



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

AIDE MEMOIRE

**KENYA'S CANDIDATURE FOR
RE-ELECTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME ORGANIZATION
COUNCIL UNDER
CATEGORY 'C'**



PREAMBLE

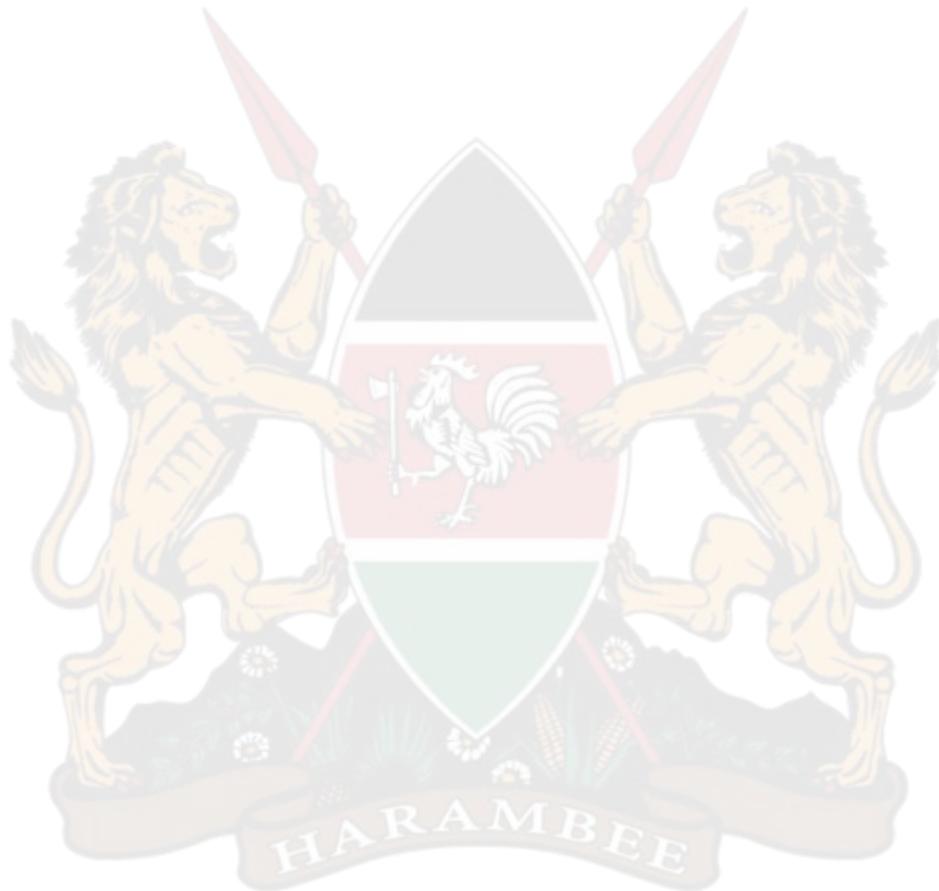
The Republic of Kenya presents her candidature for re-election to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under Category "C" for the 2022-2023 term during the 32nd Regular Session of the IMO General Assembly.

Kenya joined the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1973 and has remained an active participant and supporter of IMO activities. Kenya has been an IMO Council Member under Category 'C', from 2001 to date. Her continuous re-election to the Council has provided a solid voice at the IMO for Eastern Africa and the Great Lakes region consisting of the following countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, as well as the Horn of Africa Region and the island states of the Western Indian Ocean.

Kenya reaffirms her interest to continue serving the Region and the international maritime community by contributing to IMO's mission and work of promoting safe and secure shipping on clean oceans.

KENYA, MARITIME NATION

Kenya holds special interests in maritime transport and navigation as a coastal port and flag State, and due to her strategic location along the East African coast, the country is central to regional shipping. The Kenyan coastline lies along major maritime trading and tanker routes connecting Africa to Europe, the Far East and the Americas. The Port of Mombasa in Kenya remains the largest and most strategic gateway to the Eastern and Central Africa region.



KENYA AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO IMO

Kenya's strategic geo-location along the East African coast and eminent profile among the community of nations have defined her position and role at IMO. Kenya has continued to be an active member of IMO and has to date ratified a total of 32 Conventions emanating from the Organization. Indeed, Kenya's willingness and resolve to tackle emerging regional and global challenges relating to shipping has earned the country international respect.

In this regard, Kenya has proposed a new output aimed at developing Guidelines for the Prevention and Suppression of the Smuggling of Wildlife on Ships engaged in International Maritime Traffic (FAL 44/18/1) which was considered and adopted as a Work Programme by the Facilitation Committee in its 44th Session. This will address the gap in current IMO Instruments which have not captured combatting wildlife trafficking in the maritime sector.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Kenya has worked tirelessly with international partners to facilitate uninterrupted crew change and repatriation through her ports, as well as protection of the welfare of all seafarers in line with the IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.14 of May 5, 2020. Indeed, Kenya was among the first African countries to welcome the call by IMO to designate seafarers as essential workers.

Kenya hosts IMO's Regional Coordinator for Eastern, Central and Southern Africa region and seconding staff to the office in Nairobi since 1999. The office serves 21 countries and has been pivotal in the implementation and delivery of technical assistance thereby greatly advancing the ratification and implementation of IMO conventions in the region.

Kenya also successfully hosted the first *IMO International Diplomatic Conference* in Africa whose outcome was the adoption and signing of the *Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007*.

2. Kenya is a committed member of the Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (IOMOU), and continues to cooperate with Member States to enhance the 5 region's maritime safety infrastructure, as well as the shared objectives of keeping away substandard ships from the region.
3. On 3rd to 5th October 2012, the Government of Kenya hosted the Inaugural Heads of African Maritime Administrations and Ship Registrars' Conference in Mombasa, under the theme of "Africa in Preparation for a Maritime Strategic Take-off". The conference brought together maritime authorities in Africa with the aim of deliberating on measures necessary to implement the African Integrated Maritime (AIMS) Strategy, 2050 as envisaged in the African Maritime Transport Charter. That inaugural meeting has since resulted in the establishment of the Association of African Maritime Administrations.

KENYA'S RE-ELECTION TO THE IMO COUNCIL

- i. Noting the country's commitment in support of IMO's objectives, Kenya's re-election to the IMO Council under Category 'C' will be of great significance to the region and wider international maritime community. Kenya therefore re-affirms her focus on strengthening her relationship with the IMO and its Member States.
- ii. Kenya thanks all Member States which voted for her election in 2019. The Republic of Kenya is grateful to have served in the Council in the past Biennium and for having been given the opportunity to actively participate in a wide range of IMO issues.

KENYA AND ITS COMMITMENT TO WOMEN IN THE MARITIME COMMUNITY

In support of the IMO program for the integration of women in the maritime sector and the SDG 5, the Government of Kenya has extended capacity building and women empowerment through the appointment of Kenyan women to high ranking positions in the maritime sector, and has further supported regional initiatives towards this goal by hosting the Association for Women in the Maritime Sector for East and Southern Africa (WOMESA an association whose membership spans twenty-five countries within the Eastern and Southern African Region).

KENYA IN THE REGION

1. Kenya hosts in Mombasa, the secretariats of the following three sub-regional organizations that are very active in dealing with maritime issues:
 - i. Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA) – with fourteen (14) member countries. PMAESA has observer status with IMO, playing a major role in the implementation of port and maritime security programs to ensure compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code by the regions' ports as well as marine pollution prevention programs.
 - ii. Intergovernmental Standing Committee on Shipping (ISCOS) comprises four (4) members States, namely Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.
 - iii. Northern Transit Transport Co-ordinating Authority (NTTCA) – of five (5) member States. NTTCA oversees the facilitation of transit traffic of international trade for Uganda, Northern Tanzania, Southern Sudan, Southern Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo and is therefore key to the continued growth in the economies of these countries. The NTTCA is crucial to the implementation of the Facilitation of Maritime Traffic Convention, 1965.

KENYA AND ITS COMMITMENT TO MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY

In June 2020, Kenya was elected as a non-permanent member to the United Nations Security Council which provides a platform for Kenya to contribute to critical global peace and security resolutions. This demonstrates the Country's leadership capability and trust bestowed by nations of its ability to contribute effectively to global Peace and Security for sustainable development. Maritime security remains a key component for safe maritime transport. Towards this objective, Kenya continues to play a key role in securing the maritime domain within the Western Indian Ocean as a signatory to the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC) (and amendments thereto) as well as membership to the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (Contact Group), both instruments of the United Nations Security Council.

In 2018, Kenya hosted the 21st plenary of the Contact Group and in 2019 it was elected as the Chair for a period of two years. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions and challenges in 2020, Kenya has managed to maintain the momentum of the Contact Group through virtual meetings which have ensured the continuity on the efforts to deter piracy. A key output at the 23rd Plenary held in 2020 was the consensus on the establishment of a Strategic Steering Group which will ensure the work of the Contact Group is upheld.

Kenya has strengthened national structures through legislation to ensure compliance to the requirements for information sharing at both national and regional level for enhanced maritime domain awareness and security. The recent establishment of the Kenya Coast Guard Service, as a multi-agency organization has gone a long way to improve surveillance and security as well as maritime law enforcement along the 600 km Kenyan coastline.

In addition, Kenya has maintained her relations within other regional security mechanisms instrumental in addressing the challenges of maritime security. Since 2011 to date, military operations by Kenyan Defence Forces in Somalia, especially in and around Kismayu, which was previously the bedrock of Somali piracy, are directly linked to the near-eradication of piracy in the Indian Ocean. This has helped secure maritime routes thus saving ship-operators and governments from the heavy costs related to piracy.

Kenya hosts the Regional Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RMRCC) in Mombasa, covering the maritime search and rescue regions of Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and Seychelles.

The RMRCC provides a very useful point of contact where ships regularly seek advice or assistance when sailing in waters off the coast of Somalia as well as report any security concerns about other ships movements or communications in the area.

KENYA AND ITS COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Climate change represents the most complex challenge of our time and thus requires a concerted, proactive and holistic response. Kenya has taken the lead role within Africa towards climate change mitigation and hosts the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC) Africa, one of five (5) Centers comprising the Global Maritime Network set up in support of the IMO greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction strategy. The Center works to build capacity for mitigation of the effects of climate change for the maritime and shipping industry, to promote use of clean fuels and adoption of energy efficient technologies in the sector. The MTCC-Africa continues to host physical and virtual capacity building workshops across the region, raising awareness on climate change mitigation in the African maritime sector.

Kenya has also embarked on ambitious projects in line with the IMO's current focus on green shipping, energy efficiency and prevention and reduction of marine plastic litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors. Kenya is participating in the following:

- i. The IMO-Norway *Green Voyage 2050* project as a New Pilot Country, where the new innovative project is aimed to support implementation of the Initial IMO Strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions from ships (Resolution MEPC.304(72)). This Strategy has a clear goal of achieving at least a 50% reduction in GHG emissions from international shipping by 2050 compared to 2008.

- ii. Lead Partnering Country in the *IMO-FAO-Norway GloLitter* Partnerships Project, aimed to assist developing countries prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors, and identify opportunities for the reduction of plastic uses in both industries.

It is anticipated that the results of these projects will provide lessons not only for Africa but the international maritime community in general.

Kenya has taken lead in implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), aimed at fostering sustainable use of the blue economy domain. In 2018, Kenya hosted the first ever Global Conference on a Sustainable Blue Economy. The Conference which brought together 184 countries under the theme 'Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development'. Some of the key Conference outputs were global commitments focused on and in support of sustainable use of the oceans, seas, lakes and rivers for economic development and poverty eradication; sustainable energy, sustainable fisheries, climate action, maritime security, safety and regulatory enforcement. Kenya, Antigua and Barbuda are co-championing the 4 Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Group on Sustainable Blue Economy, an Action Group pushing for the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, developing an integrated approach to the Blue Economy and improved livelihoods and ocean ecosystem health within the Commonwealth member states. Kenya is also gearing to co-host the future UN Oceans Conference with Portugal.

KENYA AND ITS COMMITMENT TO TRADE FACILITATION

In line with the requirements for facilitation of international maritime traffic, Kenya has been a key proponent for the implementation of the Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL) Convention in the region, and to this end has established a Maritime Single Window platform to electronically process pre-arrival and pre-departure declarations for ship crew and cargo clearance.