

ASSEMBLY
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**Adopted on 30 November 2011
(Agenda item 27)**

**APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICES TO THE ORGANIZATION
OF MR. EFTHIMIOS E. MITROPOULOS**

THE ASSEMBLY,

WISHING TO RECORD WITH DEEP APPRECIATION the outstanding contribution made by Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos to the purposes and functions of the Organization during his long and distinguished career with the Organization culminating in the eight-year period of his tenure as Secretary-General from 1 January 2004,

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 whether marine or atmospheric, enhancing maritime security, improving the efficiency of maritime traffic, ensuring the consideration of relevant legal matters and 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,

DEEPLY APPRECIATING his effective leadership, his wise counsel, his clarity of vision and purpose, as well as his strong and insistent advocacy of a united membership and the adoption of an effective global maritime safety and security culture, environmental consciousness and corporate responsibility,

RECOGNIZING that during his distinguished stewardship there has been a material and sustained reduction in both the loss of life at sea and marine pollution from ships,

FURTHER APPRECIATING his personal contribution towards establishing and securing globally applicable safety, security, environmental, facilitation and legal standards and towards the resultant 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, leading to the widening of the membership of the Organization, which now stands at 170 Member States and three Associate Members;
- (ii) his strong support for and encouragement of effective participation in the Organization's work by all sectors of the shipping and related industries and by organizations representing civil society interests;

- (iii) his unwavering support for the Organization's technical co-operation programme, which has better enabled developing States to adopt, implement and enforce the Organization's instruments;
- (iv) his dedication to strengthening the governance and capacity of the Organization's educational institutions, which have become firmly established global providers of high-quality, advanced maritime training and education;
- (v) his advocacy and foresight in working towards the establishment of a mandatory scheme for the auditing of IMO Member States' maritime administrations;
- (vi) his leadership in the wide and effective implementation of the 1979 Maritime Search and Rescue Convention and his tireless efforts to promote the establishment of the Global SAR Plan;
- (vii) his unstinting efforts to enhance environmental awareness and responsibility among all stakeholders and, in particular, to develop and adopt major amendments to existing IMO environmental treaty instruments, including the standards contained in MARPOL Annex VI aimed at reducing air pollution from, and improving the energy efficiency of, ships;
- (viii) his landmark success in instituting the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea and the holding of parallel World Maritime Day events around the world to promote the work of the Organization;
- (ix) his success in rallying the global maritime community in support of seafarers through the launching of the "Go to Sea!" campaign in 2009 and the denomination of 2010 as the international "Year of the Seafarer", to recognize their significant contribution to world trade, culminating in the adoption of the 2010 Manila amendments to the STW Convention and the launch of the "Day of the Seafarer" to be celebrated on 25 June every year; and
- (x) his tenacious resolve to gain global support from all relevant stakeholders in response to the threat of piracy and armed robbery against ships and his denomination of the World Maritime Day theme for 2011 as "Piracy – orchestrating the response",

RECALLING:

- (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) his successful delivery, on favourable terms to the Organization, of the headquarters comprehensive refurbishment programme, on time and to budget;
- (iii) his strong commitment to recognizing and addressing global environmental concerns while safeguarding the role of the shipping industry in support of international trade;

- (iv) his leadership in developing new international conventions on matters including ballast water management; wreck removal; suppression of unlawful acts; ship recycling; and hazardous and noxious substances;
- (v) his humanitarian support for individuals and developing countries, including the use of his good offices to promote the release of detained seafarers and the establishment of funds to support the south-east Asian tsunami victims and those of the Haiti earthquake;
- (vi) his determination and drive in establishing regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres and Sub-Centres along the coast of Africa; and
- (vii) his unstinting support for the advancement of women in the maritime sector,

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

2. DESIGNATES Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos as Secretary-General Emeritus of the International Maritime Organization with effect from 1 January 2012.
