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## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### (e) Report on World Maritime Day 2017

#### Submitted by Panama

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document contains a report to the Council on the 2017 IMO World Maritime Day Parallel Event held in Panama City, the Republic of Panama

*Strategic direction:* 11

*High-level action:* 11.1.1

*Output:* No related provisions

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 21

*Related documents:* C/ES.29/11(e)

#### IMO World Maritime Day Parallel Event held in Panama City, the Republic of Panama

1 Panama was privileged to be designated as the host country for the 2017 World Maritime Day Parallel Event, which took place from 1 to 3 October 2017.

2 "Connecting Ships, Ports and People" was chosen as the theme for the 2017 World Maritime Day, which gave Panama the opportunity to highlight the work of the Panama Shipping Register and its 100th anniversary. With over 220 million gross tons registered under our flag, we have been crossing the oceans to connect with people and provide them with our services, efficiently and in accordance with the highest standards.

3 The Parallel Event was attended by 1,034 participants from all over the world, including authorities and high-level representatives of IMO Member States, the diplomatic corps in Panama, national authorities, distinguished figures from academia, clients of the Panama Shipping Register, local officials and many other parties involved in the maritime sector.

4 On 1 October, the day on which the activities of the World Maritime Day Parallel Event began, the Panama Centenary Cup golf tournament was held at the Mantarraya Golf Club in Coclé Province, the Republic of Panama.

5 On 2 October, the series of presentations was formally opened by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Panama, Mr. Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez. The opening ceremony was also attended, at the main table, by Ms. Isabel Saint Malo, Vice-President of the Republic of Panama; the Minister of Maritime Affairs, Mr. Jorge Barakat Pitty; Mr. Kitack Lim, IMO Secretary-General; and Prefect-General Mr. Luis Alberto Arroz, Secretary of the Viña del Mar Agreement. They welcomed the participants to the event.

### **Presentation sessions**

6 The series of presentations took place on 2 and 3 October focusing on three main themes: (a) The role of the flag States in the development of the maritime industry; (b) Focus on port activities; and (c) Challenges concerning seafarers. The speakers were prominent figures with distinguished careers in the sector. A question and answer session open to participants was held at the conclusion of each panel.

7 The first session, entitled "The role of the flag States in the development of the maritime industry", was moderated by Ms. Jazmina Rovi, a partner at the law firm Morgan and Morgan in Panama. The following topics were addressed:

- .1 The role of the flag State, presented by Mr. Tomás Ávila, Secretary-General of the Panama Maritime Authority.
- .2 The role of the port State, presented by Rear Admiral John Nadeau, Commandant for Prevention Policy of the United States Coast Guard.
- .3 Improvements that ship registries could introduce to the regulatory process applicable to international shipping, presented by Mr. Peter Hinchliffe, Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Shipping.
- .4 IMO challenges on the implementation of global standards against national or regional regulations, presented by Mr. Lawrence Barchue, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Department for Member State Audit and Implementation Support at IMO.

8 The second session was entitled "Focus on port activities" and was moderated by Mr. Carlos Urriola, President of SSA International. The following topics were addressed in this session:

- .1 Port challenges to comply with new FAL Convention amendments and standards, presented by Mr. Ashok Mahapatra, Director of the Maritime Safety Division of IMO.
- .2 Analysis of the global port system, presented by Mr. Santiago García Milá, President of the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH).
- .3 Measures that can be introduced to facilitate further shipment of goods, presented by Mr. Jan Hoffmann, Chief of the Trade Logistics Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

9 The third session, "Challenges concerning seafarers", was moderated by Ms. Katy Ware, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to IMO. The following topics were addressed:

- .1 Implementation of the Manila 2010 amendments, presented by Ms. Mayte Medina, Chair of the Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping of IMO.
- .2 Seafarer challenges to comply with an increasing number of regulations, presented by Mr. Marcial Quirico C. Amaro III, Administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority of the Philippines.
- .3 How to improve the quality of life of seafarers on board ships, presented by Ms. Kimberly Karlshoej, consultant on the welfare of seafarers and former Head of ITF Seafarers.

10 On 3 October, the closing day, two presentations were made: the first, entitled "The expansion of the Panama Canal and the Green Route", was by Mr. Jorge Quijano, Administrator of the Panama Canal Authority; and the second, entitled "How does IMO connect ships, ports and people and what could be done to enhance the linkage between them", was by Mr. Jeffrey Lantz, Chair of the IMO Council.

#### **High-level round-table discussion**

11 On 2 October, within the framework of the Parallel Event, a high-level round-table discussion was held, on the initiative of the IMO Secretary-General, with the aim both of providing ministers and deputy ministers attending the event with a space for friendly discussion, and of generating views on two particular topics: capacity building/maritime education; and security, piracy, cyber security and related topics.

12 Officials of ministerial rank who had previously confirmed their attendance at the Parallel Event were invited to the high-level round-table discussion. Also taking part were His Excellency the President of the Republic of Panama, Mr. Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez, who gave an introduction; IMO Secretary-General, Mr. Kitack Lim; and Minister of Maritime Affairs of Panama, Mr. Jorge Barakat Pitty, who acted as moderator. Input was also provided by the following people: Minister of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Marek Gróbarczyk; Minister of Transport and Minister for Coordination of Infrastructure of the Republic of Singapore, Mr. Khan Boon Wan; Deputy Minister of Communication, Infrastructure and Housing of the Republic of Guatemala, Mr. Rudy Keller; Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development and Director-General of Ports and Maritime Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Mohammad Rastad; Principal Secretary of the State Department for Maritime and Shipping Affairs of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Kenya, Ms. Nancy Karigithu; Deputy Minister of Maritime Policy of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Kim Yang-Soo; and Deputy Minister of Transport of the Republic of South Africa, Ms. Sindisiwe Chikunga.

13 When the topic of capacity building and education in the maritime sector was addressed major needs relating to effective training of seafarers and to training on electronic procedures required to improve the services of a competitive port State were raised. The need to boost resources obtained through efforts carried out by the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and the World Maritime University (WMU) was also highlighted. In addition, a number of collaborative solutions were discussed that might resolve or help to resolve the educational requirements for developing and improving the maritime sector in general.

14 Regarding the discussion on security-related topics, the participants acknowledged the extent of the issue, the considerable scale of the maritime sector and the roots it had in other domains, and to that effect the main solutions could be firstly to raise awareness of the issue, its scale and its scope, and secondly to work together to share relevant information in order to minimize the issue and strengthen security.

### **Closing ceremony**

15 The event closed with the customary ceremony, which began with the presentation of the 2017 World Maritime Day Parallel Event commemorative plaque, engraved with the motto "Connecting Ships, Ports and People". The plaque was presented by Mr. Kitack Lim to Panama as host country, represented by the Minister of Maritime Affairs, Mr. Jorge Barakat Pitty. The Secretary-General said a few words thanking Panama for hosting the 2017 event and recognizing the outstanding efforts made to ensure that the entire event was a success.

16 Following that, the Minister of Maritime Affairs of Panama, Mr. Jorge Barakat Pitty, handed over the flag of the World Maritime Day Parallel Event to Minister Marek Gróbarczyk of Poland, where the event would be held the following year. In his speech, Mr. Gróbarczyk congratulated Panama on the success of the 2017 event and extended a warm invitation to everyone to attend the event in his country.

17 Finally, Minister Jorge Barakat Pitty spoke briefly to express his delight that Panama had been chosen as host country for such a significant event, which furthermore coincided with the celebration of the centenary of the Panama Shipping Register; and that within the framework of the event's activities Panama had been able to provide a platform for discussion of the relevant topics. He expressed particular appreciation for the space provided for what could be called the first in a series of high-level round-table discussions and, last but not least, expressed his deep appreciation to the participants and speakers for accepting the invitation from Panama.

### **Hospitality and visit programme**

18 In addition to the aforementioned Panama Centenary Cup golf tournament, which began the Parallel Event, a hospitality and visit programme took place, which included a visit to the Cocolí locks and the Panama Canal on 2 October, and a visit to the Agua Clara locks and the Panama Canal in the Atlantic sector on 3 October. A gala dinner was held on the evening of 2 October at the Hotel Central, a historic building that once belonged to the creator of the coat of arms of Panama in the 1900s, and on 3 October the participants were invited to a closing reception on the terrace of the Hard Rock Hotel.

### **Conclusion**

19 Panama is privileged and honoured to have hosted the 2017 World Maritime Day Parallel Event, attended by speakers and delegates from over 48 countries of the world, who in great part expressed their pleasure and satisfaction with the event and who contributed significantly to the success of the celebrations.

20 Special thanks are due to the IMO Secretary-General, staff members and all distinguished delegates for their participation in the Parallel Event.

### **Action requested of the Council**

21 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided in this document.