

**Full Statement of Liberia at IMO Council 132<sup>nd</sup> session Condemning the  
Attacks on International Shipping in the RED Sea by Houthis Rebels**

**By**

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**&**

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**Liberia Delegation to IMO Council 132**

As you have already heard in the opening statement of the Secretary General, the Liberian Flag vessel MV TUTOR came under missile attack in the Red Sea on June 12, 2024, by the Houthis Rebels. The vessel was navigating the Southern Red Sea enroute to Kandla, India, when she was struck on her port side by the engine room by an uncrewed surface vessel (USV). Later, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) struck her starboard side. The engine room got flooded and the vessel eventually lost power. The crew lost command of the vessel which started to drift.

Thereafter, on June 14, 2024, 24 out of 25 crew were rescued from the drifting vessel by a US Navy vessel and assisted by the French Naval vessel. Liberia thanks the US and French Navy Vessels for their assistance and continuous support in this regard.

Distinguished delegates, one crew member who was in the engine room during the attacks is missing and unaccounted for to date. Our hearts and thoughts are with his family, loved ones, as well as his country, the Philippines.

Mr. Chair, on 18 June 2024, The French Naval vessel conducted a search and was unable to locate the MV TUTOR within about 50nm radius of the last known position but identified a large oil slick at that location. Subsequent search for the

vessel using sonar indicated the presence of the MV TUTOR on the seabed at that position, which led to the conclusion that the vessel has sunk.

Distinguished delegates, unfortunately the attacks on Liberia flag vessels continue since the MV TUTOR, including MV TRANSWORLD NAVIGATOR and DELONIX in late June.

Mr Chair, Liberia strongly condemns the illegal and unjustifiable attacks on ships and seafarers in the Red Sea. Liberia calls for an immediate end to these attacks which continue to pose threat to international shipping, seafarers and the marine environment. Ships in innocent transit and Seafarers pose no threat, instead working hard to ensure essential goods reach communities across the globe should not become targets or victims of attacks for whatever reason. Liberia calls on all well-meaning nations to condemn these unwarranted attacks and to work together collectively to ensure the safety and security of all Ships and Seafarers who are sacrificing daily to sustain maritime trade, which is the lifeline of nations and populations across the world.

Thanks.