INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

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To: All IMO Member States
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO
Recognized liberation movements
IMO International Maritime Law Institute
World Maritime University

Subject: **Revised text of the Statute of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)**

1 A review and update of the Statute of the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) was undertaken by the IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division in consultation with the Director of the Institute and, subsequently, by the Council itself in accordance with the IMLI Statute.

2 The changes aim to reflect developments that have occurred over the last 13 years since the Statute was last revised in 2013, align it with the Charter of the World Maritime University, to the extent possible, and reflect the services rendered by the Institute to enhance capacity development in the full spectrum of international maritime law and ocean governance. In this context, amendments have been made to the roles and duties of the Governing Board, the Financial and Human Resources Committee and the Academic Committee, the composition of such bodies and the terms of service and reappointment of their members. Further amendments have also been made to the conditions of service of the Director, the composition of the personnel of the Institute, and finance, budget and audit matters.

3 The revised text of the IMLI Statute, as approved by the Council at its 137th session (6 to 10 July 2026), is attached in the annex.

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ANNEX

STATUTE OF THE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW INSTITUTE

Preamble

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute was established in 1988 under an agreement concluded between IMO and the Government of Malta, with a view to providing suitably educated personnel in maritime law for the effective implementation of the maritime programmes of all Governments, particularly Governments of developing countries, in accordance with international regulations and standards for maritime safety and pollution prevention.

Since 1989, the IMO International Maritime Law Institute has expanded the scope of its educational and research programmes to become an international postgraduate education and research Centre of Excellence for the training of specialists in the full spectrum of international maritime law and the development and dissemination of knowledge and expertise in the international regime of merchant shipping and related areas of maritime law, the general law of the sea, and ocean governance, as well as in legislation drafting techniques to incorporate and effectively implement international maritime instruments into national law. The Institute has increased its outreach activities, including e-learning, and is cooperating with academic institutions and other partners in furthering its capacity-development mission.

I DEFINITIONS

Article 1

In this Statute:

"Academic Committee" means the Academic Committee of the Institute.

"Convention" means the Convention on the International Maritime Organization.

"Council" means the Council of the Organization.

"Director" means the Director of the Institute.

"Financial and Human Resources Committee" means the Financial and Human Resources Committee of the Institute.

"Governing Board" means the Governing Board of the Institute.

"Institute" means the IMO International Maritime Law Institute.

"Institute's Regulatory Framework" means the rules, regulations, policies and guidelines of the Institute.

"Organization" or "IMO" means the International Maritime Organization.

"Secretary-General" means the Secretary-General of the Organization.

II OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS

Article 2

1 The IMO International Maritime Law Institute shall be an international postgraduate education and research Centre of Excellence for specialists in maritime law and ocean governance, as well as in the development and dissemination of knowledge and expertise in international maritime law and the general law of the sea, with special reference to the international rules, regulations and procedures for the safety, security and efficiency of international shipping, protection of the marine environment and rights of seafarers, in particular those developed under the auspices of IMO.

2 The Institute shall encourage research and other appropriate programmes for the development and dissemination of knowledge and skills in the full spectrum of international maritime law and maritime legislation for the world maritime community in general, with a particular focus on the needs of developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Article 3

1 The Institute shall enjoy autonomy within the framework of the Organization. Within that framework, it shall enjoy:

(a) academic freedom with particular reference to the choice of subjects and methods of education and training;

(b) freedom of expression;

(c) freedom to deal with matters of a financial nature and in decisions on the use of the financial resources allocated for the execution of its functions;

(d) freedom to select individuals and institutions to share in its tasks; and

(e) freedom to compose its student body.

2 The Institute and all who are directly associated with it shall act in accordance with the spirit and provisions of the Convention and the relevant provisions and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as with this Statute.

Article 4

Pursuant to the foregoing, the Institute shall:

(a) provide postgraduate education to persons with the requisite academic or professional qualifications in all aspects of international maritime law and legislation, general law of the sea and ocean governance as well as skills in the preparation, drafting of international instruments, and their implementation in national legislation;

(b) conduct or encourage research and appropriate studies in international maritime law and legislation and general law of the sea and ocean governance;

(c) contribute to ongoing studies and discussions on techniques and procedures for education and training in international maritime law, law of the sea and ocean governance; the formulation of national and international regulations and principles in maritime law, and the planning and development of procedures and arrangements regarding education in international maritime law, including law of the sea and ocean governance, and maritime legal education in general;

(d) establish and provide a forum for internationally recognized experts in all major aspects of international maritime law, law of the sea and ocean governance, including visiting professors, lecturers, consultants and others, with a view to promoting the Institute as an international Centre of Excellence;

(e) promote the development of a uniform international system for the education and training of experts in all aspects of international maritime law, law of the sea and ocean governance, as well as maritime legislation drafting as a means of facilitating and promoting international cooperation in these fields; and

(f) provide technical cooperation and assistance for the promotion of a uniform application of the instruments of the Organization.

Article 5

The Institute shall engage in teaching and student mentoring, research and scholarship, and outreach to develop capacity on behalf of the maritime community. In accordance with this Statute, and in line with the Institute's Regulatory Framework, the Institute shall have the power to:

(a) prescribe the requirements for entry into the Institute and the conditions under which persons may be admitted to programmes and courses of study therein and certified as having successfully completed such programmes and courses;

(b) establish and teach such programmes, courses and subjects as may be deemed suitable;

(c) determine the fields and subjects in which instruction may be given, and research or studies may be undertaken; and make appropriate provision for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge in such fields and subjects;

(d) grant and confer degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions to persons; and to revoke any such degrees, diplomas or certificates or other distinctions for what the Institute may deem to be good cause;

(e) prescribe the disciplinary provisions governing persons receiving instruction or undertaking programmes and courses of study or research at the Institute;

(f) provide lectures and instruction for persons who are not students of the Institute, and grant appropriate diplomas and certificates to such persons;

(g) cooperate, by means of joint programmes and ventures or in other suitable ways, with universities or other appropriate institutions for such purposes as the Institute may from time to time determine;

(h) confer honorary degrees and other distinctions;

(i) institute professorships, lectureships or any other offices of any kind, whether academic or not, as may be required by the Institute; appoint persons to and remove them from such offices and prescribe their conditions of service;

(j) recognize the results of examinations and periods of study successfully achieved by students and fellows of the Institute at universities or other institutions of learning as being equivalent to such examinations and periods of study in the Institute as may be determined, and withdraw such recognition at any time;

(k) publish and circulate the results of research and studies, including the printing and publication of material which may be issued under the imprimatur of the Institute;

(l) publish an annual report on its activities;

(m) make provision for research and advisory services and, for this purpose, enter into such relations with other institutions or bodies as may be considered desirable;

(n) institute and award fellowships, studentships, scholarships, internships, bursaries and prizes;

(o) provide for and administer places of residence for students of the Institute;

(p) contribute appropriately to the efforts to mobilize international cooperation in the further development, unification, codification and implementation of international maritime law;

(q) organize conferences, seminars, workshops, exhibitions and panels;

(r) establish, maintain and supervise, as necessary, foundations and centres for studies and research;

(s) provide for the establishment and payment of fees for the educational, training, research and advisory services of the Institute;

(t) acquire, maintain, manage, deal with, dispose of and invest the property, money, assets and rights of the Institute and enter into engagements and accept obligations and liabilities;

(u) act as trustees or managers for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift for purposes in furtherance of the work and welfare of the Institute, and invest any funds representing such property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift, if not immediately required, on such security as the Institute may deem fit; and

(v) do and perform all other acts that may be considered necessary, suitable and proper for the attainment of any or all of its objectives.

Article 6

No distinction, exclusion or preference shall be made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political or other opinion, national extraction or social origin, language, economic condition of birth, sexual orientation, disability, migrant status, or HIV and AIDS status, nor shall any other requirement be imposed by the Institute upon any person.

Article 7

There shall be equality of opportunity and treatment in access to employment and in terms and conditions of employment, including equal remuneration for all individuals for work of equal value, regardless of gender. Candidates, irrespective of gender, shall be equally eligible for any office or appointment in the Institute and for membership of any of its constituent bodies. All programmes and courses of study in the Institute shall be open to every qualified candidate on an equal footing. To encourage equitable participation by women, 50 per cent of the places in each regular programme and course of the Institute shall be reserved for women candidates, provided that the necessary numbers of women candidates with the required entrance qualifications are available for each particular programme and course.

III ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Article 8

The Institute shall have a Governing Board, an Academic Committee, a Financial and Human Resources Committee, a Director and such other personnel of the Institute as may be appointed in accordance with this Statute.

IV THE GOVERNING BOARD

Article 9

1 The Governing Board shall be composed of up to 20 members, appointed on a broad geographical basis with due regard to major legal systems of the world, with expertise in areas including finance, fund-raising and academic development, as well as with recognized expertise in international maritime law and related maritime fields. Governing Board members shall serve in a personal capacity, except as otherwise provided for in this Statute.

2 The Secretary-General shall be ex officio Chair of the Governing Board.

3 Members of the Governing Board shall be appointed by the Secretary-General, in accordance with the criteria referred to in paragraph 1 above.

4 The Director shall attend the meetings of the Governing Board on an ex officio basis, without the right to vote.

5 A representative of the Organization shall be invited to serve as an ex officio member of the Governing Board. Two representatives of the Government of Malta shall be invited to serve as ex officio members of the Governing Board. The term of office of such ex officio members shall be determined by those who appoint them.

6 The term of office of appointed members of the Governing Board, other than the ex officio members, shall be three years. Governing Board members who demonstrate an active contribution to the work of the Governing Board may be invited to serve for up to three consecutive terms.

7 Serving members of the Governing Board as at its 40th session who demonstrate active contribution to the work of the Governing Board may be considered for reappointment for up to one further term.

Article 10

The Governing Board, in addition to performing such other functions as specified in this Statute or in the Institute's Regulatory Framework, shall ensure:

(a) due governance of the Institute;

(b) the effectiveness and continuity of its operations;

(c) the autonomous nature of the Institute within the framework of the Organization; and

(d) the maintenance of the highest academic and professional standards.

Article 11

The Governing Board shall:

(a) adopt the rules, regulations and policies of the Institute;

(b) approve the principles and policies which govern the activities and operations of the Institute;

(c) consider and approve, upon the recommendation of the Financial and Human Resources Committee, the plan of work and the budget of the Institute proposed by the Director;

(d) decide upon the establishment of training, research, and programmes of the Institute, and adopt standards for the operation and further development of such programmes and courses;

(e) consider and take appropriate action on the reports of the work of the Institute which may be submitted to it pursuant to the provisions of this Statute or the Institute's Regulatory Framework;

(f) issue such directives and take or approve such measures, within the framework of this Statute, as may be necessary for the operation of the Institute;

(g) make such recommendations as it may deem necessary or desirable for the effective functioning of the Institute;

(h) report annually to the Council on the work of the Institute;

(i) adopt the Rules of Procedure of the Board;

(j) establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary; and

(k) elect a Vice-Chair, for a term of three years, who shall preside in the absence of the Chair.

Article 12

The Governing Board shall consider methods of financing the Institute with a view to ensuring its sustainability, the effectiveness and continuity of its operations and the autonomous character of the Institute within the framework of the Organization. It shall have the power to consider and approve, as necessary, arrangements under which institutions and individuals may be associated with the work of the Institute, and the criteria for such arrangements, having regard to the need to ensure the maintenance of the highest academic and professional standards.

Article 13

The Governing Board shall meet at least once a year upon the summons of the Chair.

V THE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Article 14

1 The Academic Committee shall consist of up to seven members, including:

(a) Up to five members appointed by the Governing Board, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, for a term of two years; and

(b) An ex officio member appointed by the Secretary-General to represent the Organization. The term of office of this ex officio member shall be determined by the Secretary-General.

2 The Academic Committee shall be presided over by the Director.

3 Members of the Academic Committee appointed by the Governing Board who demonstrate active contribution to its work shall be eligible for reappointment for up to three further consecutive two-year terms of office.

4 Serving members of the Academic Committee as at 2026 who demonstrate active contribution to the work of the Committee may be reappointed for one additional two-year term of office.

5 The Academic Committee may invite other persons to attend its meetings as observers.

6 The Academic Committee shall meet at least twice a year.

7 The Academic Committee shall assist the Governing Board and the Director in the coordination and implementation of the academic activities of the Institute. In so doing, the Academic Committee shall:

(a) monitor the implementation of the decisions of the Governing Board and give directions and guidance as necessary;

(b) consider academic matters affecting the organization of teaching, examining, research, courses and programmes, including matters concerning academic cooperation with other academic bodies;

(c) advise on rules and regulations which govern the academic activities and operations of the Institute for approval by the Governing Board;

(d) develop such procedures as deemed necessary for the Committee's discharge of its duties; and

(e) discharge such other duties and functions connected with the Institute as the Governing Board may from time to time assign to it.

VI THE FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Article 15

1 The Financial and Human Resources Committee shall consist of up to seven members, including:

(a) the Chair as appointed pursuant to Article 16;

(b) up to four members appointed by the Governing Board, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, for a term of two years; and

(c) an ex officio member appointed by the Secretary-General to represent the Organization. The term of office of this ex officio member shall be determined by the Secretary-General.

2 The Director shall be an ex officio Member of the Financial and Human Resources Committee.

3 Members of the Financial and Human Resources Committee appointed by the Governing Board who demonstrate active contribution to its work shall be eligible for reappointment for up to three further consecutive two-year terms.

4 Serving members of the Financial and Human Resources Committee as at 2026 who demonstrate active contribution to the work of the Committee may be reappointed for a further one term.

5 A representative of the Institute's personnel may attend meetings of the Financial and Human Resources Committee as an observer. Such participation shall be proposed by the Director and approved by the majority of the Members of the Committee. The Committee may determine that a particular matter under discussion is of a confidential nature, in which case, said representative shall not be in attendance.

6 The Financial and Human Resources Committee may invite other persons to attend its meetings as observers.

Article 16

1 The Secretary-General shall appoint the Chair of the Financial and Human Resources Committee for an initial term of office of four years.

2 The Chair may be reappointed by the Secretary-General for another four-year term of office.

3 The Secretary-General may terminate the appointment of the Chair of the Financial and Human Resources Committee if it is considered to be in the best interest of the Institute.

Article 17

The Financial and Human Resources Committee shall, in addition to performing such other functions specified in this Statute or in the Institute's Regulatory Framework, facilitate the work of the Institute as may be necessary, provide oversight of the Institute between sessions of the Governing Board, and assist the Governing Board and the Director on the funding and finances of the Institute and on administrative matters, including personnel. In so doing, it shall:

(a) monitor the implementation of the decisions of the Governing Board and give directions and guidance as necessary;

(b) consider the draft work programme and the budget estimates of the Institute prepared by the Director in accordance with paragraph 4(a) of Article 19 and establish and submit to the Governing Board the work programme and budget estimates of the Institute, having regard to the general interest and priorities of the Institute;

(c) report, through the Director, to the Governing Board at each regular session on the work and decisions of the Financial and Human Resources Committee since the previous regular session of the Governing Board;

(d) examine the audited financial statements of the Institute and endorse their submission to the Governing Board together with any comments and recommendations;

(e) assist in the governance of the Institute, in particular between sessions of the Governing Board, approve such adjustments in the adopted work programme and budget estimates of the Institute, and take such other decisions, otherwise requiring a decision of the Governing Board, as are strictly necessary to ensure the efficient functioning of the Institute; any decisions so taken shall be reported, through the Director, to the next session of the Governing Board;

(f) approve for submission, through the Director, to the Governing Board such recommendations as it may deem necessary or desirable for the effective functioning of the Institute, including recommendations in relation to the fees to be levied by the Institute;

(g) carry out functions of the Governing Board and studies or other preparatory work for consideration by the Governing Board as the Governing Board may determine;

(h) develop such procedures as deemed necessary for the Committee's discharge of its duties;

(i) elect a Vice-Chair who shall preside in the absence of the Chair; and

(j) establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary.

Article 18

The Financial and Human Resources Committee shall meet at least twice a year.

VII THE DIRECTOR

Article 19

1 The Director of the Institute shall be appointed by the Secretary-General for an initial term of four years. The Director shall be eligible for reappointment. The conditions of service of the Director, including termination, shall be contained in a Service Agreement approved by the Governing Board.

2 The Governing Board, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, may terminate the Director's appointment before it has expired for failure to properly execute the duties of the office or otherwise in the best interest of the Institute. Pending consideration of the matter by the Governing Board, the Secretary-General may, if it is in the best interests of the Institute, suspend the Director and designate an Acting Director.

3 Should the post of the Director become vacant for whatever reason, the Secretary-General shall appoint an Acting Director.

4 Under the overall supervision and the control and direction of the Governing Board, the Director shall direct and administer the Institute, and exercise responsibility for the administration and organization of the programmes and courses of the Institute and the control of its personnel, in accordance with the Institute's Regulatory Framework, Strategic Directions and plans. The Director shall, inter alia,

(a) prepare the plan of work and the budget estimates of the Institute for submission to the Financial and Human Resources Committee for consideration and approval by the Governing Board;

(b) direct the activities connected with the execution of the teaching and research programmes of the Institute and authorize expenditure of funds provided in the budget approved by the Governing Board;

(c) recommend to the Governing Board the establishment of such advisory bodies as may be necessary;

(d) recommend, in consultation with the Financial and Human Resources Committee, to the Governing Board arrangements between the Institute and Governments and international or national organizations under which assistance and services related to the activities of the Institute may be offered or received;

(e) recommend, in consultation with the Academic Committee, to the Governing Board the conclusion of agreements, contracts or arrangements with Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental international or national organizations, universities, institutions or legal entities with a view to providing them with the educational, training, research or advisory services offered by the Institute;

(f) coordinate, in consultation with the Academic Committee, the educational and other programmes and courses of the Institute with the activities of the Organization and, as appropriate, the United Nations and its agencies;

(g) report to the Financial and Human Resources Committee and the Governing Board on the activities of the Institute and the execution of its programmes and courses, in accordance with procedures established or approved by the Governing Board for that purpose; and

(h) act as a secretary, provide the necessary services, and maintain the records of all meetings to the Governing Board, the Academic Committee and the Financial and Human Resources Committee.

VIII PERSONNEL

Article 20

The academic and administrative personnel of the Institute shall be selected and appointed with due regard to the objectives of the Institute as enshrined in this Statute. The basic criteria for selection shall be the highest standards of expertise, competence and integrity, with due regard to equitable and appropriate representation in terms of geography, social systems, educational, legal and cultural traditions and gender.

Article 21

1 The personnel of the Institute shall consist of:

(a) academic personnel;

(b) professional administrative personnel; and

(c) general service personnel.

2 The assignment of personnel to each of the categories mentioned in this article shall be made in accordance with the Institute's Regulatory Framework.

3 In the performance of their duties, the Director and the personnel of the Institute shall not seek or receive instructions from any Government or from any other authority external to the Organization.

Article 22

1 The academic personnel of the Institute shall be composed of:

(a) the Director;

(b) professors and other lecturers or instructors appointed in accordance with this Statute or the Institute's Regulatory Framework, as required;

(c) visiting professors, visiting lecturers; and

(d) research associates and research assistants.

2 The professional administrative personnel of the Institute shall be those persons appointed as such in accordance with this Statute or the Institute's Regulatory Framework.

Article 23

All members of the academic personnel shall enjoy, in relation to their work in or for the Institute, the academic freedom guaranteed by Article 3 of this Statute, and by the Institute's Regulatory Framework.

Article 24

1 Except as otherwise provided in the Institute's Regulatory Framework, the academic and administrative personnel of the Institute shall be governed by Staff Regulations.

2 Subject to agreements and arrangements established by the Organization, the academic personnel and administrative personnel shall be accorded the status of officials of the Organization within the meaning of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947. Visiting professors, visiting lecturers, consultants and experts shall be accorded the status of experts of the Organization within the meaning of the aforesaid Convention, including its Annex XII, as applicable to the Organization.

Article 25

The personnel of the Institute shall be appointed by the Director and be responsible to the Director in the exercise of their functions.

IX FINANCE AND BUDGET

Article 26

1 Operational costs of the Institute shall be met from revenue derived from contributions, legacies, endowments, bequests and gifts which may be accepted by the Institute, or from fees levied, or from miscellaneous and other revenue of the Institute.

2 The Institute may also accept contributions of a financial or non-financial nature, including contributions for specific purposes and for fellowships and scholarships of the Institute.

3 Contributions and funding which may directly or indirectly involve a perceived potential or non-budgeted financial liability for the Institute, or which involve activity outside the strategic directions and work programme of the Institute may only be accepted with the approval of the Governing Board.

Article 27

The budget estimates shall be prepared by the Director in such a manner as may be prescribed by the Governing Board. The estimates shall be approved by the Financial and Human Resources Committee and submitted, through the Director, to the Governing Board for adoption and subsequent submission to the Council for information.

Article 28

The Governing Board may establish a Fund or Funds for the Institute for such purposes and under such terms and conditions as may be specified.

Article 29

All funds received and held by the Institute shall be administered in accordance with the Institute's Regulatory Framework and in conformity with this Statute.

X AUDITS

Article 30

1 The Institute shall be subject to audits which shall be conducted in accordance with the Institute's Regulatory Framework. Audits may include:

(a) an internal audit undertaken by the Organization;

(b) an external audit undertaken by the External Auditor of the Organization; and

(c) special audits as requested by the Governing Board or the Financial and Human Resources Committee.

2 The Institute may additionally be subject to other audits in pursuit of accreditation as a provider of higher education.

XI LOCATION

Article 31

The Institute shall be located in Malta.

XII STATUS AND AUTHORITY

Article 32

The Institute shall, subject to such other arrangements as may be made by the Secretary-General with the approval of the Council, enjoy the status, privileges and immunities provided in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947, including Annex XII thereof, and in other relevant international agreements and resolutions relating to the status, privileges and immunities of the Organization. Subject to such procedures as may be established by the Secretary-General, the Director and the academic and professional administrative personnel travelling on the official business of the Institute may be provided with the appropriate United Nations travel documents.

Article 33

The administrative, financial and other services of the Organization may be utilized by the Institute, on conditions determined in consultation between the Secretary-General and the Director, provided that no extra cost is incurred to the regular budget of the Organization as a result of the utilization of such services by the Institute.

XIII DISSOLUTION

Article 34

1 The Institute may be dissolved by decision of the Council if it is determined that the purposes and activities of the Institute have been satisfactorily accomplished or that the Institute will no longer be able to function effectively.

2 In the event of such dissolution, the funds and assets remaining to its accounts shall be used as the Council may direct, except as may otherwise be provided in the terms of any contributions accepted in furtherance of the activities of the Institute.

XIV LEGAL PERSONALITY

Article 35

The Institute shall enjoy legal personality and, in that capacity, may acquire and dispose of real and personal property, and may take such legal action as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.

XV AMENDMENTS

Article 36

1 Amendments to the present Statute may be proposed by the Governing Board or by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Governing Board. Amendments shall be approved by the Council.

2 Amendments shall take effect on the date determined by the Council taking into account the relevant recommendation of the Governing Board.

XVI OPERATIVE DATE

Article 37

The operative date of this amended Statute shall be 1 September 2026.