

12 January 2017

Pablo Saavedra Alessandri
Secretary
Secretariat of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
Apdo. 6906-1000
San José
Costa Rica

Dear Mr. Alessandri,

Response to request from CORTEIDH for a written opinion concerning request for an advisory opinion by the Republic of Colombia

I am writing in response to your letter dated 18 May 2016 inviting the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to present its written opinion on the issues covered by the request for an advisory opinion that was submitted by the Republic of Colombia on 14 March 2016 concerning the interpretation of various articles of the American Convention on Human Rights within the context of the possible impact of grand scale projects on marine environment, particularly in the Greater Caribbean Region.

IMO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping. Its main role is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and uniformly implemented.

While certain IMO instruments adopted by IMO Member States do require environmental impact assessments to be completed, there is no specific detailed information that would be responsive to your request.

For information only, these instruments are as follows:

- Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter, 1972 (Annex III);
- 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (Article 4 and annex 2 on the Assessment of wastes or other matter that may be considered for dumping and its associated guidelines);
- Assembly resolution A.982(24) containing the *Revised guidelines for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas* and resolution MEPC.267(68) containing *Amendments to the revised guidelines for the identification and designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas*;

- Assembly resolution A.1087(28) containing the *2013 Guidelines for the designation of Special Areas under MARPOL*; and
- Resolution LC-LP.2(2010) *On the Assessment Framework for Scientific Research involving Ocean Fertilization*.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] by telephone [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or by email [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,



Frederick J. Kenney
Director
Legal Affairs and External Relations Division