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## ASSEMBLY MATTERS

### (c) Draft report of the Council to the Assembly on the work of the Organization since the twenty-fifth regular session of the Assembly

#### Note by the Secretary-General

#### SUMMARY

<b><i>Executive summary:</i></b>	This document contains the Council's draft report to the Assembly on the work of the Organization since the latter's twenty-fifth regular session in November 2007
<b><i>Strategic direction:</i></b>	4
<b><i>High-level action:</i></b>	4.5.1
<b><i>Planned output:</i></b>	-
<b><i>Action to be taken:</i></b>	Paragraph 3
<b><i>Related documents:</i></b>	Council Summaries of Decisions and Committee reports

1 Annexed is the draft report of the Council on the work of the Organization since the twenty-fifth regular session of the Assembly. It contains only issues of importance to the Organization that have occurred during the biennium under review, which have not been dealt with in reports submitted by the Committees under separate agenda items. The cross-references contained in the annex are, therefore, to the items on the provisional agenda of the twenty-sixth regular session of the Assembly, as presented in document C 102/17(a).

2 Developments of importance that may occur after the Council's forthcoming session will be included in an updated report to the Assembly, which will be submitted to the Council's twenty-fifth extraordinary session.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.



**Action requested of the Council**

3 The Council is invited to consider the annexed draft report and approve it, with such amendments as it may deem necessary, for submission to the twenty-sixth regular session of the Assembly in accordance with Article 23 of the Convention on the Organization.

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## ANNEX

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE COUNCIL TO THE ASSEMBLY  
ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION SINCE THE  
TWENTY-FIFTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

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## Introduction

1 This report is presented in accordance with Article 23 of the IMO Convention and describes developments in the work of the Organization since the twenty-fifth regular session of the Assembly in November 2007. In accordance with the Council's decision at its ninety-fourth session (C 94/D), the report summarizes issues of importance to the Organization that have occurred during the biennium under review which have not been dealt with by the Committees and limits reports on subjects, which are substantively reported on under other, separate *ad hoc* Assembly agenda items, to cross-references to those agenda items. All cross-references are to the items on the provisional agenda of A 26, as presented in document C 102/18(a).

## GENERAL MATTERS

### Status of the IMO Convention

2 Membership of the Organization, as at 31 March 2009, stood at 168, with three Associate Members. Since the twenty-fifth regular session of the Assembly, one State has accepted the IMO Convention and has become a Member of the Organization, i.e. the Cook Islands, on 18 July 2008. A full report on the status of the Convention and membership of the Organization is submitted to the Assembly under item [20] of the latter's agenda.

### Officers of the Council and Committees of IMO

3 During the biennium under review, the following officers served as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Council and the Committees:

Body	Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Sessions
Council	Mr. J. Franson (Sweden)	Mr. D. Ntuli (South Africa)	99th to 101st sessions
Maritime Safety Committee	Mr. N.F. Ferrer (Philippines)	Mr. C. Breinholt (Denmark)	83rd to 85th sessions
Legal Committee	Professor Chai Lee-Sik (Republic of Korea)	Mr. E.K. Mbiah (Ghana)  Mr. W. de Sá Leitão (Brazil)	93rd to 95th sessions
Marine Environment Protection Committee	Mr. A. Chrysostomou (Cyprus)	Mr. A. Chatterjee (India)	57th and 58th sessions

<b>Body</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
Facilitation Committee	Mr. C. Abela (Malta)	Mr. E. Broekema (Netherlands)	35th session
Technical Co-operation Committee	Mr. B. Owusu-Mensah (Ghana)	Mr. F. Hakgüden (Turkey)	58th session

4 The Council wishes to record its deep appreciation of the work of these officers, whose able guidance has contributed to the successful outcome of the work of the respective Committees and the Council.

#### **International conferences**

##### ***2009 International Conference on the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships***

Location and dates: Hong Kong, China, 11 to 15 May 2009

Purpose: To consider the adoption of an international convention on the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships

Results: [The results of the conference will be reported after the conference has taken place.]

A full report on the Conference will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [15].

#### **Strategic Plan**

5 Following adoption of resolutions A.989(25) and A.990(25) on the Organization's Strategic and High-level Action Plans, the Council, at its 100th session, was informed (C 100/3(a)) of the steps taken to invite all IMO organs to take action as requested in the resolutions and as further directed by the Council and the Assembly, in particular, in relation to the recommendations made by the *Ad Hoc* Council Working Group on the Organization's Strategic Plan (CWGSP), at its seventh session; of the final status of the Organization's planned outputs during the 2006-2007 biennium; and of the work of a correspondence group to prepare the draft guidelines for the application of the Strategic and High-level Action Plans called for in resolution A.990(25). At its 101st session, the Council was informed (C 101/3) of the progress made by CWGSP 8 in developing the said guidelines further; of the Working Group's analysis of recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to strategic planning; of its consideration of data measured against the Strategic Plan's performance indicators, including a detailed review of the indicators; and of progress made in achieving the Organization's planned outputs for the 2008-2009 biennium. The Council noted these developments and agreed that the

aforementioned guidelines should be promulgated by means of an Assembly resolution, for finalization by CWGSP 9, and subsequent approval by the Council and adoption by A 26.

6 The report of CWGSP 9 is submitted to the Council at its 102nd session under cover of document C 102/3(a) and a full report on this subject will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda under item [8].

### **Risk management**

7 The Council Risk Review, Management and Reporting Working Group (CWGRM), having developed, during 2007, a draft Risk Management Framework (RMF) for the Organization and a work programme for its completion during the 2008-2009 biennium, held its third session in April 2008, which, based on intersessional work carried out by a correspondence group and a pilot exercise undertaken by the Secretariat, finalized the three elements of the RMF – namely, definitions, a risk management policy and a risk management process. At its 100th session, the Council considered and approved the finalized RMF (C 100/3(b)); invited the Secretary-General, using the RMF, to conduct a full risk management exercise, early in 2009, covering the Strategic Directions and High-level Actions under his responsibility, as well as the Secretariat's related key objectives for that year; further invited the Secretary-General to submit a report on that exercise to the Council, through a future session of the Working Group (CWGRM 4); and approved revised terms of reference for the CWGRM which cover the Working Group's future role in the application of the RMF.

8 The report of CWGRM 4 is submitted to the Council at its 102nd session under cover of document C 102/3(b) and a full report on this subject will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [8].

### **Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme**

9 Since A 25 in November 2007, implementation of the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme has continued with additional Member States volunteering for audits, the completion of several audits and the nomination of individuals for inclusion in the roster of auditors maintained by the Secretariat. Several reports relating to audits have been issued and circulated to all Member States. A full report on the progress of the implementation of the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [9].

### **Finance and budget management**

10 Financial Services have continued to meet the ongoing financial accounting and treasury management requirements of the Organization. The final accounts for 2008 were completed by the due dates and submitted to the External Auditor. The annual audit was conducted during March 2009. The final accounts for the twenty-fourth financial period 2006-2007, the interim accounts for the first calendar year of the twenty-fifth financial period 2008-2009 and the External Auditor's reports and opinions thereon will be presented to A 26, under agenda item [17(c)].

11 The collection rates of contributions received from Member States were 99.33 per cent and 98.02 per cent of the assessed contributions in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

12 Funds not needed for immediate requirements were invested with the United Kingdom major banks, on the basis of a listing of institutions recommended by an external treasury management advisor. The total interest earned for 2007 and 2008 amounted to £1,191,219 and £1,309,641, respectively.

13 A main focus of work for Financial Services has been on the development of policies, procedures and system changes required to support the Organization's move to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), as approved in principle by A 25 in 2007. Amendments to the Organization's Financial Regulations have been developed to support this change, and will be submitted to the Assembly for approval. A comprehensive list of deliverables has been identified setting out all changes required to existing policies and procedures, and these are being developed in conjunction with key stakeholders before being consolidated in a comprehensive accounting manual. Training for those impacted by the changes is to be delivered in late 2009 and early 2010.

14 Financial Services have also provided significant input to the Organization's project for the upgrade and enhancement of the SAP ERP system. The project team has been working on procuring a supplier to upgrade the Organization's existing SAP system, implement SAP HR and payroll to replace the existing legacy systems, and outsource the hosting and support of the SAP system itself. Procurement of a preferred supplier is expected in mid-2009, with work on the implementation to begin thereafter. In parallel, the project team is working on a major revision to the Organization's governance and support structure for SAP, to ensure that the full benefits of the significant investment made in the system are realized.

15 Financial Services actively participate in Finance and Budget Network meetings within the UN common system to ensure that the Organization keeps abreast of system-wide developments.

16 Management Accounting Services continued to carry out key activities with respect to the delivery of the regular budget and the Organization's extra-budgetary funds, by constructing the budget control (WBS) structures in the SAP system for the various funds of the Organization; recommending to the Secretary-General programme allotments for funding of the programmes; controlling fund transfers to ensure that annual expenditure is contained within the overall approved appropriation; providing advice to programme managers in respect of available additional funding sources for *ad hoc* activities and programmes; monitoring the budgetary status and issuing periodical reports on budgetary performance and its financial implications; and reviewing the programme implementation documents for the proposed technical co-operation projects and other extra-budgetary resources.

17 Management Accounting Services also produced a framework document for the results-based budget proposals for the forthcoming biennium linking resource requirements to High-level Action and Strategic Plans, undertook the underpinning work on the establishment of the proposed Trading Fund, together with its terms of reference; improved financial systems, various reporting formats and analytical techniques to review cost changes and programme budget expenditures; and actively took part in the UN-wide harmonization programmes, through the Finance and Budget Network.



## **Human Resources (HR) reforms**

18 Human Resources Services (HRS) have continued to meet their ongoing responsibilities with regards to the development and implementation of policies to attract and retain top talent to IMO. HRS continue to actively participate in HR meetings within the UN common system, with a view to harmonizing its policies and procedures.

19 A new staff development programme was launched in December 2007. Although modest in funding, the programme included multi-disciplinary training with courses in subjects such as project management; leadership and team management skills; teamwork; report writing; and goal setting and performance management, as well as a broad spectrum of courses in the area of information technology and communications. To ascertain the effectiveness of the courses, satisfaction surveys were conducted at the end of each course and feedback was provided to the trainers on a continuous basis. A new external studies programme was recently developed and will be introduced in the course of 2009. A new pre-retirement programme was introduced to clarify issues and procedures for staff who approach mandatory retirement age.

20 A study on sick-leave usage at IMO was also conducted in 2008 and recently submitted for review by the Senior Management Committee. Although absenteeism for health reasons is relatively low at IMO, HRS monitor such cases on a regular basis. In addition, monthly lectures on health-related issues are offered to staff, addressing the most frequent causes of illnesses at IMO.

21 A new Performance Appraisal system was introduced in 2007, along the principles of “Management by Objectives”. Although the Organization has not yet achieved full compliance with the requirement of appraising all staff, measures are being implemented to achieve full compliance in the near future.

22 A total of 45 posts were filled between January 2008 and February 2009, reflecting the increased turnover at IMO with greater numbers of staff approaching retirement age. Also in the area of recruitment and placement, efforts were made during the period to enhance the way recruitment is conducted at IMO. Courses on competency-based interviews were offered to managers; new interview guidelines as well as new guidelines for the Appointment and Promotion Board were developed, as was an electronic offer of appointment and efforts are being made to improve the “on-boarding” of staff, including the in-house development of a new online site for newly recruited international staff.

23 Efforts were also made during the biennium to improve the way HR data are presented to the Council.

## **Office of General Services**

24 The main focus of the work of the Office of General Services has been to manage the return of the Secretariat from its temporary accommodation at 55 Victoria Street to the Headquarters building, which was successfully achieved in April 2008, and to return the premises at 55 Victoria Street to the landlord in good condition. Since April 2008, the focus has shifted to resolving any outstanding issues relating to the refurbishment of the building, including the reappointment of all contractors, and to some significant “Day Two” works: replacement of about half the windows in the building and re-sealing all the remaining windows.

25 The Council, at its 100th session, acknowledged the contribution of all those involved in the Headquarters refurbishment exercise through the adoption, on 16 June 2008, of a Council resolution (resolution C.76(100)).

### **Publishing activities**

26 In 2008 and early 2009, the following major new publications and revised editions were published: *IMDG Code* and *IMDG Code Supplement*; *GMDSS Manual*; *Ships' Routeing*; *IAMSAR Manual* (volumes I, II and III); revised *MARPOL Annex VI and NO<sub>x</sub> Technical Code*. In addition, 10 new model courses were published in English, French and Spanish.

27 The following electronic products were also released: *IMDG Code on CD V9*; *IMDG Code for Intranet*; *IMDG Code e-learning*; *SOLAS on CD V5*; *MARPOL on CD V3*; *IMO-Vega Database V13*; *IAMSAR Manual on CD V5*; *Ships' Routeing on CD V3*. About 140 publications were made available for download as "virtual" books: almost every IMO title is now available in electronic form in all the languages of publication.

28 Thanks in part to a wide network of distributors in new markets and to better dissemination of information, unit sales have been increasing steadily. The year 2008 was another year of record sales, with just under £9.2 million in net sales revenues, of which more than £480,000 was represented by sales of products other than printed books (royalties, electronic products, advertising).

### **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**

29 The Information Technology and Information System (IT & IS) Services support a knowledge and information-based Organization. Work continues to align information management and information technology with IMO core business objectives in the areas of information management; in providing new corporate information systems and enhancing existing ones; in developing new software applications; and in enhancing the information and communication technology infrastructure such as servers and desktop (PC) renewal and user support initiatives. The refurbishment of the HQ building provided an opportunity for the deployment of modern, secure and cost effective information systems.

30 IMO staff members were provided with improved facilities to realize the Organization's work programme including packages such as translation assistance, document processing, e-mail and collaboration, file services, human resources application, financial applications (payroll and SAP), etc., plus a super-fast internet link with fall-over capability, which was installed for improved reliability and access speed from the Secretariat to the internet, in support of IMO meetings. Steps were taken to improve security on the IMO network. In this respect, the network security was enhanced with new technologies such as Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). Secured access to IMO ICT facilities was provided to Member States for Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) and to staff members while on mission or in support of IMO meetings outside the Headquarters building. A new networked printing facility was installed in the Secretariat. Steps were taken to start to reduce the overall ICT carbon footprint of the Secretariat.

31 Member States were provided with improved access to documents and database applications to deliver information to them in a timely, accurate and reliable manner. These included:

- New modules on the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) such as the Data Distribution Plan (DDP) of the LRIT system, the Green House Gas Module, Dangerous Goods Carriage Difficulties, etc.;
- Member States' Audit Scheme;
- Upgraded IMODOCs; and
- Member State single sign-on access for IMO resources.

32 The public at large were provided with a dynamic reference point on the IMO Internet site for the Organization's work and activities on maritime safety, security and environmental issues.

33 In support of the move to IPSAS, IT & IS Services have provided support to the project to upgrade of SAP core system from release 4.7 to release 6.0 and the implementation of Human Resource and Payroll modules on SAP to replace the legacy payroll applications.

34 Emphasis in 2008-2009 was on targeted investment on ICT Infrastructure and user support initiatives to enhance services and improve network availability.

## **TECHNICAL WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION**

### **MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY**

35 The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) was scheduled to meet three times during the biennium: MSC 84 met from 7 to 16 May 2008; MSC 85 from 26 November to 5 December 2008 and MSC 86 will meet from 27 May to 5 June 2009. The outcome of MSC 84 was reported to C 100 in document C 100/9 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 100/D; the outcomes of MSC 85 and MSC 86 are being reported to C 102 in documents C 102/9 and C 102/9/Add.1, respectively.

36 The reports of the MSC, which will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [10], will give details of the substantive work accomplished by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies during the biennium under review. A number of recommendations will be proposed for adoption by the Assembly.

### **MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION**

37 The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) was scheduled to meet three times during the biennium: MEPC 57 met from 31 March to 4 April 2008; MEPC 58 from 6 to 10 October 2008 and MEPC 59 will meet from 13 to 17 July 2009. The outcome of MEPC 57 was reported to C 100 in document C 100/8 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 100/D; the outcome of MEPC 58 was reported to C 101 in document C 101/7 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 101/D; the outcome of MEPC 59 will be reported to the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Council.

38 The reports of the MEPC, which will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [12], will give details of the substantive work accomplished by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies during the biennium under review. A number of recommendations will be proposed for adoption by the Assembly.

### **Dumping of wastes and other matter**

39 The 30th Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention 1972 and the 3rd Meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention were concurrently held from 27 to 31 October 2008. The outcome was reported to C 101 in document C 101/9 and the Council's decision thereon will be reported to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [16].

### **FACILITATION OF MARITIME TRANSPORT**

40 The Facilitation Committee was scheduled to meet twice during the biennium. However, in order to make economies, during the biennium, and in order that the next session of the Committee be held as a fully-fledged institutionalized committee, it was decided to hold only one session of the Committee during the biennium under review. The Committee was formally institutionalized on 7 December 2008, following the entry into force of the 1991 amendments to the IMO Convention and FAL 35 met, as such, for the first time, from 12 to 16 January 2009. To mark the occasion, a special event entitled "The FAL Committee – Future Challenges" was held on the opening day. The outcome of FAL 35 will be reported to C 102 in document C 102/10.

41 The report of FAL 35, which will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [14], will give details of the substantive work accomplished by the Committee during the biennium under review.

### **WORK OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE**

42 The Legal Committee was scheduled to meet three times during the biennium. LEG 94 met from 20 to 24 October 2008; LEG 95 met from 30 March to 3 April 2009 and LEG 96 will meet from 5 to 9 October 2009.

43 The outcome of LEG 94 was reported to C 101 in document C 101/8 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 101/D; the outcome of LEG 95 is being reported to C 102 in document C 102/11 and the outcome of LEG 96 will be reported to the twenty-fifth extraordinary session of the Council.

44 The reports of the Legal Committee, which will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [11], will give details of the substantive work accomplished by the Committee during the biennium under review.

## TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

45 The Technical Co-operation Committee (TCC) was scheduled to meet twice during the biennium: TCC 58 met from 10 to 12 June 2008 and TCC 59 will meet from 23 to 25 June 2009. The outcome of TCC 58 was reported to C 100 in document C 100/10/Add.1 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 100/D. The outcome of TCC 59 will be reported to C 102 in document C 102/12/Add.1.

46 The reports of the TCC, which will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [13], will give details of the substantive work accomplished by the Committee during the biennium under review. Individual reports on the maritime training activities under the auspices of IMO, i.e. the World Maritime University (Malmö), the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (Malta) and the International Maritime Safety, Security and Environment Academy (Genoa)<sup>1</sup>, which will be included in the TCC reports, will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda items [18(a)], [18(b)] and [18(c)], respectively.

## CONFERENCE SERVICES

47 During 2008 there were 18.8 fully serviced official meetings; 19.6 official meeting weeks are scheduled to take place in 2009. The number of intersessional working groups and technical groups continues to grow and, despite the fact that the documentation produced for these meetings does not need to be translated, Conference Services are nonetheless required to service the meetings, the English Word Processing Unit is required to support the formatting of documentation produced and the Documents Section is required to process, print and distribute the documents.

48 During the first four months of the biennium, while the Secretariat was still temporarily relocated during the refurbishment period, five meetings were held at venues in central London and one sub-committee meeting, namely the fifty-first session of the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment, was held in Bonn, Germany.

49 Since the Secretariat's return to the Headquarters building, all subsequent meetings have been held in-house, including the 100th session of the Council, with the exception of the International Conference on the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships which will be held in Hong Kong, China, in May 2009. The newly refurbished Headquarters building now boasts greatly improved conference facilities with the introduction of enhanced modern audio visual technology and redesigned flexible meeting rooms. As a result, increased demand for use of the conference facilities from both Member States and external organizations is steadily growing.

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<sup>1</sup> At its 100th session, the Council welcomed the information provided by the delegation of Italy, that the International Maritime Academy, which had, since 1988, been functioning in Trieste, would, as from autumn 2008, resume its courses in Genoa, under the name International Maritime Safety, Security and Environment Academy (IMSSEA). The Council noted that IMO would continue to provide technical input to the Academy, thanked the Government of Italy for its financial and in-kind support to the Academy and wished it every success for the future.

### **Language services**

50 The official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) have been used, as appropriate, for official meetings. All documentation for these meetings has been translated and processed into the working languages (English, French and Spanish). The total volume of documents translated into the Organization's working languages continued to increase in 2007 and 2008 by 8-9% per year, posing a continuous challenge to available resources. The combination of the increased volume of documentation, the expectation of two night shifts and delays in submission of documents for translation continues to put intense pressure on staff in the Translation Services and increases the costs of meetings. The fact that, up until now, all documentation generated has been processed timeously has been due to staff members' willingness to work beyond what can reasonably be expected and the support given by MultiTrans, the terminology and referencing software in use at the IMO Translation Services, which continues to play a major role in improving translation capacity and working methods. Circular letter No.2907, issued in November 2008, provides information on the availability of MultiTrans to delegates attending meetings at IMO Headquarters.

### **Documents services**

51 The large volume of documentation required for meetings was processed for translation, typing, printing and dispatch, with the assistance of the computerized monitoring system.

52 Circular letter No.2855, issued in March 2008, provides an update on the enhancements made to the IMO website dedicated to the electronic distribution of meeting documents (IMODOCS). The new system simplifies the manner in which IMO web services are securely accessed and managed by the Conference Division with the technical support of the Information Technology (IT).

## **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

### **Coordination with the United Nations system**

53 Co-operation with the United Nations and specialized agencies, as well as coordination on programme matters continued, in the period under review, to be a central focus of the Sub-Division for External Relations. The Sub-Division continued to promote IMO throughout the United Nations system. Inter-agency discussions of interest to IMO, kept under review by the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), were brought to the attention of the Council, in particular the following issues:

- UN "Delivering as One" at the country level;
- UN system-wide coordination on climate change;
- Safety and security of UN staff;
- UN response to the global food price challenge;
- UN system-wide coordination and harmonization aspects of activities for development; and
- UN response to the global financial crisis.

54 The Council was also kept abreast of developments relevant to IMO related to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including:

- (i) Outcome of the ninth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea; and
- (ii) Follow-up action taken by the UN Security Council and the Secretariat pursuant to the adoption of resolution A.979(24) on Piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia.

55 In relation to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Council was informed that MSC 84 had considered the report submitted by the Secretariat on the fifth special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee as well as the Joint Statement and the associated Plan of action adopted at that meeting (MSC 84/4). As a result, MSC 84 and MSC 85 invited SOLAS Contracting Governments and IMO Member States to review the Joint Statement and the Plan of action and to submit information on activities listed therein, as the effective implementation of the provisions of SOLAS chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code forms parts of the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations and, in particular, of the Security Council; this information will also be used for the report to be presented by the Organization to the Counter-Terrorism Committee. The Council was also informed of the Secretariat's participation in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) of the United Nations and of various activities that were delivered in 2008-2009 under the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme's Global Programme on the Enhancement of Maritime Security.

#### **Relations with other intergovernmental organizations**

56 During the period under review, the Council noted the Secretary-General's report that the formal procedures for the signing of three Agreements of Co-operation on bilateral matters with the following organizations were complete:

- the Regional Co-operation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP-ISC);
- the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA); and
- the African Union (AU).

57 The Council approved Agreements of Co-operation on bilateral matters with:

- the Marine Accident Investigators' International Forum (MAIIF);
- the International Whaling Commission (IWC);
- the International Transport Forum (FIT);
- the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (BSC);
- the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC); and
- the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS).

58 The Council also approved an Agreement of Co-operation on Port State Control with the Riyadh Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Riyadh MoU).

59 The Council decided to submit these seven Agreements of Co-operation to A 26 for consideration and final approval. A full report will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [19(c)].

60 The Council also noted the Secretary-General's report that the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) had changed its name to the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, but had, nevertheless, retained the acronym SPREP.

### **Relations with non-governmental organizations**

61 Since A 25, the Council has considered eight new applications from organizations for consultative status with IMO and decided to grant consultative status to one organization, to turn down two applications, and to forward five for further screening by the Maritime Safety Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee and the Facilitation Committee.

62 The Council will, at the current session, undertake its biennial review of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO for the period from 1 March 2007 to 28 February 2009 (document C 102/18(d)/1).

63 Details on the actions taken by the Council on new applications for consultative status and a report on the biennial review, together with the proposed draft resolution, will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [19(d)].

### **World Maritime Day**

64 World Maritime Day 2008 was celebrated during the last week of September. The theme of the Day in 2008, as approved by the Council, was “**IMO: 60 years in the service of shipping**”, while that for 2009 is “**CLIMATE CHANGE: A challenge for IMO too!**”.

65 The 2008 World Maritime Day parallel event was successfully organized, jointly by IMO and the Government of Greece, in Athens, on 19 September, and in Galaxidi, the day after (when the unveiling ceremony of an International Memorial to the Wife of the Seafarer took place). The Council expressed its appreciation to the Government of Greece for hosting the event and to the Governments and organizations which had sent representatives to the celebrations.

66 The Council reiterated its appreciation to the Government of the United States for its offer, which was made at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session in November 2007, to host a parallel event in the United States for the celebration of World Maritime Day in 2009.

67 The Council also recalled the offer of Argentina to host the 2010 parallel event in Buenos Aires; noted the offer of Italy to host the parallel event at the earliest possible opportunity thereafter; and thanked both these Governments for their offers. A full report on World Maritime Day for 2008 and 2009 will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [19(e)].



### **International Maritime Prize**

68 By decision of the Council, the International Maritime Prize for 2007 was awarded to **Mr. Jørgen Rasmussen (Denmark)**. The Prize for 2008 will be decided at the current session of the Council. A report on the International Maritime Prize will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [19(f)].

### **IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea**

69 The 2008 Award was presented, in person, to the winner, Mr. Rodolfo Fonseca da Silva Rigueira, nominated by Brazil, at a special ceremony held at IMO Headquarters on 1 December 2008, during MSC 85. Certificates in recognition of meritorious services rendered were also awarded to the winner and to other recipients or their representatives at the 2008 Award ceremony.

70 Nominations have been invited for the 2009 Award (Circular letter No.2934 dated 19 January 2009), which will be considered at the current session of the Council. A full report on the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item [19(g)].

### **Celebration of IMO's 60th anniversary, the 100th session of the Council and the formal reopening of IMO's refurbished Headquarters**

71 Following the Council's approval (June 2007) of the Secretary-General's proposals to commemorate its 100th session and, at the same time, celebrate the Organization's return to the refurbished Headquarters building, all of which coincided with the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the IMO Convention and the 50th anniversary of its entry into force, a series of events were held during the week of C 100 to mark the occasion. The events focused on a specific theme each day and were centred around last year's World Maritime Day theme, namely "**IMO: 60 years in the service of shipping**".

72 On the first day of C 100 (16 June 2008), the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, travelled to London to honour the Organization and participate in the celebrations, which were organized to take place in the afternoon, in the presence of the diplomatic and maritime community of London, Council Members, observers and IMO staff. Ms Ruth Kelly, the former United Kingdom Secretary of State for Transport, also participated in the ceremony.

73 A special ceremony for the formal re-opening of IMO's refurbished Headquarters took place on the second day of C 100 (17 June 2008) and was officiated by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, in the presence of Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick, MP, United Kingdom Shipping Minister.

### **Public Information Services (PIS)**

74 IMO's Public Information Services continued, in the period under review, to disseminate information on the Organization's objectives and work activities, and to improve global awareness of the Organization and its impact.

75 This was carried out through a number of tasks, including: writing and distribution of press releases and briefings; arranging press conferences, background briefings, press, television and radio interviews; responding to information requests by phone, fax, e-mail; giving talks and presentations on the work of IMO to groups visiting the Organization; researching, writing and disseminating summary reports of all IMO meetings; production of materials for exhibitions and events; expansion and organization of a photographic library; research, drafting speeches for the Secretary-General and writing articles on the work of IMO and related topics as requested by the Secretary-General; and writing and editing IMO's quarterly magazine. PIS also assumed responsibility for the upkeep of major parts of the IMO public-access website, which provides a comprehensive and constantly growing source of information about the Organization.

### **Maritime Knowledge Centre (MKC) (formerly the IMO Library)**

76 The IMO Library was renamed Maritime Knowledge Centre (MKC) in December 2007 following the many transformations which make it the dynamic information centre it is today. The MKC plays an important role in disseminating information about IMO and the maritime industry to its visitors through a comprehensive collection in-house and an array of products on the public website for the benefit of delegates, researchers, the public and the maritime community worldwide.

77 The MKC responded to a large proportion of enquiries mainly by e-mail and provided answers, material, IMO documents, information resources documents or referred the enquirer where necessary. Facilities and services were extended to many delegates attending IMO meetings, researchers, students, interns and group visitors.

78 The MKC provides the *News Intelligence Service* to the Secretariat with approximately 2,500 news items per year by monitoring worldwide events daily, capturing information from the shipping press and newswires. Major casualties and pollution incidents were also followed up closely.

79 The e-mail distribution of the monthly *Current Information* doubled to reach nearly 1,400 subscribers.

80 The Information Resources pages on the public website were regularly updated with products such as the *Index of IMO Resolutions* (full text in English of MEPC, MSC, LEG resolutions and an increasing number of Assembly resolutions) and the *Information Resources on Current Topics* were further expanded. New pages were developed which include the "*Role and Importance of Shipping*" and "*Careers at Sea*", and the "*International Shipping and World Trade – Facts and Figures*" was updated.

81 *SeaLibrary*, the online catalogue, reached 13,780 records and the database of bibliographic details of articles reached 80,700 records. In addition, the *Directory of Maritime Links* was expanded, thereby giving the maritime community direct access to a large array of websites of interest. IMO presence on the *UN Atlas of the Oceans*, a website entirely dedicated to oceans issues, was strengthened.

82 Information for use by IMO Staff such as maritime statistics was updated on the Intranet and country briefs were prepared for the Secretary-General's missions.

83 During the refurbishment phase, a major planning exercise was carried out to move part of the collection into storage as well as ensuring a core collection in Victoria Street to maintain services. Both sets of the collection were successfully reintegrated in Albert Embankment on time for the IMO 60 celebrations. Each delegation was presented with the “Sea-D”, a compilation of well-established MKC products for their use or distribution to the relevant office in their administration/business.

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