

CONCEPT NOTE

High-Level IMO Workshop for Small Island Developing States in the Pacific region

“IMO’s efforts to reduce GHG emissions from international shipping”

Monday, 8 May 2023, Port Vila (with hybrid meeting capability)

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. UTC +11

In the margins of the Fifth Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers’ Meeting (5th PRETMM) to be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from the 8 to 12 May 2023, with the theme “Accelerating decarbonization in the Blue Pacific”, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has the honour to organize a one and a half hour (1½) workshop to inform High-Level Government Officials from Small Island Developing States in the Pacific region on IMO’s efforts to decarbonize international maritime transport.

On the occasion of this workshop, participants will learn about recent developments at the Organization’s discussions on greenhouse gas (GHG) matters that have been taking place at (i) the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), the senior technical body on marine pollution related matters, and (ii) the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG) – the working group that supports MEPC’s work on reducing GHG emissions from international shipping.

The ongoing work at MEPC and ISWG-GHG includes, among others, discussions on proposals for a Revised IMO GHG Strategy to be adopted at MEPC 80 in July 2023, including on, inter alia, the possible phase out date of GHG emissions from international shipping, together with possible intermediate targets/milestones, timelines for the development of candidate IMO GHG reduction measures, additional capacity building and technology cooperation to support developing States, in particular Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in exploring opportunities and synergies in developing a low-carbon economy.

In parallel, current discussions evolve around the development of mid-term IMO GHG reduction measures, to be finalized and agreed by MEPC between 2023 and 2030, which include the further development of a basket of mid-term measures comprised of technical (e.g. GHG fuel intensity standard) and economic elements (e.g., fuel GHG levy, reward, feebate or flat rate contribution), and possible revenue collection and disbursement mechanisms potentially generated by a mid-term GHG reduction measure as well as associated assessment of possible impacts on States.

The workshop will also highlight IMO’s various ongoing capacity building initiatives, including in the Pacific Islands region, and how these could support other (regional) partnerships along the maritime value chain including with renewable fuel producers, technology providers, ports, international financing institutions and maritime Administrations with an interest in the region.

Target Audience

The aim of this workshop is to assist Pacific Transport & Energy High-Level Government Officials to catch up with discussions on GHG matters in the Organization related to the revision of IMO GHG Strategy and candidate mid-term GHG reduction measures ahead of the IMO climate negotiations that will take place later this year: ISWG-GHG 15, from 26 to 30 June 2023, and MEPC 80, between 3 to 7 July 2023.

PROGRAMME

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| Time | Subject | Speakers |
|--------------------|--|---|
| 10:30 – 10:40 a.m. | Opening of the workshop Chairperson: Mr. Bekir Sitki Ustaoglu, Head, Asia and Pacific Section, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO | Government official from Vanuatu Mr. Jens Kruger – Deputy Director Oceans and Maritime Programme, GEM Division, SPC Mr. Roel Hoenders – Head, Air Pollution and Energy Efficiency, MED: Sub-Division for Protective Measures, IMO |
| 10:40 – 11:00 a.m. | 1 IMO regulations aimed at reducing GHG emissions from international shipping MARPOL Annex VI and the Initial GHG Strategy: IMO regulations supporting innovation | Mr. Hanqiang Tan – MEPC Vice-Chair (Singapore) |
| 11:00 – 11:20 a.m. | 2 IMO climate negotiations in 2023 Importance of IMO climate negotiations for SIDS and relevant meetings in 2023 | Ms. Aideé Saucedo Dávila – Technical Officer, MED: Sub-Division for Protective Measures, IMO |
| 11:20 – 11:55 a.m. | 3 IMO Partnerships to transform the shipping industry towards a low-carbon future Implementing partnerships for a sustainable maritime future Singapore's technical assistance: the case of NEXT GEN initiative Development of a guidebook to improve the availability of maritime transport costs in SIDS | Ms. Gyorgyi Gurban – Head, Projects Implementation, DPP: Department of Partnerships and Projects, IMO Singapore Mr. Bruce Anderson (Starcrest Consulting) |
| 11:55 – 12:00 p.m. | Closing of the Workshop | Mr. Roel Hoenders – Head, Air Pollution and Energy Efficiency, MED: Sub-Division for Protective Measures, IMO |