Thank you Chair.

Distinguished delegates,

Maritime transport is indispensable to global trade, sustainable development, and the world’s energy transition.

In its role as the global regulator of international shipping, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) develops appropriate measures and solutions to reduce the shipping industry’s contribution to air pollution and its impact on climate change.

IMO has already developed global regulations on energy efficiency for ships and continues to take concrete actions to ensure that international shipping bears its fair share of responsibility in addressing climate change.

After several months of negotiations, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, holding its 80th session in July, is expected to adopt an upgraded IMO greenhouse gas Strategy. The Strategy will contain concrete greenhouse gas reduction targets for the sector and outline a basket of technical and economic measures to be developed to set global shipping on an ambitious path towards phasing out greenhouse gas emissions.

Negotiations are well advanced and will continue during a preparatory Working Group session from 26 to 30 June.

In looking at how to incentivize the availability and scalability of sustainable low- and zero-carbon marine fuels and technologies in the near future, IMO will continue to support developing countries, in particular Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, with a
view to ensuring a just and equitable transition to low-carbon shipping and seizing development opportunities arising from the decarbonization of the maritime sector.

IMO is also accelerating its efforts in developing the necessary safety regulatory framework allowing the safe handling of future marine fuels on board of ships.

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Further details on IMO's progress and achievements since COP 27 can be found in our written submission to SBSTA, available on the submission portal, and I remain available to provide clarifications as may be required.

Thank you.