

COUNCIL  
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Agenda item 17(a)

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## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### (a) Relations with the United Nations and the specialized agencies

#### Chief Executives Board for Coordination

#### Note by the Secretary-General

##### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document outlines the proceedings that took place at the meeting of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, which was held in London from 3 to 4 May 2018

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* Not applicable

*Output:* Not applicable

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 21

*Related documents:* None

#### Introduction

1 The Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) held its first meeting of 2018 in London, United Kingdom from 3 to 4 May 2018, chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres. The executive heads of various United Nations (UN) specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the UN, and associated institutions participated in the meeting.

2 As part of IMO's seventieth anniversary since the adoption, in 1948, of the convention establishing the Organization, the Secretary-General made the offer for IMO to host the 2018 spring session of the CEB, which is usually hosted by another UN organization headquartered away from New York, and this offer was formally accepted in 2017.

3 To welcome the members of the CEB to the United Kingdom, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs hosted a reception on the evening of 2 May at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal hosted a dinner at Trinity House on the evening of Thursday, 3 May for the executive heads.

4 The Secretary-General wishes to put on record the excellent working relationship and assistance that was provided to the Secretariat by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to host this high-level meeting. Special thanks and appreciation are directed towards the Maritime and Coastguard Agency for being closely involved in all preparations and the delivery of the programme for the meeting.

5 Prior to the CEB meeting, the IMO Secretariat hosted a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings of sister agencies on Wednesday, 2 May at the headquarters building.

6 One of the meetings held was that of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), previously the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). Amongst the discussions, the meeting addressed the invitation to all UN agencies, including IMO, to join the reinvigorated UNSDG as a full member (IMO currently has observer status), with the possibility of participating fully in the development of the work of the UNSDG. The work of the UNSDG will focus on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, strategic financing, business innovations and strategic partnerships. As a full member of the rebranded UNSDG, IMO would need to contribute financially to supporting the work of the UNSDG and any invitation received will be shared with the Council at an appropriate time for its consideration.

### **Summary of proceedings**

7 The CEB meeting was divided into three segments and two working lunches.

8 Segment 1 which deals with "the state of the world" is held under the Chatham House Rule. A number of topics of relevance, including climate change as particularly relevant to the work of IMO, were covered, and views on how the state of these affairs affects the work of each organization were shared amongst the executive heads.

9 During the working lunch the executive heads received updates on: the System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity, from the CEB Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment within the Organizations of the UN System and from the UN Innovation Network, a cross-organizational group focused on new, innovative approaches and technologies as well as challenges in developing innovative ideas, processes and products in the UN.

10 An outcome of this working lunch in relation to the section on Addressing Sexual Harassment within the organizations of the UN system was the statement supported by all executive heads, which can be accessed through this link: <https://www.unsystem.org/content/note-correspondents-chief-executives-board-first-session-2018>.

11 Segment 2 discussed the "socio-economic implications of the Fourth industrial revolution on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda". The Fourth industrial revolution is described by the UN as a current phenomenon propelled by a fusion of technologies that is generating change at unprecedented speed, scale and impact. In particular, the CEB addressed ongoing topics discussed at previous sessions in relation to how the future of work, the future of learning and education, and the future of food are being shaped by these technologies and the pace of development.

12 This Segment also addressed how to develop a common understanding of measures to be implemented across the UN system to enhance the support for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at a time of such transformative changes, in particular for poorer countries, to ensure no one is left behind. It also aimed to agree on concrete initiatives to mobilize the UN system in tackling emerging issues, particularly in respect of the topics mentioned in paragraph 10, as well as on artificial intelligence. In doing so, the discussions were also underpinned by the importance of considering the youth perspective as the group most affected by and most engaged with these changes.

13 Segment 3 was an interactive session looking at how the UN can "adapt and deliver: fostering innovation in the UN system". It addressed the need for the UN system to embed innovation into its DNA, not only to seek monetary savings but to find ways of providing value for stakeholders in terms of quality of services and solutions. The point of this session was to outline a shared vision, a common approach and practical action points toward fostering, applying and scaling up innovation within organizations.

14 Furthermore, the executive heads endorsed a series of Principles for Digital Development, a set of guidelines designed to help integrate best practices into technology-enabled programmes, which can be found here: <https://digitalprinciples.org/principles/>. These Principles for Digital Development will inform any future developments, and for any proposals where we seek to apply digital technologies for the achievement of our Organizational objectives.

### **CEB discussions of relevance to IMO**

15 IMO is informed and participates in the wider work of the UN through its representation at both the High Level Committee of Programmes (HLCP) and the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM). Both of these Committees are bodies that meet twice a year and report to the CEB on the programmatic or managerial activities of the UN system to then inform its own discussions.

16 Whilst many of the topics covered in these UN system-wide meetings are of a broad nature affecting the work of the UN and its funds and programmes, a number of issues are cross-organizational and must affect the work of IMO, or will have an impact on the work of the Organization, and IMO should continue to actively participate in discussions.

17 Examples of topics that are already part of the work of IMO include the System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity and the Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment within the Organizations of the UN System, both of which are being worked on and participated in by the Administrative Division.

18 Examples of emerging work in which IMO is participating alongside other UN organizations include the development of a UN system understanding of frontier technologies and artificial intelligence, or the work on mapping innovation within the UN system. The former topic is of particular relevance to the work of IMO, taking into account the role that existing and new technologies play in our regulatory framework, and is tangible on the ongoing considerations of, amongst other outputs, those on autonomous vessels, cyber security, e-navigation, greenhouse gases and air emissions.

19 As a specialized agency of the UN it is of vital importance that IMO supports the wider discussions on issues that affect all organizations, to develop best practices within IMO and to influence discussions when necessary to take into account the best representation of the mandate of the Organization within the wider UN.

20 More in-depth reports on procedures are regularly published on the CEB website: <http://www.unsystem.org/content/chief-executives-board-regular-session-reports>.

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

21 The Council is invited to take note of the information above and to comment as appropriate.