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Circular Letter No.4242  
31 March 2020

To: All IMO Members  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the United Arab Emirates**

The Government of the United Arab Emirates has sent the attached communication, dated 31 March 2020, with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

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## ANNEX

**Mr. Kitack Lim**

The Secretary-General  
International Maritime Organization (IMO)  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR

31 March 2020

Dear Kitack Lim,

Subject: **Launching Solidarity Initiative 'Horns of Hope'**

Greetings from the United Arab Emirates. Almost three weeks have passed since the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 as global pandemic. This was not only a public health crisis but it was also a crisis that impacted every sectors including maritime sector. All countries have taken decisive measures to fight the COVID-19. Land borders have been closed, airlines have been grounded, and therefore lives and supply chains were disrupted.

In this time of global crisis, it is more important than ever to keep ships and ports fully operational, in order to maintain complete functionality of supply chains and maritime trade. We therefore must recognize the hundreds of thousands of seafarers on-board ships, port workers, equipment operators, and administration staff as key workers who continue to keep the world's maritime supply chains functioning to ensure delivering vital goods and supplies.

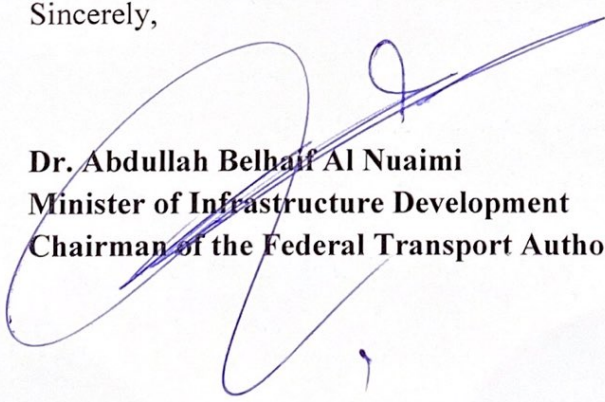


With an initiative from Abu Dhabi Ports, UAE Federal Transport Authorities for Land and Maritime and all other UAE Ports are going to launch a solidarity initiative called “Horns of Hope” on Tuesday 31st of March 2020. This is a world-first initiative in which ships and tugboats in all ports of UAE will sound their horns a prolonged blast for fifteen seconds every day at 6.30pm UAE local time (GMT +4) in recognizing and paying a mark of respect to all key workers who are performing their duties during the pandemic of COVID-19.

In this context, I would like to invite and encourage all IMO Member States to support our “Horns of Hope” initiative by extending it to all their respective ports and harbours to achieve wider and global recognition of all key workers in this time of global crisis.

The UAE Federal Transport Authority for Land and Maritime avails this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to take a pragmatic and practical approach to the facilitation of shipping and port operations during the COVID-19 pandemic because we are all in "voyage together".

Sincerely,

  
**Dr. Abdullah Belhaf Al Nuaimi**  
**Minister of Infrastructure Development**  
**Chairman of the Federal Transport Authority - Land and Maritime**