

TO	:	Pacific diplomatic missions
DATE	:	1 March 2016
SUBJECT	:	Update on submission of 'Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships' paper

Purpose

1. To update Pacific diplomatic missions on the status of co-sponsorship of the shipping emissions paper and its submission to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for consideration of the 69th Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), to be held in London from 18–22 April 2016.

Background

2. The Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) organised a Talanoa session/consultative meeting on 25 January 2016 to seek the views of Pacific Island governments and other stakeholders with regards to the shipping emissions paper that was proposed for submission to MEPC 69.
3. The paper was drafted by IMO leads from Belgium and Germany, following an informal meeting hosted by RMI in September 2015 that brought together a small coalition of likeminded countries (France, Belgium, Germany, Norway, Vanuatu, RMI in attendance, others (Denmark, Tuvalu, Singapore invited but unable to attend)).
4. The paper had to be submitted to the IMO document system by 12 February 2016, and was seeking co-sponsorship from a number of the countries that were present at the September 2015 informal meeting.
5. At the PIDF Talanoa, the response of Pacific Island governments represented at the meeting (Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) was generally positive towards the shipping emissions paper. Solomon Islands pledged that it will take the position as at MEPC 68. Fiji was supportive but needed further internal consultations before confirming its position. The recent elections in Vanuatu and Marshall Islands delayed their respective decisions on the matter at that point.

Status of co-sponsorship of paper

6. As of 17 February 2016, the following countries have confirmed that they will co-sponsor the submission of the MEPC 69 shipping emissions paper:
 - Belgium
 - France
 - Germany
 - Marshall Islands
 - Morocco
 - Solomon Islands
7. The following countries have pledged to support the motion from the floor at MEPC 69: Canada, Netherlands and Vanuatu.

Status of submission

8. The MEPC 69 paper 'Reduction of GHG emissions from Ships' (MEPC 69/7/2) was filed with the IMO Secretariat on 17 February 2016. Members can log on to the IMO website to view/download the official submission from IMODOCs.

Next steps

9. Work will continue on rallying further support for the discussions at MEPC 69, including assessing documents, commenting on group MEPC 69 submissions as well as other related submissions and preparing arguments.
10. PIDF will continue to provide regular updates on pre-MEPC 69 developments to all Pacific diplomatic missions and stakeholders as information becomes available.
11. The shipping emissions paper will be tabled for deliberation at MEPC 69 in London from 18–22 April 2016.

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