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Circular Letter No.4833
16 February 2024

To: IMO Member States
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Special recognition for merchant vessels and their crew involved in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea**

Following the Council's decision, at its 129th session, resolution A.1093(29) on *Special recognition for merchant vessels and their crew involved in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea* was revised to allow the submission of nominations by intergovernmental organizations in cooperation with IMO (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO (NGOs).

The Assembly, at its thirty-third regular session, adopted the revised resolution A.1195(33) on *Special recognition for merchant vessels and their crew involved in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea* (enclosed in annex 1 for ease of reference) and noted that the Secretariat would notify the relevant flag State when such nominations were received by IGOs or NGOs, to avoid duplication or objection.

Consequently, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to invite Member States, IGOs and NGOs to provide information on merchant vessels and their crew deserving commendation for **rescues performed from 1 January 2014**. For this purpose, annex 2 to this circular contains a form which should be completed and signed.

These forms may only be submitted by IMO Member States (nominees do not need to be confined to their own nationals), IGOs and NGOs. The awardees will receive, through the nominating authority/organization, a special certificate from the Secretary-General marking the commendation of the Assembly for their bravery, professionalism and compassion.

All forms should be submitted to ero@imo.org and/or addressed to:

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

ANNEX 1

RESOLUTION A.1195(33)

**Adopted on 6 December 2023
(Agenda item 19(h))**

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR MERCHANT VESSELS AND THEIR CREW
INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE OF MIXED MIGRANTS AT SEA**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 98 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and regulation V/33 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the duty of ships to assist those in distress or in danger of being lost at sea,

RECALLING ALSO its resolution A.1093(29), adopted on 2 December 2015, on *Special recognition for merchant vessels and their crew involved in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea*, requesting the Secretary-General to issue special certificates, retroactively from 1 January 2014, marking the commendation by the Assembly to any merchant vessel and its crew participating in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea, nominated only by Member Governments,

GRAVELY CONCERNED about the continuous worldwide crisis of migration, including the transportation of mixed migrants by sea in grossly overloaded, unsafe vessels resulting in the loss of thousands of lives,

RECOGNIZING that merchant vessels continue to divert from their intended voyage to rescue migrants in danger of being lost at sea, and that any rescue, in particular those involving multiple survivors, necessarily entails danger not only to those being rescued but to the rescuers themselves,

NOTING WITH GREAT ADMIRATION the extraordinary efforts, great skill, courage, professionalism and selfless concern for others demonstrated by crews of all merchant vessels involved in the rescue operation of migrants at sea,

CONSIDERING the endorsement of the Council, at its 129th session, of the recommendation to revise resolution A.1093(29) in order to extend to intergovernmental organizations in cooperation with IMO and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO the request for information on merchant vessels and their crew deserving such recognition,

1 COMMENDS all merchant vessels and their crew participating in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea for their bravery, professionalism and compassion embodying the highest traditions of the sea;

2 REQUESTS the Secretary-General to continue issuing special certificates, retroactively from 1 January 2014, marking this commendation by the Assembly, to be awarded to any merchant vessel and its crew participating in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea;

3 ALSO REQUESTS Member Governments, intergovernmental organizations in cooperation with IMO and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO to provide information to the Secretary-General on merchant vessels and their crew deserving such commendation;

4 REVOKES resolution A.1093(29) on *Special recognition for merchant vessels and their crew involved in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea.*

ANNEX 2

**FORM FOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR MERCHANT VESSELS AND THEIR CREW
INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE OF MIXED MIGRANTS AT SEA**

DETAILS OF THE NOMINATING AUTHORITY/ORGANIZATION:	
Member State, IGO or NGO requesting the special certificate:	
Contact person responsible for forwarding the certificate:	
Name:	
Job title and agency:	
Email address:	
Telephone no.:	
Postal address:	
DETAILS OF THE MERCHANT VESSEL AND ITS CREW:	
Name of the Captain (at the time of the incident):	
Ship's details:	
Flag State:	
Name of the vessel:	
Company name:	
Description of the vessel:	
IMO number:	

DETAILS OF THE RESCUE OPERATION:	
Date:	
Location:	
Description of the vessel in distress (if any):	
Number of lives saved:	
Name of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) or other shore-based organization involved in the incident (if any) that may have relevant records:	
Short description of the outcome of the rescue (including the name of the port and city where migrants were dropped off):	

For, and on behalf of, **the Government of**

or **(name of organization)**

Signed: Date:

Name:

Designation:

Official seal (where appropriate):
