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Circular Letter No.4757  
31 July 2023

To: All IMO Members  
United Nations and specialized agencies  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Third "IMO-UNEP-Norway Innovation Forum" to be held on 28 September 2023 as part of World Maritime Day Celebrations**

1 After the adoption of the *Initial IMO Strategy on reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from ships* on 13 April 2018, the Government of Norway, the IMO Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) discussed ways and means for supporting the Strategy to reduce emissions from shipping through advocating and promoting inclusive technological innovation, and a clear gap was identified in terms of providing a global platform to discuss these ideas. This led to the establishment of the IMO-UNEP-Norway Zero- and Low-Emission Innovation Forum (the Innovation Forum), which acted as a global information exchange platform to promote inclusive innovation for accelerating the transition of the marine sector towards a zero- and low-emission future while leaving no one behind. Over the past two years, consecutive Innovation Forums were successfully organized, with over 1,300 online participants in 2021 and over 1,900 participants (online and in-person) in 2022, attending from all over the world.

2 IMO Members States and the international maritime community at large are actively engaged in supporting the green transition of the maritime sector into a sustainable future. Identifying new ways and means of collaboration between global north and global south, financing sustainable maritime transport in developing countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small islands developing States (SIDS), bringing together Member States, research & development centres, technology developers, industry, academia, knowledge partners and other stakeholders to share experiences and good practices that accelerate inclusive innovation, are paramount for a voyage together.

3 Therefore, the Secretary-General has the honour to invite participation in the IMO-UNEP-Norway Innovation Forum 2023, which will be focused on the World Maritime Day theme "MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on", addressing research, technology and infrastructure needs of developing countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small islands developing States (SIDS), as well as research and partnerships needs for developing innovative GHG technologies and financial needs for their piloting and deployment, particularly in developing countries.

4 The forum will be held on Thursday, 28 September in hybrid mode, in person at the IMO Headquarters and online in English only. The event will be also streamed on the IMO YouTube Channel and on the United Nations Web TV.

5 This third forum aims at championing innovation to accelerate the transition of the marine sector towards a zero- and low-emission future and will have a special emphasis on inclusive innovation for decarbonization of maritime sector. The event intends to promote innovation by providing a global platform to exchange best practices and fill necessary gaps by gathering ideas and latest developments from all stakeholders and the need for enhanced cooperation at all levels to support this global transition. The forum will consist of high-level opening followed by presentations and discussion panels where policy, technology and R&D champions will provide updates and perspectives leading to engaging discussions on innovation and fuel needs for maritime decarbonization and technologies for greener shipping.

6 The forum will be open to all Member Governments, United Nations specialized agencies, IGOs, NGOs, industry representatives, academia and the general public. Participation from least developed countries (LDCs) and small islands developing States (SIDS) is particularly encouraged.

7 The registration link is already available on the IMO website at [IMO-UNEP-Norway Innovation Forum 2023](#). The provisional programme will be issued in due course. Since a limited number of seats are available in the IMO Main Hall, interested Member States and organizations which wish to participate in person are strongly encouraged to register at their earliest convenience.

8 Member States are invited to disseminate the invitation to interested parties and stakeholders and to encourage their representatives to participate.

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