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STRATEGY, PLANNING AND REFORM

(a) Strategy and planning

A Strategy for the IMO Secretariat to identify, analyse and address emerging issues and opportunities to further support Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports on the results of the exercise conducted by the Secretariat to establish an improved strategic approach towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including a framework for future work of the IMO Secretariat in support of the 2030 Agenda

Strategic direction, if applicable: 7

Output: 7.8

Action to be taken: Paragraph 11

Related documents: C 118/3/3, C 118/D; TC.1/Circ.69; resolution A.1110(30), TC 68/5(c) and C 120/4/2

TOWARDS A MORE STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

1 The Council, at its 118th session, requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft alignment of the strategic directions (SDs) and outputs to the SDGs. At its 120th session, the Council considered document C 120/4/2 submitted by the Secretary-General on the alignment of the SDGs to the Strategic Plan of the Organization and invited Member States to submit further proposals on how the alignment could be further enhanced.

2 Following detailed consideration by the Working Group on the Strategic Plan, the Council, at its 121st session, agreed not to proceed with a strict alignment of the strategic directions to the SDGs and endorsed the alignment of the outputs to the SDGs, as presented in document C 120/4/2, which demonstrated the contribution of the work of the Organization to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

3 Recognizing that the vision statement embedded in the Organization's Strategic Plan makes direct reference to the need for IMO to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to support Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Secretary-General organized an SDGs workshop for delegates and Secretariat staff in January 2019, providing a platform to exchange views and experiences on how the IMO Secretariat could further support Member States in their efforts to implement the SDGs.

4 One of the recommendations resulting from this workshop was to encourage the Secretariat to develop an IMO Secretariat SDGs Strategy in order to enhance further the SDGs' integration into its programming and planning, to establish a more tangible and targeted approach to support Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to strengthen IMO's visibility as a key contributor to sustainable development.

5 To develop such a Strategy, the Secretary-General established a cross-divisional IMO SDG Working Group within the Secretariat, which identified, analysed and addressed emerging issues and opportunities to further support Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6 The cross-divisional Working Group developed the draft strategy attached as annex 1 to this document. Through the draft IMO SDGs Strategy, the Secretariat is committed to providing Member States with strengthened and more targeted SDG support and to communicate better IMO's and the shipping industry's contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

7 Proposed actions in this direction include: the use of SDGs for performance measurement in the next Strategic Plan and Business Plan of the Organization, and provide support, as required, to Member States in reflecting maritime policies and data in their Voluntary National Reports, in the form of development of IMO (maritime specific) SDG indicators, baselines and targets, and integrating the SDGs into the Country Maritime Profiles.

8 The draft IMO SDGs Strategy also includes some specific Secretariat actions envisioned, which are related to capacity development activities (i.e. linking appropriate technical cooperation activities, linking future projects to the SDGs, including gender markers in all future projects/TC activities and utilizing more outputs of relevant IMO projects to further assist Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda).

9 The draft IMO SDGs Strategy underlines both the importance of partnership building with other United Nations bodies, ports, industry and NGOs in a targeted manner and the importance of the development of a Communication and Visibility Strategy for IMO, to showcase the contribution of IMO, and as such the shipping industry, in a target specific manner towards sustainable development.

10 The IMO SDGs Strategy is intended to be an evolving document, which is to be reviewed periodically, as appropriate, taking into account international developments on the subject, particularly those within the United Nations system.

Action requested of the Council

11 The Council is invited to note the information and to comment as appropriate.

ANNEX

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) STRATEGY 2020-2030 OF THE IMO SECRETARIAT

A Strategy for the IMO Secretariat to identify, analyse and address emerging issues and opportunities to further support Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the blueprint for all countries to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all in an integrated manner.

IMO's Strategic Plan for 2018-2023 recognizes this interconnectivity. It underlines that IMO is fully committed to support the 2030 Agenda and to support Member States in their efforts to implement this Agenda. The Strategic Plan further underlines that the Organization, its Member States, civil society and the maritime industry will continue working together to achieve the SDGs.

The Secretariat's SDGs Strategy 2020-2030 (SDGs Strategy) aims to set the general direction for the efforts of the Secretariat to further enhance the SDGs' integration into its programming and planning, to establish a more tangible and targeted approach to support Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to strengthen visibility of IMO, and as such the shipping industry, in the United Nations and beyond as a key contributor to sustainable development.

Opportunities ahead for a more targeted, tangible approach in support of Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda

IMO is supporting Member States in the implementation of the SDGs through its regulatory framework, which is shaping directions for the maritime industry on an international scale and as such is also supporting the SDGs, through targeted projects, technical cooperation and partnership building.

IMO has started aligning its programmes and initiatives to the SDGs with its strategic directions and outputs, with a specific focus on the linkages between IMO's technical cooperation activities and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The SDGs also provide opportunities for IMO to strengthen and prioritize its efforts to contribute to sustainable development in a measurable manner and make the contribution of the maritime industry to sustainable development more visible.

IMO is committed to provide Member States with a strengthened and more targeted SDGs support through:

- .1 ensuring that the next Strategic Plan and Business Plan of the Organization include linkage of planning and budgeting to the SDGs for performance measurement and as such explicitly showcasing how IMO and the maritime industry can support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

- .2 encouraging Member States in featuring maritime policies and data in their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) by:
 - providing an evaluation base for the specific contribution of the maritime industry, through developing IMO (maritime) specific SDG indicators, baselines and targets, in relation to selected SDGs (SDGs 5, 9, 13 and 14); and
 - assisting reporting on the SDGs implementation by embedding them in the Country Maritime Profiles;
- .3 linking appropriate technical cooperation activities and future projects with the SDGs;
- .4 including gender (SDG5) markers in all future projects and TC activities;
- .5 utilizing the outputs of relevant IMO projects, such as the regional network of Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres (MTCCs) to assist Member States in the implementation of the SDGs (with focus on SDGs 5, 9, 13 and 14);
- .6 strengthening or developing new partnerships in areas for the implementation of the SDGs (including strengthening partnerships with other United Nations organizations, industry, NGOs and ports, with a focus on the selected SDGs);
- .7 working closely with the custodian agency (UNEP) in relation to developing SDG14.1.1 target specifics (for which IMO is a Partner Agency); and
- .8 supporting Member States' maritime authorities to be more closely linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

Communication and resource mobilization

Strengthening IMO and as such the shipping industry, contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the key objective of this Strategy. More visibility of IMO in relation to the SDG implementation may also open pathways for new partnerships and more diverse resource mobilization options.

In order to strengthen the IMO visibility in relation to the SDGs, a specific communication and visibility strategy will be developed to promote this SDGs Strategy. It will highlight the IMO overall contribution to the 2030 Agenda, in an integrated manner, covering all the SDGs, both through its regulatory and policy work (for example Initial GHG Strategy and related work as supporting SDG13) and through its specific projects and implementation activities.

Targeted communication materials will be developed in an audience-specific manner, highlighting success stories and providing concrete examples of contribution. Differentiated communication material is foreseen for example towards port authorities, new resident coordinators of the UN, other UN Agencies and potential donors, such as various International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

Figure 1: IMO and Sustainable Development Goals diagram

