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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, a group of Council Members met on 4 and 5 July 2016, under the chairmanship of Ms. Andrea Ahlberg (Sweden), to review and advise the Council on new applications for consultative status submitted by the following organizations:

- the Society for Gas as a Marine Fuel (SGMF);
- the International Sailing Schools Association (ISSA);
- the International Cruise Victims Association (ICV); and
- the Methanol Institute (MI),

as annexed to document C 116/15(d).

2 The group was composed of representatives from the delegations of Chile, Indonesia, Italy, Liberia, Morocco, Sweden and Turkey. Representatives from the delegations of Australia, the United States of America and the observer delegation of the Marshall Islands also participated in the discussions of the group.

3 The group reviewed the applications and the information provided, in accordance with the Rules and Guidelines for Consultative Status of Non-Governmental International Organizations. The views of the group are given below.

The Society for Gas as a Marine Fuel (SGMF)

4 The group was of the opinion that, in general, SGMF met the criteria set out by the applicable Rules and Guidelines. With regard to rule 3(c) and the guidelines on its application, concerns were raised regarding the similarity of SGMF's membership to that of the Society of International Gas Tanker and Terminal Operators (SIGTTO), and whether SGMF could therefore add value to the Organization. At the same time, it was acknowledged that SGMF could provide unique specialist knowledge and viewpoints in its area of expertise.

5 The group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council to grant consultative status to the Society for Gas as a Marine Fuel (SGMF), on a provisional basis, for no more than two years, after which a review should be conducted. It was recommended that, within the classification of organizations in consultative status by interests/activities¹, SGMF be placed under Cargo and Ports.

The International Sailing Schools Association (ISSA)²

6 The group, while acknowledging that ISSA may be interested in having access to IMO information, expressed its reservations regarding the ability of this organization to substantially contribute to the work of the Organization. The group also noted that the activities of ISSA did not fall within IMO's remit.

7 The group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council not to grant consultative status to the International Sailing Schools Association (ISSA).

The International Cruise Victims Association (ICV)

8 The group was of the view that ICV's aims and purposes were not in line with those of IMO and that the primary objectives as outlined in its application did not appear to be aligned with the Organization's mandate. Moreover, it was argued that ICV might not be in a position to make a substantial contribution to IMO and there was also concern that ICV might not represent a large group whose activities had a direct bearing on IMO's work.

9 The group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council not to grant consultative status to the International Cruise Victims Association (ICV).

The Methanol Institute (MI)

10 The group agreed that MI's purposes were related to those of IMO and that this organization could contribute to the work of IMO. With regard to rule 3(c) and the guidelines on its application, MI's affiliation with the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) was noted, as well as MI's stated intention not to renew the said affiliation. The group was of the view that MI might be able to provide IMO with unique expertise on methanol safety.

11 The group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council to grant consultative status to the Methanol Institute (MI), on a provisional basis, for no more than two years, after which a review should be conducted. It was recommended that, within the classification of organizations in consultative status by interests/activities, MI be placed under Cargo and Ports.

General comment

12 When discussing the applications, it was suggested that the group should consider carefully applicant organizations whose expertise only covers a very specific area of IMO's work which might not remain on IMO's agenda in the long term.

¹ Current categories are: Cargo and Ports, Environment, Insurance, Legal, Navigation, Professional and Representative Bodies, Rescue, Security, Shipbuilding, Shipowners/Ship operators, Standards, Trade and Training/Education/Welfare. A list of organizations grouped according to interests/activities was approved by C 108 (see C 108/15(d)/1 and C 108/D) with a request for the Secretariat to keep it updated.

² In respect of the acronym provided by the International Sailing Schools Association in its application questionnaire, the Council was informed that there is another organization with consultative status with IMO, the International Shipsuppliers & Services Association, with the same acronym.

Action requested of the Council

13 The Council is invited to note the group's recommendations with respect to the new applications for consultative status and decide as it may deem appropriate.
