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Circular Letter No.4653
30 January 2023

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

Subject: **Maritime Speakers Bureau – Enhancing the visibility of women in the maritime sector**

1 The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is strongly committed to assisting its Member States achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". Through its Women in Maritime programme, under the slogan: "Training-Visibility-Recognition", IMO has taken a sustainable strategic approach towards enhancing the contribution and visibility of women as key maritime stakeholders.

2 In furtherance of the goals of the programme, and with a view to advancing resolution A.1147(31) on *Preserving the legacy of the World Maritime Theme for 2019 and achieving a barrier-free working environment for women in the maritime sector*, in 2020, the International Maritime Organization signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA International) outlining 10 areas of collaboration for the promotion of greater diversity and inclusion through enhanced collaborative capacity-building activities in the maritime sector.

3 One of these areas was the creation of a platform containing information on female experts in the maritime field to ensure that sector conferences and events have a diversity of thought and to increase the visibility of women in the maritime sector, provide diverse role models and simplify the process of finding speakers.

4 This platform has been launched as the Maritime Speakers Bureau and can be accessed at the following link: <https://maritimespeakers.com>. The platform is free to register and use by speakers and organizers.

5 This is an opportunity for women in all areas of the maritime sector to share their knowledge and experience in their field and contribute to ensuring that audiences benefit from a wider representation of viewpoints. Speakers, once registered, can be contacted by the conference and event organizers with their requests via the Speakers Bureau website email system. Speakers are free to accept or decline the invitation to speak. If they decline, they can recommend someone else if they can instead. Conference organizers can search the directory by sectors, subjects and countries.

6 All queries on the Maritime Speakers Bureau can be sent to: womeninmaritime@imo.org