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Circular Letter No.4968
29 January 2025

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

Subject: **International Day for Women in Maritime 2025 and Gender Equality
Award Ceremony (16 May 2025).**

1 In furtherance of resolution A.1147(31) adopted by the IMO Assembly on 4 December 2019 on *Progressing the legacy of the World Maritime theme for 2019 and achieving a barrier-free working environment for Women in the Maritime Sector*, the IMO Assembly, at its thirty-second session, adopted resolution A.1170(32) on *International Day for Women in Maritime* proclaiming 18 May every year as the International Day for Women in Maritime.

2 The observance celebrates women in the industry with a view to the continued promotion of the recruitment, retention and sustained employment of women in the maritime sector, to raise the profile of women in maritime, to strengthen IMO's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and to support ongoing work to address the current gender imbalance in the maritime sector.

3 Against the foregoing background, the Secretary-General is pleased to announce that the theme for the Day will be **An Ocean of Opportunities for Women**, which links to the 2025 World Maritime Day theme: Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity. A half-day symposium will take place under the same theme at IMO Headquarters (4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR, United Kingdom), within the margins of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue's twelfth session, on 16 May 2025, from 2.30 p.m. A detailed programme for the event will be issued in due course.

4 The symposium will be conducted in person, in English, with the option for remote participation. In-person participation in this event is open to representatives from Member States, observer organizations (intergovernmental and non-governmental) and the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The symposium will also be live streamed on IMO's YouTube channel.

5 Delegates intending to participate are kindly requested to register via the Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS) by Thursday, 15 May 2025. Further information on the registration procedures can be found in the annex to this circular letter.

6 At the conclusion of the Symposium, the Secretary-General will be presenting Ms. Karin Orsel, nominated by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with the IMO Gender Equality Award 2025, per the decision of the Council at its 133rd session. A reception will follow at 5.30 p.m.

7 In order to promote the Day more widely, Member Governments and observer organizations are encouraged to participate by organizing their own events to bring attention to this important celebration, and through social media via X and Instagram, by using the hashtag #WomenInMaritimeDay and tagging @IMOHQ. Photographs of the events can also be sent to: media@imo.org.

8 Queries regarding the Day should be sent to ero@imo.org.

ANNEX

REGISTRATION FOR THE EVENT

Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS)

1 Those intending to participate in this event are kindly requested to register by Thursday, 15 May 2025 via IMO's Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS), as advised in Circular Letter No.4336 of 5 November 2020.

2 Once the registration procedure is complete, participants will be issued at IMO with an electronic access card to pass through the security barrier in the IMO building. Issue of the access card will require photographic proof of identity, e.g. passport, identity card or driving licence. Attendees may also be required to show proof of identity at any time while they are in the Headquarters building, if requested to do so by IMO Security. In view of the significant costs incurred in producing access cards, attendees who have previously been issued with one are kindly requested to bring it with them for reactivation.

3 Prospective participants will not be registered to attend the event without authorization from their OMRS Delegation Coordinator. New delegates whose names appear in OMRS will be issued with the above-mentioned access card. Delegates whose names are not on the OMRS list will be requested to contact their OMRS Delegation Coordinator in order to process their authorization to attend the event.

4 Any matters relating to the registration in OMRS should be communicated to:

Registration Unit
Meeting Services and Interpretation Section
Email: onlineregistration@imo.org
