



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MOBILE SATELLITE ORGANIZATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA, 2015

1. The International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) is the inter-governmental organization whose primary purpose is the oversight of certain public satellite safety and security communication services provided by mobile satellite communication systems.
2. IMSO's activities focus on the implementation of international rules and standards for the safety of navigation and maritime security, in particular the Global Maritime Distress and Safety (GMDSS) and Long-Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT) systems.
3. With regards to the GMDSS:
 - i. IMSO continues to oversee the GMDSS performance of Inmarsat Global Ltd, which is the solely maritime mobile satellite service provider in the GMDSS. In this context, contingency exercises are being carried out by Inmarsat at the request of IMSO to ensure restoration of the essential services within one hour after a confirmed satellite failure, as required by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) resolution A.1001(25) on Criteria for the Provision of Mobile Satellite Communication Systems in the GMDSS. The most recent contingency exercise was successfully carried out on 23rd of June 2015 at Inmarsat's headquarters in London;
 - ii. IMSO has been undertaking the technical and operational evaluation of the Iridium mobile satellite system to be recognized as a new service provider under GMDSS. The assessment is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2016; and
 - iii. IMSO closely follows the developments on the work relating to the modernization of the GMDSS and implementation of the e-navigation Strategy Implementation Plan both of which are conducted under the auspices of IMO. The modernization plan for the GMDSS is expected to be completed in 2018. The first stage of further work to be undertaken on the implementation of e-navigation is expected to take place in the period 2016 to 2019.

4. With regards to the LRIT, IMSO, acting as the LRIT Coordinator on behalf of all SOLAS (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended) Contracting Governments, conducts annual audits to review the performance of these LRIT Data Centres and reports its findings to the relevant IMO subsidiary body for appropriate action. The LRIT system has reached a maturity after 7 years of implementation. The system is being utilized by 107 Governments, 10 Non-metropolitan Territories and two Special Administrative Regions acting through 56 LRIT Data Centres.
