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Circular Letter No.4728  
8 June 2023

To: All IMO Members  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Russian Federation**

The Government of the Russian Federation has sent the attached communication, dated 7 June 2023, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

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MISSION OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME  
ORGANIZATION (IMO)

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Ref. No. 003/245

The Mission of the Russian Federation to the International Maritime Organization presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization and, referring to the destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant by the Ukrainian armed forces on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023, has the honour to communicate the following.

Encl.:  
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The Russian side has warned the international community on numerous occasions of the consequences of reckless actions by the Ukrainian armed forces shelling the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant. In particular, relevant concerns were expressed in the Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the UN Secretary-General and the President of the UN Security Council (please, find enclosed).

The destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant by the Ukrainian armed forces represents a terrorist act directed against purely civilian infrastructure. It has already led to a devastating humanitarian and

**International Maritime Organization  
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environmental disaster. The official statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation of 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 on this matter is enclosed.

The Mission of the Russian Federation requests this note and its enclosure to be circulated among the Member States of the International Maritime Organization.

The Mission of the Russian Federation avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the International Maritime Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.



London, 7 June 2023



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### **Foreign Ministry statement on the destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant by the Ukrainian armed forces**

We strongly condemn the destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant by the Ukrainian armed forces that has led to a devastating humanitarian and environmental disaster.

Bombing the dam has led to a significant rise in the water level downstream of the Dnieper River. Entire neighbourhoods were flooded, and thousands of people had to be evacuated. The evacuation is already underway. This act of sabotage by the Kiev regime has caused devastating damage to the farmland in the region and the ecosystem at the mouth of the Dnieper River. The inevitable drop in the water level of the Kakhovka reservoir will affect Crimea's water supply, and will hinder the improvement of agricultural land in the Kherson region.

This is a terrorist act directed against purely civilian infrastructure. It was planned in advance by the Kiev regime for military purposes as part of the Ukraine forces' "counteroffensive." The Kiev regime not only launched mass artillery attacks against the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant, but also deliberately brought the water level in the Kakhovka reservoir to a critical level by opening the Dneprovsky Hydroelectric Power Plant's floodgates.

The Investigative Committee of Russia has opened a criminal case on this act of terrorism that has led to significant property damage and other grave consequences.

The Russian side will initiate a discussion for considering this crime by the Kiev regime in the UN Security Council, the statutory and decision-making bodies of the OSCE and other international organisations. We call on the international community to condemn the criminal acts committed by the Ukrainian authorities, which are becoming increasingly inhumane and pose a major threat to regional and global security.

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 21 October 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I would like to draw your attention to the plans of the Kiev regime to destroy the Kakhovskaya hydroelectric dam in Kherson province. In particular, Ukrainian forces are considering launching sea mines downstream the Dnieper River or a massive missile strike. We are also registering air strikes targeting the locks of the electric power station with the intention to raise the river level.

Such a reckless Ukrainian attack would result in catastrophic flooding of the nearby territories and irreparable damage to the city of Kherson itself. It might cost thousands of innocent lives. The authorities in Kiev and their Western backers will bear full responsibility for all the consequences of such a devastating scenario.

To avoid such a threat to civilians, a large-scale evacuation of citizens from the right bank of the Dnieper River is currently being carried out by Russia.

I urge you to do everything in your power to prevent this heinous crime from happening.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Vassily **Nebenzia**

