



Statement by

**H.E. Ambassador Dian Triansyah Djani
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia**

**The 32nd Plenary meeting of the General Assembly on Agenda item 128 (a):
“Strengthening of the United Nations system”**

**Joint debate and action on draft resolution A/75/L.37 on
“International cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a
result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chains”**

New York, 1st December 2020

Mr. President,

I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/75/L.37, entitled “International cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chains”.

The COVID-19 crisis has led to unprecedented challenges to the global economy. Nevertheless, the shipping industry continues to serve as the backbone of the international economy and global supply chain, transporting more than 80% of world trade.

It also plays an important role in ensuring the delivery of vital medical supplies, food and basic goods that are critical for COVID-19 response and recovery.

Behind this critical sector are two million seafarers who have shown their dedication and professionalism during this crisis, ensuring that world trade and logistics continue to move properly. Their work and commitment largely go unnoticed.

Unfortunately, seafarers continue to face significant challenges because of the pandemic. The travel restrictions have generated difficulties for crew changes, and prevent the seafarers from embarkation and disembarkation. As a result, hundreds of thousands are reported to be stranded at sea for months.

Mr. President,

Since the beginning of this pandemic, the United Nations General Assembly has recognized the role of essential workers around the world who have committed themselves and are risking their lives to protect the health, safety, and well-being of others.

In a real sense, seafarers are in that group.

In this crisis, we need to show our attention, commitment and support to these invisible heroes, who are working under difficult and challenging circumstances.

In this regard, the draft resolution urges Member States to designate seafarers and other marine personnel as key workers.

It also calls upon governments to implement relevant measures to facilitate maritime crew changes, including by enabling embarkment and disembarkment, expediting travel and repatriation efforts, and ensuring access to medical care.

To sum up, the draft requests governments as well as international organizations and relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary attention and concrete action to ensure the well-being of seafarers.

Mr. President,

The draft resolution has been prepared through continuous engagement in an open and transparent manner.

I would like to thank all the countries that co-sponsored and supported the initiative, as well as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), for their commitment and assistance during the consultations.

We hope that this initiative will be one more step to enhancing our efforts to address the challenges confronting seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to support global supply chains.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of all co-sponsor States, our sincere appreciation to all Member States of the United Nations for their constructive participation and flexibility on the draft resolution throughout the process.

I thank you, **Mr. President,**

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