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Circular Letter No.4974
17 February 2025

To: IMO Member States and other Governments
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **MASS Symposium 2025 co-sponsored by IMO and Norway**
"Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships as a reality: the need for the IMO MASS Code" (17 June 2025)

1 The Secretary-General has the honour to invite participation in the forthcoming IMO/Norway Symposium on MASS 2025 on "Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships as a reality: the need for the IMO MASS Code", scheduled to take place in hybrid mode at 9 a.m. (UTC+1) on Tuesday, 17 June 2025 (prior to MSC 110), in committee room 9 (second floor) at IMO Headquarters, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR.

2 The Symposium is co-hosted by IMO and the Government of Norway to share their efforts in contributing to the development of the IMO MASS Code, while showcasing relevant MASS industry projects, applications and operational experience.

3 The Symposium aims to support the development by the Organization of a goal-based, non-mandatory MASS Code, in providing expert presentations on the latest research and development in maritime autonomous systems, along with insights from successful MASS trials. The experience gained by Administrations, researchers, shipping companies and operators on the use of autonomous systems, including challenges, is considered to be conducive to the discussion in the MASS Working Group at MSC 110.

4 The Symposium is intended as an in-person event at IMO Headquarters with hybrid support for remote participation. It will be conducted in English only without interpretation and will also be streamed on the [IMO YouTube channel](#) during the event.

5 Registration is mandatory for active participation and further details are set out in annex 1. On-site participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation. Visa support letters can be provided upon request once registration has been completed.

6 A provisional agenda is set out in annex 2 subject to modifications closer to the event itself. Further information on the symposium, including the revised provisional programme, can be found at the [event page](#), which the participants are encouraged to visit for the latest updates, including the revised programme as the event date approaches.

7 For any additional information and queries, please contact the IMO Secretariat by email at: mass@imo.org.

ANNEX 1

REGISTRATION

Member Governments, UN Agencies, IGOs and NGOs are required to provide, prior to the meeting date, the names of all the members of their delegations attending the meeting via the Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS), as advised in Circular Letter No.4336 of 5 November 2020. This facilitates both their entry into the building and the production of the list of participants by the Secretariat.

Active participants are those attending meetings at IMO Headquarters in-person (attending meetings in the Main Hall or committee rooms 9 or 10) or remote-active participants authorized to take the floor, and passive participants are those able to follow proceedings remotely via live streaming.

Remote-active participants will receive an email with a joining link for Zoom. The Zoom link is unique and should only be used by the receiver. The link should not be shared with any other person. In-person participants should not join the Zoom meeting while physically present in the Main Hall or committee rooms, as this will impact the hybrid system, and reduce the number of licenses available for those joining remotely.

Remote-passive participants will be sent a link to a Web stream of the session (live streaming), which will be broadcast via the IMODOCS page.

Delegates wishing to change their participation status from in-person to remote-active must change their status through their respective OMRS Delegation Coordinator in the OMRS. Subsequently, they will receive a joining link to the meeting.

For those delegates attending the meeting in-person and who have completed the registration procedure, an electronic access card will be issued at IMO to pass through the security barrier in the IMO building. Issuing the access card will require photographic proof of identity, e.g. passport, identity card or driving licence. Delegates may also be required to show proof of identity at any time while they are in the Headquarters building if requested by IMO Security. In view of the significant costs incurred in producing access cards, delegates who have previously been issued with one are kindly requested to bring it with them for reactivation.

Any matters relating to the use of the OMRS and participation in the forthcoming IMO MASS Symposium 2025 on "Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships as a reality: the need for the IMO MASS Code" should be communicated to:

Registration Unit
Meeting Services and Interpretation Section
Email: onlineregistration@imo.org

Members of delegations will not be registered to attend the meeting without authorization from their OMRS Delegation Coordinator. Delegates whose names do not appear on the OMRS list will be requested to contact their OMRS Delegation Coordinator in order to process their authorization to attend the meeting.

ANNEX 2

MASS SYMPOSIUM 2025

Tuesday, 17 June 2025
Starting at 9 a.m. (UTC+1)
Committee Room 9 (second floor) (Hybrid mode)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME*

Session 1 - Opening and Introduction

Session 2 - Projects (Part 1)

Session 3 - Operational Perspective

Lunch Break

Session 4 - Standards and development

Session 5 - Projects (Part 2)

Closing remarks

* The provisional programme is subject to further modifications. Follow the event page (paragraph 6) for the latest updates.