

11 February 2021

Mr. Hüseyin Çınar
Secretary General
Turkish Shipowners' Association

Mr. Ahmet Bedri Ince
President
Turkish Shipowners' Association

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Dear Messrs. Çınar and Ince,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 29 January 2021, calling for an international initiative to address piracy attacks in the Gulf of Guinea.

I am deeply concerned about the escalation of attacks in the Gulf of Guinea region, especially about their severity which threatens the life of seafarers. I am taking every possible measure to ensure the coordination of initiatives among all stakeholders to address the problem.

I have been in contact with the Director-General/CEO of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr. Bashir Yusuf Jamoh and offered the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) support to facilitate a dialogue between the region and international partners. The Director-General has provided me with an update on their current efforts to find a sustainable solution to address these threats.

IMO continues to provide technical assistance to Member States in the region to implement IMO maritime security measures, and to support regional initiatives such as the Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC). Our Maritime Security Team is currently working with the ICC to assist with the implementation of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct (YCC) and to facilitate discussions with regional entities and existing centres under the YCC architecture.

Representatives of industry organizations have submitted a proposal to the next session of the Maritime Safety Committee scheduled to take place in May 2021 (MSC 103) for the establishment of a Maritime Security Working Group at that session to provide a forum for IMO Member States and international organizations to discuss the current challenge, coordinate efforts and provide recommendations to tackle piracy in the region. I would like to encourage



the Turkish Shipowners' Association to liaise with the Turkish delegation to IMO, to ensure your engagement in the considerations at the next MSC meeting.

I would like to once again reiterate my personal commitment to address this serious issue and my sincere hope that all seafarers remaining in captivity return safely to their families.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kitack Lim', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kitack Lim
Secretary-General