

TECHNICAL COOPERATION COMMITTEE
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Agenda item 5(a)

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THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(a) Maritime policy development

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides information on the work undertaken by the Secretariat to enhance assistance to Member States in the development of National Maritime Transport Policies (NMTPs)

Strategic direction: 3.5

High-level action: 3.5.3

Output: 3.5.3.2

Action to be taken: Paragraph 10

Related documents: TC 65/6(a) and TC 65/16

Introduction

1 At its sixty-fifth session, the Committee was provided with information on the Secretariat's plans to enhance assistance to Member States in the development of National Maritime Transport Policies (NMTPs). These plans included the development of a training package and material on the development, adoption and updating of maritime transport policies in close cooperation with the World Maritime University (WMU) and the subsequent delivery of related training events through a pilot project.

Objectives of NMTP activities

2 The main objective of IMO's activities in the field of maritime transport policy is to raise awareness on the importance of an NMTP as a good governance practice by engaging the representatives of the various Government Ministries and Agencies and other possible stakeholders in a meaningful dialogue with a view to laying the basis for developing such a policy which could also form part of or be parallel to a broader national integrated maritime policy or ocean governance policy. In this regard, related IMO capacity-building activities are open for the participation of representatives of the various Government bodies (e.g. Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Environment, Coast Guard, etc.) and other stakeholders (e.g. national

representative associations) that have a role to play in the development of an NMTP. The activities are also aimed at providing the necessary knowledge and the required skills to those involved in the preparation, adoption and review of an NMTP, and hence the importance of cross sectorial participation.

3 It is the view of the Secretariat that the development of NMTPs would also facilitate the assessment, in a systematic and comprehensive manner, of the real technical cooperation needs of developing countries and the Organization's response to such needs, thus strengthening the maritime capacities and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Development of a maritime transport policy training package and delivery of training

4 In the second half of 2015, the Secretariat initiated action to develop a maritime transport policy training package with a view to provide training to interested IMO Member States in the development, adoption and updating of NMTPs. The training package, developed by WMU, primarily consists of a three-day workshop for Government officials and other personnel involved in the development and preparation of NMTPs and a one-day seminar for senior officials involved in the review and adoption process of NMTPs. The package's workshop and seminar programme consists of two parts namely, theory and methodology, and application and relation with international treaties. Eventually, in order to assist senior officials when recommending the development, adoption and review of NMTPs to their Ministers, it is envisaged that the training package would also include a short video advocating the adoption of such policies.

5 The training package has dual objectives; first, to provide a standard of knowledge and skills to all participants, so as to enable them to understand the major elements incorporated into a maritime transport policy and its foundations, and second, to ensure proper understanding of the obligations of States and their implications, when formulating maritime policy and legislation, on the basis of international maritime treaties. The package, which has a broad global dimension and is not country specific, explores and encourages discussion on the priorities and challenges in formulating and developing maritime transport policy at national level and discusses the information base and readiness essential to develop and implement such a policy also focusing on meeting global and regional standards.

6 With a view to further develop and fine-tune the training package material, a pilot project consisting of the delivery of a number of regional and national workshops and seminars, was rolled out during the last quarter of 2015 in order to test the training package in different regions of the world. At the time of writing this document, a regional workshop and seminar on maritime transport policy were delivered in the Pacific region in cooperation with the Secretariat for the Pacific Region (SPC), IMO's partners in the Pacific region (October 2015), whilst national training events were held in Cambodia (December 2015) and in Saint Lucia (June 2016). Another seminar for senior maritime transport officials from the littoral States of the Black and Caspian Seas and Moldova is planned to be held in Georgia in September 2016.

7 These pilot training events have served to test and assess the delivery and material of the training and the impact on the beneficiaries in order to further enhance and improve the training package and its delivery. As a result, following each training activity, several changes and improvements were made both to the delivery and material of the training based on the experience gained from the delivery of the training in different regions. In order to facilitate the further development and enhancement of the training, during this test period, the training activities were only delivered in English. However, it is expected that once the training package material is finalized, IMO would deliver, as required, the training activities in other languages.

8 It is envisaged that the training package would be finalized by the end of 2016 following the delivery of a number of other training activities. Whilst the delivery of maritime transport policy training in English would continue, in 2017, it is planned to translate the training material into, at least initially, the three working languages with a view to initiate the delivery of the training in other languages to interested Member States.

9 As is already the case, with a view to strengthening maritime capacities, it is envisaged that assistance to Member States in the development, adoption and review of maritime transport policy would continue to form an integral part of IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP). This should enable the Organization to favourably respond to the increasing number of related technical assistance requests from Member States.

Action requested of the Committee

10 The Committee is invited to consider the information provided in this document and to comment and decide, as it may deem appropriate.
