

# OPENING SESSION

NTSB – Washington, United States of America  
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IMO

# Role and functions

- UN specialized agency
- Safe, secure shipping on clean oceans
- Development of standards affecting the international shipping industry



## Role and functions

- 170 Member States
- 3 Associate Member States
- 60+ IGOs – observers
- 70+ NGOs - consultative



## Role and functions

- London HQ
- Annual budget – US\$50m
- Secretariat
  - 300 staff
  - 50+ nationalities
- Secretary-General
  - Koji Sekimizu (Japan)



## Role and functions

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- Biennial Assembly of all Member States
- Elected Council of 40 Members
- United States is currently a Member
- Elected Council chairman

# Role and functions

Main technical committees:

- Maritime Safety
- Marine Environment Protection
- Legal
- Facilitation



## Role and functions

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- Sub-Committees on:
  - Ship design and construction
  - Pollution prevention and response
  - Human element, training and watchkeeping
  - Ship systems and equipment
  - Navigation, communications and SAR
  - Carriage of cargoes and containers
  - Implementation of IMO instruments

## Role and functions

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- IMO adopts Conventions to which the 170 States may become parties:
  - International standards for global industry
  - Higher standards
  - No more favourable treatment



## Role and functions

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- Standards addressing:
  - Safety: construction, sub-division, stability, safety equipment....
  - Environment: protection, pollution prevention....
  - Operations: navigation, management, training and certification....

## Role and functions

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- SOLAS (safety) 99.20% world tonnage
- Load lines (safety) 99.19%
- MARPOL (pollution) 99.20%
- COLREGS (navigation) 98.71%
- STCW (training) 99.22%

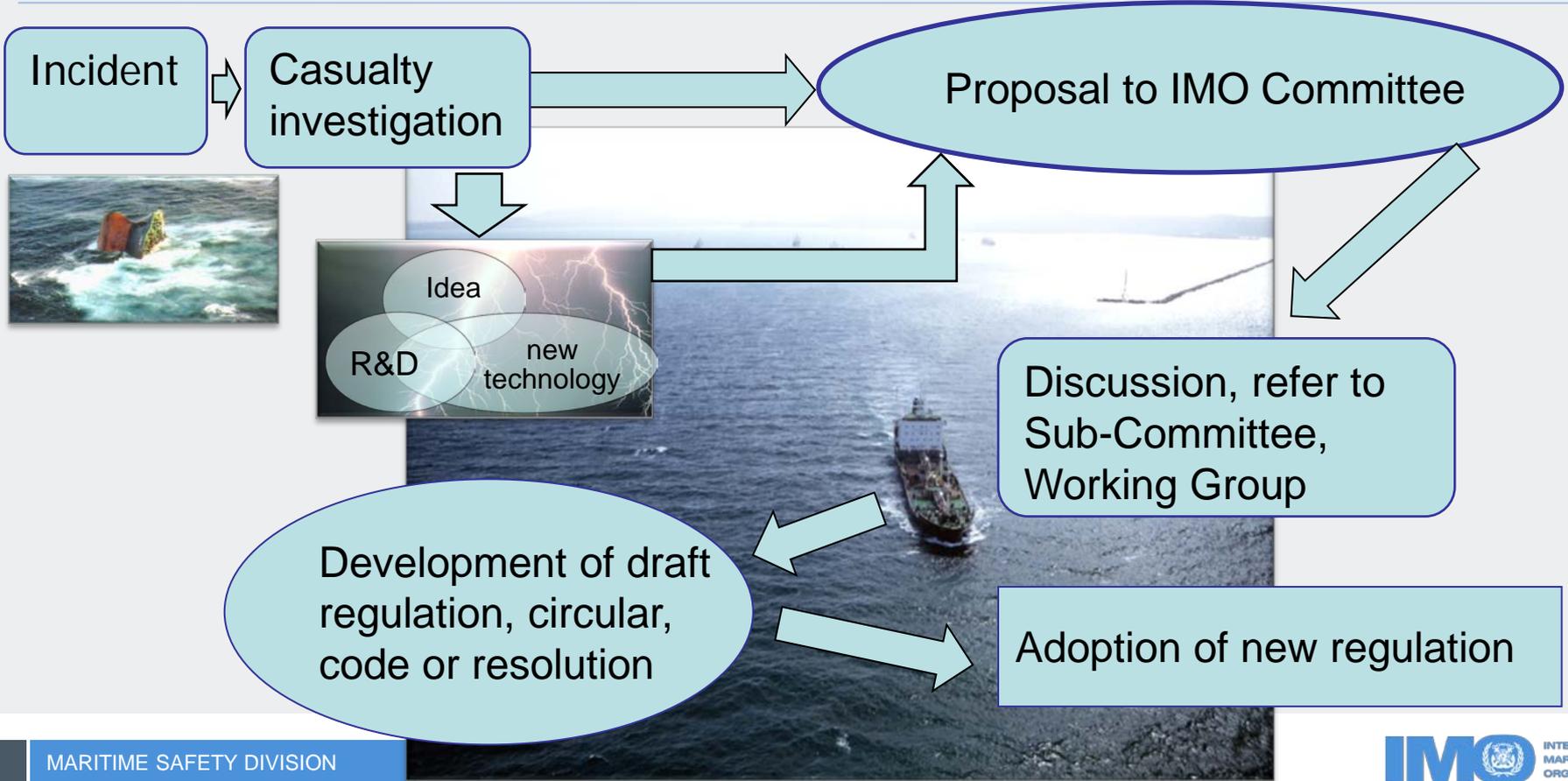
## Role and functions

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- 50 IMO Conventions and Protocols
- Hundreds of codes, guidelines and recommendations
- Almost every aspect of shipping covered



# Progress of measures at IMO - example



## Role and functions

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- IMO is not:
  - A policeman
- IMO does not:
  - Implement anything
  - Develop standards for strength or determine design requirements
  - Approve equipment and systems
  - Have (m)any sanctions

## Implementation – whose role

- Flag States on own ship
  - Maritime administrations or coastguards
  - classification societies
- Port State Control



## Role and functions

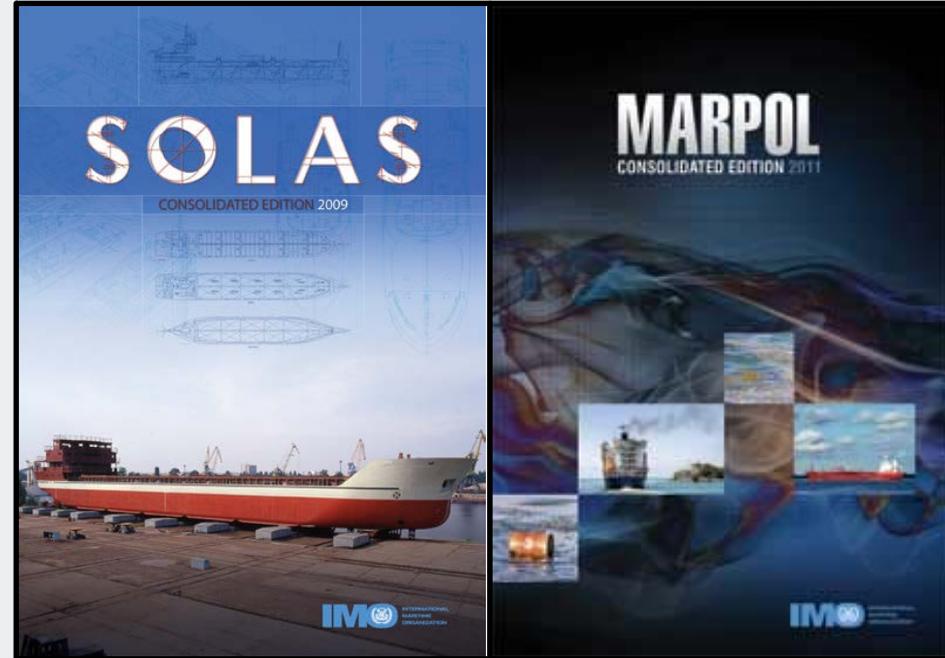
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- IMO monitors implementation of:
  - Seafarer training standards
  - Key IMO instruments
    - on a voluntary basis....
    - on a mandatory basis in 2016



# Role and functions

- Mandatory IMO Member State Audit Scheme covers:
  - SOLAS
  - MARPOL
  - Load lines
  - Tonnage
  - COLREGS
  - STCW



## Role and functions

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### Proactive approach to passenger ship safety:

- The year 2000
- Economies of scale
- Guiding philosophy:
  - Return to port
  - Safe areas
  - Ship as a lifeboat



# Role and functions

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## Issues for the future

- Outcome of Costa Concordia accident investigation
- Cruise ship operational safety
- ...others....



Thank you....

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