

28 April 2026

Ref: LA/COD/11/2

Ms. Elinor Hammarskjöld
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
and United Nations Legal Counsel
United Nations
2 UN Plaza - 323 E 44th Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
United States

Dear Ms. Hammarskjöld,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, thank you for your letter of 21 January 2026, advising him of the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 80/171 of 15 December 2025 entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism" and, in particular, the requirement to review "existing possibilities within the United Nations system for assisting States in organizing workshops and training courses on combating crimes connected with international terrorism".

IMO's programme on Enhancement of Global Maritime Security supports countries in enhancing security measures to protect ships and ports from security threats, including those posed by terrorism; piracy and armed robbery; smuggling of arms, explosives and drugs; cyberattacks; and other illicit acts.

Since the last update on 10 May 2024 the following number of in-country activities were delivered under the programme:

- 17 activities in 2023;
- 15 activities in 2024; and
- 4 activities in 2025.

These in-country activities were organized and/or co-organized with development partners for Designated Authorities, port and ship security officials, managers, and other related personnel, especially designed to review and enhance the implementation of effective maritime security, including training on: International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code requirements; national maritime security legislation; self-assessment; drills and exercises; Whole of Government Approach to Maritime Security; and Practical Maritime Person and Baggage Screening and Searching.

New training has also been developed on "Cyber security awareness for ports" which provides an overview of types of cyber threats, vulnerabilities in information and operational technology, and security measures to mitigate cybersecurity risks at port facilities.

I would also like to highlight in relation to operative paragraph 31 of General Assembly resolution 80/186 of 15 December 2025, that from 6 to 10 October 2025 IMO funded 12 women from Brazil, Djibouti, Ghana, Guatemala, Mauritius, Namibia, Portugal, Türkiye, United

Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, and the United States to attend a Port Facility Security Auditors course at IMO headquarters in London. This course, implemented in collaboration with IMO's Gender Programme, was the first of its kind specifically for women participants, and addressed the evaluation skills required by Member State auditors of their port security measures and the implementation of IMO's ISPS Code, to detect threats and assess compliance with international maritime security standards.

For a complete overview of the capacity building activities under the Enhancement of Maritime Security Programme, I am attaching the annual report on deliverables during 2023 (The annual report on deliverables during 2024 will be available later this year). The programme is managed by Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division of IMO.

In addition to its programme on Enhancement of Global Maritime Security, IMO is also an implementing partner on several important regional maritime security projects including:

- Port Security and Safety of Navigation in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean;
- Regional programme for Maritime Security in the Red Sea Area;
- Safe Seas for Africa (Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Guinea);
- Crisis Response Project for the Red Sea and the Western Indian Ocean;
- Boosting Implementation of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct; and
- SMART-C Maritime Security and Counter-piracy.

I should also like to highlight the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988 (SUA 1988), the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (SUA PROT 1988), and the 2005 Protocols to SUA 1988 and SUA PROT 1988. These instruments ensure that appropriate action can be taken against persons committing a broad range of unlawful acts against both shipping and fixed platforms on the continental shelf.

As at 28 April 2026, there are:

- 166 Contracting States to SUA 1988;
- 157 Contracting States to SUA PROT 1988;
- 54 Contracting States to SUA 2005; and
- 49 Contracting States to SUA PROT 2005.

I would like to kindly invite you to contact Mr. Jeremy Greenwood (Head, Maritime Security Section) through marsec@imo.org for further information.

With best wishes for continued good cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Damien Chevallier
Director
Maritime Safety Division

Attached: Annual report on Enhancement of Maritime Security programme 2023