



INDIAN OCEAN MOU ON PORT STATE CONTROL

PRESS RELEASE

Approved Strategic Action Plan for the period from 2024-2028

The Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding (IOMOU) on port State control held its twenty-sixth Committee meeting in Mahe, Seychelles from 04-08 September 2023 through physical appearance by the member Authorities. This meeting was hosted by the Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority (SMSA) and chaired by Ms. Beatrice Nyamoita, Deputy Director, Maritime Transport, State Department for Transport, Ministry of Roads and Transport of Kenya.

The meeting was officially declared opened by Capt. Joachim Valmont, Outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority.

Member Authorities of Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, France, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Yemen were physically present at the meeting. In addition, Paris MoU participated in the meeting as Observer.

Observers to the IOMOU (International Maritime Organization, Abuja MoU, Black Sea MoU, Caribbean MoU) and the IOCIS Manager participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

Special Invitees from the FAO and the PEW Charitable Trust also attended the meeting through virtual mode during the scheduled date, while representative from the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), being from Seychelles, attended the meeting in person.

A Correspondence Group presented its report on enhancement of the New Inspection Regime (NIR), which proposed using a new targeting algorithm to assist port States in focusing resources on the highest risk ships. This would be under trial run, with associated training. The Committee decided not to enter in an agreement with SOMRS as unanimous decision could not be made. Further, the Committee advised the IOCIS Manager to investigate the possibility of the Lloyd's List Intelligence (LLI) ship movement data, if the same, can be used for deciding on inspection targeting rate.

The Committee has accepted to exchange observer status with Mediterranean MoU.

A Correspondence Group presented their report of the Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on STCW to the Committee which was carried out from 1 September to 30 November 2022. The Committee noted that during the campaign, the member States carried out 1534 port State control inspections on individual ships. Out of these PSC inspections, 1230 inspections were carried out with a CIC questionnaire and four ships were detained as a direct result of the STCW issues. The CIC analysis was submitted to the Implementation of IMO Instruments (III), 9th session.

The Committee also agreed to conduct a CIC on Crew Wages and Seafarers Employment Agreement (SEA) under MLC 2006, in conjunction with Paris MoU and Tokyo MoU, for the year 2024.

The Committee approved and adopted the guidelines for PSCOs on IGF Code and amendments to the PSC Manual.

The Committee further deliberated on the five-year Strategic Action Plan from 2024-2028 and approved for implementation.

The Committee further adopted the 2022 Annual Report including the overview of the activities of the IOMOU for the period and the statistics including inspections. According to the report a total of 5060 inspections were carried out in 2022. Out of these, 2279 inspections, had deficiencies and the total number of deficiencies were 9902. 199 deficiencies serious enough to warrant detention were identified by PSCOs. The number of inspections in 2022 increased as compared to 2021, whereas, the detention percentage decreased from 3.97% recorded in 2021 to 3.93% in 2022. The Committee noted that the average number of deficiencies per inspection in 2022 (1.95) had slightly increased compared to the previous year (1.82).

The Committee accepted the proposal for sharing PSC data to non-member flag States and classification societies on their request through website www.iomou.org.

The Committee noted the progress made on the Co-operation programme between IOTC and IOMOU (the draft pilot training project for Inspection of Fishing vessels), made by the project working group partners, is under the final stage of adoption.

In order to promote better understanding of the activities of the organization and to monitor the developments and changes in the industry which could impact the quality of shipping, an interactive session was held with the representatives from the Asian Classification Society, and Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN).

The Committee elected Capt. Tobela Gqabu, Regional Manager, East Region, South Africa, as Chair and Mr. Bruce Whitby, Head of Inspections, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, as Vice Chair of the Committee for the next three consecutive years.

The Committee approved its annual Theme for the year 2024 as:

“Celebrating 25 years; recommitting for sustainable, clean and safe shipping”.

The award of the Best Deficiency Photo for the year 2022. was given to the Port State Control Officer from the Authority of India.

On behalf of the member States, Ms. Beatrice Nyamoita concluded the meeting by remarking that significant progress had been made on the port State control issues during this meeting. She thanked the SMSA for the exceptional arrangements they provided for this Committee meeting. She also thanked the member States and the IOMOU Secretariat for their contribution.

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