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EXTERNAL RELATIONS**(d) Relations with non-governmental organizations****Report of the group of Council Members**

1 As instructed by the Council, the group of Council Members met from 29 June to 2 July 2009, under the chairmanship of Captain Raja Malik (Malaysia), to review and advise the Council on new applications for consultative status submitted by the following organizations:

- the Bureau International des Containers du Transport Intermodal (BIC);
- the Green Ship Recycling Association (GSRA);
- the Inflatable Safety and Survival Equipment Technical Association Limited (ISSETA);
- the Regional Clean Sea Organization (RECSO);
- the International Dangerous Goods and Containers Association (IDGCA);
- the Nautical Institute (NI);
- the Certification Association “Russian Register”; and
- the Superyacht Builders Association (SYBAss)

as annexed to documents C 102/18(d) and C 102/18(d)/Add.1.

2 The group was also instructed to advise the Council in the context of the biennial review of organizations already in consultative status with IMO, as contained in documents C 102/18(d)/1 and C 102/18(d)/2.

3 As decided by the Council, the group was composed of representatives from the delegations of Brazil, Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and South Africa. Delegates from China, Ghana and the United States also took part in the discussions of the group.

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NEW APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS

4 The group reviewed the applications and the information provided, in accordance with the Rules Governing Relationship with Non-Governmental International Organizations and the Guidelines on the Grant of Consultative Status. The views of the group are given below.

Bureau International des Containers du Transport Intermodal (BIC)

5 The group was of the opinion that BIC has the potential to contribute to the work of IMO and, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council that the application for consultative status of BIC should proceed for further screening by the MSC and the FAL Committee.

Green Ship Recycling Association (GSRA)

6 The group was of the opinion that GSRA cannot be considered to be truly international, given that, with regard to its core activity (ship recycling), its members all come from two countries only, located in the same geographical region. The group also expressed the view that, should the membership of GSRA expand, it could submit a new application.

7 The group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council not to grant consultative status to GSRA.

Inflatable Safety and Survival Equipment Technical Association Limited (ISSETA)

8 The group was of the view that the interests represented by ISSETA could be adequately represented in IMO through another organization (i.e. the International Life-saving Appliance Manufacturers' Association (ILAMA)).

9 The group, therefore, decided to recommend to the Council not to grant consultative status to ISSETA.

Regional Clean Sea Organization (RECSO)

10 The group was of the view that RECSO cannot be considered to be truly international, as its members are all based in the same region.

11 The group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council not to grant consultative status to RECSO.

International Dangerous Goods and Containers Association (IDGCA)

12 The group was of the view that IDGCA cannot be considered to be truly international, as most of its members are based in the same region. Moreover, the interests represented by IDGCA seem to be already represented in IMO by another organization (i.e. the Dangerous Goods Advisory Council (DGAC)).

13 The group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council not to grant consultative status to IDGCA.

Nautical Institute (NI)

14 The group was of the view that the Nautical Institute would be able to assist IMO in achieving its objectives and fulfilled all the required criteria. The group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council to grant consultative status to the Nautical Institute.

Certification Association “Russian Register”

15 The group was of the opinion that the Certification Association “Russian Register” cannot be considered to be truly international, as most of its members are based in the same region. Moreover, the group was of the view that the interests represented by this organization could be adequately represented in IMO through another organization already in consultative status (i.e. the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)).

16 The group agreed to recommend to the Council not to grant consultative status to the Certification Association “Russian Register”.

Superyacht Builders Association (SYBAss)

17 The group was of the opinion that SYBAss may have the potential to contribute to the work of IMO and decided to recommend to the Council that the application for consultative status of SYBAss be submitted for further screening to the MSC. In so doing, the MSC would also need to ascertain whether or not the interests represented by SYBAss are already represented by another organization already in consultative status.

BIENNIAL REVIEW OF ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS

18 As instructed by the Council, the group carried out a preliminary review of the organizations currently in consultative status with IMO, in accordance with the Rules Governing Relationship with Non-Governmental International Organizations and the Guidelines on the Grant of Consultative Status. The views of the group are given below.

Organizations in consultative status on a provisional basis

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

19 The group was of the view that IFAW’s participation in the work of IMO has been active and that IFAW would, in all likelihood, make further contributions, in view of the work programme of the MEPC, in particular.

20 The group, therefore, decided to recommend to the Council to convert the consultative status granted to IFAW on a provisional basis to full consultative status.

International Spill Control Organization (ISCO)

21 The group noted that ISCO had attended some IMO meetings; based on this, it decided to recommend to the Council to retain the provisional consultative status of ISCO for an additional two years and to encourage further participation in future meetings of the Organization.

Review of the list of remaining NGOs in consultative status

The International Council of Marine Industries Associations (ICOMIA) and the International Navigation Association (PIANC)

22 The group noted that there are two organizations that did not attend any IMO meetings during the period under review. These are:

- the International Council of Marine Industries Associations (ICOMIA); and
- the International Navigation Association (PIANC).

23 The group decided to recommend that ICOMIA and PIANC be reminded of their obligations under the Rules Governing Relationship with Non-Governmental International Organizations and the Guidelines on the Grant of Consultative Status and that, should there be no improvement in their performance within the next biennium, the status granted to them may be withdrawn.

Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) and Greenpeace International (Greenpeace)

24 In light of the activities and statements made by “The NGO Platform on Shipbreaking”, which comprised, among others, FOEI and Greenpeace, during the International Conference on the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships and after its conclusion, the group discussed the appropriateness of the involvement of organizations in consultative status with the Organization in such actions, considering their obligations under the Rules Governing Relationship with Non-Governmental International Organizations.

25 Rule 3(b) provides that the IMO Council must be satisfied that “the objectives and functions of the non-governmental international organization are fully in harmony with the spirit, functions and principles of the International Maritime Organization”, while Rule 4 requires that organizations in consultative status support the activities of IMO and promote the dissemination of its principles and work, bearing in mind the objectives and functions of IMO on the one hand, and the competence and activities of the non-governmental organization on the other.

26 The group was informed that correspondence had been exchanged between the Secretariat and these two organizations and that the latter had both confirmed their full commitment to constructive participation in, and contribution to, IMO’s work, while at the same time expressing their view that the activities in question were peaceful and good natured and did not indicate a lack of respect for IMO or its work.

27 At the Chairman’s request, a representative of Greenpeace attended the meeting to address the concerns that had been raised. He indicated that Greenpeace accepts responsibility for the actions carried out under the umbrella of the NGO platform, while also recognizing that the language that had been used was undiplomatic and, possibly, unfortunate. The representative of Greenpeace underlined, however, that in his view the rules governing relationship with NGOs had not been breached. He explained that Greenpeace enjoys consultative status with numerous other international organizations and bodies (including UNEP, FAO, UNFCCC, IAEA and others) and that, although similar activities are not uncommon in international conferences, neither these activities nor the consultative status of Greenpeace have ever been challenged or questioned by those organizations. He further added that Greenpeace wishes to continue to engage constructively with IMO and is very keen to maintain its consultative status.

28 After listening to the intervention of Greenpeace, the group concluded that, while it was not happy with the style of the activities undertaken during the Conference, it did not seem that the Rules Governing Relationship with Non-Governmental International Organizations had been violated. However, the group recommended that the Council should consider expressing concern over any activities carried out by NGOs in consultative status that could unfairly tarnish the image of the Organization and request them to refrain from engaging in such activities.

Action requested of the Council

29 The Council is invited to take note of the group's recommendations and decide, as it may deem appropriate.
