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Circular Letter No.4213/Add.4
30 April 2020

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

Subject: **Postponement of the Council, the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group on Maritime Radiocommunication Matters and the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments owing to the COVID-19 outbreak**

1 Further to the postponement of the joint forty-third and fourteenth sessions of the LC/LP Scientific Groups, the 107th session of the Legal Committee, the thirty-third meeting of the Editorial & Technical Group (IMSBC), the seventh meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships, the seventy-fifth session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the forty-fourth session of the Facilitation Committee, the second meeting of the IMO Expert Group on Data Harmonization, the Port symposium "A Holistic approach to standards for port operational data in maritime supply chains", the 102nd session of the Maritime Safety Committee, the seventh session of the Sub-Committee on Human Element Training and Watchkeeping and the seventieth session of the Technical Cooperation Committee owing to the COVID-19 outbreak, which were announced in Circular Letters Nos.4213, 4213/Add.1, 4213/Add.2 and 4213/Add.3, the purpose of this circular is to inform delegations and other attendees of the postponement of additional IMO meetings in line with previous considerations.

2 Taking into account the determination by the World Health Organization (WHO), on 11 March 2020, that the outbreak of COVID-19 is now a pandemic and the decisions taken by the Government of the United Kingdom (as the host Government) as well as the Governments of other IMO Member States drastically restricting international and local travel; the following determinations, as a matter of urgent necessity, have been made:

- .1 the 124th session of the Council scheduled to take place from 29 June to 3 July 2020;¹

¹ The deadline for submission of documents for C 124 has subsequently been extended and relevant information will be published on IMODOCS, under C 124 agenda item 1, in due course.

- .2 the sixteenth meeting of the Joint IMO/ITU Experts Group on Maritime Radiocommunication Matters scheduled to take place from 6 to 10 July 2020;² and
- .3 the seventh session of the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments scheduled to take place from 20 to 24 July 2020,

are postponed until further notice.

3 The Secretary-General will continue to monitor all developments related to COVID-19 and following advice provided by the WHO and the host Government. Rescheduling of the meetings listed above will be announced in good time for delegates to make appropriate arrangements. Further updates about other meetings scheduled to take place later this year will be provided as soon as possible.

4 Information regarding the rescheduling of postponed meetings will be made in good time, to allow delegations and attendees to make appropriate arrangements.

5 The Secretary-General wishes to advise that the thirty-second Extraordinary Session of the Council is scheduled to commence on 4 May 2020 and will be held by correspondence, to reconstruct the IMO meetings schedule, consider proposals for the facilitation of shipping during the COVID-19 pandemic, review remote/virtual meetings capabilities and examine the preliminary budgetary considerations and the revision to the IMSAS schedule. The proceedings of this extraordinary session and the record of decisions will be available on IMODOCS.

² Alternative arrangements for this meeting are currently under consideration, in consultation with ITU and the Chair of the Experts Group. Please refer to Circular Letter No.4265 for more detailed information.