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Circular Letter No.4525
7 March 2022

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

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Ukraine**

The Government of Ukraine has sent the attached communication, received on 7 March 2022, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



Embassy of Ukraine
in the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Nr. 6124/23-327/2- 52 - URGENT

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The Embassy of Ukraine in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organisation and has the honour to inform that the Government of Ukraine has adopted an Order "On urgent measures to enhance safety and security of merchant shipping".

In connection with the unprovoked armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and its population, violation by the Russian Federation of Article 2 of the Constitution of Ukraine (encroachment on the territorial integrity of Ukraine), pursuant to Presidential Decree dated 24 February 2022 № 64/2022 "On the imposition of martial law in Ukraine", which was approved by the Law of Ukraine dated 24 February 2022 № 2102-IX, as well as given the unprecedented violation by the Aggressor state of the principles of international maritime law and freedom of navigation and subject to Article 25 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of Regulation 7 Chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, following measures are put into force:

1. the navigation in the territorial sea of Ukraine and access to seaports of Ukraine is prohibited to:

- vessels flying the flag of the Russian Federation;
- vessels, whose owner, or ship-owner or participants (shareholders, members) or ultimate beneficiaries of the owners or ship-owners are citizens of the Russian Federation, legal entities registered in the territory of the Russian Federation, natural and legal persons, subject to special economic and other restrictions measures (sanctions) in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Sanctions";

2. the entry of ships flying the flag of Ukraine into the ports of the Russian Federation is prohibited.

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In view of the above and following the sanctions regimes enacted by the US, EU and other countries in respect to the Russian Federation for its grave breaches of the international law and violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Ukrainian Side appeals to the IMO Member States to urgently apply the same pattern of restrictive measures, namely to prohibit:

1. entry to national ports of vessels flying the flag of the Russian Federation or whose ship-owners, or participants (shareholders, members) or ultimate beneficiaries of the owners or ship-owners are citizens of the Russian Federation;
2. entry of IMO Member States vessels to the ports of the Russian Federation, considering that the ports of the Russian Federation are dangerous for navigation due to high levels terrorist threat.

The Embassy of Ukraine would appreciate if this Note Verbal is urgently circulated among IMO Member States to all IMO Member States, international organizations which have concluded agreements of cooperation with the IMO and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the IMO.

The Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organisation the assurances of its highest consideration.

London, 1 March 2022

