

COUNCIL  
29th extraordinary session  
Agenda item 11(e)

C/ES.29/11(e)  
2 November 2017  
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## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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

#### Note by the Secretary-General

#### SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document reports on the celebration of World Maritime Day 2017, on the parallel event held in Panama and on arrangements for the celebration of World Maritime Day in 2018
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	11.1
<i>High-level action:</i>	11.1.1
<i>Output:</i>	No related provisions
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 13
<i>Related documents:</i>	C/ES.29/11(e)/1, C/ES.29/11(e)/2, C/ES.29/11(e)/3, C/ES.29/11(f) and Circular Letter Nos.3710 and 3739

#### World Maritime Day 2017 celebration at IMO

1 World Maritime Day 2017 was celebrated at IMO Headquarters on 28 September, when several activities took place with the purpose of promoting the year's theme "Connecting Ships, Ports and People".

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 Letter Nos.3710 and 3739). They were also made available on the IMO website for downloading in the Organization's working languages (English, French and Spanish). Additionally, the Secretary-General's message was recorded and posted on the IMO website, in video format.

3 As part of the World Maritime Day activities, the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) Student Forum, jointly organized by IAMU and IMO, took place at IMO Headquarters from 11 to 13 July 2017. The Forum focused on the World Maritime Day theme and brought over 59 students from 30 different countries, providing them a unique opportunity to learn more about IMO and the maritime industry.

4 On World Maritime Day, a special visit to IMO Headquarters was organized on the day for over 120 participants, mainly port personnel, seafarers and shipowners, and maritime students. After a tour of the Headquarters building, they received presentations on key topics at IMO, including safety, security and humanitarian issues. This was followed by a discussion on the interaction between IMO Member States, ports, seafarers and ship operators, and how this might be improved.

5 After the organized visit, the Secretary-General held the traditional 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, port, shipowner and seafarer representative organizations and the Secretariat.

6 On the same day, 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/ES.29/11(f).

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 the annex 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. There was also widespread engagement via social media using the hashtag #WorldMaritimeDay which was promoted by IMO. Numerous Twitter messages were posted with an estimated reach of over 3 million people, while Facebook reached 9 million users.

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 2017 and, especially, to all those Members and organizations which informed the Secretariat of activities they undertook in connection with the Day.

### **United Nations observance**

9 The United Nations observes World Maritime Day in order to promote international awareness and action on issues related to the year's theme which, directly or indirectly, contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. A dedicated United Nations web page on World Maritime Day can be found at: <http://www.un.org/en/events/maritimeday/index.shtml>. In addition, a number of messages from the United Nations system were posted on Twitter.

### **World Maritime Day parallel event**

10 The World Maritime Day 2017 parallel event was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Panama from 1 to 3 October in Panama City, and mainly consisted of a seminar divided into three sessions; a high-level round-table discussion; two further presentations before the closing ceremony and a visit to the Panama Canal. Several well-received social events were also conducted during the celebration. The sessions of the seminar on the second day addressed the following topics: "The Role of the Flag States in the Development of the Maritime Industry", "Focus on Port Activities" and "Challenges Concerning Seafarers", while the high-level meeting focused on "Capacity Building and Maritime Education" and "Security: Piracy, Cyber Security and related topics".

11 The Secretary-General wishes to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Panama for successfully hosting the parallel event and for its contribution to fostering discussions on the many diverse actors involved in the shipping and logistics areas. A full report on the event has been submitted by Panama and can be found in document C/ES.29/11(e)/1.

### **World Maritime Day 2018**

12 The Council will recall that, at its 117th session, it endorsed the Secretary-General's proposed theme for World Maritime Day 2018, namely "IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future". Appropriate arrangements to celebrate the Day, as well as the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the IMO Convention, are being finalized and Member States will be advised accordingly in good time for their preparations.

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

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

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**ANNEX**

**INFORMATION RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH  
WORLD MARITIME DAY**

**A MESSAGES**

**(i) Messages received from IMO Member Governments**

Argentina	–	Argentine Coastguard (Prefectura Naval Argentina)
Argentina	–	Argentine Navy
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
Japan	–	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
Malta	–	Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects
Nigeria	–	Federal Ministry of Transportation
Panama	–	Panama Maritime Authority
Spain	–	General Directorate of the Merchant Navy
United Kingdom	–	Department for Transport
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	–	National Institute of Aquatic Spaces (INEA)

**(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 on further celebrations was also gathered by the Secretariat (from newspaper and magazine articles and the Internet) as follows:

Argentina	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Australia	Curaçao Ports Authority (CPA)
Bangladesh	The City of Thessaloniki (Greece)
Canada	International Telecommunication
Chile	Union (ITU)
China	International Harbour Masters'
Cook Islands	Association (IHMA)
Democratic People's Republic of	International Association of Maritime
Korea	Universities (IAMU)
Ecuador	Pacific Community (SPC)
Egypt	Regional Cooperation Agreement on
France	Combating Piracy and Armed
Ghana	Robbery against Ships in Asia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Information Sharing Centre
Japan	(ReCAAP ISC)
Malaysia	North American Marine Environment
Mexico	Protection Association (NAMEPA)
New Zealand	World Maritime University
Nicaragua	Middlesex University
Nigeria	Corporación de Fomento Cultural "El
Pakistan	Refugio del Marino" (Colombia)
Panama	Maritime Nation India
Saudi Arabia	Port of Felixstowe (United Kingdom)
Spain	Philippine Transmarine Carriers, Inc.
Sweden	