

## THE MAGAZINE OF THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE - MALTA. No. 51/2024

### IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL DELIVERS THE 35TH GRADUATION ADDRESS

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) held its 35th Graduation Ceremony on 29 June 2024. The Ceremony marked the successful completion of an intensive year of studies in all areas of international maritime law, including law of the sea, shipping law, marine environmental law and ocean governance, maritime safety and security law, and maritime legislation drafting. The Ceremony was presided over by Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) and was attended by many dignitaries.

Mr. Domínguez commenced the Graduation Address by expressing his appreciation to those who have made it possible for the 69 graduands of the Class of 2024 to receive the IMLI training, namely: the Donors, the Government of Malta, the Institute's Director and both its Academic and Administrative Staff, who each year welcome these incredible professionals, transforming them and enriching their professional lives.

He congratulated the graduands for having taken an additional step towards their future and encouraged them to be bold and confident about their newly acquired expertise and their potential. He spurred them further to take the opportunities that will come due to their IMLI training, noting that although some of these will come with challenges, they should not doubt that they can be surmounted, and great lessons can be learnt therefrom. Mr. Domínguez reminded the Class of 2024 of the advantage they have gained at IMLI through the friendships they have forged with each other, with the Institute itself and the IMO, which have now become a support team around them, and will always be able and happy to lend them a helping hand.

The Secretary-General drew the graduands' attention to the great importance of diversity and inclusion; values he wishes to enhance further within the maritime sector. He expressed his belief that although shipping has traditionally been a male dominated sector, it can be changed and that he is committed to contributing to that change for the better. He recorded the Institute's focus on gender parity, noting especially that the staff of IMLI is made up of 65% women, which, in his view is something to applaud because not all organizations around the world have been able to achieve that in such a short period of time. He also registered his concern for change towards the plight of seafarers.

Mr. Domínguez also reminded the graduands of the great opportunities awaiting them. He informed them that IMLI graduates are now Directors of IMO Divisions, some are IMO staff, and many are delegates at IMO meetings.

He concluded by congratulating them and expressing his hope that the IMLI experience has been a very enriching one for them. He also relayed his wish of seeing them in the future, either in their respective home countries, at IMO, back at IMLI, or "anywhere in the world that this amazing industry continues to bring us to each other."



Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) delivering the Graduation Address



Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Professor Max Mejia (President, WMU), Mr. Jose Matheickal (Director, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO), IMLI Faculty Members, Distinguished Guests and the IMLI Class of 2023-2024

### IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL UNVEILS A PLAQUE COMMEMORATING IMLI'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Following the Graduation Ceremony at the Campus, Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), together with Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) proceeded to the Institute. Upon their arrival, the IMO Secretary-General unveiled a marble plaque commemorating IMLI's 35th Anniversary in the Grotius Quadrangle.



Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board) unveiling the 35th Anniversary Plaque in the Grotius Quadrangle

### IMLI GOVERNING BOARD HOLDS ITS 38TH SESSION

IMLI held the 38th Session of its Governing Board (the Board) at the IMO Headquarters in London. The meeting was chaired by the IMO Secretary-General, Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco, in his capacity as Chairman of IMLI's Governing Board.

The Chairman welcomed the Board Members, and he thanked them for attending the session and for showing their commitment and support to the Institute through their active participation in IMLI's governance. He congratulated and thanked the Director and the Institute's staff for their sterling work in training the maritime leaders of tomorrow.

The Board considered reports on the Institute's matters including those of a financial and academic nature, as well as IMLI's contribution to the IMO Goals and UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The Board noted with satisfaction the Institute's efforts to enhance its global outreach and the appreciation by the General Assembly of the United Nations and IMO Bodies for the Institute's work. The Board also considered a report on the institutional co-operation and partnerships, and it commended the Institute for its work in this field.



L-R – Mr. Jose Matheickal (Director, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO), Dr. Emmanuel Kofi Mbiah (CEO, Ghana Chamber of Shipping), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco (IMO Secretary-General and Chairman, IMLI Governing Board), Professor Atsuko Kanehara (Research Director for the Canon Institute for Global Studies and Senior Fellow for the Sasakawa Peace Foundation), Professor Dr. Dr. H.C. Marko Pavliha (Head of Law Department, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, Slovenia) and Professor H.C. Dr. Philippe Boisson (Maritime Arbitrator and Maritime Consultant to Bureau Veritas, Paris)



## IMLI COMMENCES ITS 36TH ACADEMIC YEAR

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) welcomed on 2 October 2024 its 36th generation of students for the academic year 2024-2025. The students were warmly welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), the IMLI Faculty and Staff.

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) guided them through the Oath of Allegiance to the Institute. This was followed by the Director's Welcoming Address to the Class of 2024-2025.

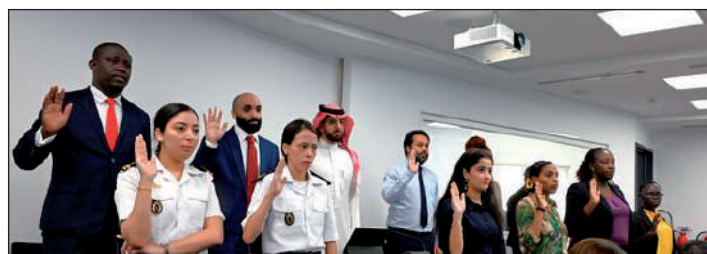
When addressing the 2024-2025 Class, Professor Martínez Gutiérrez stated that it was an honour and a privilege to welcome such a diverse class, full of talented individuals, to IMLI's 36th Academic Year. Professor Martínez Gutiérrez also stated that he was confident that the students' efforts coupled with the Institute's commitment to deliver the highest standards of training will make this Academic Year a very successful and rewarding one.

The Director informed the students that IMLI was set up to train maritime experts on the whole spectrum of international maritime law and on the incorporation and effective implementation of IMO treaties and rules into their domestic legislation. He highlighted the Institute's commitment to contribute to the realization of IMO's objectives and the goals of the international community for a sustainable and vibrant maritime sector.

At the conclusion of the Director's Address, Ms. Kazara-Belja invited the students to introduce themselves. For the academic year 2024-2025, IMLI welcomes *in-situ*, 65 Students from 39 countries in all of its programmes.



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) with Members of the IMLI Class of 2024-2025*



*Class of 2024-2025 taking the Oath of Allegiance to the IMO International Maritime Law Institute*



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivering the Welcoming Address*

## IMLI'S INAUGURAL LECTURE

The Institute had the distinct pleasure of welcoming on 17 October 2024, Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) to officially inaugurate the academic year 2024-2025. Dr. Lost-Sieminska was met by the IMLI Faculty and Staff and was introduced to the IMLI Class of 2024-2025 by Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI).

In her address to the Class before delivering the Inaugural Lecture, Dr. Lost-Sieminska expressed her pleasure at meeting the Class and inaugurating the 2024-2025 academic year. She also conveyed her wish that the students would enjoy their stay in Malta and IMLI, recalling her time of study at the Institute. She informed the students that the training she received at IMLI has been very beneficial to her career growth and she expressed her hope that this would be the same for them. She encouraged the members of the IMLI Class to make friends, build networks and study hard.

Dr. Lost-Sieminska then proceeded to ring the ceremonial bell, signifying the official opening of IMLI's 36th academic year, and to deliver the Inaugural Lecture.

Dr. Lost-Sieminska concluded her lecture by stating that she looks forward to meeting many of the students again at IMO, as part of their countries' delegations to IMO meetings.



*Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO) with the Students of the Class of 2024-2025*



*Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska delivering the Inaugural Lecture of IMLI's 36th Academic Year*



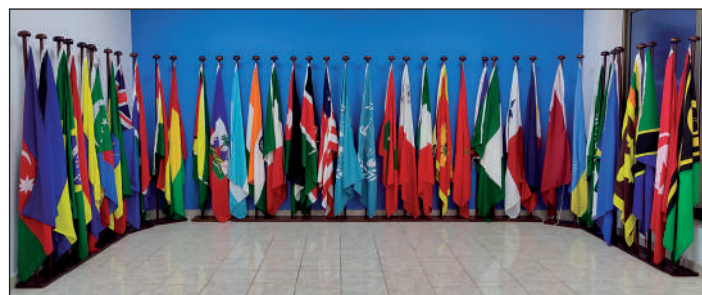
*Director Lost-Sieminska ringing the ceremonial bell signifying the official opening of IMLI's 36th Academic Year*

## ANNUAL FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

The Institute's annual Flag Raising Ceremony was held after the Inaugural Lecture delivered by Dr. Dorota Lost-Sieminska (Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division). A flag representing each country was hoisted by a representative of the country. The countries represented at IMLI during the 2024-2025 academic year are:

*Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Comoros, Curaçao, Ethiopia, Fiji, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Vanuatu.*

The flags of these countries will adorn the Institute's premises throughout this academic year.



*Country Flags displayed in the IMLI Foyer*



## IMLI DIRECTOR VISITS THE NIPPON FOUNDATION

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) visited The Nippon Foundation Headquarters in Japan on 18 October 2024. During his visit, he met with Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation).

During this meeting, Professor Martínez and Mr. Unno discussed ways on how to further strengthen the very successful joint project entitled “*Human Resources Development Project for the Advancement of a More Effective Global Legal Order for the Oceans*”.

This visit cemented further the decades-long cooperation between the two institutions which is to continue in the forthcoming years for the benefit of the international maritime community.

*Mr. Mitsuyuki Unno (Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI)*



## WORLD MARITIME DAY 2024 CELEBRATIONS

IMLI joined the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the international maritime community in celebrating World Maritime Day 2024 on 26 September 2024.

“*Navigating the future: Safety first!*” was the theme selected as this year’s World Maritime Day Theme. To further promote this important international event the Institute’s facade was lit up in maritime blue.

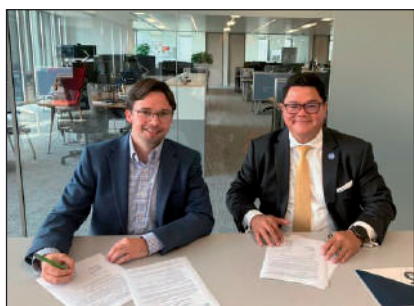


*The Institute’s facade lit up in maritime blue for World Maritime Day 2024*

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE (IMLI) AND THE INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF P&I CLUBS

On 26 July 2024, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) visited the International Group of P&I Clubs Headquarters in London.

During this visit, Director Martínez Gutiérrez and Mr. Chris Adie (Chair, Education Committee of the International Group of P&I Clubs London, England) signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and the International Group of P&I Clubs.



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Mr. Chris Adie (Chair, Education Committee of the International Group of P&I Clubs) signing a Memorandum of Understanding*

The International Group of P&I Clubs has consistently supported the Institute as a Donor providing fellowships to professionals worldwide seeking training and capacity-building opportunities in international maritime law.

The Memorandum lays the foundation for continued collaboration between the two entities.

## FAO CONTINUES WITH ITS CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN FISHERIES LAW IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IMLI

IMLI hosted the sixth FAO International Course on Fisheries Law between 21 October and 8 November 2024. Ms. Minmin Lei (Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Global and Regional Processes Team, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO) and Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI) officially opened the Course on 21 October 2024. The Course was attended by officials from Benin, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, and Togo.

Ms. Minmin Lei (Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Global and Regional Processes Team, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO) delivered the Inaugural Lecture of this year’s Course.

On the first day of the Course, Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) delivered the Welcoming Remarks online to the FAO Course Participants.

The Course came to a closure on the 8 November 2024. Mr. Blaise Kuemlangan (Chief, Development Law Service, FAO Legal Office) presided over the Closing Ceremony and the Awarding of Certificates of Attendance to the Course participants.



*Ms. Minmin Lei (Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Global and Regional Processes Team, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO), Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja (Senior Lecturer/Head of Administration, IMLI), and Dr. Ángeles Jiménez García-Carriazo (Ramon y Cajal Research Fellow at University of Cadiz, Spain) with the Course participants*



*Ms. Minmin Lei (Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Global and Regional Processes Team, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO) delivering the Inaugural Lecture*



*Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) addressing the Course participants*



*Mr. Blaise Kuemlangan (Chief, Development Law Service, FAO Legal Office) together with the Course participants*



## IMLI DIRECTOR ATTENDS THE WORLD MARITIME DAY 2024 CELEBRATIONS HELD AT IMO

On 26 September 2024, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) celebrated World Maritime Day 2024 at its Headquarters in London. Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) attended the celebrations and during his visit had the pleasure of meeting various distinguished personalities, including Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco (Secretary-General, IMO), Mr. Jose Matheickal (Director, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division, IMO), Ambassador Dwight Gardiner (Chair, IMO Technical Cooperation Committee; Director/Registrar-General, Antigua & Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping, the Maritime Administration of Antigua & Barbuda; Permanent Representative of Antigua & Barbuda to the IMO), Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarer's Trust), Mr. Laurent Parenté (Director General, International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)) and Mr. Louis Mbanefo (Principal, Louis Mbanefo & Co.; Member of the IMLI Governing Board).

- c. Ambassador Dwight Gardiner (Chair, IMO Technical Cooperation Committee; Director/Registrar-General, Antigua & Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS), the Maritime Administration of Antigua & Barbuda; Permanent Representative of Antigua & Barbuda to the IMO)
- d. Ms. Katie Higginbottom (Head, ITF Seafarer's Trust)
- e. Mr. Lloyd Fiakasi (IMLI Student of Class of 2024-2025), Mr. Laurent Parenté (Director General, International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)) and Mr. Juvenal Shiundu (former Director, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO)
- f. Mr. Louis Mbanefo (Principal, Louis Mbanefo & Co.; Member of the IMLI Governing Board)



During his visit, Director Martínez Gutiérrez also met with a number of IMLI Graduates who attended the celebrations held at IMO.

Director Martínez Gutiérrez with

- g. Ms. Evangelia Pouli (Greece, Class of 2016), Ms. Mialisoa Rakouth (Madagascar, Class of 2016) and Lieutenant Patricia Peñaranda (Colombia, Class of 2021)
- h. Ms. Rose Hernandez (Marshall Islands, Class of 2022) and Ms. Daffodil Maxwell (Trinidad & Tobago, Class of 2016)
- i. Mr. Ronald Siphon Mbatha (South Africa, Class of 2008)
- j. Mr. Kenroy Simmons (Antigua & Barbuda, Class of 2011)

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE (IMLI) AND THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) and Ms. Donata Rugarabamu (Director, FAO Legal Counsel) signed on Monday 16 September 2024 a Memorandum of Understanding between the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in a ceremony held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy.

The ceremony was also attended by Dr. Matthew Camilleri (Senior Fisheries Officer; Leader, Global and Regional Processes (Fisheries); Technical Secretary, Agreement on Port State Measures, FAO) and Dr. Buba Bojang (Legal Officer, Development Law Service, FAO Legal Office). Together with Mr. Blaise Kuemlangan (Chief, Development Law Service, FAO Legal Office), who was not present at the ceremony, were instrumental in cementing this cooperation.



L-R – Dr. Buba Bojang (Legal Officer, Development Law Service, FAO Legal Office), Ms. Donata Rugarabamu (Director, FAO Legal Counsel), Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), and Dr. Matthew Camilleri (Senior Fisheries Officer; Leader, Global and Regional Processes (Fisheries); Technical Secretary, Agreement on Port State Measures, FAO)

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### IMLI NEWS

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The IMO International Maritime Law Institute was established under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, a specialised agency of the United Nations.



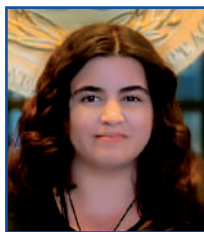
Director Martínez Gutiérrez with

- a. Mr. Arsenio Antonio Domínguez Velasco (IMO Secretary-General)
- b. Mr. Jose Matheickal (Director, Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division (TCID), IMO)



## IMLI STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

### LL.M. and M.Hum. Programmes



Ms. Ramida Ismayilova  
(AZERBAIJAN)



Ms. Shakara Shadae  
Olive Ernest  
(THE BAHAMAS)



LTJG Rene Alberto  
Ruescas Mejia  
(BOLIVIA)



Mr. Bruno Amin  
Da Silva  
(BRAZIL)



Mr. Juan Sebastian  
Herrera Caicedo  
(COLOMBIA)



Ms. Oumouri Fazda  
(COMOROS)



Ms. Palvi Sirikit Virpi  
Parisius  
(CURAÇAO)



Ms. Tigist Getahun  
Asfaw  
(ETHIOPIA)



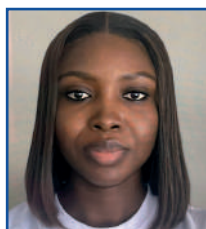
Ms. Yabaki Vosadrau  
(FIJI)



LT Daddy Jobe  
(THE GAMBIA)



Ms. Sandra Adu  
Boakyewaa  
(GHANA)



Ms. Nana Ama  
Gyamfua Marfo  
(GHANA)



Ms. Florence Nuamaa  
Darko  
(GHANA)



Ms. Jacqueline  
Agyemang-Gyau  
(GHANA)



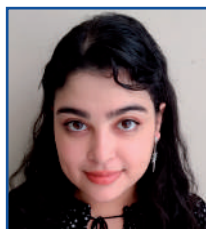
Mr. Adriano Tchuda  
(GUINEA-BISSAU)



Ms. Tiffany Ann  
Hohenkirk  
(GUYANA)



Mr. Getho Bazelais  
(HAITI)



Ms. Edenia del Carmen  
Suazo Guifarro  
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Mr. Kunal Suresh  
Gaikwad  
(INDIA)



CDR Prashant Bhatt  
(INDIA)



COMDT Asha Dahiya  
(INDIA)



LCDR Pietro  
Vicedomini  
(ITALY)



LCDR Ahmad Bassam  
Alfaraheed  
(JORDAN)



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Chongwo  
(KENYA)



Ms. Florence Jepkogei  
Magoma  
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Ombasa  
(KENYA)



Ms. Margaret Megan  
Muthoni Ngechu  
(KENYA)



Mr. Patterson Nyenati  
Blamo  
(LIBERIA)



Ms. Alma Ahmed  
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(MEXICO)



LTJG Alberto  
Hernández Gastelú  
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Mr. Lazar Lekic  
(MONTENEGRO)



LTJG Hind Deldou  
(MOROCCO)



LTJG Btissam Maaras  
(MOROCCO)



Ms. Aina Charity  
Shalonga Keshongo  
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Ms. Yvonne Binitie  
(NIGERIA)



Mr. Gambo Ado Gezawa  
(NIGERIA)



Mr. Diego Alejandro  
Barrancos Morales  
(PANAMA)



LT Mary Joy P. Olut  
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Jundhi Pablico  
(THE PHILIPPINES)



LCDR Switle Mae  
Tamang  
(THE PHILIPPINES)



LCDR Mohamed Ansari  
Dicritan  
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G. Oral  
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Ms. Jovia Ishimwe  
(RWANDA)



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Almohammadi  
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Mr. Abdulaziz Alsaif  
(SAUDI ARABIA)



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(SIERRA LEONE)



Mr. Abubakarr Kamara  
(SIERRA LEONE)



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ISLANDS)



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(SOMALIA)



Ms. Anaam Dahir Khalif  
(SOMALIA)



LCDR Sameera  
L. Hughmaye  
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Mr. Rajin Wickrama  
Gooneratne  
(SRI LANKA)



Ms. Esther Wabulala  
Matulile  
(TANZANIA)



Mr. Mesia Ernest  
Gang'Olo  
(TANZANIA)



Mr. Mussa Jacobo  
(TANZANIA)



Mr. Mcphyson  
Ndibalema  
(TANZANIA)



Ms. Norhen Rebaii  
(TUNISIA)



Mr. Lloyd Fikiasi  
(VANUATU)

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Peterside  
(NIGERIA)

### Advanced Diploma Programme



LT Matthew Aquilina  
(MALTA)



Mr. Ojonimi Atuluku  
(NIGERIA)



Ms. Abimbola Okeowo  
Khadijat  
(NIGERIA)



Mr. Umeh Favour  
Onyedikachi  
(NIGERIA)