

COUNCIL
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Agenda item 22

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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS

Visas for World Maritime University (WMU) and International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) students visiting IMO Headquarters

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document requests the Council or the Assembly to issue an invitation to WMU and IMLI students to visit IMO Headquarters as part of their studies, to allow for issuance of no-fee visas by the Government of the United Kingdom

Strategic direction: 3.1

High-level action: 3.1.3

Output: No related provisions

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6

Related documents: None

Background

1 Since the institutions were founded, both the World Maritime University (WMU) and the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) have routinely sent their students to IMO Headquarters to receive lectures from Secretariat staff and to observe meetings of IMO organs. These visits are an important part of the curriculum for WMU and IMLI students and further the objectives of both the Organization and WMU and IMLI, as described in their Charter and Statute, respectively. Approximately 100 WMU students and 40 IMLI students visit IMO Headquarters each year.

2 Most WMU and IMLI students require visas for entry into the United Kingdom, and each student must apply for such visas. Currently, each student must personally pay the visa fee required by the Government of the United Kingdom to process the application. These fees vary based on the country of nationality of the applicant, but are approximately £100/\$125 per application. As neither WMU nor IMLI have provisions in their budgets to cover these costs, in some cases students are denied the opportunity to visit IMO Headquarters because of the inability to afford the application fee. Both WMU and IMLI have requested assistance from IMO in obtaining no-fee visas to allow their students to visit IMO Headquarters, as part of their instruction.

No-fee visas

3 Article 7.2 of the Agreement between the International Maritime Organization and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the Headquarters of the Organization, as amended (the Headquarters Agreement) indicates that the Government of the United Kingdom undertakes to authorize entry into the United Kingdom without delay and without charge for visas for certain persons, during their course of business with the Organization. These persons include representatives of Member States, delegates, IMO Secretariat and other United Nations officials, etc. (see Headquarters Agreement, article 7.2(a) to (g)). Also included in this category are "persons invited to the Headquarters of the Organization at the direction of the Assembly or the Council," (Headquarters Agreement, article 7.2(h)). Neither WMU nor IMLI students currently have an invitation from the Assembly or the Council to visit IMO Headquarters.

4 Consultations on this matter have occurred between the Secretariat and the Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom (UK FCO). In May 2017, the UK FCO stated that visiting WMU and IMLI students do not fall into any category of persons entitled to no-fee visas under article 7.2(a) to (g) of the Headquarters Agreement. Thus, an invitation from either the Assembly or Council would be required to allow for the issuance of no-fee visas under article 7.2(h).

5 The annex to this document contains a draft Council/Assembly resolution issuing a blanket invitation to all WMU and IMLI students who, at the discretion of the WMU President or IMLI Director, as appropriate, would benefit from visiting IMO Headquarters as part of their studies. The draft resolution also requests the Government of the United Kingdom to issue no-fee visas for such students. An invitation from either organ would suffice for the purposes of article 7 of the Headquarters Agreement. If the option of an Assembly resolution were chosen, it should be noted that some WMU students are scheduled to visit IMO Headquarters in the autumn of 2017 and may still be required to pay an application fee.

Action requested of the Council

6 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided in this document and to decide whether to:

- .1 adopt a Council resolution as proposed in the annex, or
- .2 approve a draft Assembly resolution, as proposed in the annex, for submission to the thirtieth session of the Assembly.

ANNEX

DRAFT [COUNCIL/ASSEMBLY] RESOLUTION

**WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY AND INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE
STUDENTS VISITING IMO HEADQUARTERS**

THE [COUNCIL/ASSEMBLY],

RECALLING Articles 2(e), 11 and 15(k) concerning the functions of the Organization and the Assembly regarding subsidiary organs and the facilitation and promotion of technical cooperation,

RECALLING FURTHER resolution A.501(XII) establishing the IMO World Maritime University (WMU), and the Statute of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) approved by the Council, establishing IMLI as an instrument of IMO, as reflected in resolution A.934(22),

COGNIZANT that WMU and IMLI were established to promote the highest standards of teaching, training, and study,

RECOGNIZING that the WMU and IMLI programmes have been a great success, providing the global maritime sector at both national and international levels with highly qualified candidates for employment at senior positions within many institutions,

NOTING WITH SUPPORT that the curricula for both WMU and IMLI provide for a student visit to the IMO Headquarters to increase awareness and understanding of the functions and importance of IMO, and to provide academic value,

NOTING FURTHER that WMU and IMLI students visiting IMO Headquarters in London currently pay a visa application fee to allow for their entry into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in order to conduct such visits,

RECALLING that article 7.2(h) of the Agreement between the International Maritime Organization and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the Headquarters of the Organization (the "Headquarters Agreement") authorizes the entry into the United Kingdom without delay and without charge for visas of persons invited to IMO Headquarters at the direction of the Assembly or the Council,

APPRECIATIVE of the efforts made by the host country to facilitate the entry of WMU and IMLI students into the United Kingdom in furtherance of their studies,

HAVING considered the recommendation of the Secretary-General:

- 1 DETERMINES that, as part of the WMU and IMLI curricula, visits by the students to IMO Headquarters is in the best interest of the Organization and its educational institutions;
- 2 INVITES all WMU and IMLI students, who, at the discretion of the President, WMU, or the Director, IMLI, would academically benefit from observing the functions of the Organization to visit the Headquarters of the Organization;
- 3 REQUESTS the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to issue no-fee visas to students invited to IMO Headquarters pursuant to article 7.2(h) of the Headquarters Agreement; and

4 FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to remain seized of the issue and report on any advancements and developments as well as issues of mutual concern relating to the implementation of the present resolution.
