EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(d) Report on World Maritime Days 2018 and 2019, and the celebration of
IMO's seventieth anniversary

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports on the celebrations of World Maritime Day in 2018 and 2019 and their parallel events; on the celebration of IMO's seventieth anniversary in 2018; and on the arrangements for the celebration of World Maritime Day in 2020

Strategic direction, if applicable: Other work

Output: OW 12

Action to be taken: Paragraph 20

Related documents: C 114/D; C/ES.28/D; C 117/D; C 118/17(e); C 120/17(d); C 120/D; C 121/13(d); C 121/13(d)/1; C 122/D; C/ES.30/8(d), C/ES.30/8(d)/1 and Circular Letter Nos.3829, 3874, 3889, 3922 and 3947

1 As per the established practice, each year, World Maritime Day is observed at the end of September, with Member Governments encouraged to designate specific days for their own celebration throughout the year.

2 To that effect, appropriate arrangements were made in 2018 and 2019 for the observance of World Maritime Day at the Organization's Headquarters.

World Maritime Day 2018

3 World Maritime Day 2018 was celebrated on 27 September. The theme for the year, as approved by the Council at its 117th session in December 2016 (C/117/D), was "IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future".
4 Documentation and other material related to the chosen theme were circulated to Governments and interested organizations in good time for them to be considered in the planning of their own activities for the day, including the Secretary-General’s message for the occasion (text and video format) and background talking points on the year’s theme.

5 On World Maritime Day, a special visit to IMO Headquarters was organized for member associations of several non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO. After the organized visit, the Secretary-General held the traditional evening reception attended by members of the diplomatic corps and the maritime community in London, representatives of various organizations and bodies associated with the work of the Organization, port, shipowner and seafarer representative organizations and the Secretariat.

6 World Maritime Day 2018 was also observed in many Member States and by many organizations associated with IMO. There was widespread engagement via social media using the hashtags #IMO70 and #WorldMaritimeDay, which were promoted by IMO.

7 The arrangements made and the messages received on the occasion were reported to the Council at its 121st session in November 2018 (C 121/13(d)). The Council expressed its appreciation to those Governments, organizations and individuals that had contributed to the success of the Day.

Celebration of IMO’s seventieth anniversary

8 2018 marked the Organization’s seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization and several events and activities were organized throughout the year to commemorate this important milestone. In this connection, the Organization was honoured by the visit to IMO Headquarters of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in March; the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres in May; and Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal in December.

9 As part of the programme of activities to mark the Organization’s anniversary, a high-level Forum took place at IMO in May, featuring a distinguished set of panellists which focused on two main subjects: the future challenges and opportunities for the Organization, and IMO in the context of international trade. A new animated film was commissioned to promote IMO and its work and was widely distributed. Also, a mobile exhibition showing IMO's success stories and the future challenges for maritime transport was developed to reach a global audience. The exhibit toured maritime museums around the world, in collaboration with the International Congress of Maritime Museums, and was also displayed at the United Nations Headquarters during its General Assembly.

10 In 2018, for the first time, IMO participated in Open House London, a festival giving the public access to over 800 buildings of architectural, historical or cultural importance over one weekend each year. IMO Headquarters was open to the general public on 22 and 23 September 2018 with IMO staff volunteers offering a tour of the IMO facilities to visitors, bringing the Organization and its important work closer to the general public. IMO once again opened its doors during Open House London in September 2019.

11 Information on the celebration of the Organization’s seventieth anniversary was reported to the Council in documents C 118/17(e), C 120/17(d) and C 121/13(d).
World Maritime Day 2019

12 At its 120th session (July 2018), the Council endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General that the theme for World Maritime Day 2019 should be "Empowering Women in the Maritime Community".

13 In order to promote the year's theme, several activities took place throughout the year and the Day was celebrated at IMO Headquarters on 26 September. Prior to the traditional reception hosted by the Secretary-General, all guests were invited to attend a TED-style presentation.

14 A full report on World Maritime Day 2019 (document C/ES.30/8(d)) has been submitted to the Council at its thirtieth extraordinary session.

World Maritime Day 2020

15 At its 122nd session (July 2019), the Council further endorsed the Secretary-General's proposed theme for 2020, "Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet", and authorized the Secretary-General to make all necessary arrangements for the celebration of World Maritime Day, in accordance with established practice.

Parallel events

16 The 2018 World Maritime Day parallel event was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Poland and took place in Szczecin from 13 to 15 June 2018. A full report on the event was provided in document C 121/13(d)/1.

17 The 2019 World Maritime Day parallel event was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Colombia and took place in Cartagena de Indias from 15 to 17 September 2019. A full report on the event has been submitted to the thirtieth extraordinary session of the Council in document C/ES.30/8(d)/1.

18 The Council accepted the generous offers of the Governments of South Africa (twenty-eighth extraordinary session), the Islamic Republic of Iran (114th session), the Russian Federation (120th session) and the United Arab Emirates (122th session) to host the World Maritime Day parallel events in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, respectively. In accordance with the established process for the consideration of offers from Member States to host the World Maritime Day parallel event, as approved by the Council at its 114th session in June/July 2015, the next consideration of offers to host the parallel event will be in 2020 for 2024.

Calendar of events in support of World Maritime Day and Day of the Seafarer

19 Further to the request of several Member States at the 118th session of the Council, a calendar of events was developed on the IMO website for Member Governments and observer organizations to display their events in support of World Maritime Day and Day of the Seafarer. Circular Letter No.3889 was issued in November 2018, providing authorized users with the necessary details to upload relevant information on their country/organization's event.

Action requested of the Assembly

20 The Assembly is invited to take note of the information contained in this document and take action as it may deem appropriate.