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:

1 "Convention" means the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009.

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.

7 "Ship" means a vessel of any type whatsoever operating or having operated in the marine environment and includes submersibles, floating craft, floating platforms, self elevating platforms, Floating Storage Units (FSUs), and Floating Production Storage and Offloading Units (FPSOs), including a vessel stripped of equipment or being towed.

8 "Gross tonnage" means the gross tonnage (GT) calculated in accordance with the tonnage measurement regulations contained in Annex I to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969, or any successor convention.

9 "Hazardous Material" means any material or substance which is liable to create hazards to human health and/or the environment.

10 "Ship Recycling" means the activity of complete or partial dismantling of a ship at a Ship Recycling Facility in order to recover components and materials for reprocessing and re-use, whilst taking care of hazardous and other materials, and includes associated operations such as storage and treatment of components and materials on site, but not their further processing or disposal in separate facilities.

11 "Ship Recycling Facility" means a defined area that is a site, yard or facility used for the recycling of ships.

12 "Recycling Company" means the owner of the Ship Recycling Facility or any other organization or person who has assumed the responsibility for operation of the Ship Recycling activity from the owner of the Ship Recycling Facility and who on assuming such responsibility has agreed to take over all duties and responsibilities imposed by this Convention.

ARTICLE 3
Application

1 Unless expressly provided otherwise in this Convention, this Convention shall apply to:

.1 ships entitled to fly the flag of a Party or operating under its authority;

.2 Ship Recycling Facilities operating under the jurisdiction of a Party.

2 This Convention shall not apply to any warships, naval auxiliary, or other ships owned or operated by a Party and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service. However, each Party shall ensure, by the adoption of appropriate measures not impairing operations or operational capabilities of such ships owned or operated by it, that such ships act in a manner consistent with this Convention, so far as is reasonable and practicable.

3 This Convention shall not apply to ships of less than 500 GT or to ships operating throughout their life only in waters subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the State whose flag the ship is entitled to fly. However, each Party shall ensure, by the adoption of appropriate measures, that such ships act in a manner consistent with this Convention, so far as is reasonable and practicable.