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Circular Letter No.4539  
25 March 2022

To: Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention  
(London Protocol 1996)  
IMO Members that are not Contracting Parties to the London Protocol  
UN Members that are not Contracting Parties to the London Protocol

Subject: **Proposal to amend annex 1 to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes or other Matter, 1972 to remove sewage sludge from the list of wastes or other matter that may be considered for dumping**

1 The Secretary-General has received the proposal to amend annex 1 to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes or other Matter, 1972 to remove sewage sludge from the list of wastes or other matter that may be considered for dumping, from the Republic of Korea and Mexico.

2 As requested by the above-mentioned Contracting States, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith, in accordance with article 22.1 of the Protocol, the text of the proposed amendments, given in the annex, with a view to their consideration for adoption at the seventeenth session of the Meeting of Contracting Parties, which will be held at IMO Headquarters, from 3 to 7 October 2022.

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FORTY-FOURTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING  
OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE  
LONDON CONVENTION  
&  
SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF  
CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE LONDON  
PROTOCOL  
3 – 7 October 2022  
Agenda item 10

LC 44/10  
25 March 2022  
Original: ENGLISH  
Pre-session public release:

## INTERPRETATION OF THE LONDON CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL

**Proposal to amend Annex 1 to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes or other Matter, 1972 to remove sewage sludge from the list of wastes or other matter that may be considered for dumping**

**Submitted by Republic of Korea and Mexico**

### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* The Republic of Korea and Mexico propose to amend Annex 1 to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes or other Matter, 1972 to remove sewage sludge from the list of wastes or other matter that may be considered for dumping. This proposal is consistent with the agreement by the Meeting of Contracting Parties in 2021. In accordance with article 22 of the London Protocol, this document and the proposed amendments contained therein, are being made available to interested parties at least six months prior to the Meeting of Contracting Parties.

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 10

*Related documents:* LC 43/17, LC 43/10 and LC/SG 44/16

### Introduction

1 Pursuant to article 22 of the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes or other Matter, 1972 (London Protocol), the Republic of Korea and Mexico propose to amend Annex 1 of the London Protocol to remove sewage sludge from the list of wastes or other matter that may be considered for dumping.

2 The Secretariat is requested to communicate the text of this amendment proposal, as detailed in the annexes to this document, to the Parties to the London Protocol no later than six months before the next Meeting of Contracting Parties, in accordance with article 22.1, and to take such additional actions as may be required by the London Protocol and/or the

applicable Rules of Procedure to enable adoption of this amendment by the Contracting Parties at this Meeting.

3 The Republic of Korea and Mexico invite other Contracting Parties to the London Protocol to co-sponsor the amendment proposal.

### **Proposal to remove sewage sludge from Annex 1 of the London Protocol**

4 In 2021, the governing bodies noted the Scientific Groups had considered a consultant's report entitled "Study on the current practices of managing or dumping of sewage sludge at sea", and concurred with its conclusion that the available information showed that the practice of dumping of sewage sludge had decreased to very low levels (LC/SG 44/16, paragraphs 8.15 to 8.21).

5 The governing bodies noted that the study highlighted the downward trends in reporting of this practice and amounts dumped and suggested that this reinforced the notion that the interest in dumping at sea of sewage sludge was strongly declining. The study also highlighted the very low response rate to past questionnaires and to the current review among Contracting Parties, and others, including non-Parties, and that this reflected that the issue was not an important one and suggested that the inclusion of sewage sludge as a waste stream that may be considered for dumping was possibly not necessary.

6 Following discussion, the governing bodies (LC 43/17, paragraph 10.24):

- .1 agreed that the available data indicated that the practice of dumping sewage sludge had declined considerably over the decades, that the practice was already prohibited under many regional conventions and through domestic legislation, and that alternatives existed for the use of the waste, and that there was sufficient evidence and justification for amending Annex 1 to remove sewage sludge from the list of permissible wastes; and
- .2 invited a Contracting Party or Parties to the London Protocol to propose an amendment to Annex 1 of the London Protocol to remove sewage sludge from the list of wastes or other matter that could be considered for dumping.

7 The Republic of Korea and Mexico therefore, by way of this submission, propose to amend Annex 1 to the London Protocol to remove sewage sludge from the list of wastes or other matter that may be considered for dumping.

8 The proposed text amendments are detailed in annex 1 to this submission, and entails the deletion of sewage sludge from the list of permissible wastes in Annex 1 to the London Protocol, and the subsequent renumbering of the remaining subparagraphs. The proponents identified one consequential amendment that would be required from the proposal, text for this amendment is also detailed in annex 1 to this submission.

9 Furthermore, elements of a resolution to adopt the proposed amendments are contained in annex 2.

### **Action requested of the Meeting of Contracting Parties**

10 The Meeting of Contracting Parties is invited to consider the amendment proposal annexed to this document with a view to its adoption.

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## ANNEX 1

### PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX 1 OF THE LONDON PROTOCOL

#### PARAGRAPH 1

*Delete sub-paragraph 1.2, as follows:*

~~.....2..... sewage sludge;~~

*Re-number the subsequent sub-paragraphs of paragraph 1.*

### PROPOSED CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO ANNEX 2 OF THE LONDON PROTOCOL

#### PARAGRAPH 4

*Delete "sewage sludge" as follows:*

*4 For dredged material ~~and sewage sludge~~, the goal of waste management should be to identify and control the sources of contamination....*

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## ANNEX 2

### **ELEMENTS OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX 1 TO THE LONDON PROTOCOL TO REMOVE SEWAGE SLUDGE FROM THE LIST OF WASTES OR OTHER MATTER THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR DUMPING**

#### **THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE 1996 PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION BY DUMPING OF WASTES AND OTHER MATTER 1972,**

**RECALLING** the objectives of the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention ("London Protocol") that include the protection and preservation of the marine environment from all sources of pollution;

**RECALLING ALSO** the agreement by the sixteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties that there was sufficient evidence and justification for amending annex 1 to remove sewage sludge from the list of permissible wastes;

1 **ADOPTS** the following amendments to the London Protocol, in accordance with article 22 of the Protocol, as set out in annex 1 to this resolution.