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Circular Letter No.4722
12 May 2023

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the United Arab Emirates**

The Government of the United Arab Emirates has sent the attached communication, received on 3 May 2023, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



Date: 28/04/2023

Reference No: MOEI/OUT/2023/1225

His Excellency Kitack Lim
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Subject: The Position of the United Arab Emirates related to the draft 2023 IMO Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships

Your Excellency,

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure of the United Arab Emirates presents to you its best regards and wishes for success.

On behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, I am honored to extend our warmest greetings. I write to you to address the ongoing discussion concerning the finalization of the draft 2023 IMO Strategy on the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping.

The UAE is committed to supporting multilateral processes aimed at strengthening global cooperation to tackle the critical issues in the current development agenda. We believe that open communication is key to building strong and effective partnerships, and we are committed to working together with all governments and stakeholders, to achieve our shared goals.

The United Arab Emirates was the first country in the Middle East region to sign the Paris Agreement and is committed to working towards the climate goal to limit the increase to 1.5 °C. The UAE was also the first country in the region to submit its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) back in 2015.



In this context, on the 7th of October 2021, the Government of UAE announced its strategic initiative of achieving “Net Zero emissions by 2050” signaling its clear commitment to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, ensuring collaboration at the national level to fulfill this objective across all key sectors, including the maritime sector.

Our government continues to take ambitious steps toward the decarbonization of shipping. Our key priority, in the context of the IMO, revised strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships, is to peak GHG emissions from international shipping as soon as possible whilst pursuing efforts towards reaching **net zero GHG emissions by 2050** at the latest, implementing ambitious measures in line with this target.

The UAE also remains fully committed to working collectively with the international community to achieve the Paris goals through a pragmatic yet ambitious approach that sets targets, launches actions, and addresses necessary conditions, including all efforts in the decarbonization of shipping as one of the contributing sectors for the global efforts to curb GHG emissions under the auspices of this organization. We also highlight that enhanced ambition should ensure that disproportionate negative impacts are addressed and the most vulnerable and those with the least capacity are supported through the transition by urgently implementing appropriate measures to deliver the IMO strategy.

As a result, the UAE is currently collaborating with the World’s Leading Class Society “DNV” as a strategic partner to establish a “Maritime Decarbonization Centre” as being the first of its kind in the MENA and 4th in the world following Singapore, Denmark, Norway. In line with the UAE’s energy transition and sustainability strategy, the decarb center will drive GHG reduction exceeding Global ambitions. The center will also carry out programs on Joint-industry projects, incubator and accelerator programs, future talent development initiatives, provide access to funding, collaboration, and publish research/information as a knowledge hub.

The UAE is also working closely with the Clean Energy Marine-Hubs (CEM-Hubs) initiative under the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) platform in partnership with the International Chamber of



Shipping (ICS) and the International Association of Ports & Harbors (IAPH) as well as key partner countries including Canada, Panama, and Norway. CEM-Hubs will develop key hubs around the world for the supply and transportation of clean energy through the maritime sector. This will enable both the transportation of clean fuels, as well as ensuring their availability for use in the maritime sector itself.

The UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure avails this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to IMO objectives and work with all partners to join efforts in the fight against climate change.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please accept, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Yours Sincerely,

Eng. Suhail Mohamed Faraj Almazrouei
Minister of Energy and Infrastructure