



COUNCIL – 103rd session

C 103/SR.1
3 December 2009
Original: ENGLISH**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING****held at IMO Headquarters, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR
on Thursday, 3 December 2009 at 9.30 a.m.**

Chairman: Mr. J. FRANSON (Sweden)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. D. NTULI (South Africa)

Later
Chairman: Mr. J. LANTZ (United States)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. D. NTULI (South Africa)

Secretary-General: Mr. E. E. MITROPOULOS

A list of participants is given in document C 103/INF.1.

N.B. Corrections to the summary record should be submitted in writing, preferably on a copy of the summary record, to the Conference Division, IMO Secretariat, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR not later than 3 September 2010.

Corrections to all summary records of the session will be issued in a consolidated corrigendum.

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CONTENTS

	Page
Opening of the session	3
Invitation to non-Members of the Council to attend the session	3
Agenda item 1 – Adoption of the agenda	3
Agenda item 2 – Election of the Chairman and of the Vice-Chairman	3
Agenda item 3 – Substantive items for inclusion in the provisional agendas for the next two sessions of the Council	5
Agenda item 4 – Date and place of the next session of the Council	6
Closure of the session	6

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN declared open the 103rd session of the Council in its new composition and welcomed and congratulated the delegations of re-elected and new Members on their appointment, namely Argentina, Australia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

INVITATION TO NON-MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO ATTEND THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in compliance with Article 20 of the IMO Convention and rule 4 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, those Members of the Organization that were not Members of the Council and had expressed the wish to participate in its deliberations should be invited to attend the session as observers.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (C 103/2)

The CHAIRMAN proposed beginning with item 2 of the provisional agenda contained in document C 103/2, namely "Adoption of the agenda", which would become item 1 of the approved agenda. Item 1 of the provisional agenda, "Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman", would then become item 2 of the approved agenda.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (C 103/1)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that rule 19 of the Council's Rules of Procedure provided that it must elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among the representatives of its Members, in an election held at a special meeting following each regular session of the Assembly. Three nominations for the post of chairman had been received, as indicated in documents C 103/1/1 and its addenda, namely Mr. Ntuli (South Africa), Mr. Vassallo (Malta) and Mr. Lantz (United States) (in order of receipt of candidature). The Council would therefore proceed to hold an election by secret ballot. Representatives of Argentina and Malaysia had agreed to act as scrutineers.

He further drew the Council's attention to the relevant rules of the Council's Rules of Procedure. Rule 30 provided that elections must be determined by a majority of the Members present and voting. Rule 31 stipulated that "Members present and voting" meant Members present at the meeting casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members abstaining from voting or casting an invalid vote would be considered as not voting. Rule 35 provided that elections must be decided by secret ballot.

Finally, Rule 37 stated "If one person only is to be elected and no candidate obtains a majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken confined normally to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If, in the second ballot, the votes are equally divided, the election shall be deferred until the ensuing meeting, when, if another tie results, the Chairman shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots."

Mr. OLIMBO (Italy) said it was highly unusual to have three candidates for the post of Council chairman. As their personalities and professional capabilities were all so well known to the Members, it was difficult to make a selection. He suggested that each should make a short oral presentation to supplement the *curricula vitae* contained in the documentation for the agenda item.

Mr. AZUH (Nigeria), Mr. RATANASATHIEN (Thailand), Mr. BRADY (Jamaica) and Ms. VENKATACHALAM (India) all supported that suggestion provided it was not against the Council's Rules of Procedure.

The CHAIRMAN observed that the proposal seemed to have widespread support and did not contradict the Rules of Procedure. He invited the candidates to give their presentations, in alphabetical order of country.

Mr. VASSALLO (Malta) said that he had been working in the maritime sector since 1973 and had attended his first IMO Assembly in 1979, subsequently joining the Board of Members of his country's Maritime Authority in 1991, acting as its *de facto* representative at IMO from 1987 and being appointed its Permanent Representative to the Organization in 2005. As a Mediterranean island nation and flag State with a vital interest in IMO's main activities, Malta was already involved with IMO to a significant degree, and its role could only be enhanced if he was elected to the post of Council chairman.

Mr. NTULI (South Africa) said that his four years as vice-chairman had thoroughly prepared him for the chairman's role. South Africa would be greatly honoured if one of its sons were elected to lead such a distinguished body, and he felt that he would bring valuable experience of consensus-building, gained sometimes in difficult circumstances, in the framework of various activities of the Organization. It would be a historic first for Africa if he was elected. The continent of his birth had come of age in the past two decades, but it was still riddled with difficult challenges, and he would be ready to play a full part in ensuring that its voice continued to be heard within the Organization.

Mr. LANTZ (United States) said it would be an honour and privilege for his country if he were elected chairman of the Council. IMO faced many challenges, especially in connection with setting its priorities for the future and funding them. He felt confident that his career to date had given him the necessary qualities to lead the Council at such a difficult time and help it achieve all that was good for shipping in the areas of safety, security and environmental protection. He had a strong desire to build consensus among Member States in carrying out those tasks. In putting forward his nomination, his country was displaying its strong commitment to IMO as the organization best suited to resolving difficult maritime issues.

The CHAIRMAN announced the results of the ballot as follows:

Number of valid ballot papers cast:	40
Number of invalid ballot papers:	0
Required majority for election:	21

Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. VASSALLO (Malta):	16
Mr. LANTZ (United States):	16
Mr. NTULI (South Africa):	8

The CHAIRMAN said that, in compliance with rule 37 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, no candidate having obtained the required majority in the first ballot a second ballot should be taken, confined to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes.

A vote was taken by ballot.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the results of the vote were as follows:

Number of valid ballot papers:	40
Number of invalid ballot papers:	0
Required majority:	21

Number of votes obtained:	
Mr. VASSALLO (Malta):	16
Mr. LANTZ (United States):	24

At the invitation of the outgoing chairman, Mr. Lantz (United States) was elected chairman.

Mr. Lantz took the chair.

The CHAIRMAN said he was honoured by the trust the Council had placed in him, and he hoped to live up to that trust.

He proposed that Mr. Ntuli (South Africa) should be re-elected vice-chairman.

At the invitation of the chairman, Mr. Ntuli (South Africa) was re-elected vice-chairman by acclamation.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN thanked all those who supported his re-election, which was an honour to him and his country.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDAS FOR THE NEXT TWO SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL (C 103/3)

The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that document C 103/3 set out the substantive items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agendas of the 104th and 105th regular sessions of the Council, in accordance with rule 13 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, for consideration by the Council. At its 102nd session, the Council had introduced the practice of covering the forthcoming two sessions in that manner, so as to align itself with the practice of the technical committees.

He drew attention to rule 13(b), which stipulated that the provisional agenda of each regular session should include all items requested for inclusion by the Council at a previous session.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Council to note the substantive items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agendas for its 104th and 105th regular sessions, as set out in document C 103/3. The adoption of the agendas would take place at the beginning of each session, in accordance with the usual practice.

It was so decided.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COUNCIL
(C 103/4)**

The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that, taking into account past practice and the programme of meetings of the Organization for 2010, it was proposed that the 104th session of the Council should be held at the headquarters of the Organization in June 2010. The exact dates would be announced in due course.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Council to adopt that proposal.

It was so decided.

Mr. MARZBAN (Islamic Republic of Iran, observer) thanked Mr. Franson for his excellent chairmanship of the Council and congratulated the newly-elected chairman of the Council, Mr. Lantz.

During the previous decade the Islamic Republic of Iran had played a significant role in the development of IMO maritime rules and standards through active participation in almost all meetings of committees, subcommittees and working groups and also as an observer at sessions of the Council. His country had applied for election as a Member of the Council four times since 2003 and had hoped that the criteria set out in Article 17 of the IMO Convention and Assembly resolution A.1000(25), *Implementation of Part (C) of Article 17 of the IMO Convention*, would be carefully considered by Member States. Even though in his view that had not been the case, he congratulated all the new Members of the Council and trusted that they, guided by the new chairman and the Secretariat, and in particular the Secretary-General, would achieve IMO's goals. The Islamic Republic of Iran was strongly committed and determined to continue its contributions towards cooperation, consultation and the exchange of views at all IMO meetings, including as an observer at sessions of the Council, in a friendly and cooperative atmosphere, in the renowned IMO spirit.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The CHAIRMAN, after wishing all those present a safe journey home, brought the session to a close.

The meeting rose at 11.00 a.m.