



Subject: “The thirty-third regular session of the IMO Assembly (London 27th November to 06th December 2023) – Submission of a General Statement by H.E. the Minister of Transports and Communications of Guinea-Bissau”

Ref.: IMO N.V. 055

Opening of the 33rd session of the IMO Assembly

1. The IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim has opened the 33rd session of the IMO Assembly (A 33), which is meeting at IMO Headquarters in London from 27 November and is expected to last until Wednesday, 6 December 2023. At the opening session the Secretary-General highlighted the Organization's achievements during the current biennium, including the adoption of the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy, and emphasized the need to decarbonize and digitalize shipping in the years ahead.

General Statement by Guinea-Bissau

2. During the general Statements Session of the Assembly-33 on the 28th November 2023, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau was represented by the **Minister of Transports and Communications of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, H.E. Eng. José Carlos ESTEVES**. Within the context of the submitted General Statement the Minister emphasized among others:

a. The paramount relevance of the IMO as the global maritime forum for adopting global applicable regulatory standards for the international shipping industry;

b. The fact that the Republic of Guinea-Bissau adopts as a central option for national economic development and increased GDP efforts the support of the blue economy;

c. The prioritization of the maritime economy and the further development of a competent and sound maritime administration for the Republic of Guinea-Bissau took shape with the recent establishment of an international registry operating out of one of the major maritime centers worldwide, notably Greece;

d. The Republic of Guinea-Bissau has recently and since the enactment of the International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau, adopted supplemental instruments of accession related to IMO Conventions and Protocols and hence ensuring the ability of the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry to cope most efficiently with the updated certification requirements of the IMO International Conventions; and

e. The further expansion of the capacity-building work carried out by IMO and notably within the work-program of the IMO Technical Cooperation Division.

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INTERNATIONAL SHIPS REGISTRY OF GUINEA-BISSAU

Livestreaming of the plenary proceedings

3. For the first time, the Assembly decided to livestream the plenary proceedings to the public. The live stream can be followed on the IMO HQ YouTube channel: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrDNtbRdnSs>).

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

Office of the General Ships Registrar

