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Agenda item 18(h)

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## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### (h) Report on Day of the Seafarer 2013

#### Note by the Secretary-General

#### SUMMARY

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Executive summary:</i>   | This document reports on the celebrations of the Day of the Seafarer (25 June 2013) |
| <i>Strategic direction:</i> | 11.1  |
| <i>High-level action:</i>   | 11.1.1 and 11.1.2   |
| <i>Planned output:</i>      | No related provisions   |
| <i>Action to be taken:</i>  | Paragraph 12  |
| <i>Related documents:</i>   | Resolution A.1033(27) and Circular letter No.3346                                   |

#### Background

1 The Day of the Seafarer was first celebrated in 2011, following its establishment by a resolution adopted by the Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, held in Manila, the Philippines, in June 2010, which adopted major revisions to the STCW Convention and Code. In 2011, it was also included in the annual list of United Nations Observances.

2 At its twenty-seventh regular session in November 2011, the Assembly adopted resolution A.1033(27), endorsing the designation of 25 June of each year as the "Day of the Seafarer", to recognize the invaluable contribution that seafarers make to international trade and the world economy.

3 The Assembly invited Governments, shipping organizations, companies, shipowners and all other parties concerned to promote and celebrate the Day of the Seafarer in an appropriate and meaningful manner; and further invited Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO to submit to the Secretariat, on a yearly basis, information related to the celebration of the Day of the Seafarer.

### **Action taken to mark the Day**

4 By Circular letter No.3346, Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO were advised of arrangements being made to mark the Day of the Seafarer 2013. Additional information was posted on the relevant page of the IMO website.

5 As in 2012, the celebration this year took the form of an online campaign, in which all interested parties, including the public at large, were invited to voice their support using social networks. This year's theme was "*Faces of the Sea*" and aimed to spotlight the human face of shipping and the sacrifices that seafarers make; giving the world an opportunity to say, "*Thank you seafarers*".

6 Participants worldwide were encouraged to write a blog or a message, take photographs, produce a video, etc. and post it on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn, adding the campaign slogan: "*Thank you seafarers*".

7 The campaign once again generated numerous web stories, videos, blog postings, news articles and opinion pieces from experts and media outlets, which together attracted thousands of individuals to the many social networks linked to the Day of the Seafarer. The level of participation was much greater than in 2012. The number of Twitter messages reached more than ten million people, while Facebook reached more than 300,000 users. This year the toolkit was made available on a new social platform called Slide Share which was viewed more than 10,000 times. The message of the Secretary-General was copied on DVDs and distributed on board vessels, and was watched by thousands of people in addition to the views generated on the IMO YouTube channel. The campaign effectively brought about a global "conversation" among individuals, organizations, industry players and seafarers themselves and raised awareness of the vital role that seafarers play in the global economy.

8 For the first time, this year, IMO staff gave interviews to the United Nations Radio in Chinese, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

9 Furthermore, the Secretariat was informed of celebrations held by various Member States and organizations. A list of these is given in annex 1 to this document. Any further messages and information received after issue of this document will be reported to the Council in an appropriate manner.

### **Message issued by the United Nations Secretary-General**

10 This year, once again, the United Nations Secretary-General issued a message (attached in annex 2), to "urge everyone to spare a thought for those courageous seafarers, men and women from all corners of the world, who face danger and tough working conditions to operate today's complex, highly technical ships, every hour of every day of the year – and on whom we all depend".

11 This message was posted on the respective websites of the United Nations News Centre and that of the Spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General; and it was also issued as a press release and widely distributed throughout the United Nations Information Centres.

### **Action requested of the Council**

12 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided and to comment as it may deem appropriate.

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## ANNEX 1

### INFORMATION RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DAY OF THE SEAFARER

#### (i) Messages received from IMO Member Governments

|                               |   |  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Canada                        | – | Transport Canada   |
| Chile                         | – | Chilean Master's Association   |
| Cook Islands, the             | – | Ambassador and Permanent Representative of<br>the Cook Islands                                   |
| Côte d'Ivoire                 | – | Transport Ministry   |
| Cyprus                        | – | Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations  |
| Denmark                       | – | Danish Maritime Authority  |
| Ecuador                       | – | Armada del Ecuador   |
| Egypt                         | – | Maritime Transport Sector  |
| Fiji                          | – | Ministry of Labour   |
| Georgia                       | – | Maritime Transport Agency  |
| Iran (Islamic<br>Republic of) | – | Ports and Maritime Organization  |
| Maldives                      | – | Ministry of Transport and Communication  |
| Mexico                        | – | Ministry of Communications and Transportation  |
| Nigeria                       | – | Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency   |
| Oman                          | – | Ministry of Transport and Communications   |
| Philippines                   | – | Philippines Department of Transportation<br>Philippine Coast Guard<br>Philippine Ports Authority |
| Samoa                         | – | Ministry of Works Transport and Infrastructure   |
| South Africa                  | – | South African Maritime Safety Authority  |
| United States of<br>America   | – | U.S. Pacific Command   |

**(ii) Messages received from United Nations bodies and specialized agencies**

United Nations Brussels

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Development Programme Thailand (UNDP)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ)

United Nations Information Centre Jakarta (UNIC)

United Nations Information Centre Manama (UNIC)

United Nations Information Centre Pretoria (UNIC)

United Nations Information Centre Tashkent (UNIC)

United Nations Information Centre Tehran (UNIC)

United Nations Information Service Geneva (UNIS)

United Nations Radio

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

**(iii) Messages received from intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO**

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)

International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO)

International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)

International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA)

International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF)

International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)

International Ship Managers' Association (InterManager)

International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)

**(iv) Miscellaneous**

Abu Dhabi Ports Company (United Arab Emirates)

Academic Society of Merchant Marine (Brazil)

ACV Transcom (Belgium)

Admiralty Nautical Products and Services (United Kingdom)  
AFRIMARI (United Kingdom)  
All About Shipping (United Kingdom)  
ARI Marine (India)  
Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (Philippines)  
Atlantic Maritime Academy (Bangladesh)  
Bangladesh Marine Academy (Bangladesh)  
BBC Radio Solent (United Kingdom)  
BC Ferry & Marine Workers' Union (Canada)  
Bernhard Schulte Ship management (Germany)  
Blue Communication (United Kingdom)  
California Maritime Academy (United States of America)  
Canada Steamship Line (Canada)  
Canadian Marine Pilots' Association (Canada)  
Crowley Maritime Corporation (United States of America)  
Cyprus Shipping Chamber (United Kingdom)  
European Commission (Canada)  
Faculty of Nautical Studies of Barcelona (Spain)  
Ferriby Group International (United Kingdom)  
Fiji Maritime Workers Association, FMWA (Fiji)  
Fiji National University School of Maritime Studies (Fiji)  
Fiji Sun (Fiji)  
Fleet Management (China)  
Foro Naval (Spain)  
GloBallast Partnerships (United Kingdom)  
Gulf Agency Company Ltd. (United Arab Emirates)  
Headland Media/Walport Maritime Training Film (United Kingdom)  
Hellenic Shipping News (Greece)  
Holland America Line (United States of America)  
International Maritime Employers' Council (United Kingdom)  
International Sailors' Society (United Kingdom)  
International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (United Kingdom)

International Seamen's Center (United States of America)  
Job2Sea (Denmark)  
Kerala Merchant Navy Officers' Association (India)  
Lloyd's List (United Kingdom)  
Logistics Management (United States)  
Loodzwezen, Rotterdam Pilots Association (Netherlands)  
Maersk (Denmark)  
Marine Insight (India)  
Marine Society (United Kingdom)  
Mariners Polytechnic Colleges Foundation (Philippines)  
Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (Philippines)  
Maritime Executive (United Kingdom)  
Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) (Philippines)  
Maritime Museum (Canada)  
Maritime Security Asia (China)  
Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO (United States of America)  
Maritime Union of Australia (Australia)  
MSC Cruises (United States of America)  
Myanmar Maritime Trade Unions  
National Union of Seafarers of India (India)  
Nautilus International (United Kingdom)  
Nigeria Info FM (Nigeria)  
NYK-TDG Maritime Academy (Philippines)  
OSM Group (Brazil)  
Panama Canal (Panama)  
Philippines Coast Guard (Philippines)  
Philippines Information Agency (Philippines)  
Philippines Port Authority (Philippines)  
Pilotage Port of Tarragona (Spain)  
Pole Star Space Applications (United Kingdom)  
Port Metro Vancouver (Canada)  
Port of Prince Rupert (Canada)

Port of Virginia (United States of America)  
Ports of Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)  
Ports of Auckland (New Zealand)  
Princess Cruises (United Kingdom)  
Schat-Harding (Norway)  
Seafarers' Rights International (United Kingdom)  
Seafarers UK (United Kingdom)  
Seafarers' Welfare and Assistance Network (United States of America)  
Seanews (Turkey)  
Shell Global (Netherlands)  
Ship Management International (United Kingdom)  
ShipServ (United Kingdom)  
Shiptalk (United Kingdom)  
Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (Singapore)  
South African Maritime Safety Authority, SAMSA (South Africa)  
Synergy Marine Group (Singapore)  
Teekay Corporation (Bermuda (United Kingdom))  
The Mission to Seafarers (United Kingdom)  
The Nautical Institute (United Kingdom)  
The Seafarers International Union (United States of America)  
The Seamen's Church Institute (United States of America)  
U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command (United States of America)  
UK P&I Club (United Kingdom)  
Ukrainian Marine Trade Unions' Federation (Ukraine)  
Umoe Schat-Harding (Norway)  
Univan HK (China)  
Wall Street Journal (United States of America)  
Wave Point Consulting (Canada)  
Windstar Cruises (United States of America)  
Witherby Publishing Group (United Kingdom)  
Zamakona Yards (Spain)

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**ANNEX 2**



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**MESSAGE ON THE DAY OF THE SEAFARER**

**25 June 2013**

The effectiveness of the modern, global economy depends on the large-scale transport of cargo between locations all over the world. The only effective way to carry the vast majority of those goods is by sea. The maritime transport industry is, therefore, central to the livelihoods of billions of people; and the maritime transport industry, in turn, relies on seafarers. Without them, international trade would simply grind to a halt.

Seafaring can be demanding, onerous and, at times, dangerous. But thanks to the comprehensive framework of measures developed by the International Maritime Organization and other agencies of the United Nations, shipping is now safer and cleaner than ever before. It is the skills, competence and dedication of the world's 1.5 million merchant seafarers that ensure those measures are properly implemented where it matters – on board ship. In this way, seafarers have contributed greatly to significant improvements in the shipping industry's safety and environmental performance, a record all the more impressive given the massive recent expansion of seaborne trade. This is an important yet largely unheralded contribution to the world's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The year 2013 is an important one for the seafaring community, as the International Labour Organization's Maritime Labour Convention enters into force in August. This new instrument provides comprehensive rights and protection at work for the world's seafarers, and has become known as the "fourth pillar" of the international regulatory regime for quality shipping, complementing the key Conventions of the IMO.

On the Day of the Seafarer, I urge everyone to spare a thought for those courageous seafarers, men and women from all corners of the world, who face danger and tough working conditions to operate today's complex, highly technical ships, every hour of every day of the year – and on whom we all depend.

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