ANNEX

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND RECYCLING OF SHIPS, 2009

THE PARTIES TO THIS CONVENTION,

NOTING the growing concerns about safety, health, the environment and welfare matters in the ship recycling industry,

RECOGNIZING that recycling of ships contributes to sustainable development and, as such, is the best option for ships that have reached the end of their operating life,

RECALLING resolution A.962(23), adopted by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (Guidelines on Ship Recycling); amendments to the Guidelines adopted by resolution A.980(24); Decision VI/24 of the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which adopted Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of the Full and Partial Dismantling of Ships; and the Guidelines approved by the 289th session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office (Safety and Health in Shipbreaking: Guidelines for Asian countries and Turkey),

RECALLING ALSO resolution A.981(24), by which the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization requested the Organization’s Marine Environment Protection Committee to develop a legally-binding instrument on ship recycling,

NOTING ALSO the role of the International Labour Organization in protecting the occupational safety and health of workers involved in ship recycling,

NOTING FURTHER the role of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in protecting human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes,

MINDFUL of the precautionary approach set out in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and referred to in resolution MEPC.67(37), adopted by the Organization’s Marine Environment Protection Committee on 15 September 1995,

MINDFUL ALSO of the need to promote the substitution of hazardous materials in the construction and maintenance of ships by less hazardous, or preferably, non-hazardous materials, without compromising the ships’ safety, the safety and health of seafarers and the ships’ operational efficiency,

RESOLVED to effectively address, in a legally-binding instrument, the environmental, occupational health and safety risks related to ship recycling, taking into account the particular characteristics of maritime transport and the need to secure the smooth withdrawal of ships that have reached the end of their operating lives,
CONSIDERING that these objectives may best be achieved by the conclusion of an International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE 1
General obligations

1 Each Party to this Convention undertakes to give full and complete effect to its provisions in order to prevent, reduce, minimize and, to the extent practicable, eliminate accidents, injuries and other adverse effects on human health and the environment caused by Ship Recycling, and enhance ship safety, protection of human health and the environment throughout a ship’s operating life.

2 No provision of this Convention shall be interpreted as preventing a Party from taking, individually or jointly, more stringent measures consistent with international law, with respect to the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships, in order to prevent, reduce or minimize any adverse effects on human health and the environment.

3 Parties shall endeavour to co-operate for the purpose of effective implementation of, compliance with and enforcement of this Convention.

4 The Parties undertake to encourage the continued development of technologies and practices which contribute to safe and environmentally sound Ship Recycling.

5 The Annex to this Convention forms an integral part of it. Unless expressly provided for otherwise, a reference to this Convention constitutes at the same time a reference to its Annex.

ARTICLE 2
Definitions

For the purposes of this Convention, unless expressly provided otherwise:


2 “Administration” means the Government of the State whose flag the ship is entitled to fly, or under whose authority it is operating.

3 “Competent Authority(ies)” means a governmental authority or authorities designated by a Party as responsible, within specified geographical area(s) or area(s) of expertise, for duties related to Ship Recycling Facilities operating within the jurisdiction of that Party as specified in this Convention.

4 “Organization” means the International Maritime Organization.

5 “Secretary-General” means the Secretary-General of the Organization.

6 “Committee” means the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the Organization.