



## OHCHR REGISTRY

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29 July 2008

Recipients :.....U.H.....  
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Dear Ms. Arbour,

I am writing on behalf of the Secretary-General with reference to your letter to him dated 16 June 2008, requesting input for the preparation of a study to be conducted by your Office on the relationship between climate change and human rights.

With respect to the three specific questions raised in that letter, we can provide the following information:

- (a) **IMO does not have competence to assess the impact of climate change on human lives, populations or the enjoyment of human rights and, therefore, we cannot provide any relevant information in this connection;**
- (b) **IMO's work on climate change relates to the regulation of, on the one hand, ships' exhaust gas emissions, and on the other, the limitation or reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international shipping. In connection with the first aspect, IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee approved, in March 2008, amendments to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (known as the MARPOL 73/78 Convention); the approved amendments are to be**

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formally adopted in October this year and will enter into force early in 2010. A copy of the amendments is attached for your information. In respect of greenhouse gases (GHG), principally CO<sub>2</sub>, IMO commissioned a study on GHG from ships, which is now being updated. Furthermore, pursuant to an IMO Assembly resolution adopted in 2003, IMO is currently working on the development of mechanisms to achieve the limitation or reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from ships, with the aim of adopting, in July 2009, a coherent and comprehensive IMO regime to control GHG emissions from ships engaged in international trade; and

- (c) **IMO does not at present provide support to mitigate and adapt to climate change**; it does, however, have an Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme, which assists Member States in implementing IMO instruments, and which will, in all probability, extend to the above-mentioned measures when they are in force.

I hope you will find IMO's contribution helpful, although it is rather limited due to the nature and competence of the Organization. Please feel free to contact us again, should you require any clarifications.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Rosalie P. Balkin  
Director

Legal Affairs and External Relations Division