

COUNCIL
117th session
5-9 December 2016

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DISCLAIMER

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DRAFT SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

GENERAL

The 117th session of the Council was held from 5 to 9 December 2016 (with no session on Friday, 9 December 2016) and was chaired by Mr. J. Lantz (United States).

INVITATION TO NON-MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO ATTEND THE SESSION

[To be completed by the Secretariat after the meeting, based on document C 117/INF.1.]

Audio file: Monday, 5 December 2016: a.m.

EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCES

The Council joined the Secretary-General in extending condolences to those who had lost loved ones in the plane crash which occurred in Medellin, Colombia on Monday, 28 November 2016, whilst carrying members of a Brazilian football team and crew; and in the earthquake which occurred on Wednesday, 7 December 2016 in the Indonesian province of Aceh.

Audio file: Monday, 5 December, 2016: a.m. and p.m.
Tuesday, 6 December, 2016: a.m. and p.m.
Wednesday, 7 December 2016: a.m. and p.m.

1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (agenda item 1)

1.1 The Council adopted the agenda and its revised provisional timetable, as contained in documents C 117/1, C 117/1/Corr.1, C 117/1/1 and C 117/1/1/Rev.1.

Reference documents: C 117/1, C 117/1/Corr.1, C 117/1/1 and C 117/1/1/Rev.1

Audio file: Monday, 5 December 2016: a.m.

2 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS (agenda item 2)

2.1 With reference to rule 9 of its Rules of Procedure, the Council noted the Secretary-General's report that the credentials of all Council Member delegations attending the session were found to be in order.

Reference document: C 117/2

Audio file: Monday, 5 December 2016: a.m.
Tuesday, 6 December 2016: a.m.

3 STRATEGY, PLANNING AND REFORM (agenda item 3)

3.1 The Council noted the information set out in documents C 117/3, C 117/3/1, C 117/3/2, C 117/3/3, C 117/3/4 (Japan), C 117/INF.2 (Denmark, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)) and C 117/WP.2, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, the delegation of Japan and the Chair of the Working Group on the Development of a New Strategic Framework, on strategy, planning and reform.

3.2 With regard to the development of the new strategic framework (documents C 117/3, C 117/3/4, C 117/INF.2 and C 117/WP.2), the Council recalled that it had agreed at its previous session to the establishment of a Working Group during the current session of the Council with the aim to finalize the Vision Statement and the Strategic Directions with a view to approval. In this respect, Member States, as well as IGOs and NGOs in consultative status, had been invited to make submissions for consideration at C 117.

3.3 Taking into account the comments and decisions made at C 117 on Monday, 5 December 2016, and the documents submitted to the session (C 117/3 and C 117/3/4), the newly established Working Group was instructed to:

- (i) prepare the text to be included in the new strategic plan for the Organization for the 2018-2023 period in relation to (a) the Strategic Directions, (b) the Context Section and (c) the Vision Statement, with the draft terms of reference as contained in document C 117/WP.2; and
- (ii) submit a report to Council on Wednesday, 7 December 2016.

[MORE TO COME ON COMPLETION OF THE WORKING GROUP REPORT]

3.4 With regard to document C 117/3/3 on transparency and accountability of the Organization, the Council in particular noted and welcomed the information on the introduction of a policy on outside activities, as well as the information on the introduction of an ethics training programme for IMO staff members.

Reference documents: C 117/3, C 117/3/1, C 117/3/2, C 117/3/3, C 117/3/4, C 117/INF.2, C 117/WP.2 and C 117/WP.3

Audio file: Monday, 5 December 2016: a.m.

4 RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE COUNCIL (agenda item 4)

4.1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/4, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on proposals for amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Council.

4.2 The Council approved the amendments to its Rules of Procedure proposed in the annex to the document and instructed the Secretariat to make these changes in all official languages, as appropriate.

4.3 The Council decided to consider the issue of term limits for its Chair and Vice-Chair at its next session.

Reference document: C 117/4

Audio file: Monday, 5 December 2016: p.m.

5 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (agenda item 5)

(a) Human resources matters, including amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

5(a).1 The Council noted the information set out in documents C 117/5(a), C 117/5(a)/1 and C 117/5(a)/2, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on human resources matters.

5(a).2 With regard to document C 117/5(a)/1, the Council:

- (i) approved the establishment of Staff Regulations 3.3(b) and 3.3(c);
- (ii) further approved the amended text of the following Staff Regulations:
 - regulation 3.3(a)
 - paragraph 4 and tables 1, 2 and 5 of annex 1 of the Staff Regulations and a new table 6
- (iii) noted the amended Staff Rules 103.1, 103.5, 103.9, and 107.4, and the establishment of new Staff Rule 103.16; and
- (iv) further noted that the Secretary-General would apply the proposed amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules as from 1 January 2017 and that the effective implementation of the amendments for each of the staff concerned would be completed by 28 February 2017, due to the uncertainties with respect to the timely and satisfactory completion of the modification of the software which would be used for carrying out the related calculations.

5(a).3 With regard to geographical distribution and gender representation in the Secretariat, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on any developments in this regard, at its next session.

Reference document(s): C 117/5(a), C 117/5(a)/1 and C 117/5(a)/2

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: p.m.

(b) Report on arrears of contributions and of advances to the Working Capital Fund and on the implementation of Article 61 of the IMO Convention

5(b).1 The Council noted the information set out in documents C 117/5(b) and addendum, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, reporting on arrears of contributions and of advances to the Working Capital Fund and on the implementation of Article 61 of the IMO Convention.

5(b).2 The Council in particular:

- (i) noted the collection rate of Member States' contributions and the continuing arrears of those Member States identified in the two documents under review;
- (ii) urged those Member States with outstanding contributions, to remit them as soon as possible;
- (iii) reiterated its firm stance on the strict enforcement of Article 61 of the IMO Convention; and
- (iv) noted the balance in the Working Capital Fund of £1,363,678.

Reference document(s): C 117/5(b) and addendum, and C 116/5(d)/1 and addendum

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: p.m.

(c) Budget considerations for 2016 and 2017

5(c).1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/5(c), as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on budget considerations for 2016 and 2017.

5(c).2 The Council noted in particular:

- (i) the review of external pay and price factors;
- (ii) the impact of exchange rate movements;

- (iii) the forecast outturns of regular budget expenditure for 2016, assessed to be kept within the approved appropriation;
- (iv) the income and expenditure outturn and forecast in the Trading Fund and the consequential in-year surplus distribution;
- (v) the additional resource requirements in the Headquarters Capital Fund for 2016 and 2017;
- (vi) the expenditure status of the Termination Benefit Fund; the Training and Development Fund; the Technical Cooperation Fund; and extra-budgetary programmes;
- (vii) the establishment of the Delivering Strategy and Reform – Voyage Together Trust Fund, which aims to address policy issues on strategy and reform beyond those core functions financed from the regular budget; and expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for their contribution to the Fund;
- (viii) the main features considered in the preliminary assessment of budget prospects for 2017; and
- (ix) the summary, the Secretary-General's conclusion and his plan to present an updated review of budget prospects for 2017 to C 118.

5(c).3 The Council requested the Secretary-General to:

- (i) provide, at C 118, information on the operation and disbursement of the newly launched multi-donor trust Fund, taking into account that expenses for the core functions of the Organization should be covered by the regular budget; and
- (ii) present, to C 118, his plan on how he intends to address the existing situation of a considerable number of vacant posts within the Secretariat, while giving due consideration to the geographical and gender representation.

5(c).4 The Council authorized the Secretary-General to replenish the Working Capital Fund up to £2 million through the transfer of the differential amount, as of 1 January 2017, from the prospective underspend of appropriations in the regular budget for 2016.

5(c).5 The Council approved the Secretary-General's proposal of the revised budget of the Headquarters Capital Fund for the 2016-2017 biennium (table 13 in the document), and its financing source of the supplementary funds.

Reference document: C 117/5(c)

Audio file: Wednesday, 7 December 2016: a.m.

(d) Results-based budget: outline of budgetary implications for 2018-2019

5(d).1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/5(d), as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on the outline of budgetary implications for 2018 to 2019.

5(d).2 The Council noted in particular:

- (i) the preliminary estimation of resource requirements for the 2018-2019 biennium;
- (ii) the assessment of sustainable funding for the 2018-2023 period with various options and scenarios including the amendment to the Trading Fund surplus distribution formula;
- (iii) the review of the Mixed Zero Growth budget policy and the reason why the policy may not be sustainable for the future budget preparation; and
- (iv) the Secretary-General's plan to provide an updated budget outline, with sufficient time for due consideration at C 118, taking into account deliberations at C 117.

Reference document: C 117/5(d)

Audio file: Wednesday, 7 December 2016: p.m.

6 IMO MEMBER STATE AUDIT SCHEME (agenda item 6)

6.1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/6, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, containing an updated report on progress made in the implementation of the IMO Member State Audit Scheme since the 116th session of the Council.

6.2 The Council in particular:

- (i) noted the progress made in audits for 2016 and 2017 and the related information;
- (ii) invited those Member States that have been audited to provide authorization to the Secretariat for the release of any of the reports and corrective action plans from audits carried out under VIMSAS, so that as many audit reports as possible would be made available to all Member States or to the public;
- (iii) invited Member States to provide the Secretariat with details of an individual designated to be authorized to receive access to Member State audit reports through the GISIS module as per Circular Letter No.3587; and
- (iv) encouraged Member States to nominate those individuals who meet the criteria established in the Procedures for the Scheme as auditors under the Scheme, which includes demonstrable auditing skills and techniques, taking into account Circular Letter No.3547.

Reference document: C 117/6

Audio file: Monday, 5 December 2016: p.m.

7 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE (agenda item 7)

7.1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/7, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General and the Chair of the Marine Environment Protection Committee, reporting on the outcome of the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its seventieth session.

7.2 The Council endorsed the request of the Committee for additional human resources in the Secretariat to develop and maintain the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database and produce an annual report for the Committee summarizing the data collected, the status of missing data, and such other information as may be requested by the Committee; and requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary allocation in his 2018-2019 budget proposal.

7.3 The Council endorsed the holding of two intersessional meetings of the Working Group on Reduction of GHG emissions from ships in 2017, before MEPC 71 and in the autumn, respectively.

7.4 The Council also endorsed, in principle, the holding of further intersessional meetings on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships during the next biennium; and noted that further meetings in the coming years would be necessary during the implementation of the *Roadmap for developing a comprehensive IMO strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships* due to the urgency, importance and complexity of this topic.

7.5 The Council approved the report of the seventieth session of the Committee in general and transmitted it, with its comments and recommendations, to the Assembly at its thirtieth session, in accordance with Article 21(b) of the IMO Convention.

Reference document: C 117/7

Audio file: Monday, 5 December 2016: p.m.

8 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE (agenda item 8)

8.1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/8, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General and the Senior Deputy Director, Technical Cooperation Division, on behalf of the Chair of the Technical Cooperation Committee, reporting on the sixty-sixth session of the Technical Cooperation Committee.

8.2 The Council in particular:

- (i) noted the summary of the deliberations of the sixty-sixth session of the Committee set out in the document;

- (ii) in relation to the approach to be taken when considering the contribution of IMO towards the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the linkage of the IMO's work with the SDGs, the Council decided that the Committee would be guided by the new Strategic Framework being developed (see item 3 of this document); and
- (iii) authorized the convening of an intersessional working group, for a period of three days, to consider: a) the revision and updating of the Assembly resolutions in relation to technical cooperation; b) the linkage between the ITCP and the SDGs; c) the ITCP for the 2018-2019 biennium; d) proposals related to the recommendations set out in the 2016 Impact Assessment Exercise; and e) the review and revision of the 2007 Strategy on the long-term financing of the ITCP.

8.3 The Council approved the report of the sixty-sixth session of the Committee and transmitted it, together with its comments and recommendations to the thirtieth session of the Assembly, in accordance with Article 21(b) of the IMO Convention.

Reference document: C 117/8

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: p.m.

9 TECHNICAL COOPERATION FUND: REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE 2015 PROGRAMME (agenda item 9)

9.1 The Council noted the information set out in documents C 117/9/(a) and C 117/9/(b), as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on activities of the 2015 programme and the 2016 Impact Assessment Exercise.

Reference document(s): C 117/9(a) and C 117/9(b)

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: p.m.

10 IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE (IMLI) (agenda item 10)

(a) Report of the Governing Board

10(a).1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/10(a), as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General and the Director of the Institute, on the twenty-seventh Annual Report of the Governing Board.

10(a).2 The Council, in particular:

- (i) noted the Annual Report of the Governing Board on the work of IMLI covering developments up to 31 May 2016;
- (ii) agreed that, with effect from 2017, the IMLI Governing Board could report annually to the Council on the work of the Institute through a published Annual Report, which would also be used as a communications tool for the wider dissemination of IMLI's developments;
- (iii) urged, once more, Member States to take action so as to enable recognition, under their national legislation, of the degrees conferred by the Institute and, to that end, keep the Organization and the Institute informed of any developments;
- (iv) expressed its appreciation to the IMLI academic and administrative staff for their determined and dedicated efforts to ensure the Institute's performance and financial stability;
- (v) agreed that IMO could collaborate with the Institute for the dissemination of the maritime legislation, drafted by the students as part of a project in the curricula, and which aims at incorporating international conventions into domestic legislation. The project in its final form results in ready-to-use maritime legislation academically reviewed by external examiners and legal experts of high international standing;
- (vi) recognized the essential contribution the Institute continues to make in strengthening the capacity, of developing countries in particular, to implement the various IMO treaty instruments to which they are party; and
- (vii) reaffirmed its continuous support to the Institute in recognition of its success in maintaining high academic standards in the field of international maritime law.

Reference document: C 117/10(a)

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: a.m.

(b) Budget

10(b).1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/10(b), as well as that provided orally by the Director of IMLI, on behalf of the Secretary-General, on the budget.

10(b).2 The Council in particular:

- (i) noted the information relating to IMLI's revised Budget for 2016 and proposed Budget for 2017;
- (ii) noted the "unqualified" nature of the audit on the Institute's financial performance up to the end of 2015;
- (iii) expressed appreciation to all Members of the Governing Board, of the Finance and Human Resources Committee and of the Academic Committee for their contribution to the work of IMLI during the period under review;
- (iv) expressed its appreciation for the prudent management of IMLI's financial affairs and the building of the IMLI's reserves, as well as, the continuing efforts of the IMLI's Director and personnel to develop other revenue-generating activities for the benefit of IMLI;
- (v) further expressed appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for supporting IMLI, since its establishment, financially and in-kind and noted that the financial support provided by Switzerland to IMLI would end on 31 December 2016;
- (vi) noted the financial support the Organization had provided since 2010 to IMLI through the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme;
- (vii) noted further that, although the end of the Swiss financial support did not create any immediate concerns, the development had highlighted the need for the IMLI governing bodies to consider the risks and the consequences stemming from the current approach and the long-term sustainable funding of the operation of IMLI; and

(viii) expressed its thanks to the Government of Malta for its continuing generous in-kind support to IMLI and to those who through their financial contributions had made possible the operation of IMLI during the period under review, including:

- the Nippon Foundation;
- the Government of Switzerland;
- the Lloyd's Register Foundation;
- Transport Malta;
- the Comité Maritime International (CMI) Charitable Trust; and
- the Institute's Director, Prof. David Attard, for his donation to support the Ph.D. Programme.

Reference document: C 117/10(b)

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: a.m.

11 REPORT ON THE 38TH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE LONDON CONVENTION 1972 AND THE 11TH MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE 1996 PROTOCOL TO THE LONDON CONVENTION (agenda item 11)

11.1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/11, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General and the Chair of the governing bodies to the London Convention and Protocol, on the outcome of the thirty-eighth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention 1972 and the eleventh Meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention, held concurrently from 19 to 23 September 2016.

11.2 The Council, in particular, noted the actions taken and decisions made, as set out in paragraph 23 of document C 117/11.

Reference document(s): C 117/11 and LC 38/16

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: a.m.

12 PROTECTION OF VITAL SHIPPING LANES (agenda item 12)

12.1 The Council noted the information set out in documents C 117/12, C 117/12/1 and C 117/12/2 (Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore), as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on the protection of vital shipping lanes.

12.2 With regard to document C 117/12 on the prevention and suppression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Gulf of Guinea and off the coast of Somalia, the Council:

- (i) expressed its concern for the number of attacks and boardings of ships in the Gulf of Guinea;
- (ii) expressed its concern for the reports of missile and other attacks against ships operating in the southern Red Sea;
- (iii) called upon flag States to monitor threats to ships entitled to fly their flag and to set appropriate security levels, in accordance with the ISPS Code;
- (iv) expressed appreciation to all those countries that have contributed to the IMO West and Central Africa Maritime Security Trust Fund, the Djibouti Code Trust Fund, and the International Maritime Security Trust Fund and further expressed appreciation to those countries and organizations that have assisted in the implementation of the associated programmes;
- (v) invited Member Governments and organizations to continue contributing to the IMO West and Central Africa Maritime Security Trust Fund and Djibouti Code Trust Fund;
- (vi) welcomed the improvements to the piracy situation off the coast of Somalia and in the Indian Ocean and expressed appreciation to Member States providing naval and other resources in the region; and
- (vii) expressed its concern for the innocent seafarers still in captivity.

12.3 With regard to documents C 117/12/1 and C 117/12/2 on developments concerning the Cooperative Mechanism for the Malacca and Singapore Straits (SOMS), the Council:

- (i) expressed appreciation to the littoral States of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore for the timely implementation of the various components of the Cooperative Mechanism in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore;
- (ii) also expressed appreciation to those Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which have made contributions to, and/or pledged support for, the various projects under the Cooperative Mechanism and the IMO Malacca and Singapore Straits Fund; and
- (iii) invited Member States and organizations to continue and further strengthen contributions to the projects under the Mechanism; as well as contributions to the IMO Malacca and Singapore Straits Trust Fund.

Reference documents: C 117/12, C 117/12/1 and C 117/12/2

Audio file: Monday, 5 December 2016: p.m.

13 PERIODIC REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS IN MANDATORY IMO INSTRUMENTS (agenda item 13)

13.1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/13, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on the Periodic Review of Administrative Requirements in Mandatory IMO Instruments.

13.2 With regard to recommendation 2 in the report of the Ad Hoc Steering Group for Reducing Administrative Requirements (SG-RAR), the Council decided not to pursue the development of a web-based information portal as envisaged therein.

13.3 The Council endorsed the Secretary-General's approach to the continued development and management of GISIS, including the provision of a vision for GISIS, but without the inclusion of a platform to facilitate the operational aspects of port State control activities.

13.4 With regard to recommendation 12 in the report of the Ad Hoc Steering Group for Reducing Administrative Requirements (SG-RAR), the Council completed its consideration of this item.

Reference document: C 117/13

Audio file: Wednesday, 7 December 2016: p.m.

14 PRINCIPLES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE REVIEW OF EXISTING REQUIREMENTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW REQUIREMENTS (agenda item 14)

14.1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/14 (Greece, Sweden, the United Kingdom, BIMCO, IACS, ICS, INTERCARGO and INTERTANKO), as well as that provided orally by the delegation of the United Kingdom, on principles to be considered in the review of existing requirements and the development of new requirements.

14.2 The Council, although not supporting the specific proposal contained in the document, decided to keep the item in its agenda and invited submissions from interested delegations for consideration at its next session.

Reference document: C 117/14

Audio file: Wednesday, 7 December 2016: p.m.

15 EXTERNAL RELATIONS (agenda item 15)

(a) Relations with the United Nations and specialized agencies

15(a).1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/15(a), as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on relations with the United Nations and specialized agencies.

15(a).2 The Council in particular noted the information provided with respect to:

- (i) the seventeenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP);
- (ii) the United Nations General Assembly high-level Summit for Refugees and Migrants; and
- (iii) the United Nations first Global Sustainable Transport Conference.

15(a).3 The Council further requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed of any relevant developments in this regard.

Reference document: C 117/15(a)

Audio file: Monday, 5 December 2016: p.m.

(b) Joint Inspection Unit

15(b).1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/15(b), as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on matters relating to the Joint Inspection Unit.

15(b).2 The Council in particular:

- (i) noted the report on "Succession planning in the United Nations system organizations" (JIU/REP/2016/2) and the Secretary-General's comments thereon; and
- (ii) with regard to the report on "Fraud prevention, detection and response in United Nations system organizations" (JIU/REP/2016/4), noted that the Secretary-General would provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations at a future session of the Council.

Reference document: C 117/15(b)

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: a.m.

(c) Relations with intergovernmental organizations

There was no document or new information to be reported under this agenda item.

(d) Relations with non-governmental organizations

15(d).1 The Council noted that the International Sailing Federation Ltd. (ISAF) had changed its name to World Sailing Ltd., without an acronym.

Reference documents: No related document

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: a.m.

(e) Report on World Maritime Day 2016

15(e).1 The Council noted the information set out in documents C 117/15(e), C 117/15(e)/1 (Argentina) and C 117/15(e)/2 (Turkey), as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on World Maritime Day 2016.

15(e).2 The Council extended its appreciation to Member Governments, organizations and individuals involved in the celebration of World Maritime Day 2016 and the media for covering it.

15(e).3 The Council also expressed its appreciation to the Government of Turkey, in particular, for successfully hosting the 2016 World Maritime Day parallel event in Istanbul from 3 to 6 November 2016.

15(e).4 With regard to World Maritime Day 2017, the Council recalled that, at its 116th session in July this year, it had decided that the theme for the Day should be "**Connecting Ships, Ports and People**". In respect of the 2017 World Maritime Day parallel event, the Council further recalled that it had accepted the generous offer of the Government of Panama to be the next host in 2017.

15(e).5 The Council, recalling that 2018 would mark several important anniversaries (document C116/D paragraph, 15(e).7) and mindful of the fact that ample time would be necessary to prepare the anniversary celebrations, endorsed, six months earlier than the usual practice, the Secretary-General's proposed theme for World Maritime Day 2018 — "**IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future**" — and authorized that action be taken for the celebration of the anniversaries and the World Maritime Day in 2018, in accordance with the established practice.

Reference document(s): C 117/15(e), C 117/15(e)/1 and C 117/15(e)/2

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: a.m.

(f) Report of the Day of the Seafarer 2016

15(f).1 The Council noted the information set out in documents C 117/15(f) and C 117/15(f)/1 (Argentina), as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on the Day of the Seafarer 2016, and expressed appreciation to all those who had worked to organize the celebrations and making them a success.

Reference document(s): C 117/15(f) and C 117/15(f)/1

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: a.m.

(g) IMO Maritime Ambassador Scheme

15(g).1 The Council noted the information set out in documents C 117/15(g) and C 117/15(g)/1 (Argentina), as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on the IMO Maritime Ambassador Scheme.

15(g).2 The Council expressed appreciation to all those involved in this Scheme who made it a success, and encouraged Member States and organizations in consultative status that had not yet done so to consider appointing an IMO Maritime Ambassador.

Reference document(s): C 117/15(g) and C 117/15(g)/1

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: a.m.

16 REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE CONVENTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION (agenda item 16)

16.1 The Council noted the information set out in documents C 117/16 and addendum, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on the status of the Convention and membership of the Organization.

16.2 The Council noted that the Republic of Belarus had deposited an instrument of acceptance of the Convention with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 29 November 2016 and that, consequently, there were now 172 Members, while the number of Associate Members remained unchanged at three. The Council extended a warm welcome to the Republic of Belarus, which was present as an observer and offered an introductory statement.

16.3 The Council encouraged, endorsed and supported the Secretary-General in his efforts to make IMO and its work more widely known and to ensure that it maintains its deserved position in the global maritime community. The Council further encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to assist all Member States, in particular developing countries, to participate fully and effectively in the work of the Organization.

Reference documents: C 117/16 and addendum

Audio file: Monday, 5 December 2016: a.m.

17 REPORT ON THE STATUS OF CONVENTIONS AND OTHER MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENTS IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE ORGANIZATION PERFORMS FUNCTIONS (agenda item 17)

17.1 The Council noted the information set out in documents C 117/17 and addendum and C 117/17/1, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, on the status of conventions and other multilateral instruments in respect of which the Organization performs functions.

17.2 With regard to document C 117/17 and addendum, the Council in particular:

- (i) welcomed the news that the Ballast Water Management Convention, 2004, will enter into force on 8 September 2017; and
- (ii) endorsed and supported the Secretary-General's efforts to communicate the need for Governments to complement the international legal framework of instruments established by IMO with timely ratification, early entry into force and widespread and effective implementation.

17.3 With regard to document C 117/17/1, the Council supported the practice outlined in the document and requested the Secretary-General to notify the Council in advance should the Secretariat wish to use the most current data available to ascertain the actual status of ratification in the future.

Reference document(s): C 117/17 and addendum, C 117/17/1

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: p.m.

18 PLACE, DATE AND DURATION OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COUNCIL AND SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDAS FOR THE NEXT TWO SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL (agenda item 18)

18.1 The Council noted the information set out in document C 117/18, as well as that provided orally by the Secretary-General, relating to the place, date and duration of the next session of the Council and substantive items for inclusion in the provisional agendas for the next two sessions of the Council.

18.2 The Council agreed that its 118th regular session be held at IMO Headquarters from 24 to 28 July 2017 and that budgetary provision be made for eight plenary sessions with full interpretation over a five-day meeting.

18.3 The Council further noted the substantive items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agendas for its 118th regular and its twenty-ninth extraordinary sessions and agreed that the consideration of the report of the seventy-first session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee would be included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth extraordinary session of the Council, rather than its 118th regular session, in view of the proximity between MEPC 71 and C 118.

18.4 The Council also noted that the duration of the twenty-ninth extraordinary session of the Council would be decided at the 118th regular session of the Council in 2017.

Reference document: C 117/18

Audio file: Tuesday, 6 December 2016: p.m.
