

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
74th session  
Agenda item 7

MEPC 74/7/11  
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## REDUCTION OF GHG EMISSIONS FROM SHIPS

### Comments on document MEPC 74/7/5 on the establishment of a voluntary multi-donor trust fund to sustain the Organization's technical cooperation and capacity-building activities to support the implementation of the Initial Strategy

Submitted by the Marshall Islands

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document notes in particular that the establishment of a voluntary multi-donor trust fund would need to encompass other country-led initiatives which are also working to support reducing GHG emissions from ships

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* 3

*Output:* 3.2

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 11

*Related documents:* resolutions A.1060(28); A.1110(30); A.1111(30); MEPC.304(72); MEPC 68/21; MEPC 73/19, MEPC 73/7/4; MEPC 74/7/5, MEPC 74/12/3 and ISWG-GHG 4/2/3

#### Introduction

1 This document is submitted in accordance with paragraph 6.12.5 of the Committees' Methods of work and comments on document MEPC 74/7/5 (Secretariat).

2 The Marshall Islands recall in particular:

- .1 resolution A.1060(28), paragraph 2.10, providing that "[t]he importance of the ITCP thus increases further with amendments to existing instruments and the development of new instruments by IMO, in which the particular needs of, and impact on, small island developing States and least developed countries should be taken into account";

- .2 resolution A.1110(30), paragraph 3, providing that "IMO will ensure that the views of all stakeholders are taken into account in its decision-making processes and continue to pay particular attention to the needs of developing countries, especially small island developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs)";
- .3 resolution A.1111(30), paragraph 8.1.6, referring to "the potential impact that the inclusion of an output may have on SIDS and LDCs";
- .4 resolution MEPC.304(72), paragraph 4.8.4, which calls for continued enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building such as those delivered under the ITCP;
- .5 resolution MEPC.304(72), paragraphs 5.1, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 which cover a broad range of technical cooperation and capacity-building; and
- .6 document ISWG-GHG 4/2/3, paragraph 9, which raised the issue of any fund established to recognize and support other existing country-led initiatives and not just those established by the Organization.

### **Comments in regard to the purpose of a voluntary Trust Fund**

3 The Marshall Islands note that the purpose of the Trust Fund as drafted in document MEPC 74/7/5 (Secretariat) is to:

"provide a 'dedicated source of financial support for technical cooperation and capacity-building activities to support the implementation of the *Initial IMO GHG Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships*'. The Trust Fund also provides the financial mechanism to support the sustainability of the Global Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres Network (GMN)."

4 The Marshall Islands note that, as currently worded, the purpose of a Trust Fund would potentially disadvantage other country-led initiatives that are already mature and underway, and lead to duplication and competition if not carefully managed and monitored. The inclusion of reference in the text only to the GMN could result in restricting support for other worthy and effective initiatives that would otherwise serve the purpose.

5 The Marshall Islands government, for example, established the Micronesian Centre for Sustainable Transport (MCST) in partnership with the regional University, which was endorsed in 2015 to provide technical cooperation and capacity-building to Pacific Island governments and communities, in regards to decarbonization of domestic and international shipping. This centre of excellence was established prior to the GMN initiative and has been working on wide-ranging applied research projects with multiple donors and leading research partners ever since.

6 Whilst the work of the MTCCs and the GMN is appreciated, the view of the Marshall Islands is that the Trust Fund, if established, should not preclude providing financial and other support for other country-led initiatives such as the MCST, which are clearly focused on achieving the same purpose, i.e. technical cooperation and capacity-building in regards to reducing GHG emissions from ships. To address this risk, the Marshall Islands make specific wording suggestions in paragraph 10 below.

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### Specific comments in regard to evaluation and reporting on ITCP and in particular the MTCCs (GMN)

7 The Marshall Islands note the feedback provided by the Secretariat on the progress made by the related ITCP projects including the MTCCs in document MEPC 74/12/3 and its annex.

8 The Marshall Islands note in particular the reference in paragraph 33 of the annex to document MEPC 74/12/3 to an independent evaluation of the MTCCs.

9 Whilst such independent evaluation is appreciated and supported, there is a need to ensure that such evaluations of ITCP projects are readily and publicly available to ensure full transparency by adding them to the IMO GMN website and IMODOCS.

### Proposals

10 The Committee is invited to consider the following proposals of amendments to the draft terms of reference for the establishment of a voluntary multi-donor trust fund annexed to document MEPC 74/7/5 (amendments are in underlined and strikethrough text):

.1 "The purpose of the Trust Fund is to provide a 'dedicated source of financial support for technical cooperation and capacity-building activities to support the implementation of the *Initial IMO GHG Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships*'. The Trust Fund also provides the financial mechanism to support initiatives targeting reduction of GHG emissions from ships including but not limited to the sustainability of the Global Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres Network (GMN) and existing country-led initiatives."

or

.2 "The purpose of the Trust Fund is to provide a 'dedicated source of financial support for technical cooperation and capacity-building activities to support the implementation of the *Initial IMO GHG Strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships*'. ~~The Trust Fund also provides the financial mechanism to support the sustainability of the Global Maritime Technology Cooperation Centres Network (GMN).~~"

### Action requested of the Committee

11 The Committee is invited to consider the proposals contained in this paragraph 10 and take action as appropriate.

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