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Circular Letter No.3643
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ENGLISH ONLY

To: All IMO Member States and Associate Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen**

1 This Circular Letter has been issued by the Secretariat on behalf of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

2 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015), adopted on 14 April 2015, calls upon Member States, in particular Member States neighbouring the Republic of Yemen (Yemen), to inspect, in accordance with their national authorities and legislation and consistent with international law, all cargo to Yemen in their territory, if the Member State concerned has information that provides reasonable grounds to believe the cargo contains arms and related material prohibited by paragraph 14 of the resolution.

3 Pursuant to Resolution 2216 (2015) and at the request of the Government of Yemen, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has instituted a United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) for the facilitation of commercial imports to Yemen.

4 The Mechanism is now fully operational. Please visit the UNVIM website <http://www.vimye.org/> to apply for permits to gain permission for commercial shipments to any port not under the direct control of the Government of Yemen (Salif, Mokha, Hudaydah, Nishtun and associated oil terminals). As of 5 May 2016, the Yemen Ministry of Transport will no longer accept permits for those ports. Vessels applying to go to ports under the control of the Government of Yemen (Aden and Mukalla) need to continue to apply through the Yemeni Ministry of Transportation.