

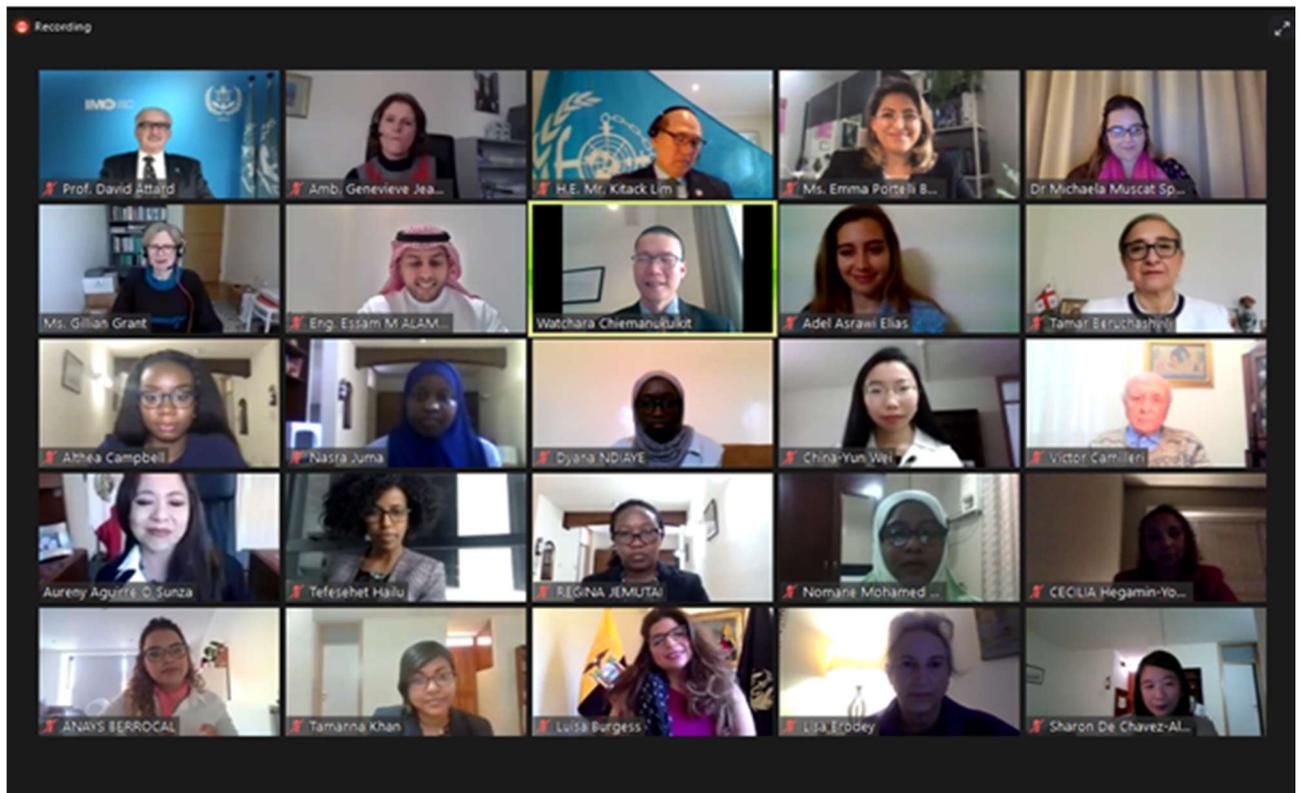
## IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH AT THE IMOGEN WOMEN-ON-BOARD LAUNCH

Mr. Kitack Lim (Secretary-General, IMO) delivered the Keynote Speech during today's launch of the "IMOGEN Women-on-Board" which was attended by over 110 international participants. Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) delivered the welcoming remarks. Ambassador Genevieve Jean-Van Rossum (Permanent Representative of France to IMO), Ms. Gillian Grant (Canada's Alternate Permanent Representative to IMO), Dr. Michaela Muscat Spaak (Malta's Alternate Permanent Representative to IMO) and Dr. Emma Portelli Bonnici (IMLI Student Representative) also addressed the event.



Dr. Muscat Spaak opened the event by welcoming the speakers and the participants to the programme. In her address, she discussed the inception of the programme, stating that the “IMOGEN Women-on-Board” programme is based on values of intergenerational solidarity promoted by IMOGEN, as part of its plan to implement the actionable goals of resolution A.1147(31), Preserving the Legacy of the World Maritime Theme for 2019 and Achieving a Barrier-Free Working Environment for Women in the Maritime Sector. *“What better way to support women than a mentorship which forges connections between IMO delegates and the next generation of leaders. As maritime diplomats who have climbed up the ladder, we’d like to throw the rope to younger women in maritime #WomenOnBoard”*, she said.

Professor Attard, commenced his address by thanking Secretary-General Lim for his unwavering support to the activities of the Institute, noting that his presence gives cognizance to the importance of the event. He proceeded to thank the IMOGEN coordinators for their initiative and for launching the programme at IMLI. Professor Attard noted that despite the great strides already made by IMLI, through the training of over 400 female lawyers, there is still a lot to be done to realize the objective of the SDG 5. He stated that since its inception, IMLI has proudly been in the forefront of gender equality and it is therefore befitting that this first mentorship programme starts at IMLI. Professor Attard reiterated the position that IMLI, while supporting capacity-building in the academic spheres, promotes strongly professional development and networking. He thanked the initiators of this mentoring programme and registered his hope for the programme to continue in the years to come.



Ambassador Rossum gave a general overview of the mentorship programme and how this programme would benefit IMLI students. She mentioned that IMOGEN was established as a forum for IMO delegates to work in a coordinated manner, share information and exchange ideas and best practices aimed at achieving gender equality and promoting the participation of women in the maritime sector.

In his keynote speech, the Secretary- General reiterated IMO's commitment to attain equality for all. He was therefore pleased to support the efforts of IMOGEN, noting that the IMO has also been working at making the maritime industry more inclusive. He observed also that *"[t]he launch of the programme is more so important as it comes in the wake of International Women's Day celebrating the cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements of women."* Mr. Lim continued by stating that *"[t]he IMO Gender Network of maritime diplomats aims to advance gender equality throughout the maritime sector and reach a barrier-free work environment for all."* He concluded by thanking the mentors of this programme who are serving as a lighthouse for the younger generation of women and wished them success in this endeavour.

Dr. Portelli Bonnici, speaking on behalf of her student colleagues, expressed how honoured they were to be the first group of female students to be part of the programme. She noted the importance of having a mentor and conveyed her appreciation to the initiators of the programme.



Ms. Grant explained in detail the current and ongoing work of IMOGEN in fulfilling the legacy of the 2019 World Maritime Theme. She noted that “[w]e are looking at the operative paragraph of the 2019 Assembly Resolution on Preserving the Legacy of the 2019 World Maritime Theme and considering what we as delegates can do to achieve them and we are working on an action plan with specific proposals.” In conclusion, Ms. Grant and Dr. Muscat Spaak introduced the IMLI female students to their mentors who are Ambassadors, maritime diplomats and leading maritime professionals, hailing from all over the world, committed to assisting these ladies in leadership, growth, and professional development.

On the conclusion of the event, Professor Attard noted, “I am delighted with this initiative, another first for IMLI, which is a reflection of the Institute’s longstanding tradition of promoting women in maritime affairs. This tradition commenced with the

*establishment of IMLI in 1988, when 50 per cent of places to the Institute's programmes were statutorily reserved for deserving women, a position adopted for the first time within the United Nations system and the appointment of a leading female academic from the London School of Economics as its first Director."*

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