

COUNCIL  
125th session  
Agenda item 17(b)

C 125/17(b)/2  
19 May 2021  
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## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### (b) Relations with intergovernmental organizations

#### IMO activities and contribution to the work of the Arctic Council

##### Note by the Secretary-General

### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document reports on the Secretariat's cooperation with the Arctic Council since IMO became an observer in May 2019

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* Other work

*Output:* OW 24

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 7

*Related documents:* C 120/17(b); C 122/17(b) and A 31/D

#### IMO as observer to the Arctic Council

1 As reported to the Council at its 122nd session, the Organization's application as an observer to the Arctic Council was approved at the eleventh Ministerial Meeting held in Rovaniemi, Finland, on 7 May 2019. The Assembly, at its thirty-first session, approved the decision of the Council and endorsed IMO's observer status with the Arctic Council (A 31/D, A 31/19(b)/2).

2 As envisaged (C 120/17(b), paragraph 6), the IMO Secretariat actively engaged in meetings of the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials (SAO), the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) and Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Groups, as well as PAME's Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum.

3 The Organization joined during the Icelandic Chairmanship of the Arctic Council which, following a rotation every two years, will come to an end when the Russian Federation assumes the role on 20 May 2021, at the next Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting.

## **IMO activities and contribution to the work of the Arctic Council**

4 A list of activities and contributions by the Secretary-General and the Secretariat to the work of the Arctic Council is set out below. The Secretariat contributed in particular regarding the IMO instruments governing Arctic waters, including SOLAS chapter XIV, applicable MARPOL provisions, the Polar Code and the Cape Town Agreement:

- .1 keynote address by the Secretary-General and presentations by the Secretariat (MSD, MED and LED) at the 3rd Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum (London, 3 and 4 June 2019);
- .2 offering to host, in the margins of MSC 102, the fourth Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum\* which had to be postponed and conducted virtually instead (24 and 25 Nov 2020) with IMO participation and presentations (MSD, MED and LED). The Secretariat also assisted the Organizing Committee in preparing the meeting agenda;
- .3 issuing circular letters to IMO Member States and Affiliates to raise awareness of PAME Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum;
- .4 submission of the first IMO Arctic Council Observer Report (25 Nov 2020);
- .5 contribution to PAME meetings, including the monthly Shipping Experts Group and assistance in formulating a proposal to address underwater noise for consideration by Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) and a proposal (jointly with Iceland and Spain) to raise awareness regarding the Cape Town Agreement, currently under consideration and scheduled to be actioned during the PAME workplan for 2021-2023;
- .6 participation of the Director MSD at SAO Plenary Meetings; and
- .7 participation and presentation at the EPPR Working Group (12 to 20 January 2021, online).

5 Further information on IMO's contribution to the Arctic Council can be found at the following link: <https://arctic-council.org/en/about/observers/intergov-interparl/international-maritime-organization-imo/>

## **Planned activities**

6 The Secretariat will continue to attend the regular meetings of the PAME and EPPR Working Groups while the Secretary-General or the Director MSD attend the SAO meetings.

## **Action requested of the Council**

7 The Council is invited to note the information provided in this document.

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\* <https://pame.is/fourth-meeting-of-the-forum>