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Circular Letter No.4561  
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To: All IMO Members  
United Nations and specialized agencies  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

Subject: **Pledging for FSO Safer**

1 In November 2020, a virtual briefing was organized by IMO to provide Member States with an update on the Organization's contribution to international efforts aimed at preventing and preparing for a possible oil spill from the deteriorating **FSO** (floating storage and offloading unit) **Safer**, which is moored off the coast of Yemen, with an estimated 1.14 million barrels of light crude oil on board.

2 Following months of extensive discussions with relevant stakeholders, the United Nations (UN) has produced a new viable plan to address the threat. This plan includes an emergency phase, during which the crude oil will be transferred into a secure, temporary vessel, and arrangements for working towards a more permanent replacement for the **FSO Safer's** storage and offloading capacity. This could take up to 18 months. For this purpose, the UN will collaborate closely with a leading maritime salvage company.

3 Against this backdrop, the UN has engaged closely with all relevant stakeholders on this plan, including the Government of Yemen, the authorities in Sana'a, and Member States in the region. All have demonstrated strong support for the initiative and expressed a desire to see work proceed as quickly as possible. The relevant authorities, who control the area where the vessel is located, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN, which establishes a framework for cooperation and a commitment to facilitating the success of the project.

4 Implementation, however, requires urgent funding. The estimated cost of the full operation, including both the emergency phase and longer-term solution amounts to roughly \$145 million. This sum includes the \$79 million required for immediately transferring the oil from the **FSO Safer**.

5 Success is contingent on urgent action, as the oil transfer should ideally be completed as soon as possible in 2022, to prevent this looming catastrophe.

6 To launch the fundraising efforts, the UN and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as longstanding partners of Yemen, co-organized a virtual pledging conference on 11 May 2022 to support the UN-coordinated operational plan to address the threat of an oil spill from the **FSO Safer**.

7 Member States, International Organizations and relevant maritime stakeholders are invited to disseminate this information to all interested parties and stakeholders and are strongly urged to pledge generously to support the emergency phase of the **FSO Safer** operation.

8 Details of the UN-coordinated **FSO Safer** operation and related pledging process can be found: <https://www.ye.undp.org/content/yemen/en/home/PSO/fso.html>.

9 Information on the Organization's efforts to support the **FSO Safer**, including FAQs, can be found on the IMO website: <https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/FSO-SAFER-oil-spill-risk.aspx>.

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