



IMO

**E**

COUNCIL  
24th extraordinary session  
Agenda item 11

C/ES.24/11  
13 September 2007  
Original: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE COUNCIL TO THE ASSEMBLY ON THE WORK OF THE  
ORGANIZATION SINCE THE TWENTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
ASSEMBLY**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

**SUMMARY**

- Executive summary:** This document contains the report of the Council to the Assembly on the work of the Organization since the latter's twenty-fourth regular session in November 2005. It has been updated to take account of developments since the Council's ninety-eighth session in June 2007
- Action to be taken:** Paragraph 3
- Related documents:** A 25/1; C 98/17(c), C 98/D, Council Summaries of Decisions and Committee reports

1 At its ninety-eighth session (June 2007), the Council, having considered its draft report (C98/17(c)) to the Assembly on the work of the Organization since the latter's twenty-fourth regular session in November-December 2005, approved it for submission to the twenty-fifth regular session of the Assembly, subject to final approval at its forthcoming twenty-fourth extraordinary session.

2 That report, updated to take account of developments since the Council's ninety-eighth session, is contained at annex. Other changes and additions, which may become necessary between the issue of this document and the beginning of the Council's twenty-fourth extraordinary session, will be reported in a suitable manner.

**Action requested of the Council**

3 The Council is invited to approve the report annexed to this document for submission to the Assembly at its twenty-fifth regular session.

\*\*\*

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.



## ANNEX

**REPORT OF THE COUNCIL TO THE ASSEMBLY  
ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION SINCE THE  
TWENTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY**

**Table of contents**

	<b>Paragraphs</b>	<b>Pages</b>
Introduction .....	1	3
<b>GENERAL MATTERS</b> .....	2-39	3-11
Status of the IMO Convention .....	2	3
Officers of the Council and Committees of IMO .....	3-4	3-4
International conferences .....	-	4
Strategic Plan .....	5-6	5
Risk management .....	7-8	5-6
Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme .....	9-10	6
Implementation of Article 17 of the IMO Convention .....	11-16	6-7
Protection of vital shipping lanes.....	17-21	7-8
Enterprise resource planning (ERP) .....	22	8
Financial management .....	23-27	8-9
Human Resources (HR) reforms .....	28-29	9
Facilities Management .....	30	9
Information and Communications Technology (ICT) .....	31-33	10
Publishing activities .....	34-38	10-11
Contract of the Secretary-General .....	39	11
<b>TECHNICAL WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION</b> .....	40-45	11-12
MARITIME SAFETY .....	40-41	11
MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION .....	42-44	11-12
FACILITATION OF MARITIME TRANSPORT .....	45	12
<b>WORK OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE</b> .....	46-47	12
<b>TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION</b> .....	48-49	12-13
<b>CONFERENCE SERVICES</b> .....	50-55	13-14
Language services .....	51-53	13
Documents services .....	54-55	13-14

	<b>Paragraphs</b>	<b>Pages</b>
<b>EXTERNAL RELATIONS</b> .....	56-85	14-19
Co-ordination with the United Nations system	56-61	14-15
Relations with other intergovernmental organizations .....	62-65	15-16
Relations with non-governmental organizations .....	66-68	16-17
World Maritime Day .....	69-73	17
International Maritime Prize .....	74	18
Establishment of the 'IGOR PONOMAREV' Scholarship Fund	75	18
IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea .....	76-80	18
Celebration of IMO's 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 100 <sup>th</sup> session of the Council	81	19
Public Information Services (PIS) .....	82-83	19
Library Services .....	84-85	19

## Introduction

1 This report is presented in accordance with Article 23 of the IMO Convention and describes developments in the work of the Organization since the twenty-fourth regular session of the Assembly in November 2005. The references to specific documents, the subjects of which are dealt with in the report, are to enable the Assembly to have more comprehensive information on the subjects concerned.

## GENERAL MATTERS

### Status of the IMO Convention

2 Membership of the Organization, as at 31 July 2007, stood at 167, with three Associate Members. Since the twenty-fourth regular session of the Assembly, one State has accepted the IMO Convention and has become a Member of the Organization, i.e., the Republic of Montenegro, on 10 October 2006. A full report on the status of the Convention and membership of the Organization is submitted to the Assembly under item 20 of the latter's agenda.

### Officers of the Council and Committees of IMO

3 During the biennium under review, the following officers served as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Council and the Committees:

Body	Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Sessions
Council	Captain L. Díaz-Monclús (Venezuela)	Mr. J. Franson (Sweden)	C/ES.23 and 95th (partially)
	Mr. J. Franson (Sweden)	Mr. D. Ntuli (South Africa)	95th (partially), 96th to 98th sessions
Maritime Safety Committee	Mr. I. Ponomarev (Russian Federation)	Mr. N.F. Ferrer (Philippines)	81st session
	(Acting Chairman) Mr. N.F. Ferrer (Philippines)	Mr. N.F. Ferrer (Philippines)	82nd session

<b>Body</b>	<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
Legal Committee	Professor Chai Lee-Sik (Republic of Korea)	Mr. E.K. Mbiah (Ghana)  Ms R.L. Irwin (Australia)  Mr. W. de Sá Leitão (Brazil)	91st and 92nd sessions  91st and 92nd sessions  93rd session
Marine Environment Protection Committee	Mr. A. Chrysostomou (Cyprus)	Mr. A. Chatterjee (India)	54th, 55th and 56th sessions
Facilitation Committee	Mr. C. Abela (Malta)	Capt. A.E. Hill (Liberia)	33rd and 34th sessions
Technical Co-operation Committee	Mr. B. Owusu-Mensah (Ghana)	Mr. F. Hakguden (Turkey)	56th and 57th sessions

4 The Council wishes to record its deep appreciation of the work of these officers, whose able guidance has contributed to the successful outcome of the work of the respective Committees and the Council.

### **International conferences**

#### ***2007 International Conference on the Removal of Wrecks***

Location and dates: Nairobi (Kenya), 14 to 18 May 2007

Purpose: To consider the adoption of an international convention on the removal of wrecks

Results: The Conference adopted a treaty instrument, the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007. The Conference also adopted three resolutions: on expressions of appreciation; compulsory insurance certificates; and technical co-operation assistance.

A full report on the Conference is being submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item 15.

## **Strategic Plan**

5 Following adoption of resolutions A.970(24) and A.971(24) on the Organization's Strategic and High-Level Action Plans, the Council, at its ninety-sixth and ninety-seventh sessions, was informed (C 96/5(a)) of the steps taken to invite all Committees to take action as requested in the resolutions and as further directed by the Council and the Assembly, in particular, with respect to issues requiring further efforts by IMO, which the Committees should take into account when prioritizing their work; the continuous consideration of the Committees' high-level actions and associated biennial priorities; the new reporting arrangements resulting from the aforementioned Plans; and ensuring that new work programme items fall within the scope of the Strategic Plan. The Council also received analyses of the data collected and collated by the Secretariat against the performance indicators in the Strategic Plan (C 96/5(a) and C 97/3(a)), together with a proposal for the establishment of a register of performance indicators (C 97/3(a)/1), which, following approval of terms of reference (C 97/WP.3, annex) for the *Ad Hoc* Council Working Group on the Organization's Strategic Plan (CWGSP), were referred to the Working Group for information and detailed consideration with a view to submitting relevant conclusions and recommendations to the Council's ninety-eighth session for preliminary consideration.

6 The Council thanked the Government of South Africa for offering to host the sixth session of the CWGSP at South Africa House, London, from 14 to 16 March 2007, which, in addition to examining the aforementioned analyses and proposal, also reviewed the various elements of the Strategic and High-Level Action Plans, as well as initial reports from the Committees on the status of their planned outputs in 2006-2007 and their proposed outputs for 2008-2009. The report of CWGSP 6 was submitted to the Council at its ninety-eighth session under cover of document C 98/3(a) and the report of CWGSP 7 (24-26 September 2007) will be submitted to the Council at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session under cover of document C/ES.24/3(a). A full report on this subject will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda under item 7, including two draft Assembly resolutions on a revised Strategic Plan for the period 2008-2013 and a high-level action plan and related priorities for the 2008-2009 biennium.

## **Risk management**

7 The Council, having received a proposal, at its twenty-third extraordinary session, for the establishment of a finance and risk management working group (C/ES.23/4(a)/1), requested the Secretary-General to submit a substantive document on the subject, which the Council considered at its ninety-sixth session (C 96/5(b)). In this regard, the Council agreed that management of risk should become a formalized ongoing process, rather than an individual event and, to this end, decided to establish a Risk Review, Management and Reporting Working Group (CWGRM), open to all Members of the Organization, which would, initially, be supplementary to the CWGSP. The Council further agreed (C 96/D) to establish an Intersessional Correspondence Group, co-ordinated by Australia, which reported to the Council, at its ninety-seventh session (C 97/3(b)), with terms of reference for the CWGRM, an initial framework of a risk management structure and the risk environment facing the Organization.

8 Having approved the CWGRM's revised terms of reference (C 97/WP.3, annex), the Council referred the proposals of the Intersessional Correspondence Group to the first session of the CWGRM, held at South Africa House, London, from 12 to 13 March 2007, which further developed the draft elements of the risk management framework and a work programme for completion of the task during the 2008-2009 biennium. The report of CWGRM 1 was submitted to the Council at its ninety-eighth session under cover of document C 98/3(b) and the report of CWGRM 2 (27-28 September 2007) is submitted to the Council at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session under cover of document C/ES.24/3(b).

### **Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme**

9 Following the adoption of resolution A.974(24) on the Framework and Procedures for the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme, implementation of the Audit Scheme commenced in December 2005 with the issuance by the Secretary-General of Circular letters Nos.2686 and 2687, inviting Member States to nominate qualified auditors for inclusion in the roster of auditors and to volunteer to be audited, respectively.

10 Consistent with the responsibilities assigned to the Secretary-General under the Framework for the Scheme, a reasonable pool of trained auditors has been established and audits of Member States commenced in September 2006. A full report on the progress of the implementation of the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item 8.

### **Implementation of Article 17 of the IMO Convention**

11 At the twenty-fourth regular session of the Assembly, and in relation to agenda item 22, ("Election of Members of the Council, as provided in Articles 16 and 17 of the IMO Convention"), concerns were expressed by the delegation of Kenya about the outcome of the elections to the Council for the 2006-2007 biennium; in particular, with respect to the geographic criterion stipulated in Article 17(c) of the IMO Convention.

12 At its ninety-sixth session (June 2006), the Council considered matters relating to the implementation of Article 17 of the IMO Convention, prompted by the concerns mentioned above (document C 96/18(a)). Following a wide-ranging initial discussion, the Council requested the Secretary-General to undertake a study of the issue of geographical representation in the Council, including a comparison of the practice of other specialized agencies of the United Nations, of similar membership and with similar constitutions, for submission to the ninety-seventh session of the Council, in November 2006.

13 At its ninety-seventh session, the Council considered the information before it (documents C 97/11 and C 97/11/1), including some options proposed for further discussion, as well as the information provided orally by the Secretary-General and the delegation of the Bahamas.



14 Following extensive discussions, the Council, unanimously agreed that the issue of geographical representation in the Council should not be pursued by means of an amendment to the IMO Convention; rather, an Assembly resolution should be prepared and, to that effect, it requested the Secretary-General to submit, as early as possible, to the ninety-eighth session of the Council, in June 2007, a draft Assembly resolution on the implementation of Article 17(c) of the IMO Convention, taking into account the submission from the Bahamas and the comments made during the debate.

15 The Council also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the ninety-eighth session of the Council a document elaborating on procedures for electing the Council, including providing a clearer definition of the criteria for candidatures in each category, with a view to encouraging contestability.

16 At its ninety-eighth session, the Council approved the draft Assembly resolution on Implementation of part (c) of Article 17 of the IMO Convention (annex 1 to document C 98/9), for submission to the twenty-fifth regular session of the Assembly, for consideration and adoption, and welcomed, with appreciation, the work done on the historical background, analysis and proposals on possible procedures for electing the Council, which the Secretary-General had provided (annex 2 to document C 98/9).

### **Protection of vital shipping lanes**

17 The Assembly, at its twenty-fourth regular session, noted the work undertaken by the Organization in relation to the protection of vital shipping lanes and in particular the outcome of the Meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore: Enhancing Safety, Security and Environmental Protection, which took place in Jakarta on 7 and 8 September 2005 (the Jakarta Meeting) and the adoption of the Jakarta Statement on the Enhancement of Safety, Security and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (the Jakarta Statement).

18 The Council, at its twenty-third extraordinary session, in response to the outcomes of the Jakarta Meeting authorized the Secretary-General to convene, in consultation with the littoral States and pursuant to requests contained in the Jakarta Statement, a series of follow-on meetings for Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore (the littoral States) to identify and prioritize their needs, and for user States to identify possible assistance to respond to those needs, which may include information-exchange, capacity-building, training and technical support, with a view to promoting and co-ordinating co-operative measures. The Council also expressed thanks to the Government of Malaysia for offering to host the next IMO-sponsored meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore and requested that the meeting, as the Jakarta Meeting did, should involve both littoral and user States.

19 Pursuant to the aforementioned decisions of the Council and following consultations between the Secretary-General and the littoral States, a Meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore: Enhancing Safety, Security and Environmental Protection took place in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 20 September 2006 (the Kuala Lumpur Meeting). The Kuala Lumpur Meeting was attended by representatives from 31 States, one intergovernmental and nine non-governmental organizations. The outcome of its deliberations was the adoption of the Kuala Lumpur Statement on the Enhancement of Safety, Security and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (the Kuala Lumpur Statement).

20 At its ninety-seventh session, the Council considered the outcome of the Kuala Lumpur Meeting and authorized the Secretary-General to continue to co-operate with the littoral States and, in particular, to provide every assistance possible in attracting sponsors for the projects agreed by the Kuala Lumpur Meeting and contributors for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the aids to navigation in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (the Straits). In addition, the Council authorized the Secretary-General to convene, in consultation with the littoral States and pursuant to the requests contained in the Kuala Lumpur Statement, a further series of follow-on meetings for the littoral States to review the identification and prioritization of specific needs in relation to the enhancement of safety, security and environmental protection in the Straits and for user States to identify possible assistance. The Council also expressed thanks to the Government of the Republic of Singapore for offering to host the next IMO-sponsored meeting on the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (to be held from 4 to 6 September 2007) which, as the Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur Meetings did, would involve both littoral and user States.

21 Furthermore, the Council encouraged the Secretary-General to continue his work relating to the protection of shipping lanes of strategic importance and significance and to report to the Council as appropriate.

### **Enterprise resource planning (ERP)**

22 Following its implementation in 2004, the Organization's ERP system has become a key part of the overall financial control and budgetary management framework. The system will be due a major upgrade in 2009 and the Organization is developing plans to build on the platform now in place through the addition of new functionality, including human resources management and payroll functions.

### **Financial management**

23 The Financial Services and the Management Accounting Services have continued to meet the ongoing financial accounting, management accounting and treasury management requirements of the Organization. The final accounts of the Organization for the 2004-2005 biennium were completed on the due dates and were submitted to the External Auditors, with both accounts receiving an unqualified opinion. Final accounts for 2006 have been prepared for submission to the External Auditors and these were audited during March 2007. The contribution receipts from Member States reached 99.03% and 97.69% of the assessed contributions in 2005 and 2006, respectively. The budgetary performance for 2006 led to a saving of some £0.7m on the General Fund, representing 3% of the approved total appropriation of £24,298,300, mainly attributable to the economy steps taken by the management on the controllable cost items such as meetings, Headquarters premises and other general operating expenses.

24 Funds not needed for immediate requirements were invested with the United Kingdom major banks, on the basis of a listing of institutions recommended by an external treasury management advisor. The total interest earned for 2005 and 2006 in the six Funds of the Organization amounted to £680,817 and £862,748 respectively.

25 A main focus of work for Financial Services has been initial planning and impact analysis on the proposed move by the UN system from United Nations System Accounting Standards (UNSAS) to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). This change will require some system changes; changes to the Organization's Financial Regulations and Financial Rules; changes in budgetary management to address the depreciation of the value of assets; and will also change the format of the Organization's annual accounts. Work has also continued on updating and documenting procedures used for travel arrangements.

26 The Management Accounting Services continue to review annual work plans of programme managers; make recommendations to the Secretary-General on programme allotments for annual funding of the programmes; control allotments to ensure expenditures can be met; develop systems, formats and techniques to review programme budget expenditures; provide advice to programme managers; issue periodical reports on financial implications; monitor and prepare periodic budgetary performance and results against plans; and provide forecasts of not only the annual delivery levels under the regular budget and technical co-operation programmes but also the anticipated funds balances under the relevant source of financing of IMO's work programmes, including transfers between such funds.

27 The Services continue to actively participate in Finance and Budget Network meetings within the UN common system, in particular, in respect of the adoption of IPSAS; cost recovery policies; and common system staff costs and benefits. Work has also continued on documenting budget-setting and monitoring procedures.

### **Human Resources (HR) reforms**

28 A number of HR supportive activities were carried out satisfactorily. A new performance management and appraisal system has now been put into force. All staff have been trained in its application in order to ensure successful implementation.

29 For the period 1 January 2006 through 31 July 2007, HR Services managed 31 staff separations, 20 of which were retirements or early retirements, and undertook the recruitment and selection processes leading to 38 new appointments. This corresponds to a movement of approximately 11.5% of the total number of staff. Over 400 contracts were raised for temporary assistance to meet peak workload demands and to cover for vacant posts.

### **Facilities Management**

30 The main focus of the work of Facilities Management at the beginning of 2006 was on the organization and management of the relocation of the Secretariat to temporary office accommodation due to the refurbishment of the Headquarters building. After a successful move, efforts have concentrated on providing the necessary input to the planning and design of the work being undertaken on the alterations to the building including to the mechanical, electrical and other services during the refurbishment work. A key activity has been the procurement of suitable meeting locations and ancillary services to support the holding of the IMO meetings programme in alternative locations in London. A thorough review of the Procurement Manual has been undertaken and contracts for goods and services tendered since adoption of the revised procedures in May 2007 have been subject to the revised procedures aimed at enhancing value for money in procurement and transparency and efficiency in operations.

## **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**

31 A number of activities were undertaken in order to continue the alignment of information management and information technology with IMO core business objectives, including updating of the ERP-SAP System and implementation of the SAP Business Warehouse module for generating user-friendly reports from SAP and development of the SAP-Enterprise Portal Module for remote access. Further improvements were made through the provision of new corporate information systems and enhancement of the existing ones; in developing new software applications; and in enhancements to the ICT infrastructure. A new information management initiative under development will support the Organization's administrative and core business objectives and enable the sharing of information from different sources.

32 Modern, secure and cost effective information systems were deployed to facilitate close collaboration and interaction with Member States. The membership was provided with improved access to documents and database applications that will deliver information in a timely, accurate and reliable manner, the most significant being the further development of the following modules in GISIS: Maritime Security (ISPS); Condition Assessment Scheme; Recognized Organizations; Maritime Casualties and Incidents; Port Reception Facilities; Bulk Chemicals; Status of Treaties (Tonnage); Piracy and Armed Robbery; Simulators Database; and World Fleet Database. Work also continued on other modules of GISIS. The public at large were provided with a dynamic reference point on the IMO internet site for the Organization's work and activities on maritime safety, security and environmental issues.

33 Work continued on the enhancement of the underlying communications capabilities, protocols and ICT applications services with emphasis on interoperability standards. ICT facilities were made available to staff members both at Headquarters and while on mission with support to IMO meetings being held outside the Headquarters building due to the refurbishment.

## **Publishing activities**

34 The in-house production operation was closed down at the end of 2005. Some production staff accepted agreed separation terms and left the Organization, some stayed in the Publishing Service to manage the outsourced production operation, and the remainder were redeployed within the Organization. Since 1 January 2006, all production has been done externally, with estimated savings in 2006 of at least £665,000.

35 When the Organization moved out of the Headquarters building to 55 Victoria Street, the publications despatch operation had to move to a third location in Battersea, south-west London. Since the move, all publications have been shipped to IMO's customers worldwide from this location or directly from printers and external warehouses.

36 In 2006 and the first half of 2007, the following major new publications and revised editions were published: *IMDG Code* and *IMDG Code Supplement*; *SOLAS Amendments 2003-2005*; *MARPOL (Consolidated Edition)*; *Pollution Prevention Equipment Required under MARPOL*; *Guidelines for the Implementation of Annex V of MARPOL*; *BC Code*; *IBC Code*; *Ships' Routing*; *IAMSAR Manual (volumes I, II and III)*; *FAL Convention*; *SAR Convention*; *SUA Convention*; *Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels (parts A and B)*; *Guidelines for Small Fishing Vessels*; *Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas*; and *Guidelines on Ship Recycling*. In addition, 20 new and revised model courses were published in English, French and Spanish.

37 The following electronic products were also released: *IMDG Code on CD V8*; *IMDG Code for Intranet*; *IMDG Code e-learning*; *SOLAS on CD V4*; *MARPOL on CD V3*; *IMO-Vega Database V12*; *IAMSAR Manual on CD V3*; *GMDSS Manual on CD V2*; *Ships' Routeing on CD V4*; *IMO Labels & Symbols on CD V3*; and *Assembly Resolutions on CD V7*. The IMDG Code, SOLAS, MARPOL and the IMO-Vega Database were made available online by subscription, and about 150 publications were made available for download as "virtual" books. A new DVD, *Safe, Secure and Efficient Shipping on Clean Oceans* was also developed and released.

38 Thanks in part to a wide network of distributors in new markets and to better dissemination of information, unit sales have been increasing steadily. The year 2006 was the fifth consecutive year of increased revenues, with just over £7.6 million in net sales.

### **Contract of the Secretary-General**

39 At its ninety-seventh session, the Council, in recognition of "the exceptional leadership, initiative and commitment with which the affairs of the Organization have been conducted by Mr. Mitropoulos, as its Secretary-General", decided unanimously by acclamation to renew his mandate as Secretary-General for another four-year term, concluding on 31 December 2011, and to advise the twenty-fifth regular session of the Assembly accordingly, in conformity with Article 22 of the IMO Convention (see also agenda item 25 of the Assembly).

## **TECHNICAL WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION**

### **MARITIME SAFETY**

40 The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) was scheduled to meet three times during the biennium: MSC 81 met from 10 to 19 May 2006; MSC 82 from 29 November to 8 December 2006 and MSC 83 will meet from 3 to 12 October 2007. The outcome of MSC 81 was reported to the ninety-sixth session of the Council in document C 96/7/Add.1 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 96/D; the outcome of MSC 82 was reported to the ninety-eighth session of the Council in document C 98/10 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 98/D; and the outcome of MSC 83 is being reported to the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Council in document C/ES.24/9.

41 The reports of the MSC, presented under Assembly agenda item 9, give details of the substantive work accomplished by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies during the biennium under review. A number of recommendations are proposed for adoption by the Assembly.

### **MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION**

42 The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) was scheduled to meet three times during the biennium: MEPC 54 met from 20 to 24 March 2006; MEPC 55 from 9 to 13 October 2006 and MEPC 56 from 9 to 13 July 2007. The outcome of MEPC 54 was reported to the ninety-sixth session of the Council in document C 96/9 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 96/D; the outcome of MEPC 55 was reported to the ninety-seventh session of the Council in document C 97/9 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 97/D; and the outcome of MEPC 56 is being reported to the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Council in document C/ES.24/8.

43 The reports of the MEPC, presented under Assembly agenda item 11, give details of the substantive work accomplished by the MEPC and its subsidiary bodies during the biennium under review. A number of recommendations will be proposed for adoption for the Assembly.

### **Dumping of wastes and other matter**

44 The 28th Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention 1972 and the 1st Meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention were concurrently held from 30 October to 3 November 2006. The outcome was reported to the ninety-eighth session of the Council in document C 98/13 and is being submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item 16.

### **FACILITATION OF MARITIME TRANSPORT**

45 The Facilitation Committee (FAL) was scheduled to meet twice during the biennium: FAL 33 met from 3 to 7 July 2006 and FAL 34 from 26 to 30 March 2007. The outcome of FAL 33 was reported to the Council at its ninety-seventh session in document C 97/10 and the Council's decisions thereon are contained in document C 97/D. The outcome of FAL 34 was reported to the ninety-eighth session of the Council in document C 98/12 and the Council's decisions thereon are contained in document C 98/D. The reports of the Facilitation Committee, presented under Assembly agenda item 13, give details of the substantive work accomplished by the FAL Committee during the biennium under review.

### **WORK OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE**

46 The Legal Committee was scheduled to meet three times during the biennium. LEG 91 met from 24 to 28 April 2006, LEG 92 from 16 to 20 October 2006 and LEG 93 will meet from 22 to 26 October 2007.

47 The outcome of LEG 91 was reported to the ninety-sixth session of the Council in document C 96/8 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 96/D; the outcome of LEG 92 was reported to the ninety-seventh session of the Council in document C 97/8 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 97/D; and the outcome of LEG 93 is being reported to the twenty-fourth extraordinary session of the Council. The reports of the Legal Committee, presented under Assembly agenda item 10, provide details of the substantive work accomplished by the Committee during the biennium under review.

### **TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION**

48 The Technical Co-operation Committee (TCC) met twice during the biennium: TCC 56 met from 13 to 15 June 2006 and TCC 57 met from 18 to 21 June 2007. The outcome of TCC 56 was reported to the ninety-sixth session of the Council in document C 96/10/Add.1 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 96/D. The outcome of TCC 57 was reported to the ninety-eighth session of the Council in document C 98/11/Add.1 and the Council's decision thereon is contained in document C 98/D.

49 The reports of the TCC, which are being submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item 12, provide details of the substantive work accomplished by the Committee. Individual reports on the maritime training activities under the auspices of IMO, i.e., the World Maritime University (Malmö), the IMO International Maritime Academy (Trieste) and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (Malta), are submitted for consideration under agenda items 18(a), 18(b) and 18(c), respectively, of the Assembly.

### **CONFERENCE SERVICES**

50 There were 20.6 fully serviced official meeting weeks in 2006 and 20.8 are scheduled to take place in 2007. Due to the temporary relocation of the IMO Headquarters during the refurbishment period, special arrangements were made for all the meetings from September 2006 to date to be held at suitable alternative venues. The majority of these meetings have been held at venues in central London; two Committee meetings have been held outside the United Kingdom, namely, the ninety-second session of the Legal Committee in Paris, France and the eighty-second session of the Maritime Safety Committee in Istanbul, Turkey; and the International Conference on the Removal of Wrecks, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya. All these meetings have been organized and serviced successfully. Final preparations are being made for the eighty-third session of the Maritime Safety Committee to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark and the ninety-third session of the Legal Committee to be held in Panama City, Panama, and suitable conference facilities in London have been arranged for the other meetings scheduled to take place during the remainder of the year.

#### **Language services**

51 The official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) have been used as appropriate in connection with official meetings. Documents for these meetings have been translated and processed into the working languages (English, French and Spanish).

52 A new computerized terminology database, Multitrans, has been installed which will increase efficiency and productivity of the translation process and the new software is available in the six official languages of the Organization.

53 In March 2006, IMO hosted an Inter-Agency Joint Training Venture on the Management of Translation Revision for translators and revisers in IMO and other international organizations based in London. The aim of this seminar was to optimize the translation quality/cost ratio by enhancing the skills and productivity of translators and revisers and thereby ensuring maintenance of high quality translation. In December 2006, twenty-three translators from the six translation sections of IMO attended a maritime industry induction course at Warsash Maritime Academy in Southampton. The feedback from the participants was very positive, highlighting in particular how educative and useful the experience had been in helping them to acquire knowledge which otherwise they would not have had. These training courses are important for the translators to understand how the vocabulary used theoretically in IMO applies in reality and it is intended to continue this training in future so that translation staff can keep abreast of the developments in the maritime industry.

#### **Documents services**

54 The large volume of documentation required for the meetings has been planned for and processed for translation, typing, printing and dispatch as speedily as possible, with the assistance of the computerized monitoring system.

55 Digital printing of documents has continued to be very successful, with faster delivery and reduction in overtime maintained, and the equipment has been enhanced and upgraded.

## **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

### **Co-ordination with the United Nations system**

56 Co-operation with the United Nations and specialized agencies, as well as coordination on programme matters continued, in the period under review, to be a central focus of the Sub-Division for External Relations. This Sub-Division undertook the practical arrangements necessary to promote IMO throughout the United Nations system with a view to ensuring that activities did not overlap and were not duplicated. Inter-agency discussions of general or specific interest to IMO, kept under review by the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB) for coordination, were brought to the attention of the Council, in particular, the following issues:

- Report of the High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment;
- Follow-up to the 2005 World Summit (WS) and the consequent establishment of the Peace-Building Commission and the new Human Rights Council;
- African Development;
- Status of UN Atlas of the Oceans;
- High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development;
- Follow-up on the outcome of the mid-term review of the Brussels Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010;
- Promotion of Employment and decent work;
- Management reform;
- Security and Safety of staff;
- Gender equality and gender mainstreaming;
- Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for IMO:
  - (i) Oceans and the Law of the Sea – Genuine Link;
  - (ii) Outcome of the 7th meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea; and
  - (iii) Follow-up action taken by the UN Security Council and the Secretariat pursuant to the adoption of resolution A.979(24) on Piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia.



57 At its ninety-seventh session, the Council noted, in particular, United Nations General Assembly resolution A/Res/60/288 of 8 September 2006 on The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UN Global Strategy), the G8 Declaration on Counter-Terrorism and the G8 Statement on Strengthening the UN's Counter-Terrorism Program, which have a direct bearing on the relevant work of IMO. The aforementioned resolution was adopted following consideration of the Report of the UN Secretary-General on Uniting against terrorism: Recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy.

58 A review of the UN Global Strategy undertaken by the Secretariat, as reported to the Council at its ninety-seventh session, revealed that there were a number of issues where the work undertaken, or which may be undertaken, by the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee (collectively referred to as "the four Committees") might contribute to the implementation of the UN Global Strategy.

59 The Council therefore requested the four Committees to study the UN Global Strategy, as well as related United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions; and to prepare and submit, through the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Organization's Strategic Plan, where practicable, for consideration by the Council at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session in November 2007, specific proposals in association with a plan of action, within the framework of the Strategic Plan of the Organization, on how the Organization could respond and contribute to the implementation of the UN Global Strategy.

60 The Council also requested the Secretary-General to identify and submit, for consideration by the Council at its twenty-fourth extraordinary session, any related needs of the Organization, taking into account the outcome of the work of the four Committees. Details of the outcome of the work of the four Committees will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item 7(a).

61 Furthermore, the Council at its ninety-eighth session, took note that the Secretariat was establishing the necessary contacts so as to provide, at future sessions of the Council, information on discussions in the G77 on matters of relevance to IMO and requested the Secretary-General, in future, to keep it informed about any relevant developments.

### **Relations with other intergovernmental organizations**

62 At its ninety-sixth and ninety-seventh sessions, the Council noted that the formal procedures for the signing of eight Agreements of Co-operation on Port State Control with the following organizations were now complete:

- the Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Tokyo MoU);
- the Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (MED MoU);
- the Acuerdo de Viña del Mar;
- the Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (IOMoU);
- the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Black Sea Region (BS MoU);

- the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Paris MoU);
- the West and Central Africa Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Abuja MoU); and
- the Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (CMoU).

63 The Council also noted that the formal procedures for the signing of Agreements of Co-operation on other bilateral matters with the following organizations were now complete:

- the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP);
- the International Criminal Police Organization - Interpol;
- the International Oil Pollution Compensation Supplementary Fund (IOPCSF); and
- the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organisation (CTO);

64 The Council further approved Agreements of Co-operation on bilateral matters with the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the African Union (AU); and decided to submit these to the twenty-fifth regular session of the Assembly for consideration and final approval.

65 The Council further agreed, in principle, with the request from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) to enter into an Agreement of Co-operation with IMO. A full report on the above mentioned applications will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item 19(c).

### **Relations with non-governmental organizations**

66 Since the twenty-fourth regular session of the Assembly, the Council has considered twelve new applications from organizations for consultative status from the following organizations:

- the Stichting Chemical Distribution Institute (CDI);
- the International Tar Association (ITA);
- the Black Sea International Shipowners Association (BINSAs);
- the European Marine Equipment Council (EMEC);
- the Association of Diving Contractors International, Inc. (ADCI);
- the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU);
- the Federation of National Associations of Ships Brokers and Agents (FONASBA);
- the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC);

- the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT);
- the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW);
- the Global Maritime Education and Training Association (GlobalMET); and
- the International Spill Control Organization (ISCO).

67 Details on actions taken by the Council on these applications are submitted to the Assembly under agenda item 19(d).

68 At its ninety-eighth session, the Council undertook its biennial review of the non-governmental organizations in consultative status for the period from 21 March 2005 to 28 February 2007 and a recommendation regarding the continuance, or otherwise, of the consultative status granted to any organization or all of them is being submitted to the twenty-fifth regular session of the Assembly.

### **World Maritime Day**

69 World Maritime Day 2006 was celebrated during the last week of September. The theme of the Day in 2006, as approved by the Council, was “**TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION: IMO’s Response to the 2005 World Summit**”, while that for 2007 is “**IMO’s Response to Current Environmental Challenges**”.

70 The second World Maritime Day parallel event was successfully organized, jointly by IMO and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, in Singapore, on 25 September 2006. The Council, at its ninety-seventh session, expressed its appreciation to the Government of Singapore for hosting the parallel event.

71 The Council also accepted the offer of the Government of Brazil to host the 2007 World Maritime Day parallel event in Salvador, Bahia, and expressed its appreciation to the Brazilian authorities for their offer. A full report on the 2006 and 2007 World Maritime Days will be submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item 19(e).

72 The Council, at its ninety-eighth session, endorsed the Secretary-General’s proposed theme for World Maritime Day in 2008, namely, “**IMO: 60 years in the service of shipping**” as an appropriate way in which to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> session of the Council (scheduled to take place in June 2008), and, at the same time, to celebrate the Organization’s return to the refurbished Headquarters building, all of which coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the IMO Convention (1948) and the 50th anniversary of its entry into force (1958) (C 98/D).

73 The Council also agreed with the Secretary-General’s suggestion that the decision on future World Maritime Day themes should, henceforth, take place at the June session of the Council, rather than, as previously, at the November session, in order to enable the Secretariat to better prepare and implement a comprehensive plan of action related to the chosen theme for each World Maritime Day, and to afford Member States sufficient time to prepare their own activities and report them to the Organization in due time (C 98/D).

### **International Maritime Prize**

74 By decision of the Council, the International Maritime Prize for 2005 was awarded to **Dr. Thomas Allan (United Kingdom)** and the Prize for 2006 to **Mr. Alfred H.E. Popp (Canada)**. The Council further decided, on an exceptional basis, to award a second International Maritime Prize for 2006, posthumously, to the late **Mr. Igor Ponomarev**, formerly Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to IMO and Chairman of the Maritime Safety Committee, in recognition of his contribution to the work of IMO and the shipping industry. A report on the International Maritime Prize is being submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item 19(f).

### **Establishment of the 'Igor Ponomarev' Scholarship Fund**

75 The Council welcomed and endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General calling for the establishment of a scholarship at the World Maritime University to commemorate the life of the late Mr. Igor Ponomarev (C 98/INF.3 and C 98/D).

### **IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea**

76 At its ninety-fourth session in June 2005, the IMO Council agreed to the establishment of an IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea and requested the Secretary-General to prepare draft Guidelines for the Award. The purpose of the Award, which will take the form of a medal, accompanied by a certificate citing the act of exceptional bravery performed, is to provide, uniquely, international recognition for those who, at the risk of losing their own life, perform acts of exceptional bravery during rescue operations or in order to prevent serious pollution of the marine environment, displaying outstanding courage at sea.

77 At its ninety-sixth session (June 2006), the Council approved Guidelines for the establishment of the Award, the proposed design of the Medal accompanying the Award, and the anticipated costs related to the Award.

78 The Council recorded its appreciation to the Government of Spain for its support and assistance in the design of the Medal and its generous offer to co-finance the production of a set of Medals.

79 Circular letter No.2731 and, subsequently, Circular letter No.2786 were issued, inviting nominations for the Award, which will be bestowed by the Organization, for the first time, in 2007. The nominations were considered by the Council at its ninety-eighth session in document C 98/17(g) and the outcome of the Council's deliberations was reported in document C 98/D.

80 A full report on the 2007 IMO Awards for Exceptional Bravery at Sea is being submitted to the Assembly for consideration under agenda item 19(g).

## **Celebration of IMO's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 100<sup>th</sup> session of the Council**

81 At its ninety-eighth session, the Council noted the information set out in document C 98/22(a), and that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on IMO's approaching 60th anniversary and the 100th session of the Council, and approved the proposals of the Secretary-General to commemorate both occasions, as well as to celebrate the Organization's return to the refurbished Headquarters building. A full report on this item was presented in document C 98/22(a) and the decisions of the Council thereon were reported in document C 98/D.

### **Public Information Services (PIS)**

82 IMO's Public Information Services continued, in the period under review, to disseminate information on the Organization's objectives and work activities, and to improve global awareness of the Organization and its impact.

83 This was carried out in a number of tasks, including: writing and distribution of press releases and briefings; arranging press conferences, background briefings, press, television and radio interviews; responding to information requests by phone, fax, email; giving talks and presentations on the work of IMO to groups of students on familiarization visits to IMO; researching, writing and disseminating summary reports of all IMO meetings; production of materials for exhibitions and events; expansion and organization of a photographic library; research, drafting speeches for the Secretary-General and writing articles on the work of IMO and related topics as requested by the Secretary-General; and writing and editing IMO's quarterly magazine. PIS also assumed responsibility for the upkeep of major parts of the IMO public-access website, which provides a comprehensive and constantly growing source of information about the Organization.

### **Library Services**

84 IMO's Library Services continued to develop their resources in order to maintain their role of knowledge centre and information provider to the Secretariat, delegates, the maritime community researchers, students, and the public at large. Country briefs were prepared for the Secretary-General's missions and statistical research was undertaken for the Secretariat.

85 The Library Services continued to share management of information on the IMO website with PIS whilst some of the work was devolved to other divisions. Presentations on the products available in the Library were also made to supplement the information provided by PIS to the group visits mentioned above. Worth mentioning is the SeaLibrary catalogue, available on the public website, which showed an increase of 20% from November 2005.