



**Bruxelles, le 8 mars 2022**  
**(OR. en, fr)**

**6945/22**

**MAR 40**  
**OMI 25**  
**RELEX 299**

## **NOTE POINT "I"**

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Origine:	Secrétariat général du Conseil
Destinataire:	Comité des représentants permanents (1 <sup>re</sup> partie)
Objet:	Projet de soumission conjointe à la 35e session du Conseil de l'Organisation maritime internationale sur les incidences de la situation dans la mer Noire et la mer d'Azov sur les transports maritimes et les gens de mer – <i>Approbat</i> ion

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Le 2 mars 2022, quinze membres du Conseil de l'Organisation maritime internationale (OMI) ont demandé la convocation d'une session extraordinaire du Conseil de l'OMI afin de discuter les incidences de la situation dans la mer Noire et la mer d'Azov sur les transports maritimes et les gens de mer.
2. La session extraordinaire se tiendra les 10 et 11 mars 2022.
3. En vue de la session extraordinaire, des membres du Conseil de l'OMI ont rédigé ensemble un projet de soumission proposant une déclaration du Conseil de l'OMI concernant l'agression de l'Ukraine par la Fédération de Russie et ses graves conséquences sur les gens de mer, le transport maritime commercial et le milieu marin de la mer Noire et de la mer d'Azov.
4. Les États membres ont examiné le projet de soumission lors de deux réunions informelles de coordination les 4 et 7 mars 2022.

5. Lors de la dernière réunion, tous les États membres qui ont pris la parole ont exprimé leur soutien au texte qui figure en annexe.
  6. Le Comité des représentants permanents est invité à noter ce qui précède et à approuver le projet de soumission en vue de la discussion à la session extraordinaire du Conseil de l'OMI les 10 et 11 mars 2022.
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COUNCIL  
35<sup>th</sup> extraordinary session  
Agenda item X

C/ES.35/X  
3 March 2022  
Original: ENGLISH  
Pre-session public release:

## IMPACTS ON SHIPPING AND SEAFARERS IN THE BLACK SEA AND THE SEA OF AZOV

### Consideration of maritime security and safety of seafarers in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov resulting from the Russian Federation's further invasion of Ukraine

Submitted by XXX

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* In this document, the co-sponsors propose a Council declaration addressing the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine and its grave impacts on seafarers, commercial shipping and the marine environment in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* 5

*Output:* N/A

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 2

*Related documents:* Circular Letter No. 4516/Rev.1

#### Background

1 The Russian Federation's unprovoked further military invasion of Ukraine which started on 24 February 2022 with the airstrikes, targeting Ukrainian cities, critical infrastructure, including seaports in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, with devastating consequences, represents an unprecedented threat to maritime security, safety of navigation, the safety of seafarers, and the protection of the marine environment in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov. Since the start of Russia's further invasion of Ukraine, multiple commercial vessels in the Black Sea have been struck and damaged by Russian projectiles, threatening the safety and welfare of seafarers, commercial vessels, and the marine environment. These attacks underscore the heightened security concerns and risk to the international commercial navigation in this area. The co-sponsors see a compelling need for the International Maritime Organization to join other UN Organizations and Specialized Agencies in to strongly condemning Russia's actions which endanger seafarers, commercial

shipping, and the marine environment, and send a strong message to the Russian Federation to that effect.

## Proposal

2 The Council is invited to:

- .1 recall the purposes of the IMO as set forth in Article 1 of the Convention, and the mission in the Strategic Plan of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to promote safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient, and sustainable shipping through cooperation;
- .2 recall that Ukraine has on multiple occasions expressed its grave concerns about the Russian Federation's unlawful unilateral actions in Crimea, and their consequences for the safety and security of navigation in the northern part of the Black Sea, the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait<sup>1</sup>;
- .3 recall UN General Assembly resolution (A/RES/ES-11/ 1, 2 March 2022) that *inter alia condemned* the declaration by the Russian Federation of a "special military operation" in Ukraine, *deplored* in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in violation of Article 2 (4) of the Charter, and *demand*ed that the Russian Federation immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine and refrain from any further unlawful threat or use of force against any Member State;
- .4 strongly condemn the Russian Federation's violation of the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of a United Nations Member State, extending to its territorial waters, which is inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the purposes of the IMO as set forth in Article 1 of the Convention, and represents a grave danger to life and serious risk to safety of navigation and the marine environment;
- .5 deplore the attacks of the Russian Federation aimed at commercial vessels, their seizures, including Search-and-Rescue vessels, threatening the safety and welfare of seafarers and the marine environment;
- .4 demand that the Russian Federation cease its unlawful activities, to ensure the safety and welfare of seafarers and the security of international shipping and the marine environment in all affected areas, and to respect its obligations under relevant international treaties and conventions, and calls upon all parties to seek to resolve the crisis through peaceful dialogue and diplomatic channels;
- .5 underscore the paramount importance of preserving the safety and welfare of seafarers and urge member states and observer organizations to provide maximum assistance to seafarers caught up in the conflict,

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<sup>1</sup> This, *inter alia*, refers to documents A 31/11/1, A 32/13/1, LEG 106/6, LEG 106/7/3, LEG 107/6/2, LEG 108/5/2, MSC 101/23/10, MSC 102/22/4, MSC 104/17/3, FAL 43/19/4, FAL 44/20/3, HTW 6/4, HTW 7/5, III 6/14/2, III 7/14/3, NCSR 7/22/4, NCSR 8/13/2 and Circular Letters Nos.3453, 3477, 3490, 3602, 3603, 3604, 3649, 3777, 3830, 3882, 3935, 3942, 3992, 4017, 4207, 4298, 4316, 4388, 4402, 4439 and 4508.

- .5bis underscore the need to preserve the security of international shipping and the maritime community, and the supply chains that sustain other nations as well as supply chains providing necessary food and medicines to the people of Ukraine,;
- .6 recall the statement of the IMO Secretary General (26 February 2022) regarding the spillover effects of the military action in Ukraine on global shipping, and logistics and supply chains, in particular the impacts on the delivery of commodities and food to developing nations and the impacts on energy supplies; and highlighting that innocent ships, seafarers and port workers engaged in legitimate trade should not be collateral victims in the political and military crisis;
- .7 recall that Ukraine must be afforded without delay all its rights in regard to the implementation of the instruments adopted within the framework of this Organization, as a flag State, port State and coastal State
- .8 request IMO committees to consider ways to enhance the efforts of Member States and observer organizations in supporting affected seafarers and commercial vessels and consider the implications of this situation for the implementation of the Organisation's instruments, take appropriate action and report back to Council;
- .9 request the Chair of the Council and the Secretary General to convey to the public and all Member States these decisions of the IMO Council, and to continue to closely monitor the situation in relation to threats to ships and seafarers operating in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov; and request the Secretariat to keep Member States regularly informed of the status of seafarers in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov and suggest follow up by IMO bodies as appropriate.

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