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Agenda item 9(a)

C 117/9(a)
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TECHNICAL COOPERATION FUND:

(a) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE 2015 PROGRAMME

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document refers to the implementation of those technical cooperation activities financed or co-financed by the TC Fund during 2015, as listed under the ITCP Annual Report for 2015

Strategic direction: 3.2

High-level action: 3.2.1

Output: 3.2.1.2

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6

Related documents: TC 66/3 and TC 66/3/Add.1

1 The Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC) at its sixty-third session and the Council at its 110th and twenty-seventh extraordinary sessions, approved¹ a programme of allocations from the Technical Cooperation (TC) Fund to support the implementation of activities under the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) for the 2014-2015 biennium.

2 Rule 15 of Revised Rules of Operation of the TC Fund requires the Secretariat to report to the TCC and the Council² on progress made in the delivery of those ITCP components that are being supported with TC Fund resources. In addition, the Secretariat is required, in accordance with the decisions of TCC, at its sixty-second session, to report annually to TCC on the implementation of activities under the ITCP. The Council may wish to recall that following the decision, at its ninety-eighth session, on various issues in relation to the TC Fund, the Secretariat's annual reports to TCC and the Council on the TC Fund has since been integrated within the Secretariat's annual reports to TCC on the ITCP and the activities financed or co-financed by the TC Fund are clearly marked under an allocated column.

¹ Refer to TC 63/14, paragraph 4.9; C 110/12/Add.1, paragraph 15.1 and C 110/D, paragraph 12.4; C/ES.27/D, paragraph 5.2(viii) and resolution A.1063(28), operative paragraph C3.

² Through the reports of TCC sessions to the Council.

3 As on previous years and in response to the Council's decision pertaining to the reduction in the volume of documents, the Council is referred to documents TC 66/3 and TC 66/3/Add.1 which provide the ITCP Annual Report for 2015 submitted to TC 66.

4 As reported in paragraph 6 of document C 117/8, the Secretariat, as a follow-up to the discussions during TC 66 in relation to documents TC 66/3 and TC 66/3/Add.1, will re-examine the contents and structure of the combined annual report and, in particular, the presentation of the information in the regional context and with respect to the assessment of delivery, with a view to improving the usefulness of the report as a management tool. In doing so, the Secretariat will take into account any comments or suggestions the Council Members and the rest of the Member States were to submit (email address DirectorTCD@imo.org) by 31 January 2017.

5 In addition, as result of the above-mentioned discussions during TC 66 and specifically the assessment of the delivery of the ITCP, the Council may wish to note that:

- .1 the biennial ITCP is in essence an ambitious planning document which makes, broadly speaking, provisions for responding to the pending requests of Member States for assistance, the reasonably expected requests from Member States for further assistance as a result of training activities or need assessments and for raising awareness as a result of developments within the Organization's framework and for responding to the consequential requests for further assistance. The biennial ITCP is prepared during the spring of the previous to biennium year and no changes are possible after it has been approved by the TCC. The expenditure required for the delivery of the biennial ITCP has never been estimated and reasonably realistic estimates cannot be made without certain aspects of the ITCP becoming more specific. However, this in turn will remove the flexibility which has allowed the Organization to respond to subsequent to the approval of the ITCP requests from Member States for assistance, to emerging needs which could not be forecast during the preparation and approval process or to assist Member States in case of marine casualties or marine incidents. The biennial ITCP also provides the basis on which the Secretariat is approaching likely donors and stimulates the interests of those seeking opportunities to fund development activities; and
- .2 TC 56 discussed possible alternatives for the financing of the ITCP and decided to continue the then previous approach which was documented by TC 57 when adopting the Strategy for the long-term financing of the ITCP. In accordance with the decisions of TC 57, core funding of the ITCP is provided by the TC Fund which is replenished through transfers of 75% of the net annual surplus previously of the Printing Fund and nowadays of the Trading Fund. Contributions to the TC Fund have been and are encouraged from Member States, industry, organizations and private individuals and this includes the voluntary donations of the interest earnings which Member States accumulated under the Contribution Incentive Scheme. Multi-donor trust funds have been, and can be as necessary, established to encourage contributions targeted on specific issues. Bilateral partnership agreements have been and can be concluded with governments and organizations to provide financial and in-kind support for specific programmes. In addition, since 2010, 5% of not less than the 80% the net annual surplus Trading Fund is utilized to provide financial support to the World Maritime University in addition to the support which is provided through the sponsoring of scholarships which is included in the biennial ITCP; and

- .3 The core funding provided by the Organization and those made available by donors are the only available funds for the delivery of the ITCP. Although the expenditure required for the delivery of the ITCP has never been estimated, it is clear that the required amount exceeds the available funds. As a result, assessing the delivery of the ITCP cannot be done without taking into account the funds which were available in this respect. In addition, the capability and capacity of the beneficiaries to absorb and utilize the assistance and the consequence of increasing delivery at the expense of quality cannot be ignored when assessing the delivery of the ITCP.

Action requested of the Council

- 6 The Council is invited to note the ITCP activities supported by the TC Fund resources, as outlined in documents TC 66/3 and TC 66/3/Add.1, and to comment as it deems necessary.
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