

17th May 2023

Dear Mr Zhang,

Congratulations on your nomination for the position of Secretary General of the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO). The elections for this important post could not have come at a more critical time for shipping and for the future health and wellbeing of people and planet. The IMO needs a transformational new leader.

The IPCC's latest report [1] makes it abundantly clear that setting zero by 2050 climate goals alone are not enough; we must cut all climate heating emissions (including black carbon) deeply before 2030, and the revision of the IMO's GHG Strategy at MEPC80 in July this year is the golden opportunity to ensure that shipping plays its proper part in this historic task.

The time available for action to tackle the climate crisis and avoid dangerous tipping points and out of control heating has almost passed. This is no-longer something that might happen in the future. Global heating is killing people now, destroying nature and making the world poorer. Without new more ambitious action it is only going to get worse.

A recent study by the UK government submitted to the IMO also shows that delaying action will make shipping's climate transition massively more disruptive and expensive [2].

If you are elected and in post for the customary two terms you will be Secretary General of the IMO through a period of unprecedented challenges and change. You will of course be a servant of the organisation and its member states, but you will also have an important role to play in driving the organisation forward and ensuring that it meets its wider responsibilities to the world.

In short, the new IMO Secretary General must be a transformational leader and one that understands and supports the actions that are necessary on shipping to secure a safe future climate.

We would like to be able to assure our members and wider civil society that you are that candidate, and to this end hope that you are able to share your views on the following issues:

1. Do you believe that humanity must do everything within its power to avoid dangerous global heating and keep temperatures below the critical 1.5C limit?
2. Do you accept the scale of the emission reductions that the IPCC says are necessary before 2030 to avoid breaching the 1.5C temperature limit?

3. Do you believe shipping should bear its fair share of the burden of tackling the climate crisis?
4. Do you accept that for shipping this means absolute climate emission reductions of at least 36% by 2030 and 96% by 2040, as proposed by climate science-based targets for the maritime industry?
5. Do you accept that setting a target of zero emissions by 2050 on its own is insufficient for shipping to contribute its fair share to keeping global heating below the critical 1.5C limit?

We sincerely hope you can support the above and that you will bring to the IMO the kind of transformational leadership that it and the world so desperately needs. In this regard CSC stands ready to help you in your endeavours.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



John Maggs
President
Clean Shipping Coalition

1. <https://cleanshipping.org/news/ipcc-confirms-shipping-must-halve-emissions-by-2030/>

2. MEPC 79/INF.29