

IMO/OSPRI Statement of Intent for the Global Initiative Implementation in the Black and Caspian Seas

The Global Initiative (GI) is a well-established joint programme between the **International Maritime Organization** (IMO) and the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), aiming to enhance and sustain the capacity of countries to prepare for and respond to marine oil spills.

For over ten years, the IMO has supported both national and regional activities in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea within the principles of the GI. This has involved close liaison and partnership with national administrations and international partners, including the Black Sea Commission under the Bucharest Convention and the Interim Secretariat to the Tehran Convention. IMO has organized various workshops and OPRC Model training courses. They have also provided technical assistance and support for the development and implementation of regional cooperation mechanisms under the two regional conventions.

The **Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative** for the Caspian Sea, Black Sea and Central Eurasia (OSPRI) was voluntarily established within the umbrella of IPIECA in 2003, by member oil companies with investments and interests in the region. OSPRI has worked closely, though informally, with IMO and other partners within the GI framework in order to promote improved oil spill preparedness and facilitate government/industry cooperation.

This statement of intent is concluded between IMO and OSPRI with respect to strengthening their cooperation in the spirit of the Global Initiative, with a view to:

- Support ratification and implementation of the key conventions relating to oil spill preparedness, including the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC Convention) and the conventions relating to liability and compensation, more specifically: the 1992 Civil Liability Convention (CLC 92); the 1992 Fund Convention (Fund 92); the Supplementary Fund Protocol; and the Bunkers Convention.
- Promote the establishment, implementation and sustainability of national, regional and international mechanisms or arrangements to ensure that an appropriate level of operational response capability is available to deal with oil spills, commensurate to the risks.
- Promote tiered response as a proven and effective approach to plan for potential oil spill incidents; also promote net environmental benefit analysis as the basis of response policies to maximise environmental protection.

IMO and OSPRI will undertake their cooperative efforts based on the following principles;

1. Both parties will provide their representatives' time to implement the GI in the region from their available resources; there shall be no obligation on either side in this regard.

2. Both parties will endeavour to keep each other apprised of relevant proposed or actual projects in the region. Where appropriate they will work jointly on activities with a view to maximising their technical credibility and cost effectiveness.
3. Funding or in-kind support to activities will be determined on case-by-case basis by both parties. There shall be no specific obligations regarding the level of such support.
4. Both parties will communicate periodically to ensure alignment and coordination of their various activities and planned actions, recognising that:
 - a. IMO approves the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), on a biennial basis, through which activities of a global, national and regional nature across the maritime safety, security and environmental protection spectrum are supported or financed.
 - b. OSPRI's work programme is set by its members based on the current business plan. The detail of the business planning and priority areas for action will continue to be set by the OSPRI members on an annual cycle. Effort will be made to align the OSPRI business plan with IMO's and other partners' planned activities.
5. Both parties will agree the frequency and contact points for periodic communications to, ensure maximum efficiency.
 - a. The primary contact within IMO will be the Senior Deputy Director, Sub-Division for Pollution Response and TC Coordination, Marine Environment Division.
 - b. The primary contact with OSPRI will be the OSPRI Manager.
 - c. In line with the biennial planning cycle of the ITCP, the IMO Secretariat will appraise the Marine Environment Protection Committee and other relevant bodies, as appropriate, on activities as part of the wider reporting on the GI programme. OSPRI will report on activities to the IPIECA Secretariat and Oil Spill Working Group.
6. Both parties will identify possible contributions and synergies relating to GI activities through in-kind or direct contributions from other partner organizations, including donor agencies, international financial institutions and technical specialists.
7. OSPRI will promote an aligned and consistent approach to GI within its members. All OSPRI members are IPIECA members; OSPRI will actively engage with non-IPIECA oil companies to encourage their involvement with the GI programme.

Signed for and on behalf of IMO:

Signed for and on behalf of OSPRI:



Signature

Name: Miguel Palomares

Title: Director, IMO, MED

Signature

Name: Kjell Landin

Title: OSPRI Chairman