

Message from Honourable Sudheer Maudhoo
Minister of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
on the occasion of the World Maritime Day 2022

'New Technologies for Greener Shipping'

1. Every year the International Maritime Organization (IMO) celebrates World Maritime Day.
2. The World Maritime Day is used to focus attention on the importance of shipping safety, maritime security and the marine environment and to emphasise a particular aspect of IMO's work. International shipping is the means due to which we have access to most of the food, products and technology that we consume. With 80% of global trade coming from international shipping, this is certainly a vital topic.
3. This year's theme, '*New technologies for greener shipping*', has been chosen as the World Maritime theme for 2022, reflecting the need to support a green transition of the maritime sector into a sustainable future, while leaving no one behind. The theme coincides with the first celebration of the International Women in Maritime Day organised on 18 May 2022 and to mark this joint landmark, the IMO will generate opportunities for discussion on women in decision-making and on skills development in the maritime industry.
4. The 2022 theme endeavours to promote inclusive innovation and uptake of new technologies to support the needs for a greener transition of the maritime sector, especially in the context of developing countries, and in particular the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs). It also links to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 13 and 14 on climate action and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources; SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure; and SDG 17, which highlights the importance of partnerships and implementation to achieve these goals.
5. Shipping is the most efficient and cost-effective method of international transportation for most goods; it provides a dependable, low-cost means of

transporting goods globally, facilitating commerce and helping to create prosperity among nations and peoples. For the Republic of Mauritius, as a Small Island Developing State, the importance of a sustainable maritime industry and the requirement to rebuild better and more environmentally friendly in a post-pandemic world is a must.

- 6.** In Mauritius, the contribution of our maritime sector in the socio-economic development of the country and in boosting trade and commercial activities is highly significant.
- 7.** Presently, the government is leveraging the blue economy for economic progress and building a resilient maritime sector while ensuring that its sensitive marine eco-system and diversity are safeguarded.”
- 8.** The mission of our Ministry is to strengthen governance and harness the marine resources in our Exclusive Economic Zone for fostering sustainable development in contribution to human well-being, food security and poverty alleviation.
- 9.** It is a fact that there are many opportunities in the advancement of a sustainable blue economy. Together all stakeholders are called upon to make the most of these opportunities and to foster a better world in the process.
- 10.** Technological solutions for cleaner, safer and more sustainable shipping must also benefit people and therefore consideration on their impacts on seafarers and other marine and shore personnel are very important together with the utmost need for training at all levels.
- 11.** At global level, IMO has undertaken a number of initiatives which are inter-alia as follows:
 - a.** Relevant IMO regulation has been developed to drive innovation in ship design, propulsion and energy-efficient technologies which include the mandatory requirements in the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) stimulate research and investment to cut

emissions from ships and a variety of design, economic and operational solutions help to achieve the goals set in the regulations.

- b.** The Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC) in Africa has supplied tablets so that data on fuel and ship operation can be recorded - leading to more efficient and greener ship operation after analysis of the figures. The Global MTCC Network (GMN) project supports the demonstration and piloting of technological solutions in support of the implementation of the initial IMO Green House Gas (GHG) reduction strategy and is encouraging other countries to follow suit.
 - c.** IMO's GloFouling project was conceptualised to promote the development of new technologies to prevent and/or manage marine biofouling, with the aim of increasing energy efficiency and to protect biodiversity by preventing the spread of invasive aquatic species. Examples include in-water cleaning systems, new anti-fouling components and the use of robotics for monitoring and inspecting ships' surfaces which are being designed and implemented.
 - d.** In the same vein, the IMO TEST Biofouling Project support testing novel technologies and new sustainable methods for biofouling management through demonstration projects. These demonstrations will showcase the environmental and energy efficiency benefits that can be achieved. Demonstration of technologies will be conducted in selected ports and shipyards around the world, with regional exchanges on technological solutions and best practices.
- 12.** Based on these regulations, guidelines and best practices, Mauritius is certainly committed to support these endeavours in enabling cleaner, safer and more sustainable shipping in our waters.

***Ministry of Blue Economy,
Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping***

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