

COUNCIL
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Agenda item 21

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**APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICES TO THE ORGANIZATION
OF MR. K. SEKIMIZU**

Note by the Chairman of the Council

SUMMARY

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| <i>Executive summary:</i> | This document invites the Council's endorsement of a draft Assembly resolution recording the Organization's appreciation of the services of Mr. K. Sekimizu |
| <i>Strategic direction:</i> | No related provisions |
| <i>High-level action:</i> | No related provisions |
| <i>Planned output:</i> | No related provisions |
| <i>Action to be taken:</i> | Paragraph 3 |
| <i>Related documents:</i> | None |

1 The Council will wish to ensure that the outstanding contribution to IMO's work made by Mr. Koji Sekimizu, as a staff member from 1989 through 2011, and whose distinguished term of office as Secretary-General will conclude at the end of 2015, is recognized fully and appropriately.

2 The Chairman therefore proposes, for the consideration of the Council, the adoption of the attached text of a draft resolution, which would be submitted to the twenty-ninth regular session of the Assembly, recording the Organization's appreciation of the services of Mr. Sekimizu.

Action requested of the Council

3 The Council is invited to consider the draft resolution attached as an annex to this document, for submission the twenty-ninth regular session of the Assembly, and to comment or decide as appropriate.

ANNEX

DRAFT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

**APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICES TO THE ORGANIZATION
OF MR. K. SEKIMIZU**

THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING WITH COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING that, owing to personal reasons, Mr. Koji Sekimizu, Secretary-General, has decided not to seek reappointment and, therefore, to retire from the service of the Organization when his current term of office expires on 31 December 2015,

WISHING TO RECORD WITH DEEP APPRECIATION the outstanding contribution made by Mr. Sekimizu to the purposes and functions of the Organization during his long and distinguished career with the Organization culminating in his tenure as Secretary-General from 1 January 2012,

RECOGNIZING WITH GRATITUDE his dedication and commitment to the ideals and mission of the Organization in improving the safety of life at sea, protecting the environment, enhancing maritime security, improving the efficiency of maritime traffic, ensuring the consideration of relevant legal matters, fostering and promoting global acceptance and uniform and effective implementation and enforcement of IMO's treaty instruments, including through the provision of technical assistance to developing countries, and consolidating the required mechanisms for the implementation of the mandatory IMO Member State audit scheme,

APPRECIATING DEEPLY his leadership, counsel, vision and purpose, as well as his strong and effective advocacy of transparency throughout the work of the Organization and of its role as an integral component of the United Nations system,

RECOGNIZING that during his distinguished tenure reductions in the loss of life at sea and in the incidence of marine pollution from ships have been maintained and piracy incidents off the coast of Somalia and in the Indian Ocean have been successfully contained,

ALSO RECOGNIZING his pursuit of a global sustainable maritime transportation system, in the context of supporting implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the international community's future Sustainable Development Goals and post-2015 development agenda,

FURTHER APPRECIATING his personal contribution to establishing and securing globally applicable safety, security, environmental, facilitation and legal standards and to the consequent high regard and respect in which IMO is held, as evidenced by:

- (i) his firm and resolute commitment to the promotion of IMO as the only organization for the development and adoption of global maritime standards, which has led to the further widening and unity of the Membership of the Organization, now standing at 171 Member States and three Associate Members;
- (ii) his strong support for and encouragement of permanent collaboration between the Organization and other entities of the United Nations system in all matters of mutual concern, and of effective participation in the Organization's work by all sectors of the shipping and related industries and organizations representing civil society interests;

- (iii) his bold initiatives to enhance safety, in particular through the adoption of the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 in respect of fishing vessel safety, the convening of a Symposium on future ship safety and a Conference on the safety of passenger ships on non-international voyages;
- (iv) his promotion of new instruments in support of the Organization's objectives, including the adoption of the IGF and Polar Codes, and his determined efforts aiming at the strengthening of passenger ship safety standards;
- (v) his leadership in dealing with piracy, including through the organization of the high-level segment of the Maritime Safety Committee, the promotion of regional cooperation among signatory States to the Djibouti Code of Conduct, the setting up of the Djibouti Regional Training Centre and the provision of support to the countries of western Africa on anti-piracy measures;
- (vi) his tireless resolve to secure inter-agency collaboration for the development of appropriate responses to the humanitarian crises generated by unsafe mixed migration by sea, including through the convening of a High-level meeting of all relevant stakeholders,
- (vii) his strong commitment to recognizing and addressing global environmental concerns whilst safeguarding the role of the shipping industry in support of international trade, in particular with respect to ballast water management and the energy-efficiency of ships;
- (viii) his dedication to maritime education and training and to strengthening the governance and capacity of the Organization's educational institutions, which are successfully providing high quality, advanced maritime education and training, and, in particular, his achievements regarding the significant improvements in the financial sustainability of the World Maritime University and the inauguration of its new premises; and
- (ix) his determination to ensure an open and direct dialogue and line of communication with Member Governments and to expand the Organization's public outreach activities through the enhancement of the IMO public website and the introduction of multilingualism within it, the use of social media and electronic publications, the promotion of national and international maritime heritage, as well as the introduction of the IMO Maritime Ambassadors scheme,

WELCOMING his many initiatives on and full commitment to the review and reform of the Organization which have led to increased transparency, innovation and change, including through:

- (i) the restructuring of the Organization's sub-committees and the introduction of revised working methods and PaperSmart practices for international meetings, together with equivalent measures for the Secretariat's activities;
- (ii) the comprehensive examination of the Organization's long-term financial sustainability, which facilitated the adoption of firm budgetary policies, prudent resource management, efficiency gains and cost savings, whilst ensuring the delivery of the Organization's regulatory work and the Secretariat's business plans without increasing the Member States' assessments in his budget proposals;

- (iii) the development of progressive human resource policies on staff mobility, flexible working, performance recognition, career development and financial disclosure;
- (iv) the adoption of amendments to key IMO Conventions to institutionalize the mandatory Member State audit scheme and, through the wider re-engineering of the Secretariat's office structures, the establishment, without additional cost to the Membership, of the Department for Member State Audit and Implementation Support which will coordinate, implement and report on the mandatory scheme as of 1 January 2016;
- (v) the continued enhancement of the Organization's technical cooperation programme, in particular through the development of country maritime profiles and the adoption of national maritime transportation policies, to better enable developing States to adopt, implement and enforce the Organization's instruments and ensure the sustainability of their maritime transportation sectors; and
- (vi) the consolidation of information and communication technology enhancements, including on IMODOCS, GISIS and the Organization's ERP system, and the introduction of audio recording of meetings and of internal Secretariat applications designed to automate work processes, reduce carbon footprint and generate cost savings,

1 EXPRESSES its deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to Mr. Koji Sekimizu for his loyalty, commitment, dedication, enthusiasm and contribution to the overall purposes of the Organization over a period of 26 years and for his energetic leadership with respect to the foregoing achievements, which have enhanced the Organization's status and effectiveness and led to increased worldwide recognition of its essential role in the setting of global maritime standards,

2 DESIGNATES Mr. Koji Sekimizu as Secretary-General Emeritus of the International Maritime Organization with effect from 1 January 2016.