



---

## **IMO Council: Launch of Re-election Campaign for Category C**

**Delivered by  
Hon. JoBeth Coleby-Davis, M.P  
Minister of Energy and Transport  
Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

---

Secretary General, Excellencies, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, a very pleasant good evening.

Thank you for taking the time to share with us during this important time as The Bahamas seeks your support during our candidacy for re-election to the IMO Council Category C.

We are also delighted that the Minister of Foreign of Affairs, Hon. Fred Mitchell has joined us to assist with the launch of our candidacy.

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas strongly supports the role of the IMO as the global maritime regulator. Further, it is our firm position that the IMO is uniquely positioned to put in place measures with worldwide impact, providing the most rapid and effective route to global solutions.

Secretary General, Excellencies, Distinguished ladies, and gentlemen, I wish to speak briefly about three matters that are of great significance

to The Bahamas and underpin our work as a member of the IMO Council.

Firstly, the Environment.

The IMO 2025 maritime theme, ‘Our Ocean – Our Obligation – Our Opportunity’ was chosen to reflect the ocean’s role in the world economy and environment.

The Bahamas remains supportive of the IMO’s initial, and revised, strategies of Green House Gas Reduction (GHG) related to shipping.

It ensures engagement with its stakeholders at all stages of the progress towards reduction of GHG emissions, with consideration of alternative fuels and operational measures.

We are proactive in our efforts to protect our marine environment in line with the UN Sustainability Development Goal (SDG) 14 – Life below the water and we are pleased to serve on the Executive Board of the International Oil Pollution Committee (IOPC) Fund OPPC.

The Bahamas is also committed to SDG – 13 Climate Action through the reduction of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and actively participates in all the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) meetings and the Intersessional working groups on GHG.

The Bahamas' position on GHG and its contribution to increased levels of global warming, is unequivocal and climate change is The Bahamas number one foreign policy matter.

The second issue is Collaboration.

The development of effective regulations and standards, and the road to achieving these standards, is only possible through collaboration with all parties.

The Bahamas remains committed to proactive engagement with strategic partners to achieve this objective.

We are pleased to collaborate and take leadership roles in the areas related to safety, security, environment and human element at the IMO Committees, Sub-Committees, Working and Correspondence Groups; ILO, IMSO, IOPC and regionally within the Caribbean Port State Control Committee ensuring the development of clear and practical standards and requirements supported by guidance for the industry.

The third and final matter relates to the human element ensuring capacity development, training,

seafarer wellbeing and gender equality for an equitable maritime industry.

Capacity development, education, and the training of the next generation of maritime professionals - including advancing policies and practices that promote gender equality in the maritime sector - remain tenets of the IMO.

At a national level, The Bahamas has several STCW-approved training institutions and continues to raise awareness of the importance of

maritime to potential seafarers through its cadet programme. Further, The Bahamas is a strong proponent of gender equality (UN SDG 5) and recognises the valuable contribution of women to the maritime sector.

The future of the industry and global sustainability is reliant on attracting and retaining the next generation of maritime personnel who have the tools and skillset to manage this innovative industry that sustains the global economy.

The Bahamas is honoured to represent member States in the IMO/ILO Joint tripartite Body on seafarer matters and equally supports the capacity development efforts through the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), and the World Maritime University (WMU) where we serve on the Executive Board of Governors.

Secretary General, Excellencies, Distinguished ladies, and gentlemen, as a Small Island Country with a large ocean, The Bahamas is unique in its

embodiment of the geographic eligibility criterion for IMO council C membership.

The Bahamas sits in one of the major shipping routes, is a key regional energy and container transshipment hub, houses one of the largest shipyards in the Caribbean region, is one of the world's largest ship registries, and is also a leader within the Caribbean maritime region.

We value our Council membership and pledge to continue to work tirelessly, in cooperation with the

IMO Secretariat, your respective delegations, and with our partners and friends in the industry, to attain the highest practicable standards of maritime safety and security, environment protection and seafarer training and wellbeing.

In the spirit of our motto 'Collaboration and Cooperation', I respectfully ask you for your support of our candidature, in the Council elections for the 2025/2026 biennium.

Thank you.

