To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: Communication from the Government of the Portuguese Republic

The Government of the Portuguese Republic has sent the attached letter, dated 15 April 2021, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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Dear Secretary-General,

With reference to the International Maritime Organization’s communication No.4204/Add.35/Rev.5, please find enclosed a letter from the Director General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services of the Portuguese Ministry for Maritime Affairs, Mr Jose Carlos Simão, regarding the designation of seafarers as key workers in Portugal.

I would be most grateful if the Secretariat could kindly circulate this document among all IMO Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations with consultative status.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Manuel Lobo Antunes
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal to the International Maritime Organization

The Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7S
SUBJECT: Designation of Seafarers as Key Workers

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the crisis on seafarers, Portugal has taken measures as a flag state and as a port state to facilitate crew changes, the transit of seafarers and access to medical care for seafarers.

Portugal duly recognizes the central role of seafarers, not only in the maritime sector but also in the world's economy. In accordance with the guidelines issued by the International Maritime Organisation and the European Commission, Portugal allows seafarers to travel, to be in transit, to join a ship or to return back home.

It would be appreciated if you could bring this to the attention of the IMO Member States and Associate Members and add Portugal to the list of countries that have designated seafarers as key workers.

Yours sincerely,

Jose Carlos Simão
Director-General