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Circular Letter No.3789
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To: IMO Members and other Governments
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Celebration of IMO's 70th anniversary and dates for other key events**

The Secretary-General has the honour to advise that 2018 will mark the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the IMO Convention. The year's theme will be "**IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future**", as decided by the Council at its 117th session in December 2016, and the activities organized to commemorate the anniversary will be closely related to that theme.

Activities and events

The following activities are being organized by the Secretariat to mark IMO70 in 2018:

- .1 in conjunction with the International Congress of Maritime Museums, a self-contained physical exhibit with a built-in digital component will tour participating maritime museums. The exhibit will remain in situ at each participating museum for an agreed time before being transported to the next. At the end of the touring period, the exhibit will return to IMO and be available for future use, for example semi-permanent installation at IMO HQ.
- .2 in the second quarter of the year, a **commemorative book** will be published;
- .3 in March 2018, a **ceremony** to mark the date when the IMO Convention was adopted will be held at IMO Headquarters;
- .4 on 15 May 2018, a **high-level forum** will be held at IMO Headquarters to discuss the Organization's history, its future challenges and role within the global trade in a changing world;
- .5 the annual **Day of the Seafarer**, as usual, will be celebrated on 25 June;
- .6 in the second half of the year, a **photography contest** will be held; and

- .7 **World Maritime Day** will be celebrated at IMO Headquarters in September, when the traditional diplomatic reception will take place, and the **Parallel Event** will be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Poland in June.

Other events are also anticipated and are in the planning stage. Further information on these and other activities and events will be circulated, as appropriate, in due course.

In order to promote the 70th anniversary more widely, Member Governments and international organizations are encouraged to organize, wherever possible, suitable events throughout the year to celebrate it and inform the Secretariat as early as possible of any planned activities (ero@imo.org). Social media participation is encouraged. The anniversary hashtag will be #IMO70. Participants are encouraged to post and share photographs of their events, and other related content, using this hashtag.