

Statement from INTERTANKO on behalf of the industry organisations ICS, BIMCO, INTERCARGO, and OCIMF

Thank you Dr Juma

It is a great privilege for me to address this group on behalf of the industry organisations consisting of ICS, BIMCO, INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO and OCIMF. My name is Phillip Belcher, the Marine Director at INTERTANKO.

Firstly, Sir, I must express the collective thanks to the UN members of the contact group for their tireless efforts in keeping this group together to address the scourge of piracy in the region and as a former seafarer I am personally very appreciative of all the work.

We would also wish to express our thanks to the countries providing the military and diplomatic resources to maintain the anti-piracy operations within the Combined Maritime Forces, the European Union's Naval Force and the UKMTO. We do very much appreciate the efforts made particularly by personnel who have had their travel restricted due to the pandemic.

All of these international efforts both ashore and at sea, have been rewarded by the significant and prolonged drop in pirate activity in the Eastern Indian Ocean. There is of course much concern that we are all victims of this success, as many now say, piracy is done, it is over, let us concentrate on other work.

We in the industry are working hard to maintain vigilance and the full implementation of protection measures for the shipping industry. Vigilance does remain high at sea and for the associations we have tried to reflect the changing threat to ships through the updating of the Best Management Practices. This is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> iteration and we will continue to refine it as needed, as well as keeping the industry security website up to date. The current pandemic does not assist in this as it diverts attention from the physical risks to ships. Additionally, we cannot underestimate the effects on seafarers who are serving many months beyond their contract time whilst being powerless to assist their families at home. Ensuring their vigilance is essential.

Keeping abreast of the changing threat also means being aware of other risks to shipping. We have become very concerned with other warlike threats that have emerged particularly in the Gulf of Aden. We believe that attention by the international community and this vital contact group on these emerging warlike threats could provide a great service in ensuring that seafarers are protected and the World's trade continues to flow freely.

Once again sir we would express our thanks to all our friends who are working so hard to eradicate a maritime crime that should have remained in the history books and only ever seen in the cinema.

Thank you sir.