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Circular Letter No.4204/Add.12/Rev.1
29 May 2020

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

Subject: **Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Declaration by Port Authorities Roundtable (PAR) members in view of the global COVID-19 situation**

The Secretary-General issued, on 27 April 2020 (Circular Letter No.4204/Add.12), a **Declaration by Port Authorities Roundtable (PAR) members in view of the global COVID-19 situation**, as set out in the annex, signed by a group of leading port authorities from around the world and forwarded by Singapore with a request for circulation.

Recognizing that the maritime sector plays a critical role in keeping trade flows open in the global fight against COVID-19, 20 PAR members from Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America came together on 24 April 2020 in Singapore to declare their commitment to ensuring their ports remain open amidst the current pandemic. The Declaration, initiated by Singapore, calls for port authorities to collaborate and share best practices in ensuring that port operations can remain undisrupted.

Since its launch, a further 37 port authorities have signed the Declaration, which has also been supported by IMO and the following organizations: ICS, IAPH, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Port Services Network, American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), Italian Port Association (ASSOPORTI) and Maritime New Zealand.

In this connection, the Secretary-General wishes to emphasize again that it is crucially important that the flow of commerce by sea should not be unnecessarily disrupted. At the same time, the safety of life at sea and protection of the marine environment must also remain paramount. One of the goals of IMO, as stated in its Convention, is to ensure availability of shipping services to the commerce of the world, for the benefit of humanity, and the Secretary-General wishes to urge all IMO Member States to bear this in mind when framing their policy decisions with regard to the coronavirus. Defeating the virus must be the first priority, but global trade, in a safe, secure and environmentally friendly manner, must be able to continue too.

Member States and international organizations are encouraged to take similar initiatives at national and regional levels, and are invited to circulate this information to all interested parties, as deemed appropriate.

ANNEX

DECLARATION BY PORT AUTHORITIES ROUNDTABLE (PAR) MEMBERS IN VIEW OF THE GLOBAL COVID-19 SITUATION (UPDATED ON 29 MAY 2020)

Members of the Port Authorities Roundtable¹ (PAR) recognise the COVID-19 pandemic as a serious global crisis that has far-reaching impact on many fronts, including global trade. As more than 80% of goods are transported via sea-lanes, we recognise that the port and maritime sector play a crucial role in keeping trade flows open in our global fight against COVID-19.

We also acknowledge the recent Statement made by International Maritime Organization (IMO), emphasising the importance of minimising the disruption to maritime trade and shipping activities so that vital goods, especially necessities and essential medical supplies, can continue to flow seamlessly across different regions in the world. No one country can win the fight against COVID-19 on its own without having continued access to these vital goods in our inter-connected world.

As a multilateral platform² consisting of leading port authorities across Asia, Oceania, Middle East, Africa, Europe and America, members of the PAR would like to declare a commitment to collaborate closely, through the sharing of best practices and implemented measures, such that the ports remain open to seaborne trade to help sustain the world and support the fight against COVID-19.

We therefore are committed to work together and strive to:

- i. Keep global supply chain and trade/cargo going, and that merchant ships can continue to berth at terminals to carry out cargo operations.
- ii. Facilitate closer coordination by establishing an open communication channel so that like-minded port and maritime authorities can share experiences/exchange information in combating COVID-19 while safeguarding unimpeded maritime trade.
- iii. Continue to adopt best practices according to national circumstances, including precautionary measures for shipping community, advisories and assistance for shore personnel and ship crew, safe handling of cargoes and measures taken in dealing with COVID-19 cases.

Finally, we would also like to express our deepest appreciation to seafarers, harbour pilots, shore-based workers and the maritime community who have worked tirelessly amidst the on-going pandemic in enabling international trade to continue during these challenging times. Together, we can do our part to help the world defeat COVID-19!

¹ The Port Authorities Roundtable (PAR) was initiated in 2015 with the aim of networking and sharing of best practices amongst leading port authorities. More information on PAR can be found at www.parforum.sg

² Since the declaration was launched on 24 Apr 2020, more than 50 ports across the world have joined the declaration.

Signed by:

S/N	Name & Designation	Port Authority
Asia		
1	Mr Zulkurnain Bin Ayub General Manager	Bintulu Port Authority
2	Ms Hiromi Furuya Director General	Bureau of Port and Harbor, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
3	Mr Ki-chan Nam President	Busan Port Authority
4	Mr Xu Lun Huan Director General	Fuzhou Port Development Centre
5	Mr Wei Xuemin Executive Deputy Director General	Guangxi Beibu-Gulf Port Management Bureau, Qinzhou Branch
6	Mr Chen Hongxian Director General	Guangzhou Port Authority
7	Mr Shri Sanjay Sethi, IAS Chairman	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, India
8	Mr Muhammad Razif Ahmad General Manager	Johor Port Authority
9	Mr Tsuji Tomoharu Director General	Kitakyushu Seaport and Airport Bureau, City of Kitakyushu
10	Dato' Khairul Anuar bin Abdul Rahman General Manager	Kuantan Port Authority and Kemaman Port Authority
11	Ms Quah Ley Hoon Chief Executive	Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
12	Mr Akihiko Hattori Executive Vice President	Nagoya Port Authority
13	Mr Xu Qiang Director General	Ningbo Municipal Port Administration Bureau
14	Atty. Jay Daniel R. Santiago General Manager	Philippine Ports Authority
15	Mr Hei Bavy Chairman and CEO	Phnom Penh Autonomous Port
16	Mr Li Qi Director General	Port Administration Office, Dalian Municipal People's Government
17	Mr Bundit Sakonwisawa Managing Director	Port Authority of Thailand (Bangkok Port)
18	Mr Tanaka Toshimitsu Director General	Port & Harbor Bureau, City of Osaka
19	Mr Hiroya Nakano Director General	Port and Harbor Bureau, City of Yokohama

20	Mr Hideyuki Tsuji Director General	Port and Harbor Bureau, Kobe City Government
21	Captain K Subramaniam General Manager	Port Klang Authority
22	Mr Xie Feng Director General	Shanghai Municipal Transportation Commission
23	Mrs Jece Julita Piris Head	Tanjung Priok Port Authority
Oceania		
24	Mr Charles Finny Chair	New Zealand Port Company CEO Group
25	Mr Mike Gallacher CEO	Ports Australia
26	Mr Anthony Donald Chief Executive Officer	Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd
Middle East		
27	Capt. Maktoum Al Houqani Chief Corporate Authority Officer	Abu Dhabi Ports
28	Mr Mark Geilenkirchen Chief Executive Officer	SOHAR Port and Freezone
Africa		
29	Ms Hadiza Bala Usman Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer	Nigerian Ports Authority
30	Mr Ronny Brutus Chief Executive Officer	Seychelles Ports Authority
31	Mr Mehdi Tazi Riffi Managing Director	Tanger Med Port Authority
Europe		
32	Mr Jacques Vandermeiren Chief Executive Officer	Antwerp Port Authority
33	Mr Jens Meier Chief Executive Officer	Hamburg Port Authority
34	Mr Daniele Rossi President	Italian Port Association (ASSOPORTI) & Port Network Authority of the Central Northern Adriatic Sea
35	Mr Pino Musolino President and Chief Executive Officer	North Adriatic Sea Port Authority (Ports of Venice and Chioggia)
36	Mr Andrea Agostinelli President	Port Authority of Gioia Tauro
37	Mr Aurelio Martinez Chairman	Port Authority of Valencia

38	Mr Mario Mega President	Port Network Authority of the Messina Strait
39	Mr Santiago Garcia-Mila Subdirector General	Port of Barcelona
40	Mr Łukasz Greinke President of the Board	Port of Gdansk Authority SA
41	Mr Adam Meller President of the Managing Board	Port of Gdynia Authority S.A.
42	Mr Baptiste Maurand Chief Executive Officer	Port of Le Havre
43	Mr Allard Castelein President and Chief Executive Officer	Port of Rotterdam
44	Mr José Luis Cacho Chief Executive Officer	Ports of Sines and Algarve Authority
45	Mr Sergio Prete President	Port Network Authority of the Ionian Sea
46	Mr Massima Deiana President	Port Network Authority of the Sardinian Sea
47	Mr Ugo Patroni Griffi President	Port Network Authority of the Southern Adriatic Sea
48	Mr Krzysztof Urbaś President of the Board	Szczecin and Swinoujście Seaports Authority SA
America		
49	Ms Sylvie Vachon Chief Executive Officer	Montreal Port Authority
50	Mr Noriel Araúz Administrator and Minister of Maritime Affairs	Panama Maritime Authority (PMA)
51	Mr Edgar Patiño Garrido President	Peru National Port Authority
52	Mr Mario Cordero Executive Director	Port of Long Beach
53	Mr Eugene D. Seroka Executive Director	Port of Los Angeles
54	Engineer Héctor López Gutiérrez Coordinator General	Ports and Merchant Marine, Mexican National Port System
55	Mr Peter Steinbrueck Commission President	Port of Seattle
56	Mr Shaun Stevenson President and Chief Executive Officer	Prince Rupert Port Authority
57	Mr Robin Silvester President and Chief Executive Officer	Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

The declaration is also supported by the following Organisations:

International Maritime Organisation
International Chamber of Shipping
International Association of Ports and Harbours
APEC Port Services Network
American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)
Italian Port Association (ASSOPORTI)
Maritime NZ

Updated: 29 May 2020

Initiated by: Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)