



# G-B INTERNATIONAL

## INTERNATIONAL SHIPS REGISTRY OF GUINEA-BISSAU

### Technical Service Circular IMO Developments Nr. 01/ 2026, 23/03/2026

**Subject: “IMO Developments – Outcome of the 36th Extraordinary Session of the IMO Council (C/ES.36)”**

**To:** Deputy Registrars, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Shipowners, Ship managers, Operators, Masters, and Seafarers

1. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) convened the **36th Extraordinary Session of the Council (18–19 March 2026, London)**, following requests by Member States in light of the urgent and evolving situation affecting shipping and seafarers in the Arabian Sea, the Sea of Oman and the Gulf region, particularly in and around the Strait of Hormuz.
2. The convening of this Extraordinary Session reflects the critical importance of this maritime area for international navigation, energy transport and global supply chains, as well as the need for a coordinated international response to emerging risks affecting the safety of life at sea, the protection of seafarers and the security of maritime transport .

#### **Council Deliberations and Summary of Decisions**

3. The Council considered a range of submissions by Member States and industry stakeholders and adopted a set of decisions and a Council Declaration addressing the impacts on shipping and seafarers.
4. As reflected in the **Summary of Decisions** the Council, inter alia:
  - I. reaffirmed the fundamental principles of freedom of navigation and the safety and security of international shipping;
  - II. strongly emphasized the protection, safety and welfare of seafarers, including the need to halt attacks against civilian shipping;
  - III. called for a coordinated international approach to maritime security and navigational safety;
  - IV. supported practical measures to alleviate the impact on seafarers, including crew changes, provision of supplies and communication with families; and
  - V. encouraged, as an urgent and provisional measure, the establishment of a framework for the safe evacuation of merchant vessels from high-risk areas, including the possible development of a safe maritime corridor .
5. These outcomes are consistent with the IMO Secretary-General’s call for concrete action to safeguard seafarers and ensure the continued functioning of global maritime transport.

#### **Position and Contribution of Guinea-Bissau**

6. Guinea-Bissau actively participated in the deliberations of the Council and was among the **co-sponsoring Member States of document C/ES.36/3**, together with a broad cross-regional group of countries, supporting a Council declaration reaffirming the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the protection of seafarers and commercial vessels .

In this context, the Acting Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the IMO delivered an intervention aligning with the co-sponsored submission and emphasizing:

- a. the paramount importance of safe and uninterrupted navigation in critical maritime corridors;
- b. the need to protect seafarers as essential civilian personnel; and
- c. the importance of practical, coordinated measures to mitigate risks to shipping and maritime operations .

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### Conclusion

7. The Extraordinary Session of the Council demonstrated the capacity of the IMO to respond promptly to emerging maritime crises and to provide a multilateral platform for coordinated action. The adopted outcomes reinforce the Organization's central role in promoting safe, secure and efficient shipping, while addressing, as a matter of priority, the protection of seafarers and the preservation of navigational rights in critical international waterways.

### For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

Office of the General Ships Registrar



**Attached:** IMO Council Summary of Decisions (C/ES.36/D), (p.5)

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