

RESOLUTION MEPC.406(84) (adopted on 1 May 2026)
ACTIONS TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ARABIAN
SEA, SEA OF OMAN AND THE GULF REGION, PARTICULARLY IN AND AROUND THE STRAIT
OF HORMUZ, RESULTING FROM THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

ANNEX 2

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THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 38(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING ALSO that the purpose of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as set forth in article 1 of the IMO Convention and reflected in the Strategic Plan of IMO is to promote safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping through cooperation,

RECALLING FURTHER that the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes, and that the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC) provides an international framework for preparedness, response and cooperation in respect of oil and hazardous and noxious substance pollution incidents,

NOTING that the Council, at its thirty-sixth extraordinary session, concerning the impact on shipping and seafarers of the situation in the Arabian Sea, Sea of Oman and the Gulf Region, particularly in and around the Strait of Hormuz:

- .1 reaffirmed its commitment to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and all relevant international conventions and agreements related to maritime safety, security and environmental protection;
- .2 recalled the purposes of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as set forth in article 1 of the IMO Convention, and the mission in the Strategic Plan of IMO to promote safe, secure and environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping through cooperation;
- .3 underscored the paramount importance of preserving the security of international shipping and the maritime community, as well as the energy and humanitarian supply chains; and also emphasized the need to preserve the marine environment and marine biodiversity;
- .4 strongly condemned the threats and attacks against vessels and purported closure of the Strait of Hormuz by the Islamic Republic of Iran, adversely affecting merchant and commercial vessels and threatening the safety and welfare of seafarers, which is contrary to the purposes of IMO as set forth in article 1 of the Convention, and represents a grave danger to life and serious risk to the safety of navigation and the marine environment;
- .5 demanded that the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately refrain, in accordance with international law, from any actions or threats aimed at

closing, obstructing or otherwise interfering with international navigation through the Strait of Hormuz or against merchant or commercial vessels in and around the Strait of Hormuz, to ensure the safety and welfare of seafarers and the security of international shipping and the marine environment, and to respect its obligations under international law;

DEEPLY CONCERNED by the impact of the Islamic Republic of Iran's egregious attacks on commercial vessels, maritime infrastructure coastal civilian infrastructure, and the risks they pose to the marine environment of the Gulf region,

- .1 STRONGLY CONDEMNS the egregious attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the territories, including territorial waters, of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan, and against merchant and commercial vessels, which constitutes a breach of international law;
- .2 REAFFIRMS in this regard its strong commitment to ensure the sustainable use of oceans and seas, and the protection of marine and coastal ecosystems;
- .3 STRESSES the critical importance, during situations of armed conflict, of compliance with relevant obligations under international humanitarian law and of protecting the marine environment from pollution by oil, hazardous and noxious substances and other harmful substances;
- .4 RECOGNIZES that the Gulf and adjacent waters constitute an environmentally vulnerable marine area in functional terms, owing to their shallow depths, semi-enclosed character, restricted water exchange, ecological sensitivity and the potentially transboundary consequences of major pollution incidents;
- .5 EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN that attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran directed at peaceful tankers and other commercial and merchant vessels, maritime and other coastal infrastructure may give rise to large-scale marine pollution involving oil, hazardous and noxious substances, contaminated fire-fighting water, soot deposition, atmospheric deposition into coastal and marine waters of particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulphur compounds, trace metals and hazardous residues arising from missiles, drones, fires and explosions, sediment contamination and debris pollution, as well as to acoustic and physical disruption of marine species, which greatly threatens offshore ecosystems in a part of the world with significant marine biodiversity, with potential long-term and cumulative adverse impacts on marine ecosystems and coastal livelihoods, and carries severe water-security implications of contamination in a desalination-dependent region;
- .6 DEMANDS that the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately cease attacks or threats against commercial and merchant vessels, critical port infrastructure and coastal civilian infrastructure, that threaten to pollute the marine environment from oil, chemicals, sea mines and any other harmful substances;

- .7 ENCOURAGES Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to strengthen pollution preparedness and response cooperation, including under MARPOL and the OPRC, and to review contingency arrangements for major oil or hazardous and noxious substance incidents affecting the Arabian Sea, Sea of Oman and the Gulf region;
- .8 INVITES Member States concerned and observer organizations to provide relevant information to the Committee on incidents affecting the marine environment, ship operations, navigational safety, seafarer welfare, and preparedness and response needs, in order to support further consideration by IMO bodies;
- .9 UNDERSCORES that preventing pollution in the Arabian Sea, Sea of Oman and the Gulf region is essential not only for the protection of the marine environment and marine biodiversity, but also for safeguarding seafarers, fisheries, coastal livelihoods and the resilience of regional and global supply chains;
- .10 INVITES the Council, in light of the gravity and continuing nature of the situation and its implications for the implementation of the Organization's instruments, to consider placing this matter and any recommendations of IMO bodies before the Assembly for such further action as it may deem appropriate;
- .11 INVITES the Secretary-General to monitor the negative impact on the marine environment, caused by the Islamic Republic of Iran's actions and threats in the Arabian Sea, Sea of Oman and the Gulf Region, particularly in and around the Strait of Hormuz that fell under IMO's remit, and report to C 137;
- .12 RESOLVES to keep this matter under review and invites Member States concerned to provide relevant reports to the Committee.

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