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Circular Letter No.3619
29 January 2016

To: IMO Member States

Subject: **Special recognition for merchant vessels and their crew involved in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea**

Following the adoption of resolution A.1093(29) on *Special recognition for merchant vessels and their crew involved in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea* (attached in annex 1 for ease of reference), the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to invite Member States to provide information on merchant vessels and their crew deserving commendation for **rescues performed from 1 January 2014**.

For this purpose, annex 2 to this circular contains a form which should be completed, signed and bear an appropriate mark of authentication.

These forms may only be submitted by IMO Member States and do not need to be confined to its own nationals. The awardees will receive, through the flag State, a special certificate from the Secretary-General marking the commendation of the Assembly for their bravery, professionalism and compassion.

All forms should be addressed to:

The Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

ASSEMBLY
29th session
Agenda item 19(g)

A 29/Res.1093
17 December 2015
Original: ENGLISH

Resolution A.1093(29)

**Adopted on 2 December 2015
(Agenda item 19(g))**

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR MERCHANT VESSELS AND THEIR CREW INVOLVED IN
THE RESCUE OF MIXED MIGRANTS AT SEA**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 98 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and regulation V/33 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the duty of ships to assist those in distress or in danger of being lost at sea,

GRAVELY CONCERNED about the current worldwide crisis of migration involving the greatest movement of displaced persons in nearly seventy years, including the transportation of mixed migrants by sea in grossly overloaded, unsafe vessels resulting in the loss of thousands of lives,

RECOGNIZING the perils of the sea and that any rescue, in particular those involving multiple survivors, necessarily entails danger not only to those being rescued but to the rescuers themselves,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that, in the period from January 2014 to December 2015 in the Mediterranean Sea alone, over 1,350 merchant vessels diverted from their intended voyage to rescue over 57,000 mixed migrants in danger of being lost at sea, a number unprecedented in history,

NOTING WITH GREAT ADMIRATION the extraordinary efforts, great skill, courage, professionalism and selfless concern for others demonstrated by crews of all merchant vessels involved in the rescue operation of migrants at sea,

HAVING CONSIDERED the endorsement by the Council, at its 114th session, of the Secretary-General's proposal that all merchant vessels involved in the rescue of migrants around the world be given special recognition for their extraordinary efforts in rescuing mixed migrants at sea,

1 COMMENDS all merchant vessels and their crew participating in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea for their bravery, professionalism and compassion embodying the highest traditions of the sea;

2 REQUESTS the Secretary-General to issue special certificates, retroactively from 1 January 2014, marking this commendation by the Assembly, to be awarded to any merchant vessel and its crew participating in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea;

3 FURTHER REQUESTS Member Governments to provide information to the Secretary-General on merchant vessels and their crew deserving such commendation.

ANNEX 2

**FORM FOR SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR MERCHANT VESSELS AND THEIR CREW
INVOLVED IN THE RESCUE OF MIXED MIGRANTS AT SEA**

DETAILS OF THE MEMBER STATE:	
Flag State requesting the special certificate:	
Contact person responsible for forwarding the certificate:	
Name:	
Email address:	
Telephone no.:	
Postal address:	
DETAILS OF THE MERCHANT VESSEL AND ITS CREW:	
Name of the Captain (at the time of the incident):	
Ship's details:	
Name:	
Company name:	
Description of the vessel:	
IMO number:	

DETAILS OF THE RESCUE OPERATION:	
Date:	
Location:	
Description of the vessel in distress (if any):	
Number of lives saved:	
Name of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) or other shore-based organization involved in the incident (if any) that may have relevant records:	
Short description of the outcome of the rescue (including the name of the port and city where migrants were dropped off):	

For, and on behalf of, **the Government of**

Signed: Date:

Name:

Designation:

Official seal:
