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Circular Letter No.4713  
20 April 2023

To: IMO Member States  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Illumination of the IMO building and other emblematic landmarks to mark World Maritime Day on 28 September 2023**

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization launched in 2021 an initiative to light up in blue colour the IMO building and the Seafarer's memorial, as well as other emblematic landmarks around the world, on World Maritime Day, with the purpose of promoting the yearly theme (a Flickr album dedicated to last year's illumination all over the world can be accessed [here](#)).



It has since been adopted as an annual symbolic effort to unite the maritime community on every World Maritime Day and raise awareness of the vital contribution of shipping to the world.

The Secretary-General has the honour to announce that IMO Headquarters will be bathed in blue light again in the evening of 28 September 2023 to promote this year's World Maritime theme, "**MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on**".

Furthermore, the Secretary-General would like to extend the invitation to IMO Member States, intergovernmental organizations in cooperation with IMO and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO to join in this annual initiative by lighting up their most iconic buildings, bridges, maritime ports, ships, monuments, museums and other emblematic landmarks on the occasion of the 2023 World Maritime Day celebration.

In order to give visibility to this project, social media participation is again encouraged via Twitter to share these powerful images by using the hashtag #WorldMaritimeDay. Photographs can also be sent to: [media@imo.org](mailto:media@imo.org)