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Circular Letter No.5069
8 September 2025

To: All IMO Members
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

Subject: **113th session of the Legal Committee (13 to 17 April 2026)**

1 The Secretary-General has the honour to invite representation at the 113th session of the Legal Committee, which will be held at the IMO Headquarters, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR. The session will be opened on Monday, 13 April 2026 at 9.30 a.m. and is expected to end on Friday, 17 April 2026.

2 The provisional agenda for the 113th session of the Committee (LEG 113/1) is attached and further documentation, including an annotated agenda and a provisional timetable, will follow in due course.

Use of hybrid meeting capability to complement in-person participation

3 Pursuant to the decisions of the Council at its 132nd regular session (C 132) and rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Legal Committee (LEG.1/Circ.17), the utilization of hybrid capabilities to support in-person meetings has been permanently established. Information on hybrid meetings can be found in Circular Letters Nos. 4623 and 4627.

Submission of documents to LEG 113

4 In accordance with the *Organization and method of work of the Legal Committee* (LEG.1/Circ.14), the deadlines for the submission of documents to the session and the method of submitting documents are specified in paragraph 1 of the Notes to the provisional agenda for LEG 113 (document LEG 113/1). A link to the template for use in the preparation of documents is available on the IMODOCS home page (<https://docs.imo.org>) under the tab for "Submissions".

5 Further to the decision taken by the Council at its 120th regular session (C 120/D, paragraph 4.9), and by the Committee at its 106th session (LEG 106/16, paragraph 13.13), regarding the issue of access to information and transparency, submitters of meeting documents are invited to give consent for their documents to be released to the public prior to the meeting by checking the "opt-in" box at the top right corner of the new document template provided on IMODOCS for pre-session public release. In the absence of explicit consent, submissions will not be released to the public prior to the meeting.

Working groups

6 The Chair of the Committee will advise, well in advance of LEG 113, on the final selection of and modalities for any working groups to be established during the session.

ANNEX 1

REGISTRATION, ACCREDITATION AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Registration

Member Governments, UN agencies, IGOs and NGOs are required to provide, prior to the meeting date, the names of all the members of their delegations attending the meeting via the Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS), as advised in Circular Letter No.4336 of 5 November 2020.

Active participants are those registered as either *physical* (attending meetings at IMO Headquarters in person) or *remote-active*. They are authorized to take the floor and make interventions. **Remote-passive participants** are those only able to follow proceedings remotely via live-streaming.

Remote-active participants will receive a personalized joining link via email daily before each session starts at approximately 8.30 a.m. (UTC+1). The Zoom link is unique to the recipient and should not be shared with any other person.

Remote-passive participants automatically receive a link, once their registration is approved, to a Web stream of the session (live-streaming), which will be broadcast via the IMODOCS page. It is important to note that the option for remote-passive participation is available only if the meeting is livestreamed.

In-person participants should not join the Zoom meeting when physically present in the Main Hall or Committee Rooms, as this will have a detrimental impact on the hybrid system and reduce the number of licences available for those joining remotely.

Delegates wishing to change their participation status from in-person to remote-active or vice-versa must do so through their respective OMRS Delegation Coordinator in the OMRS. Subsequently, they will receive a joining link to the meeting.

For those delegates attending the meeting in-person and who have completed the registration procedure, an electronic access card will be issued at IMO to pass through the security barrier in the IMO building.

Issuance of the access card will require photographic proof of identity, e.g. passport, identity card or driving licence. Delegates may also be required to show proof of identity at any time while they are in the IMO Headquarters if requested by IMO Security. In view of the significant costs incurred in producing access cards, delegates who have previously been issued with one are kindly requested to bring it with them for reactivation.

Any matters relating to the use of the OMRS and participation in LEG 113 should be communicated to:

Registration Unit
Meeting Services and Interpretation Section
Email: onlineregistration@imo.org

Members of delegations will not be registered to attend the meeting without authorization from their OMRS Delegation Coordinator. Delegates whose names do not appear on the OMRS list will be requested to contact their OMRS Delegation Coordinator in order to process their authorization to attend the meeting.

Delegates are advised that the Registration Desk will be open from 7.30 a.m. (UTC+1) on Monday, 13 April 2026, when early arrival would be appreciated.

Accreditation

In addition to registering through OMRS, each Member or Government entitled to participate in a session of the Committee must submit a letter of credentials for its representatives and alternates, if any.

As required by rule 9 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, credentials are to be issued by the Head of State, the Head of Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister concerned or by an appropriate authority properly designated by one of them for this purpose. In the latter case, the designated signatory should state in the letter by which of the above-mentioned authorities he or she has been authorized to issue credentials. Model letters of credentials are available upon request from the External Relations Office (Legal Affairs and External Relations Division).

Credentials should reach the Secretariat as soon as possible and, preferably, by the start of the meeting. It is advisable to send an advance copy of the letter of credentials by email to credentials@imo.org. Original letters of credentials can either be posted or handed over during registration upon arrival (ground floor), at the Meeting Services Desk (second floor) or at the External Relations Office (seventh floor).

Any matters relating to letters of credentials should be communicated to:

External Relations Office
Legal Affairs and External Relations Division
Email: credentials@imo.org

Remote or hybrid participation

Delegates joining the meeting remotely are urged to use appropriate equipment, and are kindly requested to wait a few seconds before starting to speak and to endeavour to speak slowly and clearly, to facilitate interpretation in other languages.

Statements

To facilitate the translation of interventions during the session, delegations are encouraged to provide advance copies of statements to the Secretariat by email, to statements@imo.org.

Code of conduct

Delegates, participants, attendees and guests are subject to the Code of Conduct for Delegates, Observers and Other Participants at IMO Meetings, Events and Activities to Prevent Harassment including Sexual Harassment (Circular Letter No.4908).

ANNEX 2

PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE SUPPORT BY IMO OF VISA APPLICATIONS

As established in article 7.2 of Part III on Access and communications of the Headquarters Agreement, delegates are entitled to have their entry into the United Kingdom authorized without delay and without charge.

All delegates who are travelling to participate in this meeting will require an entry visa for the United Kingdom. Delegates should **not** apply for an electronic travel authorization (ETA), but instead apply for an "**EXEMPT**" visa at www.gov.uk/exempt-vignette, note the reference numbers and follow the online instructions to attend either the nominated Visa Application Centre or the United Kingdom Embassy or High Commission. Those delegates travelling to the United Kingdom on a regular basis may apply for a multi-entry exempt visa. United Kingdom visa applications should be accompanied by the following documentation:

- i. a copy of this circular letter, numbered CL.5069, to be used as the official letter of invitation;
- ii. the nomination letter; and
- iii. a Note Verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Delegates must be nominated by their competent Ministry (usually the Ministry of Transport or the National Maritime Administration). The nomination letter should be accompanied by a note verbale issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This exercise should be undertaken as early as possible, but no later than **six weeks** before the date of arrival in the United Kingdom.

If delegates encounter visa problems, either the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transport, the National Maritime Administration or the competent ministry should send an official communication to the Head of the IMO External Relations Office requesting visa assistance. The communication should state the reasons given by the British Embassy/High Commission as to why visas have been or may be refused and contain the following details:

- i. First name
Family name
Profession
Date of birth
Passport No.
Valid until
Visa reference number
Date and place of visa application
- ii. Purpose of visit
- iii. Duration of anticipated stay in the United Kingdom

Any requests for visa assistance should be communicated to visa@imo.org.

LEGAL COMMITTEE
113th session
Agenda item 1

LEG 113/1
8 September 2025
Original: ENGLISH

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA
for the 113th session of the Legal Committee
to be held at IMO Headquarters, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR
from Monday, 13 April to Friday, 17 April 2026**

Session commences at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 13 April 2026

- Opening of the session
- 1 Adoption of the agenda
 - 2 Report of the Secretary-General on credentials
 - 3 Facilitation of the entry into force and harmonized interpretation of the 2010 HNS Protocol
 - 4 Fair treatment of seafarers
 - (a) Provision of financial security in case of abandonment of seafarers, and shipowners' responsibilities in respect of contractual claims for personal injury to, or death of seafarers, in light of the progress of amendments to the ILO Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
 - (b) Fair treatment of seafarers in the event of a maritime accident
 - (c) Fair treatment of seafarers detained on suspicion of committing crimes
 - 5 Advice and guidance in connection with the implementation of IMO instruments
 - (a) Impact on shipping and seafarers of the situation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov
 - 6 Measures to prevent unlawful practices associated with the fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of ships
 - 7 Piracy and armed robbery against ships
 - 8 Measures to address maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS) in instruments under the purview of the Legal Committee
 - 9 Work of other IMO bodies
 - 10 Technical cooperation activities related to maritime legislation

- 11 Review of the status of conventions and other treaty instruments emanating from the Legal Committee
- 12 Development of guidelines or best practices on the registration of ships
- 13 Regulatory scoping exercise of IMO conventions and other instruments available for Member States to further develop actions to prevent unlawful operations including substandard ships
- 14 Suitability of IMO liability and compensation regimes with respect to alternative fuels
- 15 Measures to address maritime security threats
- 16 Work programme
- 17 Election of officers
- 18 Any other business
- 19 Consideration of the report of the Committee on its 113th session

Notes:

1 In accordance with the *Organization and method of work of the Legal Committee*, as revised by the Committee at its 110th session (LEG.1/Circ.14):

.1 documents should be received by the Secretariat as follows:¹

.1 documents containing proposals for new outputs, by **Friday, 9 January 2026 (13-week deadline)**;

.2 documents (including information documents) containing more than six pages of text (bulky documents²), by **Friday, 9 January 2026 (13-week deadline)**;

.3 non-bulky documents (six pages or fewer) commenting on those referred to in subparagraphs .1 and .2 above, or on items already on the agenda, or non-bulky information documents, by **Friday, 6 February 2026 (nine-week deadline)**; and

¹ Documents other than information documents, which contain more than 20 pages, should not be translated into all working languages in their entirety. They should include, for translation purposes, a summary not longer than four pages, with the technical content submitted as an annex in the language needed by working groups (i.e. English). However, this restriction on translation will not limit the translation of a legal text.

² In the case of documents containing more than 50 pages, the provisions of paragraph 6.6.1 of the *Organization and method of work of the Legal Committee* will apply.

- .4 documents (four pages or fewer) commenting on those referred to in subparagraphs .1 to .3 above, by **Friday, 20 February 2026 (seven-week deadline)**. 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 6.6.5 of the *Organization and method of work of the Legal Committee*.
- .2 for reasons of economy, documents should be submitted in single spacing, be as concise as possible; and:
- .1 all documents should include a brief summary prepared in accordance with section 6 of the *Organization and method of work of the Legal Committee*;
- .2 substantive documents should conclude with a summary of the action that the Committee is invited to take; and
- .3 information documents should conclude with a summary of the information contained therein.
- .3 the following word-processing format should be observed in order to standardize the presentation of documents:
- font: Arial;
 - font size: 11;
 - justification: full;
 - margins: 2 cm top, 2.5 cm bottom, left and right.
- A template is available on the IMODOCS website for use in the preparation of documents; and
- .4 to facilitate the processing of documents, they should be submitted through the Meeting Document Submission Portal, available on the IMODOCS home page (<https://docs.imo.org>) under the "Submissions" tab.

2 The Legal Committee has recommended that the provisions of the *Organization and method of work of the Legal Committee*, which provides, inter alia, that the Secretariat should strictly apply the rules concerning the submission of documents and that the Secretariat should not accept late submissions from Governments or delegations, should be strictly observed.
