

74th Session of the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee London, 24-28 June

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2024	
Task 1.1.8.5	Maintain relationship with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including attendance of Technical Cooperation meetings

The 74th session of the Technical Cooperation Committee (TC), the IMO body that considers matters within the scope of the implementation of technical cooperation projects, was held in London at the IMO headquarters from 24 to 28 June 2024. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Dwight Gardiner (Antigua and Barbuda) and the Vice-Chair was Ms. Anays Berrocal (Panama). Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas represented the IHO.



IMO Secretary-general Mr Arsenio Dominguez during the opening remarks – Figure 1

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General of IMO, Mr Arsenio Dominguez welcomed the participants and expressed his condolences for the seafarers that lost their lives, were injured and are being held hostage due to attacks to the ships. The Secretariat was restructured, creating the Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division (TCID) joining three Divisions and Departments to have a structure that provides more coherence between the technical cooperation planning and programming, the implementation of the ITCP and long-term projects. From the agenda, the draft comprehensive strategy expected to further contribute to the vision to improve and enhance the delivery and results of the technical cooperation activities and projects, was highlighted. He concluded expressing the best wishes to all for every success on the deliberations.

Regarding the decision, in principle, of TC72 to suspend participation of the Russian Federation in any IMO technical cooperation activity either as a donor or a host, Russia stated that the decision was not consistent with the IMO Convention and that many of the provisions for technical cooperation are rooted in various IMO instruments lying outside the remit of not only TC but also the Council. Since the Assembly should be the organ to deal with any discussion regarding the IMO Convention, the Secretary-General recommended the Committee to note the documents and the comments made in plenary and report the outcome to the Assembly.

The Committee was informed that there might be capacity-building implications and a need for technical cooperation or assistance in relation to the draft amendments to SOLAS and also in relation with the new Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW)-F Code.

Regarding the **work of other Organizations**, the Committee noted the information provided in document TC74/INF.13 (IHO) on the activities of the IHO Capacity-Building Programme.

From the **Technical Cooperation Annual Report for 2023** it was noted that the delivery rate of ITCP implementation during 2023 had reached 75%, with 206 activities delivered out of a total of 276 programmed activities, including 13 advisory and needs assessment missions and 102 training courses and workshops, resulting in the training of approximately 2,590 participants worldwide. Additionally, another 176 students had completed fellowships at WMU, IMLI and other maritime training institutions. Further, 657 officials had attended events aimed at developing and harmonizing regional strategies on maritime technical issues. The percentage of women in fellowship activities was 72%, which represented a positive outcome in supporting training opportunities for women. However, the percentage of women attending training activities and high-level activities were 21% and 44%, respectively, showing that the inclusion of women in all maritime activities could still be improved. The total expenditure on technical cooperation activities in 2023 had reached \$19.9 million of the total \$29.6 million budget, representing a financial delivery rate of 68%. If the funds for the thematic long-term projects, which were utilized over multiple years, are not taking into consideration, the delivery rate of the TC Fund equals to 80%.

On the item **Implementation of the Long-term Resource Mobilization Strategy** the total amount of funds pledged and contributed by donors since the last session of the Committee was approximately \$10.32 million, making the overall value of the portfolio of projects (including pledges) \$160.3 million. In 2023, IMO concluded 53 new partnership arrangements, of which 50 were financial arrangements totalling \$13,257,872.

The delegation of the **International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)** updated the Committee on the recent 13th Joint IHO/IMO/WMO/IOC/IALA/IAEA/FIG/IMPA Capacity-Building Coordination Meeting, which resumed after five years of interruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting coordinated the efforts of Organizations for building and developing capacity in the maritime sector, in line with the United Nations concept of "*Delivering as One*".



IHO Assistant Director Leonel Manteigas during one intervention – Figure 2

With reference to the **partnership arrangements**, the Committee was informed on the Global On Board Training (GOBT) programme for fostering competent young seafarers conducted in Busan, Republic of Korea, in December 2023. The Committee thanked the Republic of Korea

for its continued support of the GOBT Programme and encouraged Member States to support the expansion of the programme.

Regarding the **financial contributions to technical cooperation**, the Committee was informed that the total contribution received towards the sustainable financing of technical cooperation amounted to \$13,257,872.

On the agenda item related to the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, TC72 agreed the SMART indicators, milestones and targets for data collection to serve as performance indicators for the contribution of IMO's technical cooperation work to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was suggested that IMO may join the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG). The Secretary-General explained that a prior decision had been made not to join the group due to budget considerations at the time. However, the Secretariat could review this decision. Document TC 74/5 contained the 2023 baseline data against the agreed performance indicators, as well as a comparative analysis with the 2019 data demonstrating the Organization's progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through IMO's technical cooperation programme. It was underlined the progress made in achieving SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 14 (Life below Water).

TC73 agreed on the proposal to review the **Capacity-Building Decade 2021-2030 Strategy** and invited the Secretariat to prepare and share a draft comprehensive strategy for consideration by the Committee. Document TC74/6 contains a draft comprehensive strategy, prepared as a merge of the *Capacity-Building Decade 2021-2030 Strategy, the Long-term Resource Mobilization Strategy and the Revised financing and partnership arrangements for an effective and sustainable integrated technical cooperation programme as well as related content from the TC brochure "All Hands on Deck"*. The Committee decided to establish a **Working Group on Development of a Comprehensive Strategy**, instructed it to review and decide on the structure for the revised comprehensive strategy, taking note of other good practice examples from other UN agencies, and approved the respective title to be "IMO Capacity-Development Strategy".

Related to a **proposal for strengthening the global training and development network in pursuit of IMO's GHG emission reduction strategy** by utilizing the resources of maritime education and training (MET) institutions and by enhancing their overall capacity to produce competent professionals with the knowledge and skills required to achieve GHG emission reduction through the development of new courses and the refinement of the current teaching model, the Committee noted the information and requested the Secretariat to engage with the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres and the Maritime Just Transition Task Force to gather more information on the work being undertaken.

Recommendations were received to **enhance the Junior and Senior Professional Officer (JPO and SPO) programmes** by supporting developing countries, in particular Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Committee noted the information provided by the Secretariat encouraging Member States to submit applications from eligible developing countries to the three JPO positions being funded by the Republic of Korea through the SMART-C Programme and encouraged Member States to provide funding to support third-party JPOs and SPOs.

The Committee agreed to establish a **Correspondence Group on the e-Learning Implementation Plan**, under the coordination of Morocco and instructed it to develop a structure for an "implementation plan" and provide advice on the vehicles of adoption/approval.

On the **Regional Presence Offices (RPO) and the expansion of the Scheme** the delegation of Egypt provided an update on the progress made on the establishment of the RPO in Alexandria for the Arab States in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and the expected inauguration of this office in early 2025. Similarly, the delegation of Fiji updated the Committee on the progress and the ambitious target for the RPO in the Pacific Islands to become operational by the end of 2024.

The Committee noted the information sharing the concept of a **South Asia Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Maritime Transport (SACE-SMaRT)**, envisioned as an Indian national centre of excellence which India wished to extend to the regional partners of the South Asia. The Committee thanked India for its intentions and noted the information on the expected benefits of the proposed SACE-SMaRT in India, and potential linkages with the IMO Global MTCC network.

Related to the **technical cooperation aspect of the IMO Member State Audit Scheme**, since the establishment in 2006, and up to June 2024, a total of 1,667 individuals from 165 Member States and Associate Members had been trained through 80 activities under the ITCP including the nomination of auditors under the Scheme. There was a shift in focus to targeting technical assistance activities on those recurrent areas where findings/observations were reported in audits. The e-learning training course for auditors under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme developed through the global programme on IMSAS, was launched in October 2023 and a three-day in-person training programme for auditors had been developed to complement the e-learning course.

On the agenda item **Capacity-Building: Strengthening the Impact of Women in the Maritime Sector**, it was recalled that TC73 had approved the Global strategy for the IMO Women in Maritime Associations. It was noted the resolutions of the Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting concerning the achievements and work plans of the Pacific Women in Maritime Association (PacWIMA) and was endorsed the initiative to develop a new Regional Strategy for Pacific Women in Maritime 2025-2030. The Committee expressed appreciation for the activities implemented and supported under the ITCP Women in Maritime Programme in 2023 and within the Organization's long-term thematic projects in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A number of interventions outlined Member State initiatives to promote diversity, gender equality and the empowerment of women. Belgium highlighted that although women played a pivotal role in the maritime sector, they remained underrepresented, especially on-board ships, and therefore this output remained extremely relevant and expressed the intention to submit a proposal for the expansion of the output.

The **World Maritime University (WMU)** and the **IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)** presented documents summarizing the main activities undertaken during 2023 related to governance and management, financial matters, programme enrolments and graduates, academic developments and partnerships, cooperation, research and consultancies, including publications, outreach activities and United Nations-related matters.

The Committee noted with appreciation the work of WMU during 2023, in particular the significant contribution to the growing alumni network of expert maritime professionals around the world and also noted the University's role in delivering capacity-building activities, particularly through the development of e-learning courses in cooperation with IMO in a range of subject matters, consultancies and other projects, as well as the increased collaboration with its sister institution, the IMO International Maritime Law Institute. The Committee welcomed the increased engagement of female staff and students in the University's activities.

The Committee commended IMLI's work during 2023, noting its 35 years celebration as a global maritime training institution this year. The Committee particularly noted the increasing number of Government representatives benefiting from IMLI's training in the full spectrum of international maritime law, as well as research conducted in support of its mission. IMLI's 50% target of female participation was commended.

It was noted the continued **partnership arrangements** with maritime training institutions, namely the International Maritime Safety Security and Environment Academy (IMSSEA), Italy and l'Institut Portuaire d'Enseignement et de Recherche (IPER), France, for the delivery of specialized short- and medium-term training courses in the maritime field during 2023, as well as the information on fellowships awarded and funding for such courses.

The Committee unanimously re-elected H.E. Mr. Dwight Gardiner (Antigua and Barbuda) as its Chair and Ms. Anays Berrocal (Panama) as Vice-Chair for 2025.

The next session of the Technical Cooperation Committee had been scheduled to take place from 2 to 6 June 2025.