

COUNCIL  
120th session  
Agenda item 17(c)

C 120/WP.2  
3 July 2018  
Original: ENGLISH

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**EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

**(c) Relations with non-governmental organizations**

**Report of the group of Council Members**

1 As instructed by the Council, a group of Council Members met on 2 and 3 July 2018, with Mr. Mehmet H. Güler (Turkey) as its Chair, to review and advise the Council on new applications for consultative status submitted by the following organizations:

- .1 Women's International Shipping and Trading Association Limited (WISTA International);
- .2 Conservation International Foundation (CI);
- .3 Society for Gas as a Marine Fuel Ltd. (SGMF);
- .4 Environmental Defense Fund (EDF); and
- .5 Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI),

as annexed to document C 120/17(c). The application by the Marine Technology Society (MTS), also included in document C 120/17(c), was not considered as this organization had decided to withdraw its application.

2 Additionally, the Council instructed the Group to consider the additional information submitted by the International Association of Technical Survey and Classification Institutions (TSCI) at the request of the Council, which can also be found annexed to document C 120/17(c).

3 The Group was composed of representatives from the delegations of Chile, Greece, Liberia, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. Representatives from the delegations of China, Cyprus, Japan, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United States also participated in the discussions of the Group.

4 The Group reviewed the applications and the information provided, in accordance with the Rules and Guidelines for Consultative Status of Non-Governmental International Organizations. The views of the Group are given below.

#### **New applications for consultative status**

##### **Women's International Shipping and Trading Association Limited (WISTA International)**

5 The Group was of the opinion that WISTA's activities were directly related to those of IMO and that it could substantially contribute to the work of IMO. The Group highlighted its global presence and its ability to support the promotion of gender diversity in the shipping industry, thus contributing to the Strategic Plan for the Organization and the attainment of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5.

6 The Group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council to grant consultative status to WISTA. The Group further recommended that, within the classification of organizations in consultative status by interests/activity\*, WISTA be placed under Professional and Representative Bodies.

##### **Conservation International Foundation (CI)**

7 When considering CI's application, some members of the Group were of the view that CI met the requirements contained in the Rules and Guidelines, and believed that it could contribute to the greenhouse gas emissions debate as it already did, for instance, at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Others, on the contrary, could not see clear links between CI's work and shipping, and highlighted that its expertise was on market-based measures for emissions reduction in the aviation industry.

8 The Group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council to refer CI's application to the Marine Environment Protection Committee for its views.

##### **Society for Gas as a Marine Fuel Ltd. (SGMF)**

9 The Group was of the opinion that SGMF had demonstrated that its expertise was unique and its interests were not represented at IMO by other organizations, despite having links with some of them. In particular, the Group was satisfied that SGMF's interests and those of the Society of International Gas Tanker and Terminal Operators (SIGTTO) were different, as the latter did not address the use of gas as a marine fuel; therefore, the Group was not concerned that there might be duplication with SIGTTO. Moreover, taking into account the Organization's work regarding the reduction of greenhouse gases from shipping and, more particularly, the use of alternative fuels, the Group was of the view that SGMF might provide a valuable contribution.

10 The Group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council to grant consultative status to SGMF. The Group further recommended that, within the classification of organizations in consultative status by interests/activity, SGMF be placed under Standards.

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\* Current categories are: Cargo and Ports, Environment, Insurance, Legal, Navigation, Professional and Representative Bodies, Rescue, Security, Shipbuilding, Shipowners/Ship operators, Standards, Trade and Training/Education/Welfare. A list of organizations grouped according to interests/activities was approved by C 108 (see C 108/15(d)/1 and C 108/D) with a request for the Secretariat to keep it updated.

**Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)**

11 The Group was of the opinion that EDF did not meet the requirements in rules 3(c) and 3(d), as granting it consultative status could lead to duplication or conflict with another organization already in consultative status (e.g. Clean Shipping Coalition (CSC)). Moreover, the Group was not satisfied that EDF met the requirements of rule 5 as, in its view, EDF was not represented in a sufficient number of countries.

12 The Group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council not to grant consultative status to EDF.

**Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)**

13 The Group was of the opinion that, although CIGI partially met the requirements of the Rules and Guidelines, it was not clear what added value it could offer to IMO. Moreover, the Group was not satisfied that CIGI met the requirements of rule 5 of the Rules and Guidelines since, being a think tank, it was unclear who it represented and whether it was truly international.

14 The Group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council not to grant consultative status to CIGI.

**International Association of Technical Survey and Classification Institutions (TSCI)**

15 The Group considered the additional information supplied by TSCI and new concerns were raised, in particular whether up-to-date information had been supplied in the application it had submitted in 2017 regarding the stage in the development of TSCI's Rules for Classification and Construction of Sea-going Ships, as well as under what authority this organization was certifying vessels. Moreover, the Group also reiterated concerns that its area of expertise might overlap with that of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS).

16 The Group, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Council not to grant consultative status to TSCI.

**Action requested of the Council**

17 The Council is invited to note the Group's recommendations with respect to the new applications for consultative status and that submitted by TSCI in 2017, and decide as it may deem appropriate.

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