

CMI GOTHENBURG 2024
REPORT OF IWG ON POLAR SHIPPING TO ASSEMBLY

The IWG had a successful closed hybrid meeting that was greatly enabled by our host, Vinge law firm, to whom we express our warmest appreciation. The IWG reviewed the progress to date on its newest work items.

**(1) the interface between Indigenous rights and governance of Arctic shipping
(subgroup chaired by A. Chircop, with L. Bourbeau, a yCMIer acting as rapporteur)**

A first virtual meeting on 13 February identified potential issues to be addressed by a working paper. Members discussed provisions of UNDRIP which are of potential interest in the regulation shipping, as well as aspects of Arctic shipping which have the potential of impacting the exercise of Indigenous rights. This work enabled the rapporteur to prepare a preliminary draft outline of the working paper identifying pertinent UNDRIP provisions on governance rights, territorial and resource rights, environmental rights and duties of States, cultural rights, economic and development rights, and the right to safety and security. The Gothenburg meeting enabled further development of the draft outline of the working paper. The subgroup will convene the next virtual meeting in the first half of September this year. The subgroup recognize the importance of incorporating Indigenous perspectives and will endeavour to engage Indigenous organizations to partner with.

**(2) Coastal states' responsibility for navigational aids and services in Arctic waters
(subgroup chaired by I. Basaran).**

The subgroup chair prepared a provisional outline for discussion in a first meeting on 27 February to discuss the research plan and to flesh out the working outline of the paper. It was agreed the working paper will focus on legal responsibilities in UNCLOS and the IMO conventions and adopt a comparative approach to study the practices of the coastal State jurisdictions of the Central Arctic Ocean. The subgroup also had a technical webinar on 17 May to develop an understanding of the range of navigation aids and services used in Arctic shipping. Additional technical expertise on polar operations and pilotage was brought in to assist the subgroup. The next steps will focus on enhancing the working paper outline and convening a virtual meeting in September.

Respectfully submitted,

Aldo Chircop, IWG Chair