

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION



IMO

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COUNCIL
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SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

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News media attendance at IMO meetings (agenda item 26)

26.3 The Council:

- (i) approved Guidelines for media access to meetings of Committees and their subsidiary bodies as proposed by Denmark, New Zealand and Sweden at annex to document C 92/26/2 as amplified by the Secretary-General (see annex);
- (ii) instructed the IMO bodies concerned to follow the Guidelines amending their Rules of Procedure as may be deemed necessary; and
- (iii) noted that, in addition, an accreditation system would be established to allow automatic access to IMO meetings to representatives of the specialist maritime media; and requested the Secretary-General, when proceeding with the establishment of such a system, to take into account similar systems applying elsewhere, e.g. in the United Nations.

Reference documents: C 92/26/2; C 92/WP.1; C 92/SR.10

ANNEX

GUIDELINES FOR MEDIA ACCESS TO MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBSIDIARY BODIES

1 It is a fundamental tenet of the IMO that the maritime community and wider public are kept fully informed of the ongoing work that the Organization is doing to promote a safe, clean and secure maritime environment.

2 It would, therefore, promote the interests of the Organization if its business is conducted in a spirit of openness and transparency. To this end, the proceedings of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies will, henceforth, be open to the news media and reporting of their deliberations strongly encouraged, unless there is a specific reason to the contrary.

3 Committees or subsidiary bodies may decide to exclude the media from attending some or all of their deliberations if the members agree that their presence would:

- .1 breach any undertakings of confidentiality relating to material or information being provided to the Committee or the subsidiary body concerned;
- .2 create a potential security risk; or
- .3 jeopardize the efficient and effective conduct of the Committee's business.

4 In addition, meetings of working groups established by Committees and subsidiary bodies will be held in camera.

5 In order to ensure the correct balance between publicity on the Organization's work and the proper conduct of meetings of Committees and subsidiary bodies, as well as in order to maintain an environment which will enable delegates to have a free and open exchange of views on subjects on the agenda of the said IMO bodies, the Organization expects:

- .1 the outcome of discussions to be reported accurately by the media; and
- .2 named speakers not to be quoted without their prior consent.

6 Committees, their subsidiary bodies and/or the Organization retain the right to reply to rectify any published inaccuracies.

7 Recording, filming or photographing of the meeting proceedings without permission will not be allowed.

Accreditation

8 An accreditation system, based on that used elsewhere in the UN system, will allow automatic access to representatives of the specialist maritime media. Accredited journalists will be given access to IMO meeting documents in advance of a relevant meeting. Accreditation may be removed if it is considered that the presence of particular news media personnel or their reporting of the work of the Committees and subsidiary bodies is adversely affecting the proper conduct of the Organization's work.
