime Administration Directorate Sudan
United Kingdom	–	Maritime & Coastguard Agency
	–	UK Merchant Navy
United States	–	United States Coast Guard

(ii) Messages received from United Nations bodies

United Nations Brussels

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ)

United Nations Information Centre Asuncion

United Nations Information Centre Manama

United Nations Information Centre for Western Europe

United Nations Information Service Sana'a

United Nations Information Service Tunis

United Nations Radio

(iii) Messages received from intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)

International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)

International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF)

International Ship Managers' Association (InterManager)

International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA)

International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)

The Nautical Institute (NI)

(iv) Miscellaneous

Abu Dhabi Ports Company (United Arab Emirates)
Admiralty Nautical Products and Services (United Kingdom)
All About Shipping (United Kingdom)
Apostolat de la mer (Mauritius)
Apostleship of the Sea (United Kingdom)
Ardmore Shipping Corporation (Bermuda (United Kingdom))
Association Les Amis des Marins (Réunion (France))
Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (Philippines)
Associated Ship Management Services Inc. (Philippines)
Atlantic Maritime Academy (Bangladesh)
Australian Maritime College (Australia)
Australian Shipowners Association (Australia)
Bangladesh Marine Academy (Bangladesh)
BC Ferry & Marine Workers' Union (Canada)
Bernhard Schulte Ship Management (Germany)
Blue Communication (United Kingdom)
Canadian Marine Pilots' Association (Canada)
Carbon War Rooms (United States)
Caribbean Maritime Institute (Jamaica)
Chamber of Shipping of British Columbia (Canada)
China Seafarers Construction Union (China)
CSL Group (Canada)
Crewtoo (United Kingdom)
Cyprus Shipping Chamber (Cyprus)
Danish Maritime Days (Denmark)
EES Shipping (Australia)
E.R. Schiffahrt (Germany)
Fleet Management (China)
GAC Group (United Arab Emirates)
GCaptain (United States)
GM Corporate & Fiduciary Services (Malta)

Hamilton Port Authority (Canada)
Headland Media/Walport Maritime Training Film (United Kingdom)
Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (Greece)
Hellenic Shipping News (Greece)
Holland America Line (United States)
Horseshoe Bay Marine Group (Canada)
IHS Fairplay (United Kingdom)
Indonesia Logistics and Transport Magazine (Indonesia)
Institut Supérieur d'études maritimes (Morocco)
International Business Group (Bahrain)
International Longshore and Warehouse Union (Canada)
International Sailors' Society (United Kingdom)
International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (United Kingdom)
Jan De Nul Group (Luxembourg)
Lloyd's List (United Kingdom)
Maersk (Denmark)
Manila Yacht Club (Philippines)
Marine Insight (India)
Marine Society (United Kingdom)
Maritime by Holland (Netherlands)
Maritime Executive (United Kingdom)
Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Programme (United Kingdom)
Maritime Reporters Association of Nigeria (Nigeria)
Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO (United States)
Master and Mates' National Union (Mexico)
Mercy Ships (United Kingdom)
National Centre for Maritime Policy Research (Pakistan)
National Engineers' Union (Mexico)
National Seafarers Observatory of Morocco (Morocco)
Nautilus International (United Kingdom)
Nigerian Merchant Navy (Nigeria)
OSM Group (Brazil)

Port of Le Havre (France)
Port of Zeebrugge (Belgium)
Prince Rupert Seafarers Centre (Canada)
Seafarers' House at Port Everglades (United States)
Seafarers UK (United Kingdom)
Seatrade Global (United Kingdom)
Ship Management International (United Kingdom)
Shipping Professional Network in London (United Kingdom)
ShipServ (United Kingdom)
Shiptalk (United Kingdom)
Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (Singapore)
Singapore Organisation of Seamen (Singapore)
St Lawrence Economic Development Council (Canada)
Synergy Marine Group (Singapore)
Teekay Corporation (Bermuda (United Kingdom))
Trunk Animation (United Kingdom)
The Mission to Seafarers (United Kingdom)
The Seamen's Church Institute (United States)
Unifor (Canada)
V Ships (United Kingdom)
Witherby Publishing Group (United Kingdom)
Women's International Forum (United States)

ANNEX 2



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE ON THE DAY OF THE SEAFARER

25 June 2014

Seaborne trade is the engine room of the global economy. Without shipping, the bulk transport of vital raw materials, affordable food and manufactured goods would simply not be possible.

Keeping that engine running smoothly are nearly 1.5 million seafarers, many of whom hail from the developing world. Every day, they face hardship and danger to keep our global economy afloat and help ensure that the benefits of globalization can be more evenly distributed.

They live a tough life, working long hours in often perilous weather, and living in confined conditions with limited opportunities for social interaction or relaxation. The work is hard and the level of responsibility is high. Separation from family and loved ones for months at a time is a constant backdrop to a seafarer's life, and the threat of piracy and shipwreck are at the back of many seafarers' minds.

Over many years, the United Nations, through the International Maritime Organization and other agencies, has strived to make seafaring a safer occupation and shipping a greener and cleaner industry. Seafarers themselves seek to implement and maintain the highest possible safety and environmental standards.

Shipping is not only a carrier of global trade, but also makes a significant contribution as a major industry in its own right, in particular as an important source of income to many developing countries.

The maritime transport industry is central to the livelihoods of billions of people; and the industry, in turn, relies on seafarers. Without them, international trade would grind to a halt. On the Day of the Seafarer, I ask people everywhere to recognize the seafarers who, with quiet dedication, keep the wheels of the world in motion.
