

COUNCIL
108th session
Agenda item 3

C 108/3/2
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STRATEGY AND PLANNING

Status of planned outputs under the High-level Action Plan for 2012-2013

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document proposes an adjustment to recent practice of reporting to the Council on the status of planned outputs under the High-level Action Plan, and proposes the inclusion of three unplanned outputs for the Secretariat in the High-level Action Plan 2012-2013

Strategic direction: 1 to 13

High-level action: 4.0.3

Planned output: 4.0.3.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 15

Related documents: C 108/3/3; Circular letter No.3260 and C/ES.26/3

Reporting to the Council on the status of planned outputs under the High-level Action Plan

1 Recent practice has been that the Secretariat has reported to the Council on the status of planned outputs of the Assembly, Council and the Secretariat under the High-level Action Plan at the November session in the first year of a biennium, as well as at the June session in the second year of a biennium.

2 Further, in accordance with paragraph 9.1 of the Guidelines on the application of the Strategic Plan and the High-level Action Plan of the Organization (the GAP), the Council, at its extraordinary session in the second year of a biennium receives a full biennial report on the status of planned outputs of the Organization, which is annexed to the report of the Council to the Assembly.

3 As the reporting, in June in the second year of a biennium, only covers the activities of the three first months of that year, it is suggested that there is no apparent value in reporting at that session, and that the practice of reporting on the status of the planned outputs in June in the second year of a biennium should therefore be discontinued. This will also free up resources in the Secretariat, as the document will not have to be prepared, translated, etc.

Unplanned outputs for inclusion in the High-level Action Plan

4 In its meeting in October 2011, CWGSP 12 agreed that the following should be developed:

- .1 a brochure outlining the key points of the Organization's strategic planning process to support the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Secretariat of the Council, committees and sub-committees in ensuring uniform application of the GAP; and
- .2 a synopsis of the guidelines on the organization and method of work for the MSC and MEPC.

5 The Secretariat had included the brochure and synopsis as planned outputs in the draft High-level Action Plan (HLAP) for consideration by the twenty-sixth extraordinary session of the Council. However, the two proposed outputs had to be withdrawn, as the Council decided that, even though they were to be Secretariat output, an assessment in accordance with the GAP might first be carried out.

6 Paragraph 8.2 of the GAP specifies that the Secretary-General should "follow a process consistent with the principles" for assessment of unplanned outputs, when the responsible organ for these unplanned outputs is the Secretariat. In relation to paragraph 4 above, the following paragraphs sets out this assessment in order to include two unplanned outputs in the HLAP for the 2012-2013 biennium.

7 Both outputs fall within the scope of the Strategic Plan (Strategic Direction 4) and will contribute to the implementation of the High-level Action Plan. The CWGSP, with the Council's endorsement, has considered that, for improved strategic planning and delivery of the Organization's meetings programme, there is a need for both inputs, since they are intended to increase awareness, understanding of and adherence to the strategic planning process and the working methods of the MSC and MEPC.

8 The brochure is intended to support the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Secretariat of the Council, committees and sub-committees in ensuring uniform application of the GAP.

9 The synopsis is intended as a tool for the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Secretariat, as well as delegates, when questions arise regarding the guidelines on the organization and method of work, and the synopsis should be an easy reference guide.

10 It is therefore expected that the proposed documents could lead to increased efficiency in the decision-making process at IMO.

11 Both documents are expected to be completed by 2013.

Review and reform process

12 Since taking office at the beginning of the year, the Secretary-General's objectives for the Organization have been: a forward-looking, efficient and cost-conscious Organization with strengthened and knowledge-based authority in global standard setting, as a specialized agency within the United Nations system.

13 In this regard, an in-house Review and Reform mechanism has been established, and document C 108/3/3 reports on this mechanism.

14 Improved efficiency and increased cost-consciousness will in turn lead to an Organization better situated to continue to respond to the needs of the Member States. It is therefore considered pertinent that the Review and Reform mechanism is also included in the HLAP for the current biennium as an unplanned output for the Secretariat.

Action requested of the Council

15 The Council is invited to:

- .1 agree to the change in the practice of reporting on the status of the planned outputs under the High-level Action Plan to the Council, as set out in paragraph 3; and
 - .2 agree to inclusion of the following unplanned outputs in the HLAP for the current biennium to be carried out by the Secretariat:
 - .1 a brochure outlining the key points of the Organization's strategic planning process;
 - .2 a synopsis of the guidelines on the organization and method of work for the MSC and MEPC; and
 - .3 the Secretary-General's Review and Reform mechanism.
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