

ASSEMBLY
32nd session
Agenda item 12

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Resolution A.1160(32)

**Adopted on 15 December 2021
(Agenda item 12)**

**COMPREHENSIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS SEAFARERS' CHALLENGES
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines regarding maritime safety and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

RECALLING ALSO resolution MSC.473(ES.2) on *Recommended action to facilitate ship crew change, access to medical care and seafarer travel during the COVID-19 pandemic*, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee on 21 September 2020,

RECALLING FURTHER resolution MSC.490(103) on *Recommended action to prioritize COVID-19 vaccination of seafarers*, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee on 14 May 2021,

RECALLING that the Maritime Safety Committee, at its 102nd session, approved MSC.1/Circ.1636, containing the *Industry recommended framework of protocols for ensuring safe ship crew changes and travel during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic*; recognized the importance of the protocols; and invited Member States and relevant stakeholders to consider them and take them into account,

NOTING resolution A.75/17 on *International cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chains*, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 1 December 2020,¹

NOTING ALSO resolution GB.340/Resolution (Rev.2) – *Resolution concerning maritime labour issues and the COVID-19 pandemic*, adopted by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office on 8 December 2020,²

NOTING FURTHER the *Resolution concerning the implementation and practical application of the MLC, 2006, during the COVID-19 pandemic*, and the *Resolution concerning COVID-19 vaccination for seafarers*, adopted by the ILO Special Tripartite Committee of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006) on 23 April 2021,³

¹ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/17>

² https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_760649.pdf

³ https://www.ilo.org/global/standards/maritime-labour-convention/events/WCMS_679152/lang-en/index.htm

MINDFUL of the severe challenges the COVID-19 pandemic poses for international shipping and Governments' ability to respond effectively to these challenges,

MINDFUL ALSO of the importance of the health and safety of seafarers and the need to protect their mental and physical health, welfare and well-being, as these elements are paramount to ensure maritime safety, security and environmental protection,

BEING CONCIIOUS of the unique and essential contribution of seafarers to international shipping and the world by ensuring the uninterrupted transportation of vital medical supplies, food and other basic necessities, including during the COVID-19 pandemic,

BEING AWARE of the continuously high number of seafarers that require repatriation in accordance with the MLC, 2006, and those in urgent need to join ships to replace them,

MINDFUL of the need to protect seafarers through vaccination, as soon as possible, to facilitate their safe movement across borders,

REITERATING the numerous statements by the United Nations (UN) and UN System Organizations emphasizing, inter alia, the need to designate seafarers as "key workers" and ensure their access to medical care, prioritization for COVID-19 vaccinations and facilitation of travel, thus preserving their welfare and rights,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendations made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its 104th session,

1 URGES Member States and relevant national authorities to:

- .1 designate seafarers as "key workers" in order to facilitate shore leave and safe and unhindered movement across borders, recognizing relevant documentation carried by seafarers as evidence of this status, which would entail the application of temporary measures including (where possible under relevant law) waivers, exemptions or other relaxations from any visa or documentary requirements;
- .2 consider the implementation of the *Industry recommended framework of protocols for ensuring safe ship crew changes and travel during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic* (MSC.1/Circ.1636/Rev.1, as may be revised);
- .3 prioritize vaccination of seafarers, as far as practicable, in their national COVID-19 vaccination programmes, noting the advice of the WHO SAGE Roadmap⁴ for prioritizing the use of COVID-19 vaccines; and consider extending COVID-19 vaccines to seafarers of other nationalities, taking into account national vaccines supply;
- .4 consider exempting seafarers from any national policy requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination as a condition for entry, taking into account that seafarers should be designated as "key workers" and that they travel across borders frequently;
- .5 provide seafarers with immediate access to medical care and facilitate medical evacuation of seafarers in need of urgent medical attention when the

⁴ WHO SAGE Roadmap for prioritizing the uses of COVID-19 vaccines in the context of limited supply: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-sage-roadmap-for-prioritizing-uses-of-covid-19-vaccines-in-the-context-of-limited-supply>

required medical care cannot be provided either on board or in the port of call;

2 REQUESTS Member States and international organizations to bring this resolution to the attention of all parties concerned.
