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Circular Letter No.4213
6 March 2020

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

Subject: **Postponement of the joint session of the LC/LP Scientific Groups and the 107th session of the Legal Committee due to the COVID-19 outbreak**

1 In furtherance to the guidance to delegations provided in Circular Letter No.4203/Add.1 regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, the purpose of this circular is to inform delegations and other attendees of the postponement of certain IMO meetings

2 Following the global coronavirus outbreak and its impact on the work of the Organization, the Secretary-General established a Senior Emergency Policy Team (SEPT), led by the Acting Director, Administrative Division.

3 The Secretary-General and SEPT have been closely monitoring developments on the impact of COVID-19 at local and global levels, and have followed advice provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Government of the United Kingdom (as the host government) and actions taken by other UN agencies.

4 Taking into account the decision of the United Kingdom on 5 March 2020 to move towards the "delay" phase of its "Coronavirus action plan: a guide to what you can expect across the UK"; similar actions adopted by other UN agencies; and the increased difficulties for some delegates from IMO Member States travelling from abroad to attend IMO meetings, the following determinations, as a matter of urgent necessity, have been made:

- .1 the joint session of the Scientific Groups of the London Convention and London Protocol (LC/SG 43 and LP/SG 14) scheduled to take place from 9 to 13 March 2020 is postponed until further notice; and
- .2 the 107th session of the Legal Committee, scheduled to take place from 16 to 20 March 2020, is postponed until further notice.

5 The Secretary-General will be consulting with Member States, and in particular Members of the Council, on these actions and any others (i.e. additional postponements) required in the interest of public health and safety. The Secretary-General will continue to follow the recommendations and guidance of WHO and the Government of the United Kingdom to ensure that precautions are taken to minimize risks to delegates attending meetings at IMO Headquarters.

Further updates about other meetings scheduled to take place later in March and in April will be provided as soon as possible.

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