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15 April 2020

To: Director Generals of Maritime Administrations and Observers of the Abuja MoU Port State Control Committee

Dear Sir/Madam,

ABUJA MOU GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 RELATING TO RELEVANT IMO CONVENTIONS AND MLC 2006

The Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control for West and Central African Region (Abuja MoU) recognizes the challenges faced by the global shipping industry as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Abuja MoU acknowledges the need to keep the global supply chains open and to have procedures that ensure ships continue to trade safely, securely and efficiently during this COVID-19 pandemic, and at the same time, is working with member States on efforts to put necessary measures that would guarantee protection, safety, and security of the Port State Control officers and the seafarers on board.

In view of this, Abuja MoU has issued the attached guidelines for dealing with the impact of the outbreak of the COVID-19 relating to relevant IMO conventions and MLC 2006, which will be effective from 27 April 2020, in response to the disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Authorities are invited **to distribute the guidelines to all PSC officers** for attention and reference. This letter, together with the attachment, are available on the Abuja MOU website in PDF format.

The guidelines may be reviewed to align with any future initiatives by IMO/ILO or as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

The Secretariat has created a dedicated page on the Abuja MoU website on COVID-19. This page can be accessed by clicking the following link: <http://www.abujamou.org/index.php?pid=c7jytkiyh covid19> for updates from the IMO and other member States of Abuja MoU.

Member Administrations are requested to provide the Secretariat with information about the measures that have been taken to deal with COVID-19.

Mfon Ekong Usoro (Mrs)
Secretary General

Attachment: Abuja MoU Guidelines for Dealing with the Impact of the Covid-19 Relating to Relevant IMO Conventions and MLC 2006