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Agenda item 15(e)

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EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(e) Report on World Maritime Day 2016

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports on the celebration of World Maritime Day 2016, on the parallel event held in Turkey and on arrangements for the celebration of World Maritime Day in 2017

Strategic direction: 11.1

High-level action: 11.1.1

Output: No related provisions

Action to be taken: Paragraph 14

Related documents: C 116/D; C 117/15(e)/1, C 117/15(e)/2 and Circular Letters Nos.3616 and 3670

World Maritime Day 2016 celebration at IMO

1 World Maritime Day 2016 was celebrated at IMO Headquarters on 29 September, when several activities took place with the purpose of promoting the year's theme "Shipping: indispensable to the world".

2 In accordance with the usual practice, the text of the Secretary-General's message on the occasion and a statement on this year's theme were circulated to Member Governments and international organizations to assist them in planning their own activities for the Day (Circular Letters Nos.3616 and 3670). They were also made available on the IMO website for downloading in the Organization's official languages or working languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). Additionally, the Secretary-General's message was recorded (in English only) and posted on the IMO website, in video format.

3 Following last year's inaugural meeting, the IMO Maritime Ambassadors met again at IMO Headquarters with the purpose of sharing and exchanging their respective programmes, activities and ideas on this year's theme, as well as discussing ways to enhance the IMO

Maritime Ambassador Scheme itself. A full report on the IMO Maritime Ambassador Scheme can be found in document C 117/15(g).

4 Moreover, a World Maritime Day Forum focussing on shipping's future challenges took place at IMO Headquarters. The aim was to highlight the critical link between shipping and global society and raising awareness of the relevance of the role of IMO as the global regulatory body for international shipping. The Forum consisted of a panel discussion structured around a few topical questions relevant to the theme and was followed by Q&A sessions.

5 The Forum, which was attended by over 200 participants, also offered live online participation via the IMO website, with hundreds of people from all over the world logging in and posting their questions. There was also widespread engagement via the IMO social media channels, with further questions, responses, shares and comments helping to extend the debate online. Additionally, the global discussion on the indispensability of shipping saw widespread engagement via social media, particularly on Twitter, where some 17 million users engaged in the day, posting their comments, ideas, appreciation and criticisms using the hashtag #WorldMaritimeDay.

6 After the Forum, the Secretary-General held an evening reception attended by members of the diplomatic corps and the maritime community in London, representatives of various organizations and bodies associated with the work of the Organization, shipowner and seafarer representative organizations and the Secretariat.

7 As in previous years, the Secretary-General received messages of congratulations as well as information on special arrangements and ceremonies organized by many Governments and organizations. A list of these is set out in annex 1 to this document. Any further messages and information received after the issue of this document will be reported to the Council in an appropriate manner.

8 The Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to Member Governments, international organizations and other entities, the IMO staff and all others who lent their support and assistance to the commemoration of World Maritime Day 2016 and, especially, to all those Members and organizations, which informed the Secretariat of activities they undertook in connection with the Day.

Message issued by the United Nations Secretary-General

9 This year, once again, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a message (attached as annex 2), stating that "the importance of shipping in supporting and sustaining today's global society makes it indispensable to the world, and to meeting the challenge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

10 This message was posted on the respective websites of the United Nations News Centre and that of the Spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General; it was also issued as a press release and widely distributed throughout the United Nations Information Centres.

World Maritime Day parallel event

11 The World Maritime Day 2016 parallel event was hosted by the Government of Turkey from 4 to 6 November in Istanbul, and mainly consisted of a two-day seminar divided into four sessions and a day of visits. The sessions on the first day of the seminar addressed "Turkish Maritime Heritage" and "Why Is the Sea Indispensable for Human Life" while those on the

second day focused on "Maritime Risks and Crisis Management" and "Fair Competition in the World Maritime Industry". The third day was devoted to a series of cultural visits in Istanbul.

12 The Secretary-General wishes to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Turkey for successfully hosting the parallel event and for its contribution to fostering discussions on the critical link between shipping and global society. A full report on the event has been submitted by Turkey and can be found in document C 117/15(e)/2.

World Maritime Day 2017

13 The Council will recall that, at its 116th session, it endorsed the Secretary-General's proposed theme for World Maritime Day 2017, namely "Connecting Ships, Ports and People". Appropriate arrangements to celebrate the Day will be finalized in due course and Member States will be advised accordingly in good time for their preparations.

Action requested of the Council

14 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided in this document and to comment as it may deem appropriate.

ANNEX 1

INFORMATION RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH WORLD MARITIME DAY

A MESSAGES

(i) Messages received from IMO Member Governments

Argentina	–	Embassy of the Argentine Republic in London
Chile	–	Directorate General of the Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine
Cook Islands	–	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
Egypt	–	Maritime Transport Sector, Ministry of Transport
El Salvador	–	Embassy of El Salvador in London
Japan	–	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
Malta	–	Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure
Mexico		Embassy of Mexico in London
Netherlands	–	Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment
Panama	–	Panama Maritime Authority
Saudi Arabia	–	Public Transport Authority
Sri Lanka	–	Merchant Shipping Secretariat, Ministry of Ports and Shipping
Thailand	–	Ministry of Transport
Uruguay	–	National Coastguard, National Navy (Prefectura Nacional Naval, Armada Nacional)
Viet Nam	–	Maritime Administration

(ii) Messages received from intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)

International Shippers and Services Association (ISSA)

B INFORMATION ON SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to the above, notifications have been received from several Member Governments and international organizations in response to the Secretary-General's request for information on the special activities they were planning for their celebrations. Information was also gathered by the Secretariat (from newspaper and magazine articles and the Internet) as follows:

Argentina
Canada
Cook Islands
Egypt
El Salvador
Kenya
Malaysia
Mexico
New Zealand
Philippines
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Turkey
Uruguay
Viet Nam
COCATRAM
Pacific Community (SPC)
Chamber of Shipping of America
Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA)
Inmarsat
Merchant Navy Commemorative Theme Project
National nautical association Deutscher Nautischer Verein
Vancouver Maritime Museum

ANNEX 2



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE ON WORLD MARITIME DAY

"Shipping: indispensable to the world"

29 September 2016

Everybody in the world benefits from shipping, yet few people realize it. We ship food, technology, medicines, and memories. As the world's population continues to grow, particularly in developing countries, low-cost and efficient maritime transport has an essential role to play in growth and sustainable development.

Shipping helps ensure that the benefits of trade and commerce are more evenly spread. No country is entirely self-sufficient, and every country relies on maritime trade to sell what it has and buy what it needs. Much of what we use and consume in our everyday lives either has been or will be transported by sea, in the form of raw materials, components or finished articles.

Maritime transport is the backbone of global trade and the global economy.

The jobs and livelihoods of billions of people in the developing world, and standards of living in the industrialized and developed world, depend on ships and shipping. The shipping industry has played an important part in the dramatic improvements in global living standards that have taken millions of people out of acute poverty in recent years. It will be just as critical for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the plan agreed by all global leaders last year for people, peace, planet prosperity and partnership.

Yet the vast majority of people are unaware of the key role played by the shipping industry, which is largely hidden from view.

This is a story that needs to be told. And that is why the theme for World Maritime Day 2016 is "Shipping: indispensable to the world".

The theme focuses on the critical link between shipping and the everyday lives of people all over the planet. The International Maritime Organization plays a vital role as the international regulatory body for an industry that spans the globe.

The importance of shipping in supporting and sustaining today's global society makes it indispensable to the world, and to meeting the challenge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.