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Circular Letter No.3485
10 September 2014

To: All IMO Member States
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

Subject: **Full and effective implementation of maritime security measures to assist in preventing the spread of the Ebola virus disease**

1 This circular should be read in conjunction with Circular Letter No.3484 on Ebola virus disease (EVD) dated 2 September 2014.

2 The special measures to enhance maritime security detailed in SOLAS chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code provide a framework for establishing preventive measures against security incidents affecting ships or port facilities used in international trade, preventing unauthorized access to ships, port facilities and their restricted areas; and preventing the introduction of unauthorized weapons, incendiary devices or explosives to ships or port facilities.

3 Whereas it is clear that the special measures to enhance maritime security were not adopted to also prevent the spread of infectious diseases, it is also clear that the diligent application of access controls and other security measures in port facilities and on board ships may serve to support provisions aimed at preventing the spread of EVD and thus enhance the safety of seafarers and the people with whom they may come into contact.

4 Port and coastal States, particularly in EVD-affected regions, are encouraged to review the implementation of port facility security procedures and, where appropriate, take remedial action to ensure their effectiveness, both in terms of their initial purpose and to contribute to public safety through disease control.

5 Similarly, flag States are urged to ensure that companies' attention is drawn to the benefits to be gained from full and effective implementation of maritime security measures in the context of the EVD outbreak and the guidance promulgated by the World Health Organization (see also Circular Letter No.3484).

6 In addition to guidance on the application of SOLAS chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code, the Organization has produced a range of other useful guidance addressing issues such as the prevention of stowaways, which may also be relevant in countering the spread of the disease.

- 7 Detailed guidance on relevant maritime security measures may be found in:
- .1 The Guide to Maritime Security and the ISPS Code (IMO Sales Publication IA116);
 - .2 Resolutions FAL.11(37) and MSC.312(88) on Revised guidelines on the prevention of access by stowaways and the allocation of responsibilities to seek the successful resolution of stowaway cases;
 - .3 Resolution MSC.228(82) and FAL.9(34) on Revised guidelines for the prevention and suppression of the smuggling of drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals on ships engaged on international maritime traffic; and
 - .4 The ILO/IMO Code of practice on security in ports.

Details of these and other guidance guidelines can be found on the IMO website at:

http://www.imo.org/OurWork/Security/Guide_to_Maritime_Security/Guidance/Pages/Guidance_home.aspx
