



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION  
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION



**MACHC Circular Letter  
10/2013**

Date, June 2013

To: MACHC Members, Associate Members and Observers

**Subject: Jamaica 2013 High- level Symposium Resolution**

Dear MACHC colleagues,

Please find attached, on behalf of Mr. Amafo, the resolution of the "Regional high level symposium on international maritime development in the Caribbean" which was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2013.

Sincerely yours,



Mr. M. Amafo LL.M (IMLI)  
Director Maritime Authority Suriname and MACHC Chair

Encl. Jamaica 2013 High- level symposium resolution (5 pages)

**REGIONAL HIGH – LEVEL SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME  
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN**

**Montego Bay, Jamaica**

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013**

**JAMAICA 2013 HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM RESOLUTION**

The Ministers responsible for maritime transport and other participants in the High-Level Symposium on International Maritime Development in the Caribbean Region, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, representing the Governments of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago:

**RECALLING** the High-Level Symposia on International Maritime Development in the Caribbean held in Barbados on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1999 and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2004 and the progress made in implementing the Barbados Resolutions adopted on those occasions;

**NOTING** that over 90% of trade in the Caribbean is carried by ships and that shipping and port operations contribute to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Region;

**NOTING ALSO** the Senior Maritime Administrators Workshop held in Montego Bay, Jamaica on 19 to 20 February 2013 (Jamaica Senior Maritime Administrators Resolution 2013) whereby it was agreed the Caribbean Trading Area as defined in the Code of Safety for Caribbean Cargo Ships (CCSS Code) and the Code of Safety for Small Commercial Vessels Operating in the Caribbean Region (SCV Code) will be adopted as the Near Coastal Voyage Area for the purpose of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 as amended (STCW);

**NOTING FURTHER** that the Caribbean States and Territories have considerable and growing interests in merchant shipping and operate ship registries which, up to 2011, were responsible for 4,760 merchant ships totaling 72 million gross tonnes, representing 4.5% of the world's merchant fleet and 7% of its tonnage;

**CONSCIOUS** of the importance of safe, secure, environmentally sound and efficient maritime transport services for the movement of goods and people, and the socio-economic benefit to their States and Territories of a clean marine environment to the livelihood and well-being of their inhabitants and the growth of their fisheries and tourism industries;

**CONSCIOUS ALSO** of the particular vulnerability of the Caribbean Region to the harmful effects of sub-standard shipping and pollution damage from maritime activities and mindful of the entry into force of the Special Area status of the Wider Caribbean Region under Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973, as amended (MARPOL) dealing with the Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from ships;

**COGNIZANT** of the need to strengthen national maritime administrations, develop and update the national maritime legislation, build capacity at a regional level through partnerships and to contribute to the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the continued development of the Caribbean Sea;

**CONVINCED** that vessels registered and or operating in the Caribbean region should comply fully with applicable international instruments adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in respect of maritime safety and security, marine environment protection and the facilitation of maritime traffic, and by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in respect of living and working conditions on board ships, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in respect of maritime radio frequencies and procedures, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) in respect of hydrographic standards, and as appropriate, with the CCSS and SCV Codes;

**CONVINCED ALSO** of the vital role that a structured maritime policy contributes towards sustainable growth and employment in the maritime sector and the creation and preservation of benefits for all citizens;

**SUPPORTING** the IMO's initiative for Member States to develop maritime policies using, as one of the bases, the Country Maritime Profile document proposed at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of IMO's Technical Co-operation Committee (TCC);

**RECOGNISING** that the Caribbean States which are Parties to such instruments and the Caribbean Territories to which these instruments apply have committed themselves to the uniform and effective implementation and enforcement of the international rules and standards contained therein, and to continue to make concerted efforts, as appropriate, for increased accession to, or ratification of, such instruments, and for the establishment of the legislative framework and administrative systems that are necessary to give full effect to them;

**RECOGNISING ALSO** the need for Caribbean States to enshrine into national legislation the mandatory IMO instruments in view of the institutionalization of the IMO Audit Scheme in January 2016;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** that national and regional action, as well as regional co-operation and international assistance, continue to be necessary to establish or strengthen implementation and enforcement capabilities throughout the Caribbean region;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** with particular appreciation the efforts of the Governments of Curaçao, France, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America as well as that of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), CMoU, European Union (EU), ILO, IMO, MesoAmerican-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as well as several shipping industry organizations, in assisting the States of the region in building up human and institutional capacities for the effective exercise of coastal, flag and port State jurisdiction;

**ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO** the high quality and timeliness of the technical and advisory support being provided to the various States and Territories by the IMO Regional Maritime Adviser (RMA) for the Caribbean and the Regional Activity Centre / Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Center (RAC/REMPIETC-Caribe);

**ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER** the co-operative activities that are on-going at the regional level, such as the CMoU, to eliminate sub-standard shipping, enhance maritime safety and security and to reduce and minimize ship-generated pollution;

**RECOGNISING** that there is no established mechanism within CARICOM to assist member States to utilize the vehicle of the Senior Maritime Administrators' Workshops to advance and implement a regional maritime agenda;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** that the non-existence of an established mechanism has a negative impact on the maritime industry, taking into account the priority that needs to be accorded to maritime issues at the regional level;

**1 HEREBY COMMIT THEMSELVES TO:**

- .1 **CONTINUE** to increase the level of accession to, or ratification of, the IMO and ILO instruments related to maritime safety and security, marine environment protection, facilitation of maritime traffic and living and working conditions on board ships; and in particular the level of acceptance of MARPOL and to ensure the provision of reception facilities required thereby;
- .2 **MAINTAINING** the status of Caribbean countries as credible maritime States by taking appropriate measures to prepare for the institutionalization of the IMO Audit Scheme;
- .3 **PROVIDING**, as far as reasonably possible, the necessary means and support at the national and regional levels for adequate marine environmental research, monitoring and evaluation, in order to maintain the ecological integrity of the marine and coastal waters of the Caribbean Sea given its critical socio-economic, and environmental importance to Member States;
- .4 **ENHANCING** the effective implementation of international maritime rules and standards through *inter alia*, the preparation, enactment and enforcement of appropriate national maritime legislation;
- .5 **STRENGTHENING** national maritime administrations to carry out effectively their responsibilities as coastal, flag, and port States in accordance with applicable international maritime rules and standards;
- .6 **PROVIDING** adequate hydrographic services for ships navigating in the Caribbean region in accordance with applicable international instruments;
- .7 **PROVIDING** national maritime administrations with the necessary qualified personnel in the administrative, legal, scientific and technical disciplines relating to the sector;

- .8 ENSURING that the personnel of national maritime administrations and other relevant agencies receive education and continuous training to keep abreast of regulatory and technological developments, quality standards and best practices in support of their maritime roles and functions;
- .9 PROMOTING efforts aimed at encouraging and enhancing intra-regional technical co-operation and support;
- .10 PROMOTING ALSO the establishment of bilateral and multilateral arrangements for search and rescue;
- .11 INCREASING co-operation among the States and Territories of the region for the effective performance of flag State implementation and port State control activities through, *inter alia*, the sharing of experience, expert services, information, education and training opportunities;
- .12 INCREASING acceptance of, and giving full and complete effect to the CMoU, as well as increasing cooperation and harmonization on port State control matters among States and Territories of the region;
- .13 INCREASING acceptance of, and giving full effect to the provisions of the CCSS and SCV Codes;
- .14 RECOGNIZING, in the context of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, the IMO instruments relating to maritime safety, security, marine environment protection and the facilitation of maritime transport, and the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC, 2006) as relevant international maritime instruments to be adopted and implemented; and
- .15 ENSURING Resolutions of the Senior Maritime Administrators' Workshops are included in the maritime agenda at the regional level.

**2 IN VIEW OF THESE COMMITMENTS, WHICH REQUIRE CONTINUED CO-OPERATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT, HEREBY:**

- .1 RECOMMEND that the Governments of the Caribbean region develop, update and implement national maritime policies and action plans which articulate the developmental vision for the sector and ensure more effective compliance with, and enforcement of, international maritime rules and standards throughout the region;
- .2 RECOMMEND ALSO that such national maritime policies and action plans be based on assessments of existing capacities in maritime administrations, and contain clear objectives and realistic target dates for their attainment, as well as defined activities to be carried out by individual Governments, through technical co-operation among Caribbean countries, or with external assistance;

- .3 **RECOMMEND FURTHER** that the Governments of the Caribbean take steps to develop a regional maritime policy taking into consideration national maritime policies and action plans as well as the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas;
- .4 **REQUEST** the IMO Regional Maritime Adviser to assist, where applicable, the Caribbean States in developing or updating their national maritime policies and action plans and to invite the IMO, ILO, ITU, other UN agencies and donor governments and organisations to continue to take account of the action plans in the preparation and execution of their respective technical co-operation programmes for the Caribbean;
- .5 **ALSO REQUEST** the IMO to maintain its presence in the Caribbean, beyond 2013, so that the required assistance and co-ordination can be provided to the beneficiary States and Territories on a sustained and comprehensive basis;
- .6 **REQUEST FURTHER** the IMO, as the United Nations specialized agency dealing with the maritime sector, in consultation with relevant international and regional organizations, interested Governments and industry organisations, to facilitate the mobilization of resources to assist the States and Territories of the region in implementing the regional and national action plans and in giving full and complete effect to international maritime rules and standards;
- .7 **ENCOURAGE** Governments of the region, in their interactions with financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral development partners, to specifically include the accessing of resources for the further development of human and institutional capacities in the maritime field;
- .8 **REQUEST** Governments to take the necessary steps to be audited under the IMO Audit Scheme;
- .9 **URGE** that collaboration between the CARICOM Secretariat and IMO Secretariat be strengthened to facilitate the development and implementation of a regional policy and related matters; and
- .10 **REQUEST** the Secretariats of the Caribbean Community, CMoU, Association of Caribbean States (ACS), IHO, ILO, IMO and ITU to bring this Resolution to the attention of the appropriate bodies within their organizations for their consideration and relevant action.