

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 17th session Agenda item 4

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## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

# INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CARRIAGE OF HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES BY SEA

#### **Note by the Director**

Summary:	The Secretariat has developed a functioning prototype of a system to assist in identifying and reporting contributing cargo under the HNS Convention which will be circulated to delegates on request.
Action to be taken:	Information to be noted.

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 At its 6th session held in October 2001, the Assembly instructed the Director to develop a system in the form of a website or CD-Rom to assist States and potential contributors in the identification and reporting of contributing cargo under the International Convention on liability and compensation for damage in connection with the carriage of hazardous and noxious substances by sea (HNS Convention) (document 92FUND/A.6/28, paragraph 28.5).
- 1.2 The Assembly granted an extra appropriation of £150 000 for this purpose, provided that the costs incurred would be reimbursed to the 1992 Fund by the HNS Fund when the HNS Convention entered into force. It was noted that these costs would be paid from the General Fund (document 92FUND/A.6/28, paragraph 28.5).

### 2 <u>System to monitor contributing cargo</u>

- 2.1 The outline of a system to monitor contributing cargo was described in a document submitted to the Assembly's October 2001 session (document 92FUND/A.6/25).
- 2.2 With the assistance of IT consultants, the Secretariat developed a non-functioning prototype of such a system, which showed how the system is expected to operate but could not be used to process data. A demonstration of this prototype to interested delegates was arranged during the April/May 2002 sessions of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies. The non-functioning prototype was then made available to delegates on request, in the form of a CD-ROM, so as to enable them to provide detailed comments on the operation of the system.

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- 2.3 A functioning prototype has since been developed which permits the processing of sample data based on a trial database of 100 substances. The functioning prototype will be available for demonstration to delegates on request during the July 2002 sessions of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies and will then be circulated in the form of a CD-ROM.
- 2.4 In the light of further observations, the final system, incorporating a database of all substances qualifying as hazardous or noxious substances (HNS), will then be developed during the remainder of 2002 and will be demonstrated to delegations at the earliest opportunity.

# **3** Action to be taken by the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.