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Department:  
Transport  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**Remarks by Minister of Transport, Hon, Dr Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of the 120 session of the IMO Council held in London, United Kingdom on 2 July 2018.**

**Chair of IMO Council, the honourable Mr Xiaojie Zhang**

**Secretary-General, His Excellency, Mr Kitak LIM**

**Honourable Ministers present**

**Your Excellencies**

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**I greet you all,**

It gives me great pleasure and honour to address you this morning. My name is Dr Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande (MP) Minister of Transport of the Republic of South Africa and the Head of the South African Delegation.

Allow me Chair to add the voice of the Republic of South Africa in congratulating Vice Admiral Edmundo Deville del Campo of Peru for being elected the Vice Chair of the IMO Council. In congratulating Vice Admiral Edmundo Deville del Campo I would like to, on behalf of the Republic of South Africa assure the Council of my country's total and unwavering support to the work of the IMO and all its organs.

We are very proud to be members of this Organization and we are honoured to have served the IMO Council in the role of Vice Chair for an extended period. Our service to Council is well documented. My presence here represents a statement of renewal of our commitment to the IMO and I can assure you that my country and my

people are highly impressed and honour many women and men who have contributed to the 70 years' history of the International Maritime Organization.

Mr Chair, my country has recently adopted its Comprehensive Maritime Transport Policy (CMTP). Following the adoption of the CMTP, we are now in the process of realigning our domestic legislation in line with the CMTP and in this regard, we have made great progress in reviewing the Merchant Shipping Act of 1951. The Maritime Transport Strategy (MTS) is being finalised. Mr Chair I am reporting on these matters firstly as a way of sharing information on the progress we have made in addressing some of the fundamentals of being a maritime nation but secondly to say that we are open to sharing our experiences through the technical cooperation programme of the Organization.

Mr Chair like many other Member States of the IMO, South Africa celebrated on 25 June 2018, the Day of the Seafarer. This year we launched Seafarer Dialogue Platforms (SDPs) in three cities, i.e. Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. I have declared that Seafarers' Dialogue Platforms will become the feature of the future celebrations of the Day of the Seafarer.

Distinguished delegates, I am honoured to report to this Council that I have just deposited the instrument of accession to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995 (STCW-F 1995) with the Secretary-General of the IMO. The deposit of this instrument signifies our commitment to bettering the lives of fishing folks.

Let me also use this opportunity to urge Member States who have not ratified the Cape Town Agreement on the implementation of the Torremolinos Convention to do the right thing as immediate as possible.

In conclusion, permit me Mr Chair to thank the IMO for putting its trust on South Africa by allowing us to host the 2020 IMO World Maritime Day Parallel Event. We are exactly 791 days from today to October 2020 when we will welcome many of you to witness the progress we would have made by that time.

This being the Centenary of two (2) of our liberation heroes, Mr Nelson Mandela and Mrs Albertina Sisulu, let us lead by the example they left for us by being steadfast in our search for solutions to challenges facing shipping today.

I thank you.