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Adopted on 6 December 2023 (Agenda item 27)

APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICES TO THE ORGANIZATION OF MR. K. LIM

THE ASSEMBLY,

WISHING TO RECORD WITH DEEP APPRECIATION the outstanding contribution made by Mr. Lim to the purposes and functions of the Organization during his distinguished tenure as Secretary-General from 1 January 2016,

RECOGNIZING WITH GRATITUDE his dedication and commitment to the ideals and mission of the Organization in improving the safety of life at sea, protecting the environment, enhancing maritime security, improving the efficiency of maritime traffic, ensuring the consideration of relevant legal matters, fostering and promoting global acceptance and uniform and effective implementation and enforcement of IMO's treaty instruments, including through the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and the IMO Member State Audit Scheme,

APPRECIATING DEEPLY his effective leadership, wise counsel, vision and purpose, as well as his strong and effective advocacy of cooperation, collaboration and transparency throughout the work of the Organization and of its role as an integral component of the United Nations system,

RECOGNIZING that, during his distinguished tenure, reductions in the loss of life at sea and in the incidence of marine pollution from ships, and improvements in the security of shipping have been significant,

RECOGNIZING ALSO his pursuit of a global sustainable, diverse, efficient and green maritime sector, in the context of supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals,

FURTHER APPRECIATING his personal contribution to establishing and securing globally applicable safety, security, environmental, facilitation and legal standards and to the consequent high regard and respect in which IMO is held, as evidenced by:

- (i) his firm and resolute commitment to the promotion of IMO as the only organization for the development and adoption of global maritime standards, which has led to the further widening and unity of the Membership of the Organization, now standing at 175 Member States and three Associate Members;

- (ii) his strong support for and encouragement of collaboration between the Organization and other entities of the United Nations system in all matters of mutual concern, and of effective participation in the Organization's work by all sectors of the shipping and related industries and organizations representing civil society interests;
- (iii) his unwavering commitment to enhancing environmental protection, in particular with regard to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships and the efforts to bring shipping in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement, firstly through the adoption of the 2018 Initial IMO Strategy on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships, and culminating in the adoption of the 2023 Strategy on Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ships, supported by the convening of many symposiums, workshops and round tables to facilitate discussions and agreements on IMO's ambitious goals;
- (iv) his strong commitment to recognizing and addressing additional global environmental concerns whilst safeguarding the role of the shipping industry in support of international trade, in particular with respect to the entry into force and subsequent implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention, the implementation of the 2020 sulphur limit and the marine plastic litter action plan and strategy, as well as concrete energy-efficiency measures for ships;
- (v) his promotion of the entry into force of IMO instruments in support of the Organization's objectives, including the entry into force of the Hong Kong Ship Recycling Convention and the Polar Code, and the promotion of the entry into force of the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 in respect of fishing vessel safety, and with the convening of the Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing to significantly increase the ratification of the Cape Town Agreement;
- (vi) his leadership in dealing with piracy, including through the organization of the high-level meetings among littoral States and international partners, the promotion of regional cooperation among signatory States to the Yaoundé Code of Conduct and the provision of support to the impacted countries on anti-piracy measures leading to the reduction of piracy incidents off the coast of Somalia, Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Guinea;
- (vii) his tireless resolve to secure inter-agency collaboration for the development of appropriate responses to the humanitarian crisis impacting the well-being of seafarers caused first by the COVID-19 pandemic and then by geopolitical conflicts including the armed conflict in Ukraine;
- (viii) his promotion of the importance of maritime personnel, and in particular seafarers, demonstrated by the inclusion of a strategic direction on the human element in the Organization's strategic plan, his strong support for the comprehensive review of the Standards for Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Convention, and the strengthening of United Nations system-wide cooperation and coordination on human element related issues, in particular with the International Labour Organization (ILO), culminating in the Joint IMO/ILO Conference on Work at Sea;

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- (ix) his unstinting support for the advancement of women in the maritime sector, resulting in the 2019 Year for the empowerment of women, the establishment of the International Day for Women in Maritime on 19 May, as well as the IMO Gender Equality Award;
 - (x) his dedication to maritime education and training and to strengthening the governance and capacity of the Organization's educational institutions, the World Maritime University and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, which are successfully providing high-quality, advanced maritime education and training, and, in particular, his achievements regarding the significant improvements in the financial sustainability of the World Maritime University and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, and the support for the accreditation of degrees of the World Maritime University by the Government of Sweden and the recognition by the Government of Malta of the Master's degrees of the International Maritime Law Institute; and
 - (xi) his determination to ensure an open and direct dialogue and line of communication with Member Governments, to maintain a spirit of conviviality with all maritime diplomats, to facilitate discussions and to expand the Organization's public outreach activities through the enhancement of the IMO public website, the use of social media and electronic publications, as well as the active engagement with maritime and general media to facilitate articles, interviews and widespread reporting on IMO's many achievements;

WELCOMING his many initiatives on and full commitment to the reform of the Organization which have led to increased transparency, innovation and change, including through:

- (i) his prudent management of the Organization's resources and consistent delivery of the Organization's budget, and his commitment to increased transparency, innovation and management of change;
- (ii) the restructuring of the Secretariat including with the establishment of the Department of Partnerships and Projects to further enhance IMO's capacity development activities and strengthen resource mobilization and the development of long-term partnerships;
- (iii) the swift implementation of remote meetings to ensure the continuation of the invaluable work of all IMO organs during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the subsequent implementation of hybrid capabilities to enhance the inclusivity of IMO meetings by enabling remote participation;
- (iv) the continued ensuring of the Organization's long-term financial sustainability, which facilitated the adoption of firm budgetary policies, prudent resource management, efficiency gains and cost savings, whilst ensuring the delivery of the Organization's regulatory work and the Secretariat's business plans without significantly increasing the Member States' assessments in his budget proposals;
- (v) the development of progressive human resource policies on staff mobility, enhanced flexible working and strengthened financial disclosure; and

- (vi) the continued enhancement of the Organization's technical cooperation and capacity development programme, in particular through the development of the 2030 Capacity Development Strategy, to better enable developing States to adopt, implement and enforce the Organization's instruments and ensure the sustainability of their maritime transportation sectors,

1 EXPRESSES its deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to Mr. Kitack Lim for his loyalty, commitment, dedication, enthusiasm and contribution to the overall purposes of the Organization and for leading and guiding the considerable achievements, which have enhanced the Organization's status and effectiveness and led to increased worldwide recognition of its essential role in the setting of global maritime standards;

2 DESIGNATES Mr. Kitack Lim as Secretary-General Emeritus of the International Maritime Organization with effect from 1 January 2024.
