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Circular Letter No.4195  
28 January 2020

To: All IMO Members  
United Nations and specialized agencies  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

Subject: **IMLI/WMU Symposium on flag State responsibilities and the future of article 91 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea co-hosted by IMO and ITLOS - IMO Headquarters, 5 March 2020**

1 The International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and the World Maritime University (WMU) have the honour to invite participation at a Symposium on flag State responsibilities and the future of article 91 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), co-hosted by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the Organization, to be held on Thursday 5 March 2020, from 14.30 to 17.30 in Committee room 9 at IMO Headquarters, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR, United Kingdom.

2 The Symposium will be conducted in English only and will consist of discussions around article 91 of UNCLOS, the current and future challenges on its implementation by flag States and the modern ship registry and implementation of IMO instruments. Participants will have the opportunity to take part in Q&A sessions.

3 The tentative programme for the Symposium, with invited speakers and panels' moderators, can be found in annex 1 to this Circular Letter, but may be subject to change.

4 The Symposium is open to attendees from Member States, the United Nations and specialized agencies and IGOs/NGOs in consultative status with the Organization, the media and other invitees on the basis of the capacity of Committee room 9.

5 Member States are invited to disseminate the invitation to interested parties and stakeholders and to encourage their representatives to participate.

6 International organizations are also encouraged to disseminate the invitation among their associates and other interested parties.

7 Information on the registration procedures can be found in annex 2 to this Circular Letter. Any enquiries relating to the Symposium should be communicated to:

Legal Affairs and External Relations Division  
Email: [led@imo.org](mailto:led@imo.org)

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**ANNEX 1**

**IMLI/WMU SYMPOSIUM  
ON FLAG STATE RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE FUTURE OF ARTICLE 91 OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA  
Co-hosted by IMO and ITLOS**

**IMO Headquarters, Thursday, 5 March 2020**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

13.30	<p>Welcome/Administrative remarks by <i>Mr. Frederick J. Kenney, Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO</i></p> <p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <p><i>Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary-General, IMO</i></p> <p><i>Judge Jin-Hyun Paik, President, ITLOS</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, President, WMU</i></p> <p><i>Professor David Attard, Director IMLI and Vice-President, ITLOS</i></p>
<b>13.50 – 15.00</b>	<p><b>Panel 1: The Development and interpretation of article 91 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)</b></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Professor David Attard, Director IMLI and Vice-President, ITLOS</i></p>
13:50 – 14.00	<p><b>Negotiating history of article 91 of UNCLOS</b></p> <p><i>Judge David H. Anderson, ITLOS</i></p>
14.00 – 14.10	<p><b>Interpretation of article 91 of UNCLOS through ITLOS case law – flag State rights and obligations</b></p> <p>The right of the flag State to make claims in respect of its vessels</p> <p><i>Judge Tomas Heidar, ITLOS</i></p>
14.10 – 14.30	<p><b>Practical implementation and challenges</b></p> <p>The current state of ship registration: a practitioner's perspective</p> <p><i>Mr. Ed Watt, Addleshaw Goddard LLP, Author: Ship Registration Law and Practice</i></p> <p>The United Nations Convention on Conditions for Registration of Ships, 1986</p> <p><i>Mr. Jan Hoffmann, Chief, Trade Logistics Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD</i></p>
14.30 – 14.45	<p><b>Panel Q&amp;A</b></p>

14.45 – 15.00	<i>Break</i>
<b>15:00 – 16:00</b>	<b>Panel 2: Current and future challenges on implementation of article 91 of UNCLOS by flag States</b>  Moderator: <i>Professor George Theodoridis, WMU</i>
15.00 – 15.10	<b>Registration of ships and ITLOS case law</b>  Nationality and registration of ships in the jurisprudence of the Tribunal <i>Judge James L. Kateka, ITLOS</i>
15.10 – 15.20	<b>Fraudulent registries and their impacts</b>  Update on the work of IMO on Measures to prevent unlawful practices associated with the fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of ships <i>Mr. Frederick J. Kenney, Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO</i>
15.20 – 15.30	<b>Ship registration and compliance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions</b> <i>Ms. Jennifer A. Chalmers, Maritime Sanctions Advisor, United States Department of State</i>
15.30 – 15.45	<b>Panel Q&amp;A</b>
15.45 – 16.00	<i>Break</i>
<b>16.00 – 17.30</b>	<b>Panel 3: The modern ship registry and implementation of IMO instruments</b>  Moderator: <i>Mrs. Gillian Grant, Vice-Chair, IMO Legal Committee and Alternate Permanent Representative of Canada to IMO</i>
16.00 – 16.40	The structure and operation of the Marshall Islands Registry <i>Mrs. Elizabeth Bouchard, Deputy Commissioner, Maritime Affairs, Marshall Islands</i>  The structure and operation of the Liberian Registry <i>Mr. Kostas Ladas, General Manager, Liberia International Ship and Corporate Registry (LISCR), London</i>  Other participants [TBC]

16.40 – 17.00	<b>Wrap-up/Future work</b>  Future challenges arising in relation to the registration of ships: the role of the Tribunal in the interpretation and application of article 91 <i>Ms. Naomi Burke O'Sullivan, Legal Officer, ITLOS</i>  Ship registration: future challenges and opportunities <i>Professor George Theodoridis, WMU</i>
17.00 – 17.15	<b>Panel Q&amp;A</b>
17.15 – 17.30	<b>Closing remarks</b> <i>Mr. Frederick J. Kenney, Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO</i>
17.30 – 18.00	<b>Reception (Delegates Lounge)</b>

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**ANNEX 2**

**IMLI/WMU SYMPOSIUM  
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**REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

**Participants' registration**

Attendees intending to participate in the information session are kindly requested to register by Friday, **28 February 2020**. Registration for the symposium will be available via either the:

- .1 Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS) for delegates registering through their national OMRS Delegation Coordinator; or
- .2 Non-OMRS registered delegates.

***Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS)***

Member States, IGOs and NGOs wishing to attend should provide, prior to the event date, the names of their participants, via the Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS) as advised in Circular Letter No.3463 of 14 July 2014, in order to facilitate their entry into the building.

Once they have completed the registration procedure, participants will be issued at IMO with an electronic access card to pass through the security barrier in the IMO building. Issue of the access card will require photographic proof of identity, e.g. passport, identity card or driving licence. Attendees may also be required to show proof of identity at any time while they are in the Headquarters building, if requested to do so by IMO Security. In view of the significant costs incurred in producing access cards, attendees who have previously been issued with one are kindly requested to bring it with them for reactivation. Any matters relating to the use of the OMRS should be communicated to:

Registration Unit  
Meeting Services and Interpretation Section  
Email: [onlineregistration@imo.org](mailto:onlineregistration@imo.org)

Participants whose names appear in the OMRS will be issued with the above-mentioned access card. Participants whose names are not on the OMRS list will be requested to contact their OMRS Delegation Coordinator in order to process their authorization to attend the event.

***Non-OMRS registered delegates***

Delegates wishing to attend the Symposium but who are not affiliated with an IMO delegation are requested to register via [led@imo.org](mailto:led@imo.org). Delegates registering this way need to provide the following information:

Full name  
Address  
Job title (if applicable)  
Organization (if applicable)  
Type of organization (if applicable)  
Country

Appropriate ID corresponding to the details provided will need to be shown on arrival prior to the issuance of a visitor's pass.

Attendees are advised that the Registration Desk will be open for registration from 12.30 on 5 March 2020, when early arrival would be of assistance.

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