ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea and the launch of the “Oceans Compact”

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides information on the 2012 International Exposition, held in Yeosu, Republic of Korea, as well as the Oceans Compact, a new initiative on ocean matters by the United Nations Secretary-General

Strategic direction: 1.1

High-level action: 1.1.1, 1.1.2

Planned output: No related provisions

Action to be taken: Paragraph 8

Related documents: None

1 This document is submitted with prior authorization of the Chairman of the Committee in line with paragraph 6.14 of the Committees’ Guidelines (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.4/Rev.2).

The Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea

2 The Expo 2012 was held in Yeosu, Republic of Korea, from 12 May to 12 August 2012, arranged under the auspices of the International Bureau of Expositions. The theme for the Expo was “The Living Ocean and Coast”. The Expo, consisting of national, corporate and international pavilions, had an estimated eight million visitors during its three months. The high-level segment of the event, organized during the last three days of the Expo, included the international conference commemorating the 30th anniversary of the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which was attended by the IMO Secretary-General.

3 IMO contributed to the activities of the Expo in several ways. As part of a joint United Nations effort, IMO participated in the United Nations Pavilion, coordinated by UNEP, with 24 United Nations bodies. The Pavilion, which illustrated the efforts within the United Nations system to raise environmental awareness by addressing issues relating to the ocean and coastal environments, included a variety of interactive displays, quick facts and multimedia, such as several IMO videos.
4 IMO also hosted its own three-day exhibition, from 10 to 12 August, showcasing the breadth and depth of the Organization’s mandate and activities. The exhibition was organized with kind support from the Republic of Korea, and featured printed and audio-visual materials in English and Korean, and was manned by IMO staff as well as students from a Korean maritime university. In addition, as a major global project on an issue relating to the marine environment, the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project was showcased in the PEMSEA/Global Environment Facility (GEF) exhibition throughout the duration of the Yeosu Expo.

5 One of the main outcomes of the Expo was the Yeosu Declaration on the Living Ocean and Coast, a call for an elevation of ocean-related issues on the global agenda. IMO, as part of the Declaration Drafting Committee, participated in the roundtable discussions that preceded the Yeosu Declaration Forum, regarding the implementation measures of the Declaration, as well as in the Declaration Forum itself. During the high-level segment of the Expo, a meeting of UN-Oceans, the United Nations system-wide inter-agency cooperation mechanism for issues related to the oceans, was held, finalizing its proposed new terms of reference to be submitted to the sixty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The launch of the Oceans Compact

6 During the Expo, the United Nations Secretary-General launched a new initiative to promote the sustainable development of the oceans, urging the world to achieve "healthy oceans for prosperity". The Oceans Compact is an initiative to set out a strategic vision for the United Nations system to deliver more coherently and effectively on its ocean-related mandates, consistent with the Rio+20 outcome document "The Future we want". Further information about the Oceans Compact can be accessed from https://www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean_compact/oceans_compact.htm.

7 Noting that the Oceans Compact will provide urgently needed short-, medium- and long-term strategies for the United Nations to deliver as one on ocean-related matters, linking these actions to the Rio+20 outcomes and the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), IMO aims to contribute to its best capacity to the drafting and implementation of this crucial initiative by the United Nations Secretary-General.

Action requested of the Committee

8 The Committee is invited to note the above information and take action as it deems appropriate.