

**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC) 94th SESSION  
17-21 November 2014**

**Agenda Item 1      ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Committee adopted the agenda (MSC 94/1) and agreed that its work would be guided by the provisional timetable, on the understanding that it was subject to adjustments and on the progress made each day; and the arrangements for working and drafting groups.

**Agenda Item 2      DECISIONS OF OTHER IMO BODIES**

The Committee noted the decisions of other committees referred to it and took appropriate action under the relevant agenda items.

**Agenda Item 3      CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO  
MANDATORY INSTRUMENTS**

The Committee considered a number of proposed amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention that only related to commercial shipping and a proposed new SOLAS chapter XIV relating to safety measures for ships operating in polar waters. In this context, the Committee noted that MEPC 67 approved the preamble, introduction and part II of the draft Polar Code and the associated draft amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, IV and V, for adoption at MEPC 68.

The Committee adopted new chapter XIV of the SOLAS Convention and determined that it should be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2016 and should enter into force on 1 January 2017.

**Agenda Item 4      MEASURES TO ENHANCE MARITIME SECURITY**

The Committee re-established the Correspondence Group on Guidance on Development of National Maritime Security Legislation, under the coordination of the United States\*, and instructed it to:

1. review and finalize the draft Guidance on Development of National Maritime Security Legislation; and
2. submit a report to MSC 95.

The Committee invited Member Governments and international organizations to consider measures toward enhancing maritime cybersecurity issue and submit proposals to MSC 95.

The Committee noted that in the majority of cases the occurrence of stowaways and attempted stowaways on board ships was due to a lack of proper implementation of IMO's maritime security measures, as contained in SOLAS chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code.

The Committee noted that on 24 October 2014 the United Nations Security Council had adopted resolution 2182 (2014) on the situation in Somalia and Eritrea, the main scope of which was to highlight the need to prevent unauthorized deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia and to prevent the direct or indirect export of charcoal from Somalia, some provisions of which may have impact upon the shipping industry. Links to the resolution are provided on the United Nations website ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org)) and maritime security pages of the IMO website ([www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)).

#### **Agenda Item 5**

#### **GOAL-BASED NEW SHIP CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS**

This item related to commercial ship construction and is of no interest to ISAF.

#### **Agenda Item 6**

#### **PASSENGER SHIP SAFETY**

The Committee recalled that, since the capsizing of the passenger ship Costa Concordia, MSC 90, MSC 91, MSC 92 and MSC 93 had established a Working Group on Passenger Ship Safety. As a result of this work, the Committee had adopted amendments to SOLAS chapter III, adopted Measures aimed at enhancing safety of passenger ships (resolution MSC.336(90)), approved *recommended interim measures for passenger ship companies to enhance the safety of passenger ships* (MSC.1/Circ.1446/Rev.2) and approved the revised long-term action plan on passenger ship safety.

The Committee recalled that MSC 93 agreed to keep the *recommended Interim measures for passenger ship companies to enhance the safety of passenger ships* updated as matters progressed and agreed to delete the word "interim" when next revising the circular. In this regard, the Committee agreed that there was no need to update the circular at this session of the Committee.

#### **Agenda Item 7**

#### **HUMAN ELEMENT, TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING**

The Committee approved, in general, the report of the first session of the Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping. Otherwise there were no matters of concern for ISAF.

#### **Agenda Item 8**

#### **SHIP SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT**

The Committee approved, in general, the report of the first session of the Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE).

The only item of note is that the Committee adopted resolution MSC.388(94) on *Amendment to the recommendation on conditions for the approval of servicing stations for inflatable liferafts (resolution A.761(18))*, this may filter down into national regulations affecting recreational craft.

#### **Agenda Item 9**

#### **NAVIGATION, COMMUNICATIONS, SEARCH AND RESCUE**

The Committee approved, in general, the report of the first session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, Search and Rescue (NCSR). The following items are worth noting:

the Committee adopted amendments to the following existing traffic separation schemes:

- 1 "In the Strait of Gibraltar";
- 2 "In the waters off the Chengshan Jiao Promontory"; and
- 3 "Off Friesland".

The Committee recognized the satellite navigation system "BeiDou" as a future component of the World-Wide Radionavigation System, and consequently approved SN.1/Circ.329 on *Recognition of the BeiDou Satellite Navigation System (BDS) as a component of the World-Wide*

*Radionavigation System.*

The Committee approved, with minor amendment, the draft Assembly resolution on *Revised guidelines for the onboard operational use of shipborne automatic identification systems (AIS)*.

The Committee considered two alternative methodologies for the technical and operational assessment of the Iridium mobile satellite system as an alternative to Inmarsat and the delivery of an evaluation report for consideration by the NCSR Sub-Committee.

The Committee agreed to extend the detailed review of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), by an additional year i.e. to 2018 and approved the revised Plan of work for NCSR.

The Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.1310/Rev.1 on the *Revised Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information (MSI)*, which will enter into force on 1 January 2016.

The Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.1210/Rev.1 on *Guidance on the Cospas-Sarsat International 406 MHz Beacon Registration Database (IBRD)*.

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| <b>Agenda Item 10</b> | <b>IMPLEMENTATION OF IMO INSTRUMENTS</b>   |
|                       | The Committee approved in general the report of the first session of the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments. |
|                       | There are no items of concern for ISAF under this agenda item.   |

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| <b>Agenda Item 11</b> | <b>CARRIAGE OF CARGOES AND CONTAINERS</b>  |
|                       | The Committee considered urgent matters referred to it emanating from the first session of the Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC) |
|                       | There are no items of concern for ISAF under this agenda item.   |

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| <b>Agenda Item 12</b> | <b>CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW MEASURES</b>  |
|                       | The Committee requested the Vice-Chairman, in consultation with the Chairman and with the assistance of the Secretariat, to submit, to MSC 95, a preliminary assessment of the amendments to mandatory instruments and the new outputs related to proposed new measures, approved at this session. |

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| <b>Agenda Item 13</b> | <b>FORMAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT, INCLUDING GENERAL CARGO SHIP SAFETY</b> |
|                       | There are no items of concern for ISAF under this agenda item.       |

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| <b>Agenda Item 14</b> | <b>PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS</b>  |
|                       | The Committee noted the continuing positive developments in the suppression of piracy and armed robbery in the waters off the coast of Somalia and the wider Western Indian Ocean but remained concerned |

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|  | <p>about the seafarers still being held hostage.</p> <p>The Committee also noted that reports to the Organization of attacks in the Gulf of Guinea showed a downward trend indicating that the international, regional and national efforts are beginning to take effect, and reiterated the importance of reporting incidences by flag States and industry organizations.</p> <p>With respect to piracy off the coast of Somalia, the Committee noted United Nations Security Council Resolution 2184 (2014) on the situation in Somalia, adopted on 12 November, which, inter alia, recognized the contribution of IMO and renewed its call upon States to deploy naval vessels to the area and underlined the primary responsibility of Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery off their coast.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the information that the EUNAVFOR and NATO mandates had been extended to the end of 2016 and reiterated its view that it was also important that IMO guidance and best management practices continue to be implemented diligently.</p> |
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| <b>Agenda Item 15</b> | <b>IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED MATTERS</b>       |
|                       | There are no items of concern for ISAF under this agenda item. |

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| <b>Agenda Item 16</b> | <b>RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS</b>  |
|                       | The Committee noted the decisions concerning relations with non-governmental organizations and applications for consultative status and related matters. |

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| <b>Agenda Item 17</b> | <b>REVIEW AND REFORM OF THE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING APPLICATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S GUIDELINES</b> |
|                       | There are no items of concern for ISAF under this agenda item.                                    |

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| <b>Agenda Item 18</b> | <b>WORK PROGRAMME</b>  |
|                       | The Committee agreed its sub committees agendas and outputs for endorsement by Council.  |
|                       | The Committee noted that its ninety-fifth session is tentatively scheduled to take place from 3 to 12 June 2015; and its ninety-sixth session is tentatively scheduled for May 2016. |

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| <b>Agenda Item 19</b> | <b>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2015</b>  |
|                       | The Committee unanimously re-elected Mr. Christian Breinholt (Denmark) as Chairman, and Capt. M. Segar (Singapore) as Vice-Chairman, both for 2015. |

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| <b>Agenda Item 20</b> | <b>AOB</b>                |
|                       | Nothing further to report |