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Circular Letter No.4403
30 April 2021

To: IMO Member States
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Illumination of the IMO building and other emblematic landmarks
to mark World Maritime Day on 30 September 2021**

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to announce a new initiative to promote each year's World Maritime theme, beginning with "**Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future**" in 2021.

In this connection, the Organization intends to light up the IMO building, in particular the Seafarer Memorial, in IMO/maritime blue colour on every World Maritime Day going forward, beginning with this year's celebration on 30 September 2021.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General would like to extend the invitation to IMO Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status to join in this annual initiative by lighting up their most iconic buildings, bridges, maritime ports, ships, monuments, museums and other emblematic landmarks on World Maritime Day each year.

The initiative is a symbolic effort to unite the maritime community with the aim of raising awareness of the vital contribution of shipping to the world.

In order to give visibility to this project, social media participation is encouraged via Twitter to share these powerful images by using the hashtags #WorldMaritimeDay. Photographs can also be sent to: media@imo.org.