

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE  
103rd session  
Agenda item 20

MSC 103/20/11  
2 March 2021  
Original: ENGLISH  
Pre-session public release:

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### Work plan of the group of interested parties to address issues related to the implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement

Submitted by Iceland, Indonesia, Spain, ITF and Pew

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document emphasizes a series of joint efforts made by IMO in cooperation with other UN organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations to carry on promoting the ratification of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement and proposes a work plan of a group of interested parties to finalize a draft guidance to assist competent authorities in the implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* 1

*Output:* 1.7 and OW 23

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 6

*Related documents:* MSC 102/22/2; MSC 102/22/13; MSC 102/24 (paragraphs 22.21 to 22.23); III 7/14; A 31/D (paragraph 10.6); Circular Letter No.4387 and MSC 103/20/2

#### Background

1 Document MSC 103/20/2 (Iceland et al.) contains a brief summary to inform the Committee on the progress made by the group of interested parties in developing a draft guidance to assist competent authorities in implementing the 2012 Cape Town Agreement. The document also provides the view of the co-sponsors on the scope of the guidance and availability of a free-access information platform to facilitate the work of the group; and increases awareness of all interested parties in the ratification and entry into force of the Agreement.

2 Circular Letter No.4387 of 17 February 2021 invites Member States to fill in a short online questionnaire in order to follow-up on the current progress of ratification of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement and to determine any need for technical cooperation assistance.

### **Promoting joint efforts on the ratification and the implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement**

3 Circular Letter No.4387 also provides relevant information on how IMO, in cooperation with other UN agencies, notably FAO and ILO, and non-governmental organizations, in particular, the Pew Charitable Trusts, carries on promoting joint efforts on the ratification of the Agreement, such as a series of regional webinars within the Organization's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (Latin America and Caribbean regions in November 2020 and Africa region in February 2021), the launch of a new online [easy guide](#) to the 2012 Cape Town Agreement on fishing vessel safety and on the possibility to hold bilateral online meetings with interested States to discuss the current status of their ratification efforts and any other relevant issues that the Secretariat could assist with.

4 The co-sponsors also wish to highlight the contribution of the group of interested parties in developing the draft guidance to assist competent authorities in implementing the Agreement, set out in the annex to document MSC 103/20/2, as an additional supportive tool that would promote the delivery of the ambitious goals to achieve the entry into force criteria of the Agreement by the target date of 11 October 2022, i.e. tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Agreement.

#### **The need of a work plan**

5 As set out in paragraph 11 of document MSC 103/20/2, the finalization of the guidance by the target date of 11 October 2022 is an ambitious but essential goal. To that end, the group will continue working intersessionally. To expedite this task, the co-sponsors propose a work plan set out in the annex, which identifies a set of actions to be undertaken over the next sessions of the Committee and the III Sub-Committee.

#### **Action requested of the Committee**

6 The Committee is invited to consider the information provided in paragraphs 3 to 5 and the annex, and take action, as appropriate.

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**ANNEX**

**WORK PLAN OF THE GROUP OF INTERESTED PARTIES  
ON THE PREPARATION OF A GUIDANCE TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2012 CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT**

<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN</b>
MSC 103 (5-14 May 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submission of a report</li><li>• Submission of a proposal on a work plan</li></ul>
III 7 (12-16 July 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submission of an updated report</li></ul>
MSC 104 (4-8 October 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submission of a new output proposal on guidance to assist competent authorities in the implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement</li></ul>
MSC 105 (May-June 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submission of an updated report</li></ul>
III 8 (July 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submission of the final version of the draft guidance</li><li>• Establishment of a working group to consider the draft guidance</li><li>• Finalization of the guidance, with a view to be approved by MSC 106</li></ul>
MSC 106 (Nov-Dec 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of a draft MSC circular on guidance to assist competent authorities in the implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement</li></ul>