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Circular Letter No.4299/Add.1
27 August 2020

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Kiribati**

The Government of the Republic of Kiribati has sent the attached communication, dated 26 August 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION, TRANSPORT AND
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

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File Ref: 04/01

Date: 26th August 2020

H.E Mr. KITACK LIM

Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
4th Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Dear **Secretary General**,

Subject: Government of Kiribati recognizing Seafarers as Key Workers

The Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development (the "Administrator"), warmly greets the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and congratulates you, HE Mr. Kitack Lim, in your capacity as the Secretary General, for the actions you have continuously taken in the midst of the pandemic generated by COVID-19 and in particular, in protecting the rights of seafarers with the impartial treatment given to them during these difficult times.

In corresponding with the above and in realizing the need to enable seafarers to undertake important supply tasks during the onset of the global Covid-19 pandemic, the **Government of Kiribati** hereby declares seafarers as key workers, in response to calls by the International Maritime Organization [Circular Letter No.4204/Add.24] and the United Nations Secretary General [SG/SM/20121 12 June 2020 and SG/SM/20137 23 June 2020].

In making such a declaration, the Government of Kiribati is wholly mindful of the need to follow World Health Organisation and national health regulations, in particular the Kiribati Public Health (Infectious Disease) Laws and Regulations 2020, which is currently in force. The strict adherence to these guidelines and regulations has allowed Kiribati to be Covid-19 free.

Accordingly, this commitment shall remain resolute and any measures implemented by local authorities, to facilitate relief to seafarers as intended by making this declaration, shall not contravene the provisions of the Kiribati Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations 2020".

I would be most grateful if the Secretariat could circulate this information to all IMO Member States and relevant stakeholders.

Please accept, Mr Secretary General, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully.

Mr. Tarataake Teannaki
Secretary
Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development
Republic of Kiribati