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Circular Letter No.4877/Rev.1  
2 June 2025

To: All IMO Member States

Subject: **Call for Expressions of Interest to join the IMO OceanLitter Programme  
Global Industry Alliance to support the reduction of marine plastic litter  
(OceanLitter GIA)**

1 Since 2019, IMO has been implementing several initiatives under its marine plastic litter portfolio housed in the Subdivision for Partnerships and Projects of the Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division. This portfolio includes the Global GloLitter Partnership Project, the Regional Litter Project (RegLitter – Asia), and another major initiative is currently under development to address sea-based marine plastic litter (SBMPL) issues from shipping and fisheries.

2 These initiatives all aim to assist developing countries prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors by focusing on a number of areas identified in the IMO Strategy and Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships, and in complementary actions as identified by FAO, including supporting the provisions of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear. In partnership with international donors, strategic partners, NGOs and private industry, IMO enhances global knowledge and information-sharing to demonstrate best practices to deal with SBMPL. The SBMPL portfolio envisages active participation from the private sector from major maritime and fisheries companies to jointly identify new interventions for industry to address SBMPL.

3 The Global Industry Alliance to support the prevention and reduction of SBMPL (OceanLitter GIA) will be a public-private partnership, under the IMO marine plastic litter related portfolio of projects. It will bring together maritime and fisheries industry leaders with a view to develop innovative solutions to support the sector to prevent and reduce marine plastic litter and address common barriers to the uptake and implementation of technologies, alternative approaches and operational measures.

4 The OceanLitter GIA will consist of a wide spectrum of maritime stakeholders, including shipowners, ports, fisheries industry, recycling companies, technology and data providers and class societies. It will be committed to fostering dialogue across the industry and sharing expertise and experience to strive towards plastic-free oceans in the future.

5 Typical OceanLitter GIA activities might include industry round tables, development of guidance and tools to support industry actions to reduce, reuse, recycle and prevent plastic litter entering the marine environment, raising awareness of potential green solutions, and other activities jointly identified by the GIA members. The OceanLitter GIA will convene on a regular basis, sharing the information with IMO bodies such as the Marine Environment

Protection Committee (MEPC) and the London Convention/Protocol for their information and action, as appropriate.

6 Through this open call, the OceanLitter GIA is inviting industry companies from both shipping and fisheries with demonstrated leadership and high-level commitment to addressing challenges related to sea-based sources of marine plastic litter and the prevention of plastic litter in the ocean, to express their interest to become a member of the OceanLitter GIA.

### **Eligibility**

7 Membership of the OceanLitter GIA is limited to industry companies only. For this partnership these are defined as:

- Individual, for-profit, commercial businesses or companies including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and cooperatives, whether national or multinational
- State-owned enterprises, to the extent that they behave or operate as commercial businesses or companies
- Corporate foundations directly funded and/or governed by business

8 Business associations (trade/industry) and other entities (e.g. public sector entities and academic institutions) **are not eligible** for formal membership of the OceanLitter GIA but may be invited, when considered appropriate, to participate at the workstream/activity level.

9 Interested industry companies should be able to clearly demonstrate the following for consideration as future members of the OceanLitter GIA:

- Commitment/in addressing sea-based sources of marine plastic litter (SBMPL)
- Willingness to actively engage and contribute
- High-level of commitment (financial and technical in-kind contribution)

10 Expressions of Interest from industry companies from developing countries are particularly encouraged.

### **Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI)**

11 Companies interested in becoming a OceanLitter GIA member are invited to submit EOI of no more than two pages, to include the following:

- Rationale for joining the OceanLitter GIA, e.g. the company's core business and its current/planned activities/initiatives and their relevance to the GIA
- Current initiative/s addressing marine plastic litter within the company (if any)
- Details on potential technical expertise/contribution
- Confirmation of annual membership fee and technical in-kind contribution
- Any other relevant information to be considered

12 EOI should be submitted by email to [OceanLitter@imo.org](mailto:OceanLitter@imo.org).

### **Evaluation of EOI**

13 All EOI received from eligible companies will be reviewed and assessed based on the information submitted. The criteria for assessment align closely with the attributes identified in paragraphs 7 and 9, with a particular consideration for how the company intends to contribute to the OceanLitter GIA. Due diligence will be conducted for all prospective members, exercised

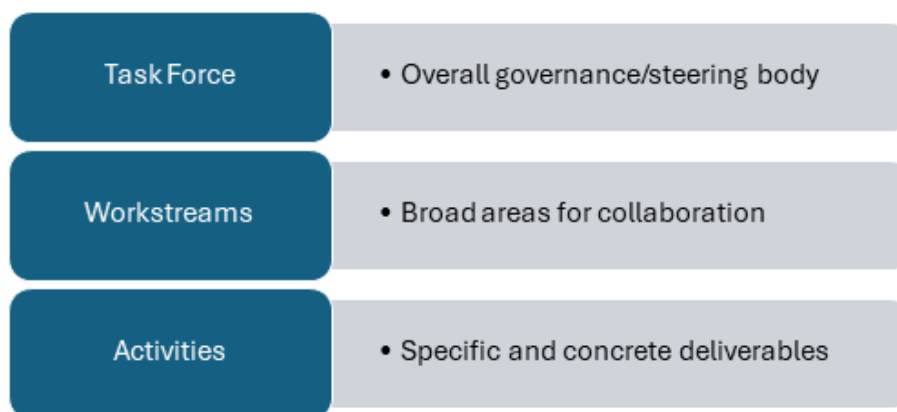
by IMO. Upon the conclusion of the evaluation process, the membership will be formalized with the signature of the contractual agreement.

14 More information about the OceanLitter GIA including the structure, proposed workstreams and expected contributions from its members can be found below. Further queries may be addressed to the GIA Secretariat: [OceanLitter@imo.org](mailto:OceanLitter@imo.org).

## Further information about the OceanLitter GIA

### Structure and Governance

15 The OceanLitter GIA will be structured as follows:



16 The Task Force will steer the overall direction of the group of members of the OceanLitter GIA and decide collectively on broad areas of collaboration (workstreams). The Task Force is also responsible for allocating funding to the various workstreams as appropriate, considering proposed projects and activities to be undertaken.

17 Decisions on concrete activities to pursue are taken at the workstream level and those members participating in the workstream are responsible for the overall delivery of the selected activities within that particular workstream. Members may choose to participate in all workstreams or select one/several of particular interest.

18 Activities are collectively discussed and agreed on by members participating in that workstream and delivery is facilitated by the OceanLitter Project Coordination Unit (PCU) which may also involve contracting additional expertise, consultants, and inviting participation from other relevant stakeholders, as required.

19 The relationship between IMO and the Members of the GIA will not imply in any way or form IMO's support for, or endorsement, recommendation or validation of, the technologies, products, services or practices offered by the Members of the GIA. The Members of the GIA shall strictly comply with the instructions on the use of the IMO name and of the IMO logo which will be stipulated in the agreement between IMO and the Members of the GIA to ensure that this use will have no adverse implications for the interests or reputation of the Organization and will not create or imply any financial obligations for the Organization.

20 The OceanLitter GIA is supported by the OceanLitter PCU, under the Subdivision for Partnerships and Projects, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division at IMO.

### **Illustrative workstreams of the OceanLitter GIA**

21 The workstreams of the OceanLitter GIA will be determined by the OceanLitter GIA. The activities listed in the table below are illustrative to provide examples of the workstreams that the OceanLitter GIA Members could support to address marine plastic litter pollution from shipping and fisheries sectors.

| <b>Workstreams</b>  | <b>Overall aim</b>  | <b>Example Activity</b>   |
|---|---|---|
| Capacity-building and awareness   | Enhance public awareness, education and capacity-building                           | Conduct a study on marine plastic litter, including macro and microplastics from ships.<br>Developing an e-learning course on a specific topic. |
| Reduction and prevention of marine plastic litter from vessels          | Reduction of shipping and fisheries contribution to marine plastic litter pollution | Identify best practices and innovative solutions to prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from shipping and fishing vessels.                 |
| Solution to abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) | Prevention and reduction of ALDFG and its impacts                                   | Identify best practices and innovative solutions to address ALDFG.  |

22 The OceanLitter GIA will not engage in the development of policies and regulations (which is the prerogative of IMO Member States), is technology neutral and does not engage in commercial activities. However, outputs developed by the OceanLitter GIA will be reported to IMO bodies such as the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and the London Convention/Protocol for their information and action as appropriate.

23 Members are expected to contribute to the OceanLitter GIA both financially through a Membership Fee, and in-kind (which includes provision of expertise, time, travel and others).

24 The type of in-kind/technical contribution expected includes, for example, reviewing and providing feedback on OceanLitter GIA documents and products, co-drafting publications, and leveraging company expertise to provide input to industry roundtable meetings. A minimum of 25 days of in-kind technical expertise per annum is expected, which does not include travel and participation time in OceanLitter GIA.

25 The annual membership fee is \$20,000, which is used to fund OceanLitter GIA activities determined by the GIA members.