

**REMARKS TO THE MTCC-CARIBBEAN SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CLIMATE MITIGATION
IN THE MARITIME SHIPPING INDUSTRY**

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Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, online viewers, good morning

I would like to extend my appreciation to the European Union for their financial support and the European Commission for their continued cooperation in the implementation of this project.

I also take the opportunity to put on record the important role of my colleagues at the IMO's Project Coordination Unit, as well as other IMO team members for their dedication, especially our technical experts at the Marine Environment Division of IMO.

Ladies and gentlemen,

MTCC Caribbean was the first MTCC launched and it continues to demonstrate an exemplary performance to this day. In echoing the words of the former speakers, of our five MTCCs in the respective five regions namely, the Caribbean, Latin-America, Pacific, Asia and Africa, this MTCC is one of our most accomplished. In addition, it is the only of the five headed by a woman, Ms. Vivian Rambarath-Parasram who is also one of the national liaisons for the Women in Maritime Association Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago.

As you may be aware, "Empowering Women in the Maritime Community" has been selected as the World Maritime Day theme for 2019. This will provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and to highlight the important contribution of women all over the world to the maritime sector.

While shipping has historically been a male dominated industry, IMO has been making a concerted effort to help the industry move forward and help women achieve a representation that is in keeping with twenty-first century expectations. This work has been focused through IMO's gender and capacity building programme, which is now in its thirtieth year.

Today, I would also like to share with you the historic events that took place at IMO almost one year ago back in April 2018.

As we are all painfully aware, Green House Gas emissions from maritime transport account today for a relatively modest but rapidly growing source of global GHG emissions. International shipping emissions represented around 2.2% of global emissions in 2012, but due to expected growth of the world economy and associated transport demand, emissions from international shipping are expected to rise by between 50% to 250% by 2050, based on modelled scenarios.

What is IMO and its Member States doing to prevent these bleak scenarios from becoming reality? In April 2018, Resolution MEPC.304(72) *Initial IMO Strategy on Reduction of GHG emissions from ships* was adopted. At the heart of this Strategy is its Vision.

The vision confirms IMO's commitment to reducing GHG emissions from international shipping and, as a matter of urgency, to phasing them out as soon as possible. More specifically, under the identified "levels of ambition", the initial strategy envisages, for the first time, a reduction in total GHG emissions from international shipping which, it says, should peak as soon as possible and to reduce the total annual GHG emissions by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 2008, while, at the same time, pursuing efforts towards phasing them out entirely.

The strategy also includes a specific reference to "a pathway of CO₂ emissions reduction consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature goals". During the 73rd session of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee, in October 2018, a programme of follow-up actions of the initial strategy was approved which included detailed timelines for each stream of activity to 2023. In terms of implementation of follow-up action, your attention is drawn, in particular, to action 4 on capacity building, technical cooperation and research and development in which MTCC Caribbean and all our other MTCCs can play an integral part.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In closing, it is my hope that with your sustained support MTCC Caribbean will continue playing a leading role in the region in building capacity and promoting low carbon technologies in many years to come and I wish all those involved and participating in this 2nd Sub-Regional Workshop two exciting and fruitful days.

I thank you.