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Circular Letter No.4549  
8 April 2022

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

Subject: **International Day for Women in Maritime:  
Symposium on *Training-Visibility-Recognition: Supporting a barrier-free  
working environment*, for Women in Maritime, 18 May 2022**

1 In furtherance of resolution A.1147(31) adopted by the IMO Assembly on 4 December 2019 on "Progressing the legacy of the World Maritime theme for 2019 and achieving a barrier-free working environment for Women in the Maritime Sector", the IMO Assembly at its thirty-second session, adopted resolution A.1170(32) on "International Day for Women in Maritime" proclaiming 18 May every year as the International Day for Women in Maritime.

2 The observance will celebrate women in the industry with a view to the continued promotion of the recruitment, retention, and sustained employment of women in the maritime sector, raise the profile of women in maritime, strengthen IMO's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and support ongoing work to address the current gender imbalance in the maritime sector.

3 Against the foregoing background, the Secretary-General is pleased to announce that an international symposium with the theme: *Training-Visibility-Recognition: Supporting a barrier-free working environment*, will be held virtually on 18 May 2022. The symposium will highlight the need for women to be more visible and mainstreamed in the maritime community, on board ships and throughout the sector as a whole, and more widely in representation at decision-making levels. The symposium will also address skills development for women in the maritime sector.

4 The symposium will be open to all Member Governments, IGOs, NGOs, Womens' Associations in Maritime, and the public. It will feature prominent speakers representing relevant stakeholders across the maritime value chain, including policymakers, shipping industry, academia, and the civil society.

5 The Observance of the Day at the IMO Headquarters will also include an evening reception in the IMO Delegates Lounge. The provisional programme and information on participation and attendance, will be provided in due course.

6 Member States are urged to include 18 May each year in their calendar of national activities aimed at celebrating women in maritime. Furthermore, Member States, IGO's and NGO's are invited to disseminate the invitation to all stakeholders and to encourage participation.

7 The IMO Contact Person for enquiries relating to the symposium is Mr. William Azuh, Head Africa Section, Technical Cooperation Division. He can be reached @ [wazuh@imo.org](mailto:wazuh@imo.org)