



**Election of New Secretary General
International Maritime Organization**

**Andreas I. Chrysostomou
'The Ultimate Promises'**

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Introduction

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has established itself as the sole international forum for the improvement of existing and the development of new regulatory frameworks. Some examples of these include the safety of life at sea, the safety of navigation, the search and rescue of persons in distress at sea, the training and certification of seafarers, the enhancement of security of the international maritime transport sector, the prevention of pollution of the environment from ships, the preparedness and response to accidents resulting to pollution of environment, the compensation of victims of pollution and the facilitation of international maritime traffic.

IMO is also the only global body providing comprehensive technical assistance to all developing countries on maritime-related matters within its competency.

This success of the IMO is a result of the joint and collaborative efforts of its Member States, the Associate Members, the shipping industry, the seafaring community, the civil society and of the IMO's Secretariat. **This is what drives IMO to work as a team serving a global industry and safeguarding the transport needs of humanity.**

The IMO Secretary-General has the utmost duty to safeguard this unique accomplishment and to ensure that it continues to serve the emerging and foreseeable needs of the international maritime transport, the environment and the people associated with it.

Strategic Vision

The success of IMO stems and will continue to rely on the work of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies. The Committees have successfully put in place a comprehensive and well-structured regulatory framework of the shipping industry, always within the scope of the mandate of IMO.

Nowadays, following their recent restructuring the Committees and their Sub-Committees, whilst pursuing the achievements and the goals of the IMO's Strategic and High Level Action Plans, are primarily engaged in updating and further enriching what is already in place. Hence, they stand ready to adopt changes to existing, or new, regulatory requirements in response to emerging needs.

The efficiency of the Committees and subcommittees depends on the excellent services provided by the secretariat and as such I strongly believe that the effectiveness of the Secretariat highly depends on good leadership and stewardship provided by the Secretary-General. I do therefore intend to exert every effort for maintaining **prudent leadership**, sound **stewardship** and providing effective and constructive **motivation**.

It is clear that in recent years, Member States, do require a decision making process which is "Member State" driven that includes all and attends to the needs voiced by the maritime industry and other interested civil society groups. As someone who has been working through all his professional life with the Member States, the industry and the civil society, I have developed good skills to understand and comprehend the needs of different nations or even group of nations and be able to provide compromise solutions that could accommodate all. It is therefore my goal to promote and make "**inclusiveness**" the IMO's moto as long as I am Secretary General.

A considerable number of Member States, in particular the developing countries, continue to face difficulties in their efforts to give full and complete effect to the IMO-instruments, mainly because of knowhow-related constraints and the absence of the necessary resources.

Under my persuasion I will strive to see the Organization establishing a more **focus strategy** on how to build the capacity of the developing countries with specific deliverables towards human and **institutional capabilities** so as to be able to adequately discharge states' obligations under the IMO instruments, in a long-term sustainable manner.

The Ultimate Promises

- **Stewardship:** I will provide prudent leadership, sound stewardship and effective and constructive motivation to the secretariat;
- **Inclusiveness:** I will further, the already established excellent relations and cooperation with the Member States and the Associated Members and any new ones by encouraging and stimulating “inclusiveness”; and
- **Leverage peer knowledge:** Under my persuasion I will establish a focus strategy on how to enhance the capacity of the developing countries with specific deliverables towards human and institutional capabilities.

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