

COUNCIL  
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Agenda item 17(d)

C 120/17(d)  
22 May 2018  
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**EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

**(d) World Maritime Day**

**Celebration of IMO's 70th anniversary**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

**SUMMARY**

*Executive summary:* This document informs the Council of activities taking place to mark IMO's 70th anniversary in 2018

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* Other work

*Output:* OW 12

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 9

*Related documents:* C 118/17(e), C 118/D (paragraph 17(e).1), A 30/D (paragraph 18(e).7), Circular Letters Nos.3789, 3829 and 3833

1 This year marks the Organization's seventieth anniversary, which is being celebrated under the theme selected for World Maritime Day 2018, namely "[IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future](#)". The Secretariat has organized a number of events and activities to commemorate this important milestone.

2 On 6 March 2018, the Secretary-General hosted a ceremony to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization and was honoured by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Head of State of the Organization's host country. It was a historic occasion during which Her Majesty unveiled a commemorative plaque, was shown some of the donated artefacts on display at IMO and an exhibition on IMO's history and current work, including its role addressing present issues. Her Majesty also cut an anniversary cake and met some of the guests attending the event, including representatives of IMO Member States, intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations and IMO Secretariat staff.

3 On 4 May 2018, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, briefly visited IMO to greet delegates and staff and congratulate the Organization on its anniversary. In his address, Mr. Guterres highlighted the important contribution of IMO's work towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and welcomed, in particular, the recent adoption by IMO of an initial strategy on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships, as a major step forward in global action to combat climate change.

4 On 15 May 2018, a high-level Forum took place at IMO. The Forum, which was moderated by Mr. Richard Clayton, Lloyd's List Chief correspondent, included a distinguished set of panellists: H.E. Mr. Kwaku Ofori Asiamah, Minister of Transport of Ghana; Mr. Peter Thomson, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean; Mr. Xiaojie Zhang, Chair, IMO Council; Mr. Knut Ørbeck-Nilssen, Chairman of IACS Council and DNV GL's Maritime business area CEO; Mr. Leo Ruijs, CEO of ECT Rotterdam, Hutchison Ports; Ms. Diane Gilpin, Founder, Smart Green Shipping Alliance (SGSA); and Professor Alan McKinnon, Professor of Logistics at Kühne Logistics University and Emeritus Professor of Logistics at Heriot-Watt University. The debate considered two main subjects: the future challenges and opportunities for the Organization, and IMO in the context of international trade. The Forum was an exciting event with over 500 participants in the Main Hall and hundreds tuning in worldwide via online participation. Both physical attendees and remote participants submitted questions to the panel, which created a dynamic discussion.

5 During the Forum, a new IMO film was screened. The film was commissioned to promote IMO and its work. The anniversary offered a good opportunity to produce such a film with up-to-date content and contributes to the anniversary's outreach efforts.

6 Furthermore, the Secretariat has collaborated with the International Congress of Maritime Museums (ICMM) to display, in museums of its network around the globe, a self-contained physical exhibit with a built-in digital component on IMO and its work. It is expected that the exhibition will also be displayed at the United Nations Headquarters in New York during its General Assembly in autumn 2018. At the end of the touring period, the exhibit will return to IMO and be available for future use (e.g. for semi-permanent installation at IMO Headquarters).

7 Other anniversary-related activities such as publishing a commemorative book are planned for later this year. In addition, the traditional diplomatic reception in celebration of World Maritime Day and its theme will be held on 27 September at IMO Headquarters. The 70th anniversary celebration will end on 6 January 2019 with a commemoration of the first meeting of the IMO Assembly on 6 January 1959.

8 To promote the anniversary more widely, Member Governments and international organizations are encouraged to organize, wherever possible, suitable events throughout the year to celebrate it and inform the Secretariat as early as possible of any planned activities. In this connection, the text of the Secretary-General's message on the occasion has been circulated to Member Governments and international organizations (Circular Letter No.3829) and is also available on the IMO website. Social media participation is also encouraged, including by posting and sharing photographs of events, and other related content, using [@IMOHQ](#) [#IMO70](#).

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

9 The Council is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.