

Joint-NGO statement to MEPC 59 on IMO plans for work on GHG emissions from ships

London, 17th July 2009

Mr Chairman,

At the beginning of this debate the Secretary General asked us to rise to the challenge of climate change and develop ambitious and forward looking plans which would represent real progress and demonstrate to the UNFCCC and to the world that the IMO is the appropriate body to remain in charge of international measures to reduce GHG from shipping.

So we need to ask ourselves Mr Chairman what has been achieved?

Does this Work Plan on Market Based Measures meet the Secretary General's expectations? Will it confound the critics?

Does it meet this Committee's expectations?

In what sense is it consistent in spirit or in practice with Assembly Resolution 963/23's call made nearly 6 years ago now – yes nearly 6 years ago – that *priority* be given to the evaluation inter alia of market based mechanisms?

Will this further Work Plan provide any assurance to UNFCCC that IMO is geared up to do the job?

Will it be sufficient to stop the European Union taking the unilateral action on shipping that it has long talked about and options for which are now being developed?

Where will the IMO stand if US upstream legislation proceeds?

Above all, 12 years after Kyoto, and in the continuing absence of even one single binding measure to address GHG, will yet another multi-year work plan – which includes a hiatus of inactivity from the closure of this session until MEPC 60 – satisfy the world and in particular those living in less developed countries and small island states who are the most vulnerable to climate change and who so often get the short end of the stick?

We welcome agreement on the efficiency indices. Lets undertake trials and agree to discuss and decide at MEPC 60 on their mandatory application, but they will only deliver the necessary results if they are driven by strong targets and market based incentives.

We now call on a coalition of the willing – that amorphous group of concerned states who hover in the background at ICAO, at IMO and at UNFCCC, to come forward and show the leadership that is your obligation. Agree to fund an immediate and in depth study of MBI options – be inclusive in its terms of reference and composition of experts in a consortium from developed and developing countries. Present the results to UNFCCC and to MEPC 60 and press for action to be accelerated in light of the necessary expert advice which will then be available.

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