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He has the honour to refer to the decision of the 113th session of the Council of the Organization concerning the appointment of a new Secretary-General to succeed the current incumbent, Mr. K. Sekimizu, as from 1 January 2016.

Pursuant to the Council's request, the Secretary-General has the honour to inform Member States that:

- (i) the post of Secretary-General will become vacant on 1 January 2016;
- (ii) in accordance with Article 22 of the IMO Convention, the Council will be invited to appoint the next Secretary-General at its 114th session in June/July 2015, following which, it will report accordingly to the Assembly, at its twenty-ninth regular session in November 2015, for approval;
- (iii) nominations of candidates for the position of Secretary-General from Member States should reach IMO by 31 March 2015 at the latest and include a certificate attesting to the candidate's good health; and
- (iv) the Secretary-General will, after 31 March 2015, circulate to the Council any candidacies received, or any other communications received in response to this Note Verbale.

Prospective candidates are advised that, under the provisions of resolution C.74(86), the appointment to the post of Secretary-General is initially for a four-year term, which may be renewed for one additional term of up to four years.

The attention of prospective candidates is drawn to the Organization's policy of condemning and prohibiting unethical practices such as promises, favours, invitations, gifts, etc., provided by candidates for the post of Secretary-General or their supporting governments, during the selection/election campaign, in return for favourable votes.

The Secretary-General avails himself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of his highest consideration.

London, 11 December 2014

