

BANGKOK DECLARATION 2020

BANGKOK DECLARATION ON ENHANCING DOMESTIC FERRY SAFETY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODEL REGULATIONS ON DOMESTIC FERRY SAFETY

We, the 19 participants* to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Joint Meeting on Enhancing Domestic Ferry Safety in Asia and the Pacific Region and the Development of Model Regulations on Domestic Ferry Safety,

NOTING WITH DEEP CONCERN the continuing and alarming high number of lives lost through domestic ferry accidents each year,

NOTING ALSO WITH DEEP CONCERN that even with the best of intentions and efforts of entities associated with domestic ferry safety, accidents continue to take place,

NOTING the call by the WHO in the Global Report on Drowning for Member States to set and enforce boating, shipping and ferry regulations,

BEING AWARE that despite numerous efforts in place for decades to address safety of domestic ferries, there is no internationally binding regime to address the safety of domestic ferries,

RECOGNIZING that a joint approach by the United Nations bodies, INTERFERRY and other stakeholders is necessary to increase the safety of domestic ferries and to prevent lives lost following domestic ferry accidents,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the benefits our enhanced collaboration will bring to the strengthening of Sustainable Development Goals, particularly 4 (Quality education), 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 8 (Decent work and economic growth) 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure), 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), 13 (Climate action), 14 (Life below water) and 17 (Partnerships for the goals),

ACKNOWLEDGING that the development of a legally binding regime or a set of framework Model Regulations on Domestic Ferry Safety would fill a critical gap in the global regulatory framework, thereby mandating safety measures for domestic ferries,

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO that the traditional craft building and means of water transport play a vital role in transport connectivity, particularly for the Small Island Development States and Least Developing Countries and, therefore, need to be supported, protected and further developed through support in any and all forms,

- 1 EXPRESS our firm and unwavering commitment to the development of a Convention on Domestic Ferry Safety, Intergovernmental Agreement on Domestic Ferry Safety or framework Model Regulations on Domestic Ferry Safety or a combination of the above and URGE all countries to implement them as appropriate;
- 2 SUPPORT, in principle and subject to ongoing review, the basic structure of framework Model Regulations on Domestic Ferry Safety as follows:
Preamble; Application; General; Safety Culture; Surveys; Responsible sale; Responsible purchase; New built domestic ferry; Conversion to domestic ferry; Repair, modification and conversion; Registration; Manning;

*Bangladesh, China, India, Thailand, ESCAP, IMO, WHO, INTERFERRY, WFSa, and WMU.

Endorsed by: [insert names of countries which have adopted]

Safety management and Governance; Occupational health and safety; Navigation; Maintenance; Stowage and securing; Embarkation and disembarkation; Prior to departure and arrival; Certificates; Exemption; Aids to navigation; Accidents; Duty to render assistance; Search and rescue; Breach of regulations; Education and training; Domestication; Translation; Amendments; Conflict; Withdrawal; Implementation; Interpretation; Disputes; Annexes 1 (Navigational area); 2 (Check list) and 3 (Education and training);

- 3 ALSO SUPPORT, inter alia and in the context of model regulations, the following definitions:

Competent authority means a government entity responsible for the implementation of these regulations,

Domestic ferry means a craft of any type and construction, using any means of propulsion, primarily used for the carriage of passengers and their belongings over water, meant to undertake a voyage or voyages within domestic waters only and is certified as such by the competent authority,

Domestic waters mean waters, which shall not extend more than 200 nautical miles from the baseline, including waters landwards of the baseline, without encroaching into the domestic waters of another country unless expressly agreed otherwise by the parties, in which the domestic ferry may operate, clearly identified, designated and promulgated as such by the competent authority or the recognized entity,

Open waters mean waters which are seaward of domestic waters' limits,

Recognized entity means an entity, duly qualified, experienced, accredited and authorized to carry out surveys, issue certificates and to undertake any other activity required per these regulations at the request and on behalf of the competent authority, and includes authorized experts;

- 4 REQUEST the International Maritime Organization to develop explanatory notes to the framework Model Regulations on Domestic Ferry Safety or the latter's equivalent;
- 5 URGE all countries and stakeholders to take accelerated measures towards improving domestic ferry safety and actively contribute to the development of framework Model Regulations on Domestic Ferry Safety or its equivalent; and
- 6 ACKNOWLEDGE the contribution of relevant modern technologies towards enhancing the safety of domestic ferries; and
- 7 ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE the efforts of ESCAP, IMO, WHO, INTERFERRY, WFSa, WMU and all other interested parties working in collaboration towards improving domestic ferry safety, thereby saving lives.

17 March 2020