

IMO Update for PAME Plenary 04 February 2021

Michael Kingston, IMO Consultant

“Thank you Chair

General IMO Update

IMO have provided a comprehensive update to the Shipping Expert Group regarding developments from IMO’s Maritime Safety Division and IMO’s Marine Environment Division.

Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum

IMO would like to sincerely thank PAME for convening the 4th meeting of the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum in November 2020.

IMO as an Arctic Council Observer was pleased to participate, and deeply appreciate PAME’s fantastic work to help both highlight the Polar Code, gather information for its implementation, and promote its harmonised implementation.

The process was of great benefit to IMO in enabling IMO to update IMO’s Website information on the Polar Code and cross-link with the Forum’s Web portal.

Cape Town Agreement

Similarly, IMO would like to thank PAME for consistently highlighting IMO’s drive to implement the Cape Town Agreement for Fishing Vessel safety and IMO thank all Arctic Council States, Observing States and other Observers and Permanent Participants for their input in this process.

IMO have held a series of Webinars to help with the implementation process for States in that process, remembering that 51 States signed the Torremolinos Declaration of October 2019 declaring their intent to ratify the Agreement by October 2022.

In late November 2020 IMO held a Webinar in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, and there is an upcoming Webinar in the African Region later this month, followed by one in the Europe, Eastern Europe and Asia Region. Where this is of relevance to Arctic States and Observer States IMO would encourage states to support this work and participate. IMO will advise the PAME Secretariat of details, and you can contact me also.

Finally, IMO thanks the Arctic States who are involved in the current development of Guidance to Assist Competent Authorities in the Implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement in an informal group of interested parties that was set up at MSC102 that has submitted Information to IMO for discussion at MSC103.

Thank you Chair”

Iceland’s Update on CTA of Interested Parties working on CTA implementation Guidance

Sverrir Konradsson

“Thank you Chair

I would like to inform the group that a working group chaired by Spain is in the process of developing Guidance to Assist Competent Authorities in the Implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement for the safety of Fishing Vessels.

Iceland, with the assistance of our colleague Michael Kingston, participates in the Working Group established at MSC 102. As you may know, the safety of fishing vessels forms an integral part of IMO's mandate.

Some 15 Member States and affiliation bodies have been participating in the intersessional work of the Group, including the Arctic States, Canada, Iceland and USA.

Our work is focused on providing guidance to assist Governments in developing and enacting domestic laws to implement the Cape Town Agreement, remembering that 51 States have signed the Torremolinos Declaration of October 2019 declaring their aim to ratify the Convention by October 2022.

When ratified and in force internationally, (hopefully by 2023) the Cape Town Agreement will, among other things, become the basis for a Polar Code regime for Non-SOLAS ships operating in Arctic and Antarctic waters and has, therefore, relevance for our work in PAME and the Shipping Expert Group.

The first draft of the Guidance, which is well advanced following hard work over the past 2 months, was submitted by way of an Information Paper to IMO this week and will be considered at MSC 103, to be held virtually in May this year.

The cosponsors of the document are: Iceland, Indonesia, South Africa, Spain, FAO, ITF, PEW and World Maritime University.

Thank you Chair."