



Statement by Iceland Delegation

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Firstly, we echo wholeheartedly the condolences to all those affected by the tragedy in the Danube River, and all other incidents of sadness in the Maritime world of late.

As chair of the Arctic Council, Iceland would like to thank the IMO Secretariat for their great assistance in supporting the Arctic Shipping Best Practice Information Forum and its Web Portal (www.arcticshippingforum.is), established by the Arctic Council to assist with the implementation of the Polar Code. We also congratulate IMO for gaining Observer Member Status of the Arctic Council.

The [Third Forum](#) was held at the United States Embassy here in London, immediately prior to this IMO Committee Meeting, with a record-attendance, including non-Arctic Flag States. Many Participants are here and we thank you all for your efforts.

Iceland would like to thank all the other Arctic Council States for cosponsoring information paper MSC 101 INF.18, which explains the Forum and its Web Portal.

The work of the Forum has gained significant attention and helps to create the correct behavioural approach to maritime safety, which will hopefully, and very relevant to the matters discussed today under Agenda Item 7, also influence non-SOLAS compliant vessels, and of course fishing vessel safety.

A key component of the Icelandic Arctic Council Chairmanship is maritime safety and protection of the Arctic Marine Environment.

With that in mind, Iceland fully supports the Torremolinos Conference in October and encourages all States to do so, and to ratify the Cape Town Agreement. Iceland thanks IMO, Spain, FAO and PEW for their efforts.

We have a responsibility to protect our rescue services from being called out unnecessarily, hundreds of miles, to vessels that are sub-standard, because we have not exercised our influence and international responsibility, as well as an obligation to try and reduce the alarming number of fishing vessel deaths each year around the world. And, as the Secretary General so well pointed out yesterday, we must reduce marine litter from fishing vessels.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, for highlighting the important Information Paper, and for the Secretariat's work on the Cape Town Agreement.

Iceland delegation:

Sverrir Konráðsson, Icelandic Transport Authority

Hjalti Hreinsson, PAME Secretariat – advisor

Michael Kingston, maritime expert – advisor