

COUNCIL
122nd session
Agenda item 17(b)

C 122/17(b)
24 May 2019
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EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(b) Relations with intergovernmental organizations

Cooperation with the Arctic Council

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports on the decision of the eleventh Arctic Council Ministerial meeting, held in May 2019, regarding IMO's application for observer status with the Arctic Council

Strategic direction, if applicable: Other work

Output: OW 24

Action to be taken: Paragraph 5

Related documents: MEPC 70/18; C 120/17(b), C 120/D and C 121/D

1 The Council may recall that, at its 120th session, it authorized the Secretary-General to take appropriate action for IMO to obtain observer status with the Arctic Council. On 15 November 2018, the Secretariat submitted an application for observer status with the Arctic Council on behalf of the Organization.

2 The application was initially considered at the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) Meeting held in Espoo, Finland from 11 to 13 April 2019. The application was approved at the eleventh Arctic Council Ministerial meeting held in Rovaniemi, Finland on 7 May 2019. The Secretary-General was informed of this decision by letter from the Chair, SAO dated 16 May 2019.

3 As described in paragraph 6 of document C 120/17(b), it is expected that the IMO Secretariat will participate in meetings of the Arctic Council SAO, and its Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) and Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Groups, and the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum, as and when necessary and appropriate.

4 To complete the process, the Secretary-General will submit the decision of the Arctic Council to the IMO Assembly for endorsement at its thirty-first session in November 2019.

Action requested of the Council

5 The Council is requested to note the information contained in this document.
