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**ORGANIZATION AND METHOD OF WORK OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE
AND THEIR SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 109th session (2 to 6 December 2024), and the Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its eighty-third session (7 to 11 April 2025), approved the revised document on *Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies*, as set out in the annex, which reflects the decision of the Committees to introduce:

- .1 new measures to address the workload of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies;
- .2 procedures to facilitate assessment of capacity-building implications of new or amended mandatory instruments;
- .3 safeguards and the decision-making process to be followed during consideration and approval of unified interpretations; and
- .4 general improvements.

2 Members are invited to apply the annexed document with immediate effect, as appropriate, and to bring it to the attention of their representatives at relevant IMO meetings, advising them to strictly observe its provisions.

3 This circular revokes MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.5.

ANNEX

ORGANIZATION AND METHOD OF WORK OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE AND THEIR SUBSIDIARY BODIES

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1 INTRODUCTION

Purpose and application

1.1 The purpose of this document is to provide a uniform basis for the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and their subsidiary bodies to conduct their work in an efficient and effective manner and to strengthen the linkage between the Organization's strategy, the work of the Committees and the biennial budget, with a view to achieving IMO's mission over a biennium. This in turn will enable the Committees to respond successfully to the needs for enhanced maritime safety, maritime security and protection of the marine environment, thus providing an efficient mechanism towards achieving the desired goals of the Organization.

1.2 Proper application of the document will also enhance the ability of Committee members and delegations to meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Committees to cover the full spectrum of IMO activities relevant to their work and thus provide for their effective participation in the rule-making process of the Organization. It is also expected that the document will enable the Committees to further improve their decision-making functions.

1.3 The document is applicable to the work of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies as well as to that of working, drafting, correspondence, intersessional working and other groups set up by these bodies. The Chairs of the Committees, subsidiary bodies, and working, drafting, intersessional working and other groups as well as coordinators of correspondence groups should make all efforts to ensure strict compliance with the document.

1.4 The document will be kept under review and will be updated as necessary in the light of experience gained in its application, taking into account the document on *Application of the Strategic Plan of the Organization* (resolution A.1174(33)), as may be amended.

Objectives

1.5 The provisions of this document are aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- .1 to align and strengthen the planning and reporting processes by linking agenda-setting and reporting clearly to the Strategic Plan;
- .2 to strengthen the linkage between outputs on the biennial agenda and the resources required to deliver the outputs;
- .3 to facilitate the efforts of the Committees in controlling and monitoring the Organization's work;
- .4 to promote discipline in adherence to the planning procedures and documents;
- .5 to promote objectivity, clarity and realistic time frames in the establishment of biennial agendas by the Committees and their subsidiary bodies;
- .6 to ensure maximum possible participation by all Member States and by organizations with observer status in the work of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies; and
- .7 to establish responsibilities and promote involvement in the planning and reporting processes.

2 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this document, the following definitions apply:

- .1 *IMO organs* are the Assembly, Council and Committees of the Organization specified in Article 11 of the IMO Convention, including their subsidiary bodies.
- .2 *Strategic Plan* is the Strategic Plan for the Organization for a six-year period as adopted by the Assembly, which includes key strategic directions to enable IMO to achieve its mission.
- .3 *Output* is an item to be delivered by one or more IMO organs during the current biennium or accepted for a subsequent biennium.
- .4 *Agenda* is a list of outputs for discussion at a particular meeting.
- .5 *Biennial agenda* is a list of outputs to be delivered by a Committee or subsidiary body during a biennium.
- .6 *Post-biennial agenda* is a list of outputs accepted by the Committees in one biennium that are to be delivered or initiated in the next biennium.
- .7 *Parent organ* is the IMO organ responsible for delivering an output.
- .8 *Coordinating organ* is the IMO organ assigned to coordinate the technical work undertaken by associated organ(s).
- .9 *Associated organ* is an IMO organ assigned to undertake the technical work, if necessary, under the coordination of a coordinating organ, to facilitate the delivery of an output.
- .10 *Continuous output* is a multiple session output without a target completion year that may be progressed annually or with variable intervals.
- .11 *Road map* is an indicative plan providing the timeline of how an output is envisaged to progress across the Organization.

3 COORDINATION OF WORK

3.1 The Committees should function as policymaking bodies and their subsidiary bodies as purely technical bodies.

3.2 The Committees should routinely examine their outputs, allocate work to their subsidiary bodies, review the allocation of meeting weeks to each body and approve their respective biennial and provisional agendas, taking into account any recommendations made by meetings of the Committees' and subsidiary bodies' Chairs, convened as provided in paragraph 3.4.

3.3 The Committees should regularly review the status of all conventions, protocols and other major instruments under their purview.

3.4 The Committee Chairs may convene an in-person or hybrid/remote meeting of Chairs of the Committees' subsidiary bodies at least once a year. This meeting should preferably take place at the spring session of MSC or MEPC, to advise the Committees on subjects such as those referred to in paragraph 3.2, ensure coordination of the work and examine other matters pertinent to the effective conduct of business and management of the work of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies.

3.5 The Committee Chairs should, at the end of the first year of the biennium, submit to their respective Committees a joint plan covering the activities, priorities and meetings of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies for the coming biennium, for consideration in the subsequent year.

3.6 When both Committees have been charged by the Council, Assembly or a conference with considering a specific item and one Committee has finalized its consideration, the other Committee should consider it at its first subsequent session.

3.7 When an issue is transferred to one of the Committees by another Committee of the Organization for specific action, the Committee, before including the subject in question in the biennial agenda, should decide that the provisions of section 4, as appropriate, are fully satisfied, even if the issue, in accordance with the criteria of the referring Committee, satisfies the requirements of resolutions A.500(XII), A.777(18) and A.900(21).

4 WORK PLANNING AND DELIVERY PROCESS

Outputs

4.1 The Committees shall identify, in a timely manner, the outputs to be included in the next biennial agenda, and the Secretariat should develop its Business Plan, as such identification provides a basis for making an estimate of the budget required for that biennium.

4.2 In the process of preparing the next biennial agenda, the following outputs should be included:

- .1 continuous outputs;
- .2 outputs that have not been completed;
- .3 outputs from the post-biennial agenda, subject to personnel and budgetary resources available; and
- .4 any other proposals for new outputs, following their assessment in accordance with the provisions in paragraph 4.6.

4.3 While preparing the next biennial agendas, the Committees shall be guided by the strategic directions in the Strategic Plan and shall take due account of:

- .1 the specific necessity for an output to be started during the current biennium;¹
- .2 the potential impact that the inclusion of an output in the biennial agenda may have in the timely delivery of other outputs during the biennium;

¹ The normal action will be for outputs, if accepted, to be placed on the post-biennial agenda, and only in exceptional circumstances will outputs be added to the biennial agenda and the provisional agenda of the subsequent session of the relevant IMO organ.

- .3 the potential impact that the inclusion of an output may have on the workload of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies delivering the output;
- .4 the personnel and budgetary resources available;
- .5 the potential adverse impacts on the ability of the Organization to meet its objectives if a decision is made not to accept a proposal for inclusion of an output in the biennial or post-biennial agendas; and
- .6 the potential impact that the inclusion of an output in the biennial agenda may have on small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs).

4.4 Biennial agendas of Committees may be revised during the biennium, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 4.3, if subsequently endorsed by the Council.

4.5 The overview of the Organization's overall planning hierarchy and its links to related processes, and of the Organization's strategic planning process and its related planning and reporting flows during the course of a biennium are shown in diagrams 1 and 2 contained in annex 1 to the document on *Application of the Strategic Plan of the Organization* (resolution A.1174(33)).

Submission of proposals for new outputs or the expansion of the scope of an output

4.6 Documents containing proposals for new outputs or expansion of scope of existing outputs shall only be submitted to the Committees. To enable the Committees to carry out a proper assessment, submissions containing such proposals must, at a minimum, contain the information, including demonstration and documentation, set out in annex 1.

4.7 The Committees may receive the results of a Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) study carried out in accordance with *Revised guidelines for Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) for use in the IMO rule-making process* (FSA Guidelines) (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.12/Rev.2). The criteria in paragraph 4.3 also apply to the outcomes of an FSA study that may be regarded by the Committees as proposals for new outputs (see also paragraph 4.18).

4.8 Member States should refrain from submitting to the Committees proposals for new outputs under specific agenda items. The Secretariat should not accept such submissions and should advise the submitting Administrations accordingly.

4.9 Proposals for new outputs or the expansion of the scope of an output may be developed and submitted by a subsidiary body when such proposals arise from considerations relating to outputs already on the agenda other than "any other business" of that subsidiary body.

4.10 Proposals for new outputs or the expansion of the scope of an output submitted to the Committees by non-governmental organizations shall be co-sponsored by Member States.

4.11 Follow-up action in response to specific requests for action emanating from the Assembly and diplomatic conferences convened by IMO, United Nations conferences and bodies, regional intergovernmental conferences and other international and intergovernmental organizations, etc. shall be evaluated in the light of paragraph 4.3, unless they are specifically identified as urgent matters requiring immediate actions, and it is demonstrated that the risk of not acting will adversely affect the Organization's ability to meet its purposes.

Preliminary assessment of proposals for new outputs or the expansion of the scope of an output

4.12 In order to facilitate the consideration of proposals for new outputs, or the expansion of the scope of an output, a preliminary assessment of such proposals should be undertaken in advance of the relevant Committee session by a standing body (i.e. "Group of Chairs"), composed of the Chair(s) and Vice-Chair(s) of the Committee and the subsidiary bodies concerned, as appropriate, supported by the Secretariat.

4.13 Upon receipt of documents containing proposals for new outputs, the Secretariat should perform a compliance check to ensure the documents meet the requirements specified in paragraphs 4.6 and 6.12.2. Documents not meeting these requirements should not be accepted or further processed by the Secretariat.

4.14 When conducting the preliminary assessment of proposals for new outputs or the expansion of the scope of an output, the Group of Chairs should be guided by the criteria set out in part 2 of the form in annex 8.

4.15 The outcome of the Group of Chairs' preliminary assessment should be submitted by means of a working paper, which should include the form set out in annex 8 duly completed, to the Committee concerned, not later than two weeks before the opening of the relevant session, for consideration and decision.

4.16 In addition to conducting a preliminary assessment of proposals, the Group of Chairs may provide general recommendations to the relevant Committee to assist with the management of the workload of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

4.17 Nothing in this document shall prohibit the Committees from taking immediate action on urgent matters if the risk of not acting will adversely affect the Organization's ability to meet its purposes.

4.18 The assessment criteria set out in part 2 of annex 8 are also applicable to the outcome of an FSA study (see also paragraph 4.7). Annex 6 provides guidance for considering and reviewing the outcomes of FSA studies.

Decision on acceptance and inclusion of outputs or the expansion of the scope of an output

4.19 Following consideration of the outcome of the Group of Chairs' preliminary assessment, as well as any related documents submitted, the Committee may decide that:

- .1 the proposal is not within the scope of the mission of the Organization and should not, therefore, be accepted for inclusion;
- .2 the need has not been sufficiently demonstrated and therefore the output should not be included or expanded, as appropriate;
- .3 the human element has not been sufficiently considered and addressed, and therefore the output should not be included or expanded, as appropriate;
- .4 the urgency of the proposed action has not been sufficiently justified and, therefore, the output or the expansion of its scope should be accepted for inclusion in the next biennium;

- .5 the implications for the present workload and resources of the Organization are unacceptable within the current biennium, and therefore the output should be accepted for inclusion in the next biennium; or
- .6 the demonstrated need for the output, or the expansion of its scope, is such that it should be included, together with a target date for completion, in the biennial agenda, provided it is satisfied that the implications for the workload and planning are acceptable.

Mission	Need to carry out the work	Human element considered and addressed	Urgency to deliver the output	Workload/personnel and budgetary resources	Decision
Within the mission of the Organization	Demonstrated	Demonstrated	Justified	Implications of workload and resources are acceptable within the current biennium	Accept output for inclusion within the current biennium
				Implications of workload and resources are unacceptable within the current biennium	Accept output for inclusion in the next biennium
	Demonstrated	Demonstrated	Not justified	Acceptable to next biennium	Accept output for inclusion in the next biennium
	Not demonstrated	Not demonstrated	Not justified	No need to further consider	Output not to be accepted for inclusion
Outside the mission of the Organization	No need to further consider	No need to further consider	No need to further consider	No need to further consider	Output not to be accepted for inclusion

4.20 Following a decision by a Committee to include an output in its biennial or post-biennial agenda, it shall decide whether the output contributes to the delivery of a strategic direction. Outputs that are not directly related to the strategic directions can be accepted as "Other work".

4.21 Upon a decision by a Committee to include an output in its post-biennial agenda, the Committee shall include the accepted output, and the timescale for completion, in its proposals for the list of outputs for the next biennium.

4.22 The Committees shall report on their decisions on proposals for new outputs in their regular reports to the Council, for endorsement and in order to facilitate the monitoring of the delivery of current biennial agendas and the planning of future work.

4.23 In pursuance of resolution A.998(25) on *Need for capacity-building for the development and implementation of new, and amendments to existing, instruments*, the Committees should assess the implications for capacity-building and technical cooperation and assistance in accordance with the procedures set out in annex 2.

Decision on inclusion of outputs in the biennial agendas of subsidiary bodies

4.24 A decision by a Committee to include an output in the biennial agenda of a subsidiary body shall include clear and detailed instructions for the work to be undertaken by the subsidiary body or bodies concerned, preferably by establishing the terms of reference under which such work should be undertaken.

Coordination of outputs included in the agenda of more than one subsidiary body

4.25 In deciding to include an output on the agenda of more than one subsidiary body, the Committee shall:

- .1 designate the subsidiary body that is to coordinate the work so as to avoid duplication, maintain consistency in the standards being developed and ensure effective communication between the subsidiary bodies concerned;
- .2 ensure that the coordinating subsidiary body can complete the work by the target completion year;
- .3 ensure that only those subsidiary bodies essential for the completion of the work will be involved, in order to avoid superfluous work and documentation;
- .4 ensure that the work is included in the biennial agendas of all the subsidiary bodies concerned;
- .5 ensure that all the subsidiary bodies concerned are provided with the instructions related to the output, including the completed checklist for addressing the human element (see annex 5) for consideration during their inputs to the work;
- .6 ensure that the coordinating subsidiary body reports to its parent organ(s) on the status of the work; and
- .7 for interrelated outputs contributing to the same overall objective, designate the subsidiary body to oversee the consistency of the work on those outputs.

Additional considerations

4.26 Submissions to the Committees or subsidiary bodies highlighting problems or shortcomings identified in a particular area(s) of maritime safety, maritime security or protection of the marine environment should, in general and where possible, also suggest appropriate solutions.

4.27 When new constructional requirements have been proposed for new ships, the Committees and subsidiary bodies should, in order to minimize the unavoidable gaps in safety standards between new and existing ships, consider applying the proposed new requirements, or any modifications to them, to existing ships using the *Interim guidelines for the systematic application of the grandfather clauses* (MSC/Circ.765-MEPC/Circ.315).

4.28 The human element is complex and multidimensional. It affects maritime safety, maritime security and protection of the marine environment. The Committees and subsidiary bodies should consider the human element whenever new requirements are developed and existing requirements are reviewed, by taking into account the human element principles, as set out in the annex to resolution A.947(23) on *Human element vision, principles and goals for the Organization*.

4.29 Outputs for which extensive work is required, such as the preparation of new codes, should, when appropriate, be placed on the provisional agendas of alternate sessions of the bodies concerned to allow adequate time for preparatory work by delegations.

4.30 In respect of subjects requiring research, contributions from other organizations and appropriate entities should be encouraged and taken into account. Provision of information to IMO organs on matters concerning technological developments that may have an impact on maritime safety, maritime security and protection of the marine environment should be encouraged.

4.31 In the context of resolution A.911(22) on *Uniform wording for referencing IMO instruments*, subsidiary bodies should be guided in their work, as appropriate, by the guidelines annexed thereto.

4.32 Substantial modifications of draft amendments to mandatory instruments being considered by the Committees with a view to adoption should be accepted for discussion only if they have been submitted in writing. However, in exceptional circumstances, where the draft amendments under consideration include significant discrepancies or omissions, or where serious difficulties in their application can be foreseen, the Committees may accept to discuss oral proposals aimed at resolving any problems identified.

Management, control and reporting

4.33 Committees and subsidiary bodies should at each session review the status of the continuous outputs under their purview and, if considered to be practical and applicable, may determine suitable alternative mechanisms (e.g. via intersessional arrangements, by correspondence only or with less frequent intervals) for their consideration, subject to approval by the parent body and/or Council, as appropriate.

4.34 In implementing the list of outputs, proper management and control mechanisms shall be in place to ensure that:

- .1 biennial agendas and provisional agendas of IMO organs are both clearly linked to the Strategic Plan, including the list of outputs;
- .2 the objectives of the Strategic Plan can be met within the resource constraints of the Organization and its membership;
- .3 the Organization's response to changes in the environment within which it operates is consistent with the Strategic Plan; and
- .4 monitoring and reporting are such that progress on biennial agendas is explicitly linked to progress made on outputs.

4.35 In order to provide a transparent link between the Strategic Plan and the Organization's work, the following principles shall be applied:

- .1 the outputs contained in the biennial agenda shall – together with the Secretariat's Business Plan – form the basis of the biennial work of all the IMO organs and the budget of the Organization;
- .2 the outputs contained in the provisional and biennial agendas of all IMO organs shall all be outputs in the list of outputs or included in the Secretariat's Business Plan;
- .3 for outputs with target completion dates within the current biennium, the biennial agenda shall specify the planned year of completion;

- .4 for an output that is expected to take more than one biennium to complete, the biennial status report shall specify the target completion year; the responsible Committee shall review the relevant output at the end of the biennium to assess the progress made and make a recommendation on whether to include it in the next biennial agenda;
- .5 continuous outputs are discouraged, but in those cases where they are deemed unavoidable, it is still necessary for them to be given a "SMART" definition so that progress during the biennium can be assessed; and
- .6 documents submitted to the Committees and their subsidiary bodies shall clearly demonstrate the direct relation between the proposals they contain and the output to be delivered under the relevant agenda item, on the basis of the biennial agenda.

4.36 Reports on the status of outputs included in the biennial agenda shall follow format 1 set out in annex 3, and shall be annexed to the reports of each session of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies.² Such reports shall identify new outputs accepted for inclusion in the biennial agendas.

4.37 In preparing their own biennial status reports, the Committees and their subsidiary bodies shall incorporate all reports they have received since their previous report on the status of outputs.

4.38 The Committees shall establish and maintain post-biennial agendas which should follow format 2 set out in annex 3. These shall be annexed to the reports of each session. For planning purposes, the subsidiary bodies shall also maintain a list of the accepted outputs in the Committees' post-biennial agendas for outputs under their purview.

Preparation of the Committees' or subsidiary bodies' reports

4.39 After consideration of the draft report of the Committee or subsidiary body, the Secretariat should prepare the final draft report for publication on the IMO document website (IMODOCS). Delegations will have five working days from publication of the final draft report to comment by correspondence. Comments should only address editorial corrections and improvements, including finalizing individual statements, and should not reopen discussion on decisions taken during the session.

4.40 The Chair, supported by the Secretariat, will facilitate resolution of any comments received, as necessary. After the conclusion of the five-day correspondence period, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, will publish a document on IMODOCS containing the comments received, together with an explanation of how they have been addressed. After the above document has been published, the final report will be prepared in due course for publication on IMODOCS.

Responsibilities

4.41 Member States and the Secretariat shall ensure consistency and discipline in the administrative management of the planning and reporting cycle.

² Should an associated organ not have been requested to consider an output during a session in the biennium, that organ is not required to include the specific output in its biennial agenda for that session.

4.42 Accordingly, the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and secretaries of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies have a specific responsibility for effective management of the planning and reporting cycle and for consistent and rigorous application of this document and the document on *Application of the Strategic Plan of the Organization* (resolution A.1174(33)).

4.43 In order to fulfil the function mentioned in paragraph 4.42, well-established cooperation and coordination are expected between the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and secretaries of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies by all available means, including face-to-face meetings and teleconferences, as deemed necessary.

Consideration and approval of unified interpretations

4.44 Unified interpretations (UIs) shall not be used as a means to circumvent the development process of mandatory requirements. In this context, when considering proposals for UIs concerning requirements of mandatory instruments, the following safeguards shall be observed:

- .1 UIs should not amend mandatory requirements in Conventions and associated instruments;
- .2 UIs should not go beyond the interpretation of mandatory requirements; and
- .3 UIs should not contradict mandatory requirements.

4.45 In cases where the development of a UI is not appropriate, submission of a proposal for a new output may be required.

4.46 Consensus is to be applied to the decision-making process of UIs by subsidiary bodies and Committees.

5 WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Committees and subsidiary bodies

5.1 The subsidiary bodies should, as necessary, operate under the instructions of both MSC and MEPC and should report on specific outputs directly and separately to the Committee that has sought their expert advice, rather than reporting to both Committees.

5.2 The subsidiary bodies should periodically review their terms of reference to ensure that they accurately reflect the work being carried out.

5.3 The Committees should periodically review the necessity for the continued existence of their subsidiary bodies.

5.4 The subsidiary bodies should not recommend the convening of working groups during sessions of a Committee without prior consultation by the Chair of the subsidiary body concerned with the Chair of that Committee.

5.5 A subsidiary body may request a contribution from another body, in which case the latter should be allowed sufficient time to prepare its contribution, taking into account its outputs.

5.6 The Committees should not, as a rule, permit any subsidiary body to commence work on the review or improvement of provisions already approved by it until sufficient experience has been gained from the application of such existing provisions.

5.7 Subsidiary bodies should focus their efforts on carrying out the technical work entrusted to them and should not normally, without good reason, reopen discussions on the need or the compelling need for an output, whether it is on their agenda or not.

5.8 With the aim of facilitating the technical work being carried out effectively and efficiently, the proponent(s) of new outputs or the expansion of the scope of an output, should ensure that sufficient and relevant information, in line with the need or compelling need as determined by the Committee, is made available to the subsidiary body when embarking on its technical work. This shall include relevant information and analysis to ensure that the human element is considered and addressed during the course of the work.

5.9 Subsidiary bodies should not expand the scope of existing outputs or develop amendments to, or interpretations of, any relevant IMO instrument unless directed or authorized to do so by their parent Committee. However, when seeking a Committee's direction or authorization to act as provided in the previous sentence, subsidiary bodies should ensure that their request complies with the provisions of paragraphs 4.3, 4.6 and annex 8, part 2, as appropriate. As subsidiary bodies may not have sufficient time to develop the required information, given that their biennial agendas are usually only discussed at the end of their sessions, interested delegations may, in consultation with the subsidiary body Chair and the Secretariat, prepare the necessary information after the session, for consideration by the parent Committee. Following consideration of this information and the accompanying proposal, the Committee may decide to provide the subsidiary body with the necessary direction or authorization, as appropriate.

5.10 Subsidiary bodies should not, as a rule, issue circulars, which are supposed to be issued only after approval by the Committees. However, in exceptional cases, subsidiary bodies may issue circulars within their area of competence, subject to endorsement of their action by the Committee or Committees concerned at their first subsequent session.

5.11 Subsidiary bodies should avoid developing unified interpretations of guidelines. In cases where the existing text of guidelines is vague and therefore needs modification, the subsidiary body concerned should amend the guidelines accordingly, in lieu of developing a unified interpretation. Member States or subsidiary bodies may, for this situation, wish to consider a submission of a single session output to the parent committee in order to assign a new output to amend the guidelines.

5.12 When considering their outputs and/or their provisional agendas for the following session, subsidiary bodies should seek the advice of the Committees in the case of outputs, other than continuous outputs, for which no submissions have been received at the session allocated to consider the output.

Guidance on the selection of outputs for the provisional agenda

5.13 Subsidiary bodies should select outputs for their provisional agendas in a manner ensuring that proper consideration is given to important and urgent issues, taking into account:

- .1 the number of working days of each session; and
- .2 the number of working and drafting groups that the subsidiary body intends to establish.

5.14 Outputs should be selected first from the biennial agenda and, where the subsequent session will occur in the coming biennium, from the accepted outputs included in the Committee's post-biennial agenda.

5.15 The total number of selected outputs and the workload of the subsidiary bodies' provisional agendas should be kept at an appropriate and manageable level, ensuring high-quality output. Outputs selected from the Committees' post-biennial agendas should be included in the subsidiary bodies' agendas only when the outputs of the relevant biennial agenda are completed and the capacity of the subsidiary body allows the inclusion of additional outputs.

5.16 The remaining outputs not selected will be kept in abeyance and will be transferred to the provisional agendas of the subsidiary bodies as and when selected by them and endorsed by the Committee concerned, taking into account the overall workload of the subsidiary bodies responsible for the work.

Working, drafting, correspondence, intersessional working and other groups

Working groups

5.17 The Committees and their subsidiary bodies should keep the number of working groups formed during their sessions to a minimum; however, a maximum of three working groups may be established when necessary, bearing in mind the difficulties that small delegations experience in being represented in such groups and the fact that such groups work without interpretation. When a working group has completed its task and has been terminated, no other working group should be convened in its place during the same session. To that end, subsidiary bodies should endeavour to consider, as appropriate, items on their agenda in plenary, rather than establishing groups to deal with them.

5.18 Where more than three working groups are needed to deal with different subjects in one session, the Committees and subsidiary bodies should establish an order of priority for possible subject items and decide accordingly. Where more than three unrelated topics need to be covered by independent working groups over several sessions, arrangements may be made for groups concerned to meet at alternate sessions of the Committee and subsidiary body concerned, within the maximum of three working groups per session.

5.19 In principle, a working group should not have splinter groups. However, where it is necessary to establish one or more splinter groups to facilitate efficient work, the working group should do so by unanimous agreement and should consider and agree to the outcome of the splinter group's work before incorporating it in its report. Splinter groups, if established, should meet outside normal working hours, unless the working group decides otherwise to improve the efficiency of the work.

5.20 Subsidiary bodies' working groups, if circumstances and time constraints so dictate, may submit their reports directly to the Committees if authorized to do so by the parent body, following consultations between the Chair of the group, the Chair of the parent body and the Chairs of the Committees concerned.

5.21 When appropriate, working groups should make full use of the five working days of a session in submitting their reports to the next session of their parent body. When working group reports are to be prepared during a session, all efforts should be made to keep them as short as possible.

5.22 Permanent working groups should be avoided, however, if there is a need for such a group, a clear justification and appropriate terms of reference should be provided by the subsidiary body concerned.

Drafting groups

5.23 In addition to working groups, the Committees and their subsidiary bodies may form drafting groups. In no case should more than five groups (e.g. three working and two drafting groups) meet simultaneously during a session. If additional drafting groups are needed, they should meet outside normal working hours.

Other groups

5.24 In addition to working and drafting groups, the Committees and their subsidiary bodies may form other groups, such as technical or review groups. Depending on the necessity and urgency of the issue to be considered, such groups may meet in addition to or in lieu of working or drafting groups.

Correspondence groups

5.25 To facilitate the consideration of an issue, correspondence groups may be established by the Committees or subsidiary bodies and be instructed to work on a consolidated draft text prepared by a "lead country" or the Secretariat, provided that the Committee or subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, has agreed to consider the issue and has approved the terms of reference for the group (see also paragraph 5.36). Thus, through consultation between interested delegations by correspondence, the volume of documents submitted and processed can be reduced.

5.26 Correspondence groups should utilize modern communication technologies to undertake their work. The correspondence group should have the flexibility to convene virtual meetings using a suitable platform with the purpose strictly limited to clarifying any doubts that might hinder the proceeding of the work of the correspondence group.

5.27 The work of a correspondence group (e.g. the receipt and processing of comments and suggestions) should not pre-empt formal consideration of the relevant issue by the parent body concerned or the positions taken by Member States or international organizations participating in the group.

5.28 Normally, the Committees and subsidiary bodies should not establish more than three correspondence groups, although this number may be increased where the urgency of the matter under consideration so justifies. Sub-groups within a correspondence group should not be established. No official meetings of members of correspondence groups should be held without the prior approval of the Committee(s).

5.29 Participation in correspondence groups is open to all delegations (Member States and organizations) that can provide the necessary expertise on a timely basis or that have a particular interest in the issue under consideration. Any Member State or international organization can join in the work of a correspondence group once the group is established; and the group should accept contributions at any stage of its work.

5.30 When establishing a correspondence group, a "lead country", "lead organization" or the Secretariat should be designated to coordinate the group's work. Responsibilities of group coordinators include:

- .1 preparation, maintenance and circulation of the list of participants;
- .2 establishment of deadlines for the preparation of draft texts and receipt of comments and proposals concerning them;

- .3 preparation and circulation of draft texts and comments concerning them;
- .4 preparation and submission to the Secretariat of the report of the correspondence group, including any consolidated draft texts (see paragraph 5.34); and
- .5 introduction of the above-mentioned report and consolidated draft texts to the appropriate Committee or subsidiary body.

5.31 Responsibilities of participants include:

- .1 active participation in the work of the group;
- .2 compliance with the deadlines established for the submission of comments on draft texts, proposals, etc.; and
- .3 relaying to other group members copies of comments, proposals, etc. submitted to the group coordinator.

5.32 The responsibilities of the Secretariat, in cases where the Secretariat acts as a group coordinator, should be the same as those described in paragraph 5.30 above. The Secretariat may also be requested to circulate consolidated draft texts, etc., on behalf of the group coordinator.

5.33 The results of work carried out by correspondence groups should normally take the form of a consolidated draft text reflecting the information received from members of the group. Such texts should be accompanied by a succinct report summarizing the work and indicating which members have provided input to the process. Where it has not been possible to prepare an agreed consolidated draft document, the texts or issues on which there was disagreement should be clearly indicated in the draft document or the report, as appropriate.

5.34 Correspondence groups' reports should be submitted to the first session of the parent body after the conclusion of the groups' work, in time to meet the deadline established for consideration of substantive documents, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12. Normally the work of correspondence groups should not overlap with sessions of the parent Committee or subsidiary body. If the group has not finalized its work in time to meet the applicable deadline, a progress report should be made to the parent body.

Terms of reference of working, drafting, correspondence, intersessional working and other groups

5.35 When working, drafting and other groups are to be established, draft terms of reference should be prepared, following consultations between the Chair of the relevant Committee or subsidiary body and the Secretariat, and issued at the beginning of the session for approval by plenary. Such groups may start work on the first morning of a Committee or subsidiary body session under their draft terms of reference.

5.36 In the case of correspondence or intersessional working groups, their terms of reference should be approved by the parent body at the time of their establishment.

5.37 The agreed terms of reference of working, drafting, correspondence, intersessional working and other groups should not be modified or extended without the parent body's prior consent.

Intersessional working groups

5.38 Subject to endorsement by the Council, intersessional meetings of working groups may be convened without interpretation services. Intersessional meetings should be held only if considered to be absolutely essential and after careful consideration of their necessity by the relevant Committee on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the priority and urgency of the specific matter that such meetings will be invited to address. Intersessional meetings of such groups should be held at IMO Headquarters immediately before or after a session of the parent body concerned. Other arrangements may be considered; however, no arrangements should be made in respect of an intersessional meeting until such a meeting has been approved by the parent Committee. Meetings of intersessional working groups, which may include technical groups, should not be held at the same time as Committee or subsidiary body meetings.

6 PROCEDURES FOR PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

Preparation of documents

6.1 Documents should be prepared in single spacing and be as concise as possible so as to facilitate their timely processing. In order to enhance the clear understanding of documents, the following should be observed:

- .1 all documents should be preceded by a brief summary prepared in the form, and containing the information, indicated in the table below. Documents, especially proposals for the inclusion of an output, should demonstrate, where feasible, the linkages to the Strategic Plan by including, in the summary, references to the related strategic direction(s) and output(s):

SUMMARY	
<i>Executive summary:</i>	This description should be brief, outlining the proposed objective (an amendment, an Assembly resolution, a circular, information only, etc.), and include information on whether a proposal will have any financial implications for the shipping industry or for the IMO budget.
<i>Strategic direction, if applicable:</i>	A reference should be made to one or more relevant strategic directions in the Organization's Strategic Plan.
<i>Output:</i>	A reference should be made to one or more corresponding outputs in the biennial's list of outputs. If there is no corresponding output, an appropriate descriptive text should be included.
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	A reference should be made to the paragraph of the document that states the action to be taken by the committee, subsidiary body, etc.
<i>Related documents:</i>	Other key documents should be listed to the extent that they are known to the originator of the document.

- .2 substantive documents should conclude with a summary of the action the relevant body is invited to take; and
- .3 information documents should conclude with a summary of the information they contain.

6.2 To facilitate processing, meeting documents should be submitted through the Meeting Document Submission Portal, available on the IMODOCS home page (<https://docs.imo.org>) under the "Submissions" tab.³ All submissions through the Portal will be confirmed via notification to the submitter and their status can be checked on the Portal. For any queries relating to the Portal, please email the Secretariat at imodocs@imo.org.

6.3 A document should not be introduced in plenary unless the Chair decides that this is essential for the proper consideration of the matter concerned. The submitter(s) of a document may indicate prior to or when the document is considered if they have additional information or context required for the discussions, in order for the Chair to prioritize interventions.

6.4 To indicate the importance of documents containing proposed amendments to IMO instruments related to maritime safety, maritime security and protection of the marine environment which have been approved for adoption by MSC or MEPC, such documents will be identifiable on IMODOCS by background highlighting in pink.

6.5 Documents containing proposed amendments to mandatory instruments should be presented in a format that permits clear identification of the changes being introduced (e.g. use "strikeout" for deleted text and "grey shading" to highlight all modifications and new insertions, including deleted text).

6.6 Reports of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies should, in general, contain under each section only:

- .1 a summary of key documents and a list of other documents submitted by Member States, international organizations or the Secretariat;
- .2 a summary of the views expressed during consideration of an item that may have influenced the decision taken by the reporting body (but not allowing the reports to turn into summary records), with statements by delegations included only at their express request during the session; and
- .3 a record of the decisions taken.

6.7 In drafting recommendations, codes or guidelines, cross references should, whenever possible, be made to texts and terminology previously developed by IMO or other organizations. This will avoid unnecessary duplication and reduce the need for excessively detailed provisions and for subsequent harmonization.

6.8 The Chairs of subsidiary bodies should **not** introduce their reports to the Committees as these should be taken as read.

6.9 With respect to urgent matters emanating from sessions of subsidiary bodies or IMO bodies other than the Council and the Assembly, which have taken place less than 13 weeks before a session of a Committee, the Committee should consider only such urgent matters as may have been specified by it at a prior session. As a general rule, the Committee should not consider reports or matters emanating from any subsidiary body session which has taken place less than nine weeks prior to the Committee's session. In exceptional cases, a subsidiary body may invite the Committee to take action on a matter that the subsidiary body considers to be urgent and important emanating from a session that took place less than nine weeks prior to the Committee's session. In such cases, the subsidiary body Chair should consult the Committee Chair for approval of the contemplated action.

³ Refer to Circular Letter No.4662 of 16 December 2022.

6.10 All concerned should be continuously aware of the financial and environmental impact of the volume of documentation generated by IMO meetings and should limit, to the greatest possible extent, the number of pages of documents submitted to such meetings. For information, the current arrangements in the Secretariat for the production of working papers during meetings are described in annex 4.

6.11 To encourage the action referred to in paragraph 6.10 above, documents other than information documents and reports from the Committees and subsidiary bodies, working, drafting, correspondence and other reporting groups and the Secretariat which contain more than 20 pages should not be translated in their entirety. They should include, for translation purposes, a summary of the document not longer than four pages, with the remaining content submitted as an annex in the language (e.g. English) that may be needed, for example, by working groups.

Submission of documents

6.12 To ensure that all documents are available on IMODOCS in all three working languages well in time for a session of a Committee or subsidiary body, so as to enable the timely study of documents and promote participation by all Members in the decision-making process of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies, the following provisions apply:

- .1 as a general rule, documents, other than information documents and reports of Committees and subsidiary bodies, working, drafting, correspondence and other reporting groups and the Secretariat, should not contain more than 50 pages. In the case of reports from working, drafting, correspondence or other reporting groups and in other exceptional circumstances, this number of pages may be exceeded, provided that the deadline for receipt of the document by the Secretariat, as specified in sub-paragraphs .2 and .3 below, is extended by one week for every 20 pages exceeding 50 pages;
- .2 documents containing proposals for inclusion of new outputs should be received by the Secretariat not later than 13 weeks before the opening of the relevant Committee session. They should be published on IMODOCS, in the Organization's three working languages, not later than five weeks before the opening of the session;
- .3 documents (including information documents) containing more than six pages of text (bulky documents) should be received by the Secretariat not later than 13 weeks before the opening of the relevant session of a Committee or subsidiary body. However, bulky information documents submitted in electronic format may be accepted by the Secretariat if they are received not later than nine weeks before the session concerned. They should be published on IMODOCS, in the Organization's three working languages, except for information documents (which should not be translated), not later than five weeks before the opening of the session;
- .4 non-bulky documents commenting on those referred to in sub-paragraphs .2 and .3 above, or on items already on the agenda, should be received by the Secretariat not later than nine weeks before the opening of the relevant session of a Committee or subsidiary body. They should be published on IMODOCS, in the Organization's three working languages, not later than five weeks before the opening of the session;

- .5 notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph .4 above, documents commenting on those referred to in sub-paragraphs .2, .3 and .4 above containing four pages or less should be processed if received by the Secretariat not later than seven weeks before the opening of the relevant session of a Committee or subsidiary body. These documents should start with a paragraph clearly indicating the document on which comments are made and stating that the document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12.5 of this document. They should be published on IMODOCS, in the Organization's three working languages, not later than four weeks before the opening of the session;
- .6 non-bulky information documents should be received by the Secretariat not later than nine weeks before the opening of the relevant session of a Committee or subsidiary body. They should not be translated and should be published on IMODOCS not later than five weeks before the opening of the session. No action will be taken on the basis of an information document only, other than to take note of it;
- .7 in addition and with reference to reports of subsidiary bodies on the basis of which a Committee is normally invited to take action, every possible effort should be made to ensure that such reports are published on IMODOCS, in the Organization's three working languages, not later than five weeks before the opening of the session; and
- .8 in the case of basic documents submitted to a Committee reporting on urgent matters emanating from sessions of subsidiary bodies referred to in paragraph 6.9 which met less than 13 weeks before the Committee's session, such basic documents should include as an annex the text (e.g. draft Assembly resolutions, draft MSC circulars) on which the Committee will be invited to take action.

6.13 The Secretariat should make every effort to ensure the timely posting of documents on the IMO document website. Member States and international organizations should also endeavour to submit documents as early as possible and not just by the relevant deadlines.

6.14 The Secretariat should strictly apply the above provisions concerning the submission of documents and not accept late submissions from Member States or international organizations. Any exemption from these provisions should have the prior authorization of the Chair of the Committee concerned, following consultations with the Secretariat. In exceptional circumstances, requiring immediate action by the Committee, a relevant document to that end consisting of no more than four pages should be received by the Secretariat not later than nine weeks before the opening of the session of the body concerned and be published on IMODOCS, in the Organization's three working languages, not later than five weeks before the opening of the session. The Committee would consider such a document only if it decided to do so at the opening of its session.

6.15 In the exceptional cases referred to in paragraph 6.9, when a subsidiary body invites a Committee to take action on urgent matters emanating from a session that took place less than nine weeks prior to the Committee's session, documents commenting on those urgent matters containing four pages or less should be processed if received by the Secretariat not later than seven weeks before the opening of any session of the Committee concerned. Such documents should start with a paragraph clearly indicating the document on which comments are made and stating that the document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.15 of this document. They should be published on IMODOCS, in the three working languages, not later than four weeks before the opening of the session.

7 OBSERVANCE OF THE DOCUMENT

This document shall be observed strictly. This will assist delegations in preparing adequately for each meeting and enhance their participation in the debate and decision-making process during meetings. It will also prevent delegations from experiencing difficulties when developing national positions on subjects on the agenda of the two Committees or their subsidiary bodies. In order to promote efficiency in the conduct of work overall, Committee members should ensure that their colleagues attending sessions of other committees are fully informed of the outcome of the meeting that they have attended. Committee members should also ensure that their experts attending meetings of subsidiary bodies and working, drafting or correspondence groups are adequately informed and instructed with regard to any action necessary to give effect to decisions made by the Committees.

ANNEX 1

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN SUBMISSIONS OF PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION OF AN OUTPUT

- 1 **IMO's objectives:** Provide evidence whether and how the proposal:
 - .1 is within the scope of IMO's mission; and
 - .2 contributes to the implementation of the strategic directions established in the Strategic Plan, if applicable; outputs that are not directly related to the strategic directions can be accepted as "other work".
- 2 **Need:** Demonstrate and document:
 - .1 the need for the proposed output in terms of the risks or hazards which are deemed necessary to be addressed; and
 - .2 the evidence to support the perceived need.
- 3 **Analysis of the issue:** Provide an analysis of the proposed measure, including an assessment of its practicability, feasibility and proportionality, covering as wide as possible all affected stakeholders including, but not limited to, seafarers, ship owners and operators, equipment manufacturers, shipyards, flag State Administrations, coastal States, recognized organizations and other users of the sea area, as applicable.
- 4 **Analysis of implications:** Provide an analysis of the implications of the proposal, addressing the cost to the maritime industry as well as the relevant legislative and administrative burdens (including the proposed method(s) of fulfilling any resulting administrative requirement), including capacity-building implications (see annex 2).
- 5 **Benefits:** Provide evidence that the benefits vis-à-vis enhanced maritime safety, maritime security or protection of the marine environment expected to be derived from the inclusion of the new item justify the proposed action.
- 6 **Industry standards:** Provide information on whether adequate industry standards exist or are being developed and the intended relationship between such standards and the proposed output.
- 7 **Output:** Specify the intended output in SMART terms (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound) including the instrument(s)⁴ to be amended or developed as new and the scope of application. If work on an output is expected to take more than one session of the Committee or its subsidiary body, a road map should be provided. In such cases, the road map should indicate the anticipated volume of work required to deliver the output by specifying, as a minimum, the IMO organ(s) involved, the number of sessions required and the need for intersessional work.

⁴ Submission of a check/monitoring sheet, as defined in MSC.1/Circ.1500, as revised, is required along with a proposal for new output requiring the development of new, or amendments to, mandatory instruments, including SOLAS and other safety-related conventions.

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- 8 **Human element:** Demonstrate that the human element has been sufficiently considered and addressed during the development of the proposal by providing the completed checklist set out in annex 5 to this document.
- 9 **Urgency:** Provide, with reference to the current Strategic Plan, evidence of:
- .1 the urgency of the proposed output including any proposal to include the proposed output on the biennial agenda, specifying, where applicable, whether:
 - .1 there would be any regulatory obligations emanating from the proposed output;
 - .2 the proposed output would require immediate attention to prevent negative consequences or that it would address current trends, developments and challenges; and
 - .3 the proposed output would involve collaboration with other international organizations or entities for timely action; and
 - .2 the date that the proposed output should be completed.
- 10 **Action required:** Specify the action required by the IMO organ.
- 11 **Attachments:** Where required, provide the following information along with the proposal:
- .1 initial assessment of capacity-building implications (annex 2, appendix 1);
 - .2 checklist for considering and addressing the human element (annex 5, appendix);
 - .3 checklist for identifying administrative requirements (annex 6);
 - .4 a road map (see item 7 above); and
 - .5 parts I and II of the check/monitoring sheet for the process of amending the SOLAS Convention and related mandatory instruments (MSC.1/Circ.1500, as revised, annex 2).

ANNEX 2

PROCEDURES FOR ASSESSING THE IMPLICATIONS OF CAPACITY-BUILDING REQUIREMENTS WHEN DEVELOPING NEW, OR AMENDING EXISTING, MANDATORY INSTRUMENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Assembly resolution A.998(25) on *Need for capacity-building for the development and implementation of new, and amendments to existing, instruments* cautions that, unless the Council, the Committees and their subsidiary bodies adopt a cradle-to-grave approach in relation to matters concerning capacity-building, technical cooperation and assistance, the chances of success in the ratification and effective implementation of IMO instruments may be reduced by the level of unpreparedness or lack of capacity that Member States, in particular small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs), experience at the point when implementation of such instruments is urgently required. Therefore, the development of this procedure is in keeping with the provisions of that resolution.

1.2 The assessment of capacity-building implications for the implementation of new, and/or amendments to existing, mandatory instruments is an iterative process that begins with the acceptance of the preliminary proposal and runs in parallel up to the process of its implementation.

1.3 These procedures do not prevent States from taking additional actions in promoting the advancement of the objectives of capacity-building through technical assistance or cooperation.

2 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these procedures, the following definitions apply:

2.1 *Capacity-building* means sustainable social, economic or legal measures undertaken through various means for the purposes of a comprehensive transformation of the performance of an Administration or industry player so as to implement and therefore comply with new or amended mandatory instruments.

2.2 *Technical assistance* is a methodology for providing capacity-building through bilateral and/or multilateral exchange of technical knowledge, resources or expertise to a party which has requested such assistance in order to enhance its technical capability to implement existing, new or amended mandatory instruments.

2.3 *Technical cooperation* refers to a methodology for providing capacity-building, through a multilateral effort, to a group of cooperating countries of a particular region in the form of training and exchange of expertise, knowledge and information, in support of their efforts aimed at promoting the implementation of existing, new and/or amended mandatory instruments.

2.4 *Instruments* refers to IMO conventions and other treaties.

3 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The purpose of these procedures is to give effect to resolution A.998(25), aimed at enhancing efforts to promote universal implementation of mandatory IMO instruments.

3.2 These procedures are intended to assist in the identification and assessment of capacity-building implications in the following cases:

- .1 when a Member State submits a proposal for a new output or the expansion of the scope of an output;
- .2 when a Committee approves or adopts a new mandatory instrument/amendments to existing mandatory instruments;
- .3 during implementation of new or amended mandatory instruments; and
- .4 during the scheduling of capacity-building measures or activities.

3.3 These procedures apply to the Committees of the Organization and constitute a specific implementation response to resolution A.998(25).

3.4 These procedures aim at:

- .1 promoting universal ratification and compliance with newly adopted IMO instruments;
- .2 improving the level and quality of implementation of new and/or amended instruments; and
- .3 promoting, as far as possible, a balanced level of implementation of new instruments.

4 PROCEDURE

4.1 Proposals for new outputs entailing the development of new, or amendments to, mandatory instruments should include an initial assessment of capacity-building implications using the checklist in appendix 1 of these procedures, which should be supplemented by the form in appendix 2 only if any capacity-building activities are foreseen for the implementation of new measures.

4.2 At the finalization stage of new or amended instruments, a subsidiary body or a working group of a Committee should review and finalize the initial assessment of capacity-building implications, taking into account relevant contributions provided by the industry and non-governmental organizations. In addition, the subsidiary body or a working group of a Committee should also prepare the check/monitoring sheet set out in annex 2 to MSC.1/Circ.1500, as revised, for the new or amended instruments.

4.3 At the adoption stage of new or amended instruments, the Committee may instruct the Drafting Group on Amendments to Mandatory Instruments to:

- .1 consider the assessment of capacity-building implications finalized by the subsidiary body or a working group of a Committee and advise the Committee concerned, with a view to endorsement of the assessment, as appropriate;
- .2 if applicable, provide a description of the potential capacity-building implications of new or amended instruments along with recommendations for a course of action, for consideration by the Organization, the membership and/or the industry.

APPENDIX 1

CHECKLIST FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF CAPACITY-BUILDING IMPLICATIONS

1 For Administrations

- ☐ Is new legislation required?
- ☐ Is there a requirement for new equipment and/or systems?
 - Does equipment manufacturing capacity exist internationally?
 - Do equipment repair/servicing facilities exist internationally?
 - Is there capacity to develop new systems?
- ☐ Will the implementation require additional financial resources?
- ☐ Is there a need for additional human resources or new skills?
- ☐ Will there be a need to upgrade current infrastructure?
- ☐ Is there enough lead time towards implementation?
- ☐ Will a rapid implementation procedure be adopted?
- ☐ Is there a substantial modification of existing standards?
- ☐ Will a guide to implementation be needed?

2 For the industry

- ☐ Would the industry require new and/or enhancement of existing systems?
 - Does capacity exist internationally to develop new systems?
- ☐ Is there a need for additional training of seafarers?
 - Do related and validated training courses exist?
 - Are sufficient simulation training courses available internationally?
- ☐ Will there be a requirement for new equipment?
 - Does manufacturing capacity exist internationally?
- ☐ Is there repair/servicing and/or retrofitting and does maintenance capacity exist internationally?

APPENDIX 2

FORM FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING MEASURES

Capacity-building Measures Form

Instrument _____

Measure number _____ of _____

Required for ☐ Administration
☐ Industry

Implementation ☐ Prior to adoption
☐ Once adopted
☐ Prior to entry into force
☐ Once ratified
☐ Phased in

Description of capacity-building activity needed for the implementation of new measures:

ANNEX 3

FORMAT 1: BIENNIAL STATUS REPORT

[Name of organ]									
Reference to SD, if applicable	Output number ^a	Description	Target completion year ^b	Parent organ(s)	Associated organ(s)	Coordinating organ	Status of output for Year 1 ^c	Status of output for Year 2 ^c	References ^d
Notes:									
Notes:									

Notes:

- a When individual outputs contain multiple deliverables, the format should report on each individual deliverable.
- b The target completion year should be specified as a year, or indicate that the item is continuous. This should not indicate a number of sessions.
- c The entries under the "Status of output" columns are to be classified as follows:
 - "completed" signifies that the output for the year in question has been duly finalized;
 - "in progress" signifies that work on the output has been progressed, and that finalization is expected in the target completion year;
 - "ongoing" signifies that the outputs relate to work of the respective IMO organs that is a permanent or continuous task;
 - "postponed" signifies that the respective IMO organ has decided to defer the production of relevant outputs to another time (for example, until the receipt of corresponding submissions) and accordingly that the output has been included on the post-biennial agenda;
 - "extended" signifies that further work is necessary and that the output will not be finalized as planned; and
 - due to the nature of continuous outputs, the status can either be "completed" or "ongoing".
- d References should be made to the relevant part of the organ's report on this item.

FORMAT 2: POST-BIENNIAL AGENDAS OF COMMITTEES

[NAME OF COMMITTEE]								
ACCEPTED POST-BIENNIAL OUTPUTS				Parent organ(s)	Associated organ(s)	Coordinating organ	Timescale	Reference
Number	Biennium ^e	Reference to strategic direction, if applicable	Description					

Notes:

^e Biennium when the output was placed on the post-biennial agenda.

ANNEX 4

CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS IN THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF WORKING PAPERS DURING MEETINGS

1 The details of how to handle the preparation of working papers produced during meetings, which are agreed at a coordination meeting held between the Conference Division and the relevant technical division(s) during the week preceding each meeting, will be conveyed by the Secretary of the IMO body to the Chair of that body, as well as the Chairs of the working and drafting groups.

2 To ensure that all working papers, including the draft report, are available when needed in all three working languages, these documents should be as concise as possible, with a limited number of pages containing new text. The following provisions apply:

.1 Advance text

Whenever possible, for working/drafting group reports, advance text should be provided to the translation sections. This could be whole annexes or documents prior to the meeting, or parts thereof submitted as the work of the groups progresses.

.2 Final text

Final text should be delivered to the translation sections as early as possible in the course of the meeting week as follows:

.1 Working papers – these should be delivered not later than 9 a.m. on the day of the report night, so that they may be processed during the day shift.

.2 Draft report – the night shift is to be dedicated to the processing of the draft report and will end at 1 a.m. on the following day. In order to meet the established deadline, items for the draft report not delivered throughout the week should be sent to the translation sections as early as possible on the report night, with the last remaining item to be delivered not later than 11 p.m.

ANNEX 5

**MONITORING AND CONTROLLING CONSIDERATION
OF THE HUMAN ELEMENT BY IMO BODIES****1 Introduction**

1.1 Resolution A.947(23) on *Human element vision, principles and goals for the Organization* requests the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee to consider proposals for new or revised instruments or procedures relating to the safety of life at sea, security and the protection of the marine environment, taking into account its annexed human element vision, principles and goals.

1.2 These human element vision, principles and goals state:

"Vision

To significantly enhance maritime safety, security and the quality of the marine environment by addressing human element issues to improve performance.

Principles

- a) The human element is a complex multidimensional issue that affects maritime safety, security and marine environmental protection. It involves the entire spectrum of human activities performed by ships' crews, shore-based management, regulatory bodies, recognized organizations, shipyards, legislators and other relevant parties, all of whom need to cooperate to address human element issues effectively.
- b) The Organization, when developing regulations, should honour the seafarer by seeking and respecting the opinions of those that do the work at sea.
- c) Effective remedial action following maritime casualties requires a sound understanding of human element involvement in accident causation. This is gained by thorough investigation and systematic analysis of casualties for the contributory factors and the causal chain of events.
- d) In the process of developing regulations, it should be recognized that adequate safeguards must be in place to ensure that a single human or organizational error will not cause an accident through the application of these regulations.
- e) Rules and regulations which address seafarers directly should be simple, clear and comprehensive.
- f) Crew endurance, defined as the ability to maintain performance within safety limits, is a function of many complex and interacting variables including individual capabilities, management policies, cultural factors, experience, training, job skills and work environment.
- g) Dissemination of information through effective communication is essential to sound management and operational decisions.

- h) Consideration of human element matters should aim at decreasing the possibility of human and organizational error as far as possible.

Goals

- a) To have in place a structured approach for the proper consideration of human element issues for use in the development of regulations and guidelines by all committees and sub-committees.
- b) To conduct a comprehensive review of selected existing IMO instruments from the human element perspective.
- c) To promote and communicate, through human element principles, a maritime safety culture, security consciousness and heightened marine environment awareness.
- d) To provide a framework to encourage the development of non-regulatory solutions and their assessment, on the basis of human element principles.
- e) To have in place a system for identifying and disseminating maritime interests studies, research and other relevant information on the human element, including the findings of marine and non-marine incident investigations.
- f) To provide educational material for seafarers designed to increase their knowledge and awareness of the impact of human element issues on safe ship operations, and help them do the right thing.
- g) To provide a framework for understanding the very complex system of interrelated human element factors, incorporating operational objectives, personal endurance concerns, organizational policies and practices, and environmental factors, in order to facilitate the identification and management of risk factors in a holistic and systematic manner."

2 Purpose

2.1 The purpose of this procedure and guidance is to meet goal (a) of resolution A.947(23), i.e.:

"To have in place a structured approach for the proper consideration of human element issues for use in the development of regulations and guidelines by all committees and sub-committees."

2.2 The scope of this procedure covers all outputs of MEPC and MSC and their subsidiary bodies.

3 Procedure

3.1 The relevant bodies shall ensure that human element issues are considered and assessed by following the procedure described below.

Preparation of a proposal for new output

3.2 A proposal for a new output shall involve completion of the checklist set out in the appendix of this procedure and its submission to the relevant Committee as per annex 1 of this document.

3.3 Any human element considerations shall be identified in preparing a proposal for a new output. The means by which they are addressed should be included in the instructions. Where insufficient information is available, an action plan shall be included by which the consideration may be fully addressed.

3.4 Human element or other necessary expertise shall be engaged to ensure satisfactory completion of the checklist.

Assessment of a proposal for new output

3.5 The relevant Committee shall:

- .1 review the checklist to ensure that all human element risks have been considered and addressed; and
- .2 ensure that terms of reference to subsidiary bodies include clear instructions on addressing the human element considerations identified in the completed checklist.

Work carried out on the output

3.6 Work on the output shall take account of the human element considerations, and the means by which they might be addressed, as identified in the completed checklist.

3.7 The relevant Committee, or subsidiary body, shall ensure that the identified human element considerations are addressed during the work.

3.8 Within the scope of the output, further human element considerations may be identified and addressed during the work.

3.9 The relevant Committee, or subsidiary body, shall ensure that appropriate human element expertise is made available.

Approval of work completed under the output

3.10 At the time of approval, the relevant Committee shall review the output to ensure that human element considerations, as identified in the checklist, were appropriately addressed in the final output.

4 Guidance for completing the checklist***General principles***

4.1 Completion of the checklist should take account of both the intended output and its direct effects on the human element, as well as any potential unintended consequences.

4.2 It should also take into account the effects of both the circumstances prior to the implementation date, where modifications may be made, and those once implementation is complete.

4.3 Completion of the checklist should involve seeking input from seafarers or their proxies. Other stakeholders may be consulted, such as shipping companies and regulators.

4.4 The checklist includes references to relevant IMO documents. These may be used to correctly identify the considerations and the means by which they are addressed. The references may be included in the final output. Additional IMO references and other guidance such as those originating with the International Labour Organization and industry organizations may be added. References that are not relevant may be struck out.

4.5 Consideration of hazards should recognize that there may be alternative means by which risks may be addressed. These means may differ in their effectiveness as illustrated by the following well-known Hierarchy of Hazard Controls (originated by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, United States of America).

Hierarchy of controls

4.6 The hierarchy of controls is listed in order of effectiveness as follows:

Elimination – Physically removing the hazard is the most effective control. An example in the shipping industry might be that a requirement for working at height to maintain a piece of equipment could be eliminated by having all critical components at deck level.

Substitution – Involves replacing something that produces a hazard with something that does not produce a hazard. An example in the shipping industry might be the substitution of non-TBT anti-fouling.

Engineering controls – These do not remove hazards, but rather isolate people from hazards. Examples in the shipping industry might be equipment with inherently high noise levels isolated by locating in an acoustic enclosure or the rotating part of equipment fitted with a guard to prevent contact with the operator.

Administrative controls – These are changes in the way people work. Examples may be signage, procedures or training and are generally seen as less effective controls.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) – This control is seen as the least effective due to the problems with ensuring that PPE is properly used and maintained. In addition, some PPEs increase physiological effort to complete a task.

APPENDIX

CHECKLIST FOR CONSIDERING AND ADDRESSING THE HUMAN ELEMENT

This checklist consists of five questions as follows:

- .1 questions 1 to 4 are risk-based questions intended to identify risks from the implementation and operation of new outputs; and
- .2 question 5 is a list of measures for addressing the human element.

	1 Question	2 Yes/ No	3 IMO references	4 Considerations	5 Instructions
	Workload		<i>Other relevant references may be added</i> <i>Strike out references that are not relevant</i>	<i>If answer to question is "yes" identify considerations. If answer is "no" make proper justification</i>	<i>Identify how human element considerations should be addressed in the output</i>
1	Does the "output" affect workload?				
1.1	On board, especially in the already intensive phases of the voyage and port operations to:		<i>Revised guidelines for the operational implementation of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code by Companies (MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.8)</i> <i>Guidelines on fatigue (MSC.1/Circ.1598)</i> <i>Principles of minimum safe manning (resolution A.1047(27))</i> <i>Guidelines for the investigation of accidents where fatigue may have been an issue (MSC/Circ.621)</i>		
1.1.1	Operations including navigation, cargo and engineering				
1.1.2	Maintenance of the ships structure and its equipment				
1.1.3	Onboard administration in support of the ships' management systems				

	1 Question	2 Yes/ No	3 IMO references	4 Considerations	5 Instructions
1.1.4	Onboard administration related to regulation involving flag States, classification societies, port State and other bodies such as charterers and port authorities				
1.1.5	Increased workload or time pressure on personnel if involved in implementation of changes prior to the implementation date				
1.2	Ashore, in a manner that would affect the ships operation to:				
1.2.1	Companies' administration				
1.2.2	Flag State, port State and classification societies administration such that certification and other processes are compromised or delayed				

	1 Question	2 Yes/ No	3 IMO references	4 Considerations	5 Instructions
	Decision-making		<i>Other relevant references may be added</i> <i>Strike out references that are not relevant</i>	<i>If answer to question is "yes" identify considerations. If answer is "no" make proper justification</i>	<i>Identify how human element considerations should be addressed in the output</i>
2	Does the "output" impact decision-making on board the ship?				
2.1	By confusion with existing requirements and regulations				
2.2	By changing responsibilities as laid out in the ISM Code				
2.3	By creating complexity in its implementation and/or in the safety management systems				
2.4	By requiring increased mental effort, such as the need to find, transform and analyse data or result in the need to make judgements based on incomplete information				
2.5	By limiting the time available to establish situational awareness, decide, communicate (possibly across time zones) or check				
2.6	By increasing reliance on judgement and administrative controls to manage major risks such as oil spills and collisions				

	1 Question	2 Yes/ No	3 IMO references	4 Considerations	5 Instructions
	Living and Working Environment		Other relevant references may be added Strike out references that are not relevant	If answer to question is "yes" identify considerations. If answer is "no" make proper justification	Identify how human element considerations should be addressed in the output
3	Does the "output" affect the living and working environment?		Guidelines on the basic elements of a shipboard occupational health and safety programme (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.3) Guidelines on fatigue (MSC.1/Circ.1598)		
3.1	By interfering with existing arrangements for abandonment, fire-fighting and other emergency plans or procedures				
3.2	By introducing new materials that could create an explosion, fire, environmental or occupational health risk				
3.3	By introducing new high energy sources such as high-voltage, high-pressure fluids				
3.4	By affecting access or egress and causing lack of ventilation in working spaces				
3.5	By affecting the habitability of accommodation spaces due to noise, vibration, temperatures, dust and other contaminants				

	1 Question	2 Yes/ No	3 IMO references	4 Considerations	5 Instructions
	Operation and Maintenance		<p><i>Other relevant references may be added</i></p> <p><i>Strike out references that are not relevant</i></p>	<i>If answer to question is "yes" identify considerations. If answer is "no" make proper justification</i>	<i>Identify how human element considerations should be addressed in the output</i>
4	Does the "output" affect the operation and maintenance of the ship, its structure or systems and equipment?		<p><i>Revised guidelines for the operational implementation of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code by Companies (MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.8)</i></p> <p><i>Guidelines for bridge equipment and systems, their arrangement and integration (BES) (SN.1/Circ.288)</i></p> <p><i>Principles of minimum safe manning (Resolution A.1047(27))</i></p> <p><i>Issues to be considered when introducing new technology on board ships (MSC/Circ.1091)</i></p> <p><i>Guideline on software quality assurance and human-centred design for e-navigation (MSC.1/Circ.1512)</i></p> <p><i>Guidelines for the standardization of user interface design for navigation equipment (MSC.1/Circ.1609)</i></p>		

	1 Question	2 Yes/ No	3 IMO references	4 Considerations	5 Instructions
4.1	By introducing equipment that the user may find difficult to operate or maintain or may be unreliable				
4.2	By introducing new and/or novel technology, or technology that changes the role of the person				
4.3	By introducing requirements for new competencies and roles				
4.4	By overloading existing infrastructure such as power generation and ventilation systems				
4.5	By poor integration with existing systems and controls				
4.6	By introducing new and unfamiliar operations/procedures				
4.7	By introducing new and unfamiliar operating interfaces?				
4.8	By introducing risks to the ship during any modifications required prior to the implementation date of the output				

	1 Question	2 Yes/ No	3 IMO references	4 Considerations	5 Instructions
	Measures to address the human element		Other relevant references may be added Strike out references that are not relevant	If answer to question is "yes" identify considerations. If answer is "no" make proper justification	Identify how human element considerations should be addressed in the output
5	Does the "output" require changes to:		Shipboard technical operating and maintenance manuals (MSC.1/Circ.1253) Revised guidelines for the operational implementation of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code by Companies (MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.8)		
5.1	Training				
5.2	Practical skill development and competences				
5.3	Operating, management and/or maintenance procedures				
5.4	Information/manuals for operation and maintenance				
5.5	Spares outfit				
5.6	Occupational safety requirements including guarding and PPE				
5.7	Shore support				

ANNEX 6

CHECKLIST FOR IDENTIFYING ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

This checklist should be used when preparing the analysis of implications required in submissions of proposals for inclusion of outputs. For the purpose of this analysis, the term "administrative requirement" is defined in accordance with resolution A.1043(27), as an obligation arising from a mandatory IMO instrument to provide or retain information or data.

Instructions:

- (A) If the answer to any of the questions below is **YES**, the Member State proposing an output should provide supporting details on whether the requirements are likely to involve start-up and/or ongoing costs. The Member State should also give a brief description of the requirement and, if possible, provide recommendations for further work, e.g. would it be possible to combine the activity with an existing requirement?
- (B) If the proposal for the output does not contain such an activity, answer **NR** (Not required).
- (C) For any administrative requirement, full consideration should be given to electronic means of fulfilling the requirement in order to alleviate administrative burdens.

1. Notification and reporting? Reporting certain events before or after the event has taken place, e.g. notification of voyage, statistical reporting for IMO Members	NR	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Start-up <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
--	----	--

Description of administrative requirement(s) and method of fulfilling it: (if the answer is yes)

2. Record-keeping? Keeping statutory documents up to date, e.g. records of accidents, records of cargo, records of inspections, records of education	NR	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Start-up <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
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Description of administrative requirement(s) and method of fulfilling it: (if the answer is yes)

3. Publication and documentation? Producing documents for third parties, e.g. warning signs, registration displays, publication of results of testing	NR	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Start-up <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
--	----	--

Description of administrative requirement(s) and method of fulfilling it: (if the answer is yes)

4. Permits or applications? Applying for and maintaining permission to operate, e.g. certificates, classification society costs	NR	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Start-up <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
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Description of administrative requirement(s) and method of fulfilling it: (if the answer is yes)

5. Other identified requirements?	NR	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Start-up <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
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Description of administrative requirement(s) and method of fulfilling it: (if the answer is yes)

ANNEX 7

GUIDELINES FOR CONSIDERING AND REVIEWING THE OUTCOMES OF FORMAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT (FSA) STUDIES

Purpose

1 The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist the committees in considering and reviewing the outcomes (i.e. risk control options (RCOs) or other recommendations) of FSA studies. These Guidelines provide a bridge between the FSA Guidelines (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.12/Rev.2) and the document on *Application of the Strategic Plan of the Organization* (resolution A.1174(33)), as may be amended.

Background

2 The Revised FSA Guidelines (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.12/Rev.2) adequately cover the procedures to manage outcomes of an FSA study from initial submission to the committee through to the report of the FSA Experts Group to the committee.

3 The document on *Application of the Strategic Plan of the Organization* contains guidance on how the committees may consider placing new outputs on the biennial agenda of the different bodies.

Guidance for committees

4 Upon receipt of the outcomes of an FSA study the committees should conduct a preliminary assessment, and the committees may decide to:

- .1 reject an outcome without any further action; or
- .2 review the information submitted with an outcome in order to determine equivalence to the requirements for submitting proposals for outputs.

5 Based on paragraph 4.2 above, the committees may decide to:

- .1 accept the information submitted with the outcome as equivalent to a proposal for an output, place the item on the biennial agenda or post-biennial agenda, and forward the outcome to the cognizant sub-committee or other bodies concerned for technical review and advice, and possible implementation; or
- .2 request submission of a proposal for an output.

6 To enable the committees to carry out proper use of recommendations contained in FSA studies, the decision flow chart (see figure 1) should be used to guide consistent management of outcomes.

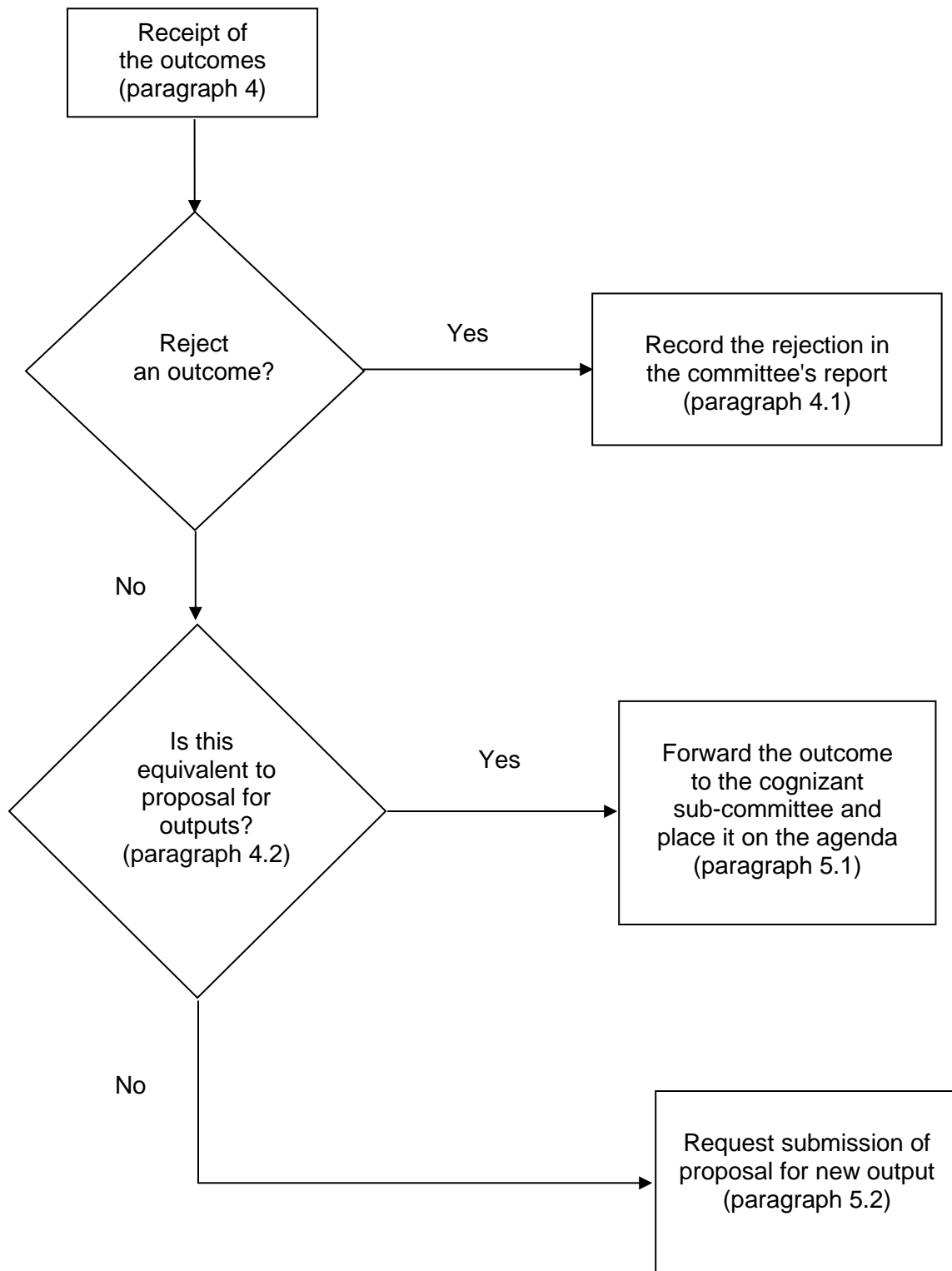


Figure 1 – Flow chart for committees' management of outcomes (i.e. RCOs or other recommendations from an FSA study)

ANNEX 8

FORM FOR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS FOR NEW OUTPUTS OR EXPANSION OF THE SCOPE OF AN OUTPUT

Part 1: Proposal

1.1	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Document title</i>
1.2	Proposal	<i>Description of the proposal</i>

Part 2: Assessment criteria

2.1	Is the subject addressed by the proposal considered to be within the scope of the mission of IMO?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	
2.2	Does the proposal involve the exercise of functions conferred upon a Committee by or under any international convention or related instrument?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	
2.3	Has a need for the output been justified and documented?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	
2.4	Has an analysis been provided that justifies and documents the practicality, feasibility and proportionality of the proposed output?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	
2.5	Has the analysis of the issue sufficiently addressed both the cost to the maritime industry and the relevant legislative and administrative burdens? (see annex 6)	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	
2.6	Are the benefits (e.g. enhanced maritime safety, maritime security, protection of the marine environment, or facilitation of maritime traffic) that are expected to be derived from the inclusion of the proposed output clearly stated?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	
2.7	Do adequate industry standards exist or are they being developed?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	
2.8	Has the proposed output been properly specified in SMART terms (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound) and, for an output to be completed in more than one session, has a road map been provided?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	

2.9	Does the completed checklist for addressing the human element (see annex 5) demonstrate that the human element has been sufficiently considered and addressed?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	
2.10	Has the initial assessment of capacity-building implications related to proposed new, or amendment of existing, mandatory instruments been adequately addressed, using appendices 1 and 2 to annex 2, as appropriate?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	
2.11	If inclusion of the output in the current biennium is proposed, is this action properly justified?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	
2.12	Would a decision to reject or postpone the commencement of the work in relation to the proposal pose an unreasonable risk to the Organization's overall mission?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	

Part 3: Conclusions

3.1	Does the proposal meet the criteria for a new output or the expansion of the scope of an output, as appropriate?	Yes/No
	<i>If the answer is "No", provide justification</i>	
3.2	Does urgency require inclusion in the biennial agenda?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	
3.3	If the answer to the previous question is "Yes", can the provisional agenda of the subsequent session of the Committee and/or the subsidiary body(s) absorb the work?	Yes/No
	<i>Additional explanations, if necessary</i>	

Part 4: Recommendations

4.1	Should the Committee agree to undertake the work?	Yes/No
	<i>If the answer is "No", provide justification</i>	
4.2	Strategic direction	
4.3	Agenda	[Biennial] [Post-biennial]
4.4	Timescale	[Target completion year] [Number of sessions] [Continuous]
4.5	Parent organ	
4.6	Coordinating organ ⁵	
4.7	Associated organ	

⁵ Refer to criteria set out in paragraph 4.25.

4.8	Instrument(s) to be developed or amended, including those may require consequential amendments ⁶	
4.9	Application provisions (e.g. new/existing ships, new/existing installations etc.) ²	
4.10	Entry-into-force date of new, or amendments to existing, instrument(s) ² (specifying if entry into force is required earlier than the four-year cycle)	

Part 5: Additional remarks for further consideration of the Committee

Provide text, as appropriate

⁶ If applicable.