

## International Maritime Organization (IMO)

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**Website:** [www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)

**Year of Establishment:** 1959

**CTITF Working Group Membership:**

- Border Management Related to Counter-Terrorism
- Protection of Human Rights While Countering Terrorism
- Strengthening the Protection of Vulnerable Targets
- Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism
- Preventing and Responding to a Weapons of Mass Destruction Attack

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations tasked with coordinating “safe, secure, and efficient shipping on clean oceans.”<sup>100</sup> The first international organization of its kind, the IMO consists of an assembly, which is made up of all member states and is the highest governing body; a council, elected by the assembly for two-year terms; and five committees composed of representatives of member states: the Maritime Safety Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Legal Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee, and the Facilitation Committee. The committees are supported by a number of subcommittees.

The IMO is a technical organization, with most of its work carried out by its committees and subcommittees. The IMO has promoted the adoption of fifty conventions, and more than 1,000 codes and recommendations related to maritime security and other issues of international shipping.<sup>101</sup> The rapidly changing procedures for shipping have made it especially important for the IMO to ensure that conventions and codes are up-to-date. For instance, the *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)* has been amended six times since it entered into force in 1965 (in 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1971, and 1973).

In response to the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, there was increased concern over the threat posed by transnational terrorist and criminal groups to the safety of ships and their crew members. With strong advocacy by the US representatives to the IMO (the US Coast Guard), the IMO, in 2002, agreed upon mandatory security measures in the form of the International Shipping and Port Facilities Security (ISPS) Code—an amendment to the 1974 *SOLAS Convention*. These measures require governments to gather and assess information related to security threats and exchange such information with other governments. It also requires states to have a methodology for security assessments to ensure that there are plans and procedures in place to respond to a security threat. The amendment was adopted in 2004 and now has 159 member signatories representing 99 percent of the world's merchant fleet (around 40,000 ships) engaged in international voyages. In addition, approximately 10,000 port facilities globally have developed compliant

security plans.<sup>102</sup>

Additionally, the IMO is implementing a new mandatory long-range tracking and identification (LRIT) system to permit the tracking of ships globally. The adoption of two new protocols (effective July 28, 2010) to the *Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Navigation* (SUA), have extended the scope of the convention to cover new offenses, such as using ships in a manner that causes death or serious injury, and the unlawful carriage of weapons or material that could be used as, or used to develop, weapons of mass destruction.

In order to help states develop and strengthen their capacities to ensure maritime security, the IMO has conducted country needs assessments and advisory missions. It has also conducted national and regional seminars, workshops, and courses that have resulted in the training of approximately 6,000 individuals. These initiatives aim to promote greater understanding and implementation of SOLAS and the ISPS Code.<sup>103</sup>

For the IMO, membership in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force offers an opportunity to build on prior cooperation with other UN entities involved in maritime security issues and provide member states with a more integrated approach to implementing the UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The IMO has interacted with the Security Council through a briefing on piracy off the coast of Somalia. It has also worked with the Counter-Terrorism Committee on efforts to enhance maritime security among states, and to discuss the implications of such efforts in the broader fight against global terrorism. In particular, the IMO has worked with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on country visits. IMO also cooperates with other CTITF entities on initiatives in the Gulf of Aden (Djibouti Code of Conduct implementation) and West and Central Africa (Integrated Coast Guard network capabilities).

## International Monetary Fund (IMF)

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