

CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

In accordance with the request made by the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, in a letter dated 11 May 2018, this contribution focuses on main developments on ocean issues and the law of the sea within the areas of

Concrete proposals from Member States and interested international organizations are expected at the next session of MSC in December 2018.

New ships' routing measures in Bering Sea adopted

(paragraphs 153 - 155 of the UN General Assembly Resolution 72/73 refer)

Unsafe mixed migration by sea

(paragraphs 147 – 150 of the UN General Assembly Resolution 72/73 refer)

Seafarer shore leave extra protection

(paragraph 111 of the UN General Assembly Resolution 72/73 refers)

Seafarers' rights to shore leave have been strengthened through amendments of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL Convention), which entered into force globally on 1 January 2018. The FAL Convention aims to achieve the smooth transit in ports of ships, cargo and passengers.

guiding principles; and includes candidate short-, mid- and long-term further measures with possible timelines and their impacts on States. The strategy also identifies barriers and supportive measures including capacity building, technical cooperation and research and development (R&D).

IMO has already adopted global mandatory measures to address the reduction in GHG emissions from ships. IMO is also executing global technical cooperation projects to support the capacity of States, particularly developing States to implement and support energy efficiency in the shipping sector.

Entry into force garbage requirements under MARPOL Annex V
(paragraph 216 of the UN General Assembly Resolution 72/73 refers)

Amendments to MARPOL Annex V on Prevention of pollution by garbage from ships entered into force on 1 March 2018. They relate to cargo residues of products which are hazardous to the marine environment (HME) and Form of Garbage Record Book.

The amendments require, inter alia, the shipper to declare whether or not they are classed as harmful to the marine environment and include a

The Assembly recognized that the ongoing concern of marine plastic pollution required further consideration as part of a global solution within the framework of ocean governance. In response to that MEPC included a new output on its agenda to address the issue of marine plastic litter from shipping in the context of 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14). Member Governments and international organizations were invited to submit concrete proposals to the next meeting of the Committee in October 2018 on the development of an action plan. Meanwhile, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other international organizations will keep the MEPC updated on their work related to addressing marine plastic litter.

Marine litter and microplastics were also on the agenda of the thirty-ninth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the 12th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol. Parties to the London Convention and Protocol were urged to redouble efforts to share knowledge and technical expertise with regard to the analysis of plastics, including microplastics, in dredged material and sewage sludge; and encouraged to share information on