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28 June 2016

NOTIFICATION

Status of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments 2004, as of 21 June 2016

Madam/Sir,

I am writing in reference to paragraph 25 of decision VIII/27 on invasive alien species in which the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and other Governments to ratify and implement the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments as soon as possible. Also, in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the same decision, Parties and other Governments were also urged to address, in their national legislation, the issue of domestic translocation of ballast water, and to increase the degree of communication and coordination between national agencies responsible for inputs to and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Maritime Organization.

You will recall that the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM Convention) was adopted at the International Maritime Organization in London on 13 February 2004 to prevent, minimize and ultimately eliminate the risks to the environment, human health, property and resources arising from the transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens through the control and management of ships Ballast Water and Sediments. The Convention will enter into force 12 months after ratification by a minimum of 30 States and representing 35 per cent of world merchant shipping tonnage. As of 21 June 2016, the Convention has been ratified by 51 States representing 34.87 per cent of the global tonnage. In meeting the required number of States criteria, only 0.13 per cent of the tonnage is required.

In this regard, and pursuant to the above decision, I would like to encourage Parties and other Governments that have not yet done so, to ratify and implement the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments as soon as possible and to address, in their national legislation, the issue of domestic translocation of ballast water, and to increase the degree of communication and coordination between national agencies responsible for inputs to and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Maritime Organization.

Please accept, Madam/Sir the assurances of my highest consideration.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points



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