

**HIGH-LEVEL MINISTER SYMPOSIUM**  
**“MARITIME TRANSPORTATION: HARNESSING THE BLUE ECONOMY FOR THE**  
**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN”**

**Montego Bay, Jamaica**

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**JAMAICA HLMS RESOLUTION 2019**

The Ministers responsible for maritime transport and other participants in the High-Level Symposium on International Maritime Development in the Caribbean Region, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, representing the Governments of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Curacao, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago:

**RECALLING** the High-Level Symposia on International Maritime Development in the Caribbean held in Barbados on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1999 and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2004 and in Jamaica on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013 and the progress made in implementing the Barbados and Jamaica Resolutions adopted on those occasions;

**RECOGNIZING** that the ocean and other aquatic resources play a vital role in the economies of Caribbean States, providing of jobs, offering food security and are linked to many industries such as tourism;

**NOTING ALSO** that over ninety (90%) of trade in the Caribbean is carried by ships and that shipping and port operations contribute to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Region;

**NOTING FURTHER** that the Caribbean States and Territories have considerable and growing interests in merchant shipping and operate ship registries which, up to 2017, were responsible for 4,130 merchant ships of 72 million gross tonnes, representing approximately per cent (4%) of the world's merchant fleet and nearly six per cent (6%) of its tonnage;

**CONSCIOUS** of the importance of safe, secure, environmentally sound and efficient maritime transport services for the movement of goods and people, and the socio-economic benefit to their States and Territories of a clean marine environment to the livelihood and well-being of their inhabitants and the growth of their fisheries and tourism industries;

**CONSCIOUS ALSO** of the particular vulnerability of the Caribbean Region to the harmful effects of sub-standard shipping and pollution damage from maritime activities and mindful of the entry into force of the Special Area status of the Wider Caribbean Region under Annex V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973, as amended (MARPOL) dealing with the Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from ships;

**COGNIZANT** of the need to strengthen national maritime administrations, develop and update the national maritime legislation, build capacity at a regional level through partnerships and to contribute to the achievements of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and the continued development of the Caribbean Sea;

**COGNIZANT ALSO** of the vulnerability of the Caribbean region to climate change, and recognizing the need of the region to implement modern maritime legislation to facilitate opportunities within the blue economy for sustainable development;

**CONVINCED** that vessels registered and or operating in the Caribbean region should comply fully with applicable international instruments adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in respect of maritime safety and security, marine environment protection, the facilitation of maritime traffic, the human element and by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in respect of living and working conditions on board ships, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in respect of maritime radio frequencies and procedures, the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) in respect of hydrographic standards, the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) and as appropriate, with the Caribbean Cargo Ship Safety (CCSS) and Small Commercial Vessel (SCV) Codes;

**CONVINCED ALSO** that the required policy and legal framework to harness the potential of the blue economy requires commitment at the highest policy making level;

**CONVINCED FURTHER** of the vital role that a structured maritime transport policy contributes towards sustainable growth and employment in the maritime sector and the creation and preservation of benefits for all citizens;

**SUPPORTING** the IMO's initiative for Member States to develop maritime transport policies using, as one of the bases, the Country Maritime Profile document proposed at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC);

**RECOGNISING** that the Caribbean States which are Parties to such instruments and the Caribbean Territories to which these instruments apply have committed to the uniform and effective implementation and enforcement of the international rules and standards contained therein, and to continue to make concerted efforts, for increased accession to, or ratification of, such instruments, and for the establishment of the legislative framework and administrative systems that are necessary to give full effect to them;

**RECOGNISING ALSO** the need for Caribbean States to enshrine into national legislation the mandatory IMO instruments in keeping with the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code) adopted in December 2013;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** that national and regional action, as well as regional cooperation and international assistance, continue to be necessary to establish or strengthen implementation and enforcement capabilities throughout the Caribbean region;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** with particular appreciation the efforts of the Governments of Curaçao, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America as well as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (CMoU), European Union (EU), ILO, IMO, Meso American-Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission (MACHC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as well as several shipping industry and Non-Governmental organizations, in assisting the States of the region in building up human and institutional capacities for the effective exercise of coastal, flag and port State jurisdiction;

**ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO** the high quality and timeliness of the technical and advisory support being provided to the various States and Territories by the IMO Regional Maritime Adviser (RMA) for the Caribbean and the Regional Activity Centre / Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Center (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe);

**ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER** the cooperative activities that are on-going at the regional level, such as the CMoU, to eliminate sub-standard shipping, enhance maritime safety and security, seafarer welfare and to reduce and minimize ship-generated pollution;

**RECOGNISING** the efforts made to establish an entity within CARICOM, which has a coordinated and holistic approach towards addressing the maritime safety and security issues of the Community, to advance and implement a regional maritime transport agenda;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** the importance of ensuring women's full participation in the maritime sector and the work of the IMO-sponsored Women in Maritime Association Caribbean (WiMAC) to integrate gender equality and rights for the further growth and progress of the regional maritime and allied industries;

**.1 HEREBY COMMIT THEMSELVES TO:**

1. **INCREASING** collaboration among states to build on efforts at the local, national and regional levels to improve the appreciation/ understanding of the value of the Blue Economy; recognizing that these efforts can intensify investments and harness the full potential of the oceans, rivers and lakes to accelerate economic growth, create jobs and fight poverty.
2. **ENCOURAGING** the full and active involvement of all actors including the private sector in the development of the Blue Economy and advancement of SDG 14 as well as the gathering, sharing and analysis of data in order to inform policies that will enable this development.
3. **CONTINUE** to enhance the full and effective implementation of the IMO and ILO instruments related to maritime safety and security, marine environment protection, facilitation of maritime traffic, the human element and living and working conditions on board ships; and in particular the full implementation of the the response, liability and compensation regimes as well as the MARPOL Convention, ensuring, among other things, the provision of adequate waste reception facilities;
4. **MAINTAINING** the status of Caribbean countries as credible maritime States by taking appropriate measures to implement the corrective action plan out of the IMO Member State Audit;
5. **PROVIDING**, as far as reasonably possible, the necessary means and support at the national and regional levels for adequate marine environmental research, monitoring and evaluation, in order to maintain the ecological integrity of the marine and coastal waters of the Caribbean Sea given its critical socio-economic, and environmental importance to Member States;
6. **PROVIDING** also for the building of capacity for managing waste streams for the region; educating the public about protecting the marine environment; and supporting the development of maritime safety, security and environment training capacities within regional institutions;
7. **ENHANCING** the effective implementation of regional (CCSS and SCV Codes) and international maritime rules and standards through, *inter alia*, the preparation, enactment and enforcement of appropriate national maritime legislation;

8. **ENHANCING FURTHER** the enabling environment for Non-party stakeholders to participate in maritime climate action and that Maritime Transport is included in National climate change policies and more specifically included in the Nationally Determined Contributions;
9. **STRENGTHENING** national maritime administrations to carry out effectively their responsibilities as coastal, flag, and port States in accordance with applicable international maritime rules and standards;
10. **PROVIDING** adequate hydrographic and effective and harmonised Marine Aids to Navigation services for ships navigating in the Caribbean region in accordance with applicable international instruments;
11. **PROVIDING** national maritime administrations with the necessary qualified personnel in the administrative, legal, scientific and technical disciplines relating to the sector;
12. **ENSURING** that the personnel of national maritime administrations and other relevant agencies receive education and continuous training to keep abreast of regulatory and technological developments, quality standards and best practices in support of their maritime roles and functions;
13. **PROMOTING** gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive programming in ports, maritime administrations, maritime training institutes, and all other places of employment of women in the sea-going and shore-based sectors of Caribbean States, Dependent and Overseas Territories, and in this regard also support the activities of WiMAC in achieving these aims;
14. **PROMOTING** efforts aimed at encouraging and enhancing intra-regional technical cooperation and support;
15. **INCREASING** cooperation among the States and Territories of the region for the effective performance of flag, coastal and port State activities through, *inter alia*, the sharing of experience, expert services, information, education and training opportunities;
16. **INCREASING** acceptance of, and giving full and complete effect to the CMoU, as well as increasing cooperation and harmonization on port State control matters among States and Territories of the region;
17. **RECOGNIZING** in the context of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, the goals for safe regional transport and the importance in this regard of implementing IMO instruments relating to maritime safety, security, marine environment protection and the facilitation of maritime transport, and the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC, 2006)
18. **ENSURING** Resolutions of the Senior Maritime Administrators' Workshops are included in the maritime agenda at the regional level.

**.2 IN VIEW OF THESE COMMITMENTS, WHICH REQUIRE CONTINUED CO-OPERATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT, HEREBY:**

1. **ENDORSE** the employment of a multi-agency approach by the Governments of the Caribbean to capitalize on the potential of the Blue Economy;
2. **ENDORSE ALSO** the creation of a working group of maritime administrators that will support the development of the blue economy.
3. **RECOMMEND** that the Governments of the Caribbean region develop, update and implement national maritime transport policies and action plans which articulate the developmental vision for the sector and ensure more effective compliance with, and enforcement of, international maritime rules and standards throughout the region;
4. **RECOMMEND ALSO** that such national maritime transport policies and action plans be based on assessments of existing capacities in maritime administrations, be gender responsive and integrative for effective gender mainstreaming and contain clear objectives and realistic target dates for their attainment, as well as defined activities to be carried out by individual Governments, through technical cooperation among Caribbean countries, or with external assistance;
5. **RECOMMEND FURTHER** that the Governments of the Caribbean take steps to develop a regional maritime transport policy, taking into consideration national maritime/ocean policies and action plans as well as the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas;
6. **RECOGNIZE** the importance of giving full and complete effect to IMO and ILO Instruments and Regional Safety Codes by the timely promulgation of national maritime legislation;
7. **RECOGNIZE ALSO** the establishment of a Caribbean marine environment protection association as a consolidator for marine environment issues and actions in the Caribbean and as a group for engaging industry, regulators, governments, conservation groups, educators and more in promoting and protecting the marine environment;
8. **REQUEST** the IMO Regional Maritime Adviser to assist, where applicable, the Caribbean States in developing or updating their national maritime/oceans policies and action plans and to request the IMO, ILO, ITU, other UN agencies and donor governments and organisations to ensure that their development programmes and opportunities align with the relevant action plans of the respective countries and territories;
9. **ALSO REQUEST** the IMO to maintain its presence in the Caribbean, beyond 2019, so that the required assistance and coordination can be provided to the beneficiary States and Territories on a sustained and comprehensive basis;
10. **REQUEST FURTHER** the IMO, as the United Nations specialized agency dealing with the maritime sector, in consultation with relevant international and regional organizations, interested Governments and industry organisations, to facilitate the mobilization of resources to assist the States and Territories of the region in implementing the regional and national action plans and in giving full and complete effect to international maritime rules and standards;

11. **ENCOURAGE** Governments of the region, in their interactions with financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral development partners, to specifically include the accessing of resources for the further development of the maritime sector;
12. **REQUEST** Governments to take the necessary steps to implement the corrective action plan out of the IMO Member State Audit;
13. **URGE** that collaboration between the CARICOM Secretariat and IMO Secretariat be strengthened to facilitate the development and implementation of a regional policy and related matters;
14. **URGE FURTHER** that education efforts be redoubled to ensure the region has the capacity to actively participate in the Blue Economy;
15. **REQUEST** the Secretariats of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), Caribbean Community, CMoU, IALA, IHO, ILO, IMO and ITU to bring this Resolution to the attention of the appropriate bodies within their organizations for their consideration and relevant action.