

COUNCIL  
110th session  
Agenda item

C 110/3/1  
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## STRATEGY, PLANNING AND REFORM

### Restructuring of the sub-committees

#### Note by the Secretary-General

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document reports on the outcome of the MSC and MEPC's consideration of the implications and practicability of the Secretary-General's proposals for restructuring the sub-committees

*Strategic direction:* 4

*High-level action:* 4.0.5

*Planned output:* None

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 14

*Related documents:* C 110/8, C 110/11; MSC 92/26, MSC 92/22, MSC 92/INF.2, MSC 92/WP.10; MSC 91/19/9; MEPC 65/22, MEPC 65/12/3 and MEPC 65/INF.16

#### Background

1 The Council, at its 109th session, considered the Secretary-General's proposals on the review and reform of the Organization (C 109/D, section 3) and, with regard to matters relating to the proposed sub-committee restructuring (C 109/3/1), invited the MSC and MEPC to give consideration to the implications and practicability of the relevant proposals under their purview, including appropriate new names for the sub-committees in question; and to report to C 110 accordingly.

#### Detailed restructuring proposals

2 Taking into account comments made on the matter following an extensive debate at MSC 91 on the restructuring proposals and the Council's decisions thereon (MSC 91/19/9), and having consulted with the MSC and MEPC Chairmen, the Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies and specialist groups established by them, and having sought the views of the expert bodies themselves and the Secretariat, the Secretary-General prepared a detailed proposal, including the proposed names of the sub-committees, their terms of reference, provisional agendas for 2014 and biennial agendas for 2014-2015 (MSC 92/22 and MEPC 65/12/3) and

a related cost-benefit analysis (MSC 92/INF.2 and MEPC 65/INF.16) for consideration of the implications and practicability of the proposals by the Committees.

### **Outcome of MEPC 65 and MSC 92**

3 MEPC 65, having considered the Secretary-General's proposals for restructuring of sub-committees, gave particular consideration to the proposals related to the work of the BLG Sub-Committee (to become the PPR Sub-Committee) and agreed, in principle, and subject to concurrent decision of MSC 92, to:

- .1 a reduction of the total number of sub-committees from nine to seven with potential savings of four meeting-weeks per biennium; and
- .2 the proposed names and draft terms of reference of the seven restructured sub-committees.

MEPC 65 also proposed a number of amendments to the terms of reference of the new sub-committees for further detailed consideration at MSC 92.

4 MSC 92 had an extensive discussion on the Secretary-General's proposals and the MEPC's comments and, in the context of the general acceptance of the need to adapt the work methods of the Committees and embrace new possibilities, the Committee was of the view that a holistic approach should be taken, not only considering the costs to the Organization but also those of the Member States and that, while the proposals for restructuring and reform were aimed at the introduction of a more effective way of conducting the work, leading to savings in costs, the sound technical work of the Organization should not suffer. The Committee was of the view that a proper transition to the new structure should be facilitated by stricter prioritization and not by increasing the number of working, drafting, correspondence and intersessional groups since that would adversely affect, in particular, small delegations and raise the costs of Member States and, in this regard, consideration should be given to adapting the sequence and duration of meetings to accommodate the workload of all bodies of the Organization and not just the sub-committees. The Committee also noted that some of the to be newly-merged sub-committees (e.g. NCSR, SDC and SSE) had heavy agendas and that early advice on planned working and drafting group arrangements would be helpful in order to plan for the attendance of meetings. It was also essential to have proper reports of meetings and working/drafting groups and to have them approved before the end of the respective session.

5 Having established that there was, in principle, agreement to proceed with the restructuring as proposed by the Secretary-General, MSC 92 established a working group to consider the matter in detail and finalize the arrangements, taking into account that there should be no increase in the number of working, drafting, correspondence or intersessional groups and that issues of reporting should not be addressed by the group.

### ***Names, terms of reference and agendas of the restructured sub-committees***

6 In considering the proposed names and terms of reference of the restructured sub-committees, MSC 92 noted statements with regard to the PPR Sub-Committee made by China, supported by the delegations of Brazil, India and Peru; and by Norway, supported by the delegations of Canada, Denmark, France and the United States. In this connection, the Committee also noted the view of the group that only the MEPC could discuss, develop and adopt policy issues concerning GHG emissions, which may then lead to the PPR Sub-Committee being instructed to consider related technical and operational matters.

7 MSC 92 approved the following sub-committee names with their respective terms of reference, as subsidiary bodies of the MSC and MEPC, as appropriate, which will replace the existing subsidiary bodies starting from the 2014-2015 biennium:

- .1 Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC);
- .2 Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW);
- .3 Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III);
- .4 Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR);
- .5 Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR);
- .6 Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Construction (SDC); and
- .7 Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE).

8 The delegation of the Cook Islands, supported by the delegation of Vanuatu, stated that in its view the Committee could not take a final decision on this issue since it was subject to the agreement of the Council and the Assembly. In response, the Chairman referred to the Rules of Procedure of the Committees which state that "The Committee may establish such subsidiary bodies as it considers necessary", and clarified that endorsement by the Council and Assembly was related to any budgetary implications of the restructuring.

9 MSC 92 approved the terms of reference, biennial agendas for 2014-2015 and the provisional agendas for the respective first sessions of the restructured sub-committees, as set out in annexes 40, 41 and 42, respectively, of the Committee's report (MSC 92/26/Add.1). The Committee also approved the tentative arrangements for correspondence, working, drafting and intersessional groups relating to the restructured sub-committees, noting that they may be subject to modifications, depending on documentation submitted to the respective meetings and the advice of the outgoing Chairmen of the existing sub-committees.

### ***Working arrangements***

10 With regard to the implications and practicability of implementing the revised sub-committees' structure, MSC 92 agreed that matters already under consideration in the existing sub-committees should be considered with priority by the restructured sub-committees, in order that ongoing work could be completed before work on new outputs commences; and new outputs should only be included in the provisional agendas of sub-committees if a corresponding number of existing outputs had been completed.

11 In this connection, MSC 92 invited Member Governments to carefully consider the necessity of proposing new unplanned outputs and, in any case, provide full justifications for any urgent matters, during the transition period (considered to be the 2014-2015 biennium) from the old sub-committee structure to the new one.

12 The Council will also wish to note, in the context of the budget preparation for 2014-2015, the Committees' endorsement of a proposal for full five-day sessions with interpretation for the first sessions only of the NCSR and SDC Sub-Committees, to enable those sub-committees to cope with their heavy agendas.

13 MSC 92, having noted the views of the delegation of Cyprus regarding necessary changes to the IMODOCS website, requested the Secretariat to ensure that the new sub-committee structure was properly reflected on the website while also maintaining access to documents under the previous structure.

**Action requested of the Council**

14 The Council is invited to note that the Committees:

- .1 have agreed to:
    - .1 a reduction of the total number of sub-committees from nine to seven, with potential savings of four meeting-weeks per biennium; and
    - .2 the proposed names, terms of reference and biennial agendas of the seven sub-committees for the 2014-2015 biennium;
  - .2 have endorsed a proposal for full five-day sessions with interpretation for the first sessions of the NCSR and SDC sub-committees to enable them to cope with their heavy agendas; and
  - .3 have requested the Secretariat to make the necessary changes to the IMODOCS website to reflect the new sub-committee structure, whilst also maintaining access to documents under the previous structure.
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