ANNEX

RESOLUTION C.80(137)
adopted on 8 July 2026

RESOLUTION ON THE PROTECTION OF VITAL SHIPPING LANES, INCLUDING BY UPHOLDING AND RESPECTING THE NAVIGATIONAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS FOR COMMERCIAL SHIPS WHEN TRANSITING THROUGH STRAITS USED FOR INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION

THE COUNCIL,

RECALLING the purposes of the Organization as set forth in Article 1 of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization, and the primary objective to promote safe, secure and environmentally sound, efficient, and sustainable shipping through cooperation,

RECALLING ALSO resolution A.1196(34), in particular strategic direction 5 to strengthen the resilience of the global supply chain and maritime industry to enable the continued flow of goods through international shipping in times of crisis,

REAFFIRMING the principles enshrined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which provides the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out, including the exercise of the right of transit passage through straits used for international navigation, and recognizing that the navigational rights and freedoms set out in the Convention reflect customary international law binding upon all States,

BEARING IN MIND the decisions of the Council at its thirty-sixth extraordinary session which underscored the imperative to ensure the safety and welfare of seafarers and reaffirmed that the exercise of navigational rights and freedoms must be respected and protected under international law,

RECOGNIZING the essential role of seafarers in the maintenance of global supply chains and the risks posed to their lives and welfare by unlawful actions in straits used for international navigation,

1 REAFFIRMS the need to ensure that vital shipping lanes, including straits used for international navigation, remain open and accessible to international shipping;

2 ALSO REAFFIRMS the importance of upholding and respecting navigational rights and freedoms in accordance with international law and that the right of transit passage through straits used for international navigation should not be threatened, impeded, denied, hampered, impaired or suspended;

3 URGES all Member States to ensure that any measures taken in vital shipping lanes, including straits used for international navigation, should not discriminate in form or in fact among foreign ships or have the practical effect of denying, hampering or impairing the right of transit passage in accordance with international law;

4 ALSO URGES Member States to refrain from unlawful measures that jeopardize the safety of seafarers and international shipping, or impede, obstruct, hamper or otherwise interfere with the lawful exercise of navigational rights and freedoms in vital shipping lanes, including straits used for international navigation;

5 REITERATES that any measures taken by coastal States to regulate traffic in vital shipping lanes, including the implementation of ships' routeing systems such as traffic separation schemes, and ship reporting systems, must be in accordance with the regulations and standards adopted by the International Maritime Organization, including SOLAS regulations V/10 and V/11;

6 CALLS UPON Member States to continue their cooperation through IMO to enhance the safety and security of navigation and to address any technical or safety challenges in a manner consistent with international law;

7 ENCOURAGES Member States to take measures, as appropriate, to protect the rights and safety of seafarers in accordance with international standards, in order to safeguard the health, including mental health, safety and well-being of seafarers;

8 ALSO ENCOURAGES Member States to enhance technical cooperation and timely and effective information-sharing to bolster the resilience of international shipping; and

9 INVITES the Secretary-General, as appropriate, to continue monitoring the situation in vital shipping lanes and provide updates to the Council on the impact of disruptions, if any, on the welfare of seafarers and international shipping.

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