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Circular Letter No.4609  
5 August 2022

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

Subject: **Second "IMO-UNEP-Norway Innovation Forum" to be held on 28 and 29 September 2022 as part of World Maritime Day celebrations**

1 After the adoption of the Initial IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships on 13 April 2018, the Government of Norway, the IMO Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) discussed ways and means for supporting the Strategy to reduce emissions from shipping through advocating and promoting inclusive technological innovation, and a clear gap was identified in terms of providing a global platform to discuss these ideas. This led to the organization of the first IMO-UNEP-Norway Zero- and Low-Emission Innovation Forum (the Innovation Forum), which acted as a global information exchange platform to promote inclusive innovation for accelerating the transition of the marine sector towards a zero- and low-emission future while leaving no one behind. The first Innovation Forum took place from 27 to 29 September 2021 and had a successful outcome, with over 1,300 participants attending from all over the world.

2 IMO Member States and the international maritime community at large are actively engaged in supporting the green transition of the maritime sector into a sustainable future. Identifying new ways and means of collaboration between global north and global south, financing sustainable maritime transport in developing countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), bringing together Member States, research & development centres, technology developers, industry, academia, knowledge partners and other stakeholders to share experiences and good practices that accelerate inclusive innovation, are paramount for a voyage together.

3 Therefore, the Secretary-General has the honour to invite participation in the IMO-UNEP-Norway Innovation Forum 2022, which will be focused on the World Maritime Day theme "New Technologies for Greener Shipping", addressing research, technology and infrastructure needs of developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDS, as well as research and partnerships needs for developing innovative GHG technologies and financial needs for their piloting and deployment, particularly in developing countries.

4 The forum will be held on Wednesday, 28 and Thursday, 29 September in hybrid mode, in person at the IMO Headquarters and online in English only. The event will be also streamed on the IMO YouTube Channel and on the United Nations Web TV.

5 This second forum aims at championing innovation to accelerate the transition of the marine sector towards a zero- and low-emission future and will have a special emphasis on inclusive innovation for decarbonization of the maritime sector in the context of the Initial IMO GHG Strategy. The event intends to promote innovation by providing a global platform to exchange best practices and fill necessary gaps by gathering ideas and latest developments from all stakeholders and the need for enhanced cooperation at all levels to support this global transition. The forum will consist of a high-level opening followed by presentations and discussion panels where policy, technology and R&D champions will provide updates and perspectives leading to discussions on innovation and fuel needs for maritime decarbonization and technologies for greener shipping.

6 The forum will be open to all Member Governments, United Nations specialized agencies, IGOs, NGOs, industry representatives, academia and the general public. Participation from LDCs and SIDS is particularly encouraged.

7 The registration link is already available on the IMO website under the Innovation Forum page at [Innovation Forum 2022](#). The provisional programme will be issued in due course. Since a limited number of seats are available in the IMO Main Hall, interested Member States and organizations which wish to participate in person are strongly encouraged to register at their earliest convenience.

8 Member States are invited to disseminate the invitation to interested parties and stakeholders and to encourage their representatives to participate.

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