

**WMU – CIL Workshop Charting the Course: The Role of IMO within the UNCLOS  
Legal Framework in Tackling Challenges of Contemporary Shipping**

*Monday, 9 June 2025 – Tuesday, 10 June 2025*

*World Maritime University, Sasakawa Auditorium, Malmö, Sweden.*

**I. Background**

The Centre for International Law of the National University of Singapore (CIL) and the World Maritime University (WMU) are collaborating to hold a two-day Workshop on *Charting the Course: The Role of IMO within the UNCLOS Legal Framework in Tackling Challenges of Contemporary Shipping* at the World Maritime University, Sasakawa Auditorium, Malmo, Sweden from 9 – 10 June 2025. This is an in-person and by-invitation-only event.

The Workshop will discuss the relationship between the IMO instruments and the UNCLOS, with a particular focus on the role of the IMO in enforcing UNCLOS provisions, such as Article 94 on the duties of the flag State. It will also focus on key issues in the agenda of the IMO Legal Committee, such as fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of ships, abandonment of seafarers and topical shipping-related problems, such as the promotion of actions to prevent illegal operations in the maritime sector by the “dark fleet.”

CIL and WMU, as the event organizers, will bring together academics, legal practitioners, IMO legal officers, and representatives from the shipping industry for in-depth discussions and knowledge sharing on these critical issues.

**II. Workshop Sessions:**

The proposed two-day Workshop will commence with welcome remarks from representatives of WMU and CIL and be followed by seven panels.

Each session will have a Chair, one Speaker, and two-three Panellists. Each Session will last for ninety (90) minutes. The Speaker is required to submit notes/slides to the Chair 1 week before the Workshop, so that they are shared with the Panellists.

The Chair will introduce the Speaker and Panellists. Fifteen (15) minutes will be given to the Speaker to present the paper and a maximum of ten (10) minutes will be given to each Panellist for discussion. The use of PowerPoint is encouraged.

After the presentation, the Chair may briefly comment on the main presentation (not more than five (5) minutes) and will open the floor for discussion.

There will be one Lunch and two Coffee Breaks for each day of the Workshop. A Welcome Dinner for the Chairs and Speakers will be offered.

### III. Workshop Agenda:

Monday, 9 June 2025 (First Day)	
09:00 - 09:30	<p><i>Welcome Remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Professor Daniel Moon</b>, Vice President Provost of the World Maritime University (WMU)</li> <li>• <b>Emeritus Professor Robert Beckman</b>, Co-Head, Ocean Law and Policy Programme, Centre for International Law</li> </ul>
09:30 – 11:00	<b>Session 1: Overview of the relationship between the provisions of UNCLOS and the instruments of the IMO</b>
<b>Keynote</b>	<i>Discussion of the relationship between the provisions of UNCLOS and those in instruments of IMO with special focus on “rules of reference”, such as Art. 91 on the Nationality of Ships, Art. 92 on the Status of Ships and Art. 94 on the Duties of the flag State. Also the role of the competent organization in ensuring that flag States comply with their obligations to exercise effective jurisdiction and control over ships flying their flag will be highlighted. Finally, the possibility of activation of the UNCLOS dispute settlement in case flag States that have neither the interest nor capacity to exercise effective jurisdiction and control over ships flying their flag will be examined.</i>
09:30 – 09:45	Speaker: <b>Robert Beckman, CIL</b>
09:45 – 10:15	Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Zhen Sun, GOI – WMU</b></li> <li>2. <b>Amb. Marie Jacobsson</b></li> </ol>
10:15 – 11:00	Discussion led by Chair: <b>Maria Carolina Romero, WMU</b>
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Session 2: Measures to Prevent Unlawful Practices Associated with the Fraudulent Registration and Fraudulent Registries of Ships</b>
<b>Keynote</b>	<i>This Session will examine the impact of sanctions on the increase in the fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of vessels that are used to transport sanctioned oil. It will discuss the fact that many of the oil tankers are registered in flag States that are either unable or unwilling to exercise effective jurisdiction and control over their vessels. It will critically evaluate the most recent initiatives to address the issue put forward during LEG112, including the formulation of Guidelines or Best Practices for Ship Registration.</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Speaker: <b>George Theodoridis, WMU</b>
11:45 – 12:15	Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Trung Nguyen, CIL</b></li> <li>2. <b>Malin Högborg, WERKS Advokater AB</b></li> </ol>
12:15 – 13:00	Discussion led by Chair: <b>Diego Ramirez, Chair of IMO LEG</b>

<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Session 3: Proposals to Update the Shipping Information System at the IMO to Address the Issue of Fraudulent Registration and Registries of Ships</b>
<b>Keynote</b>	<i>This Session will provide an in-depth discussion on the proposal to utilize the IMO Registration Number as a measure to combat fraudulent ship registrations. It will also explore the potential updates to the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) to enhance transparency and strengthen the regulatory framework.</i>
<b>14:00 – 14:15</b>	Speaker: <b>Iva Parlov, Norwegian Business School</b>
<b>14:15 – 14:45</b>	Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Joel Ong, CIL</b></li> <li><b>2. Malin Högberg, WERKS Advokater AB</b></li> </ol>
<b>14:45 – 15:30</b>	Discussion led by Chair: <b>Aref Fakhry, WMU</b>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>16:00 – 17:30</b>	<b>Session 4: Possible Measures by the Coastal States to Prevent the Illegal Operations of the “Dark Fleet”, especially for the Protection of their Marine Environment</b>
<b>Keynote</b>	<i>This Session will explore potential measures that can be implemented by the coastal State to protect their marine environment against the risks posed by the illegal operations of the “dark fleet” under UNCLOS and other relevant regimes. Should coastal States cooperate to monitor oil tankers that do not hold proper insurance cover as required by the CLC? Under which circumstances should coastal States exercise the right to approach oil tankers that perform ship-to-ship transfer of oil in their water and not notify them as required by MARPOL?</i>
<b>16:00 – 16:15</b>	Speaker: <b>Henning Jessen, WMU</b>
<b>16:15– 16:45</b>	Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Gaute Sivertsen, Director of IOPC</b></li> <li><b>2. Kristina Siig, SDU</b></li> </ol>
<b>16:45 – 17:30</b>	Discussion led by Chair: <b>Maria Carolina Romero Lares, WMU</b>
<b>End of Day One</b>	
<b>Tuesday, 10 June 2025 (Second Day)</b>	
<b>09:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Session 5: Addressing the Abandonment of Seafarers from Vessels flying a False Flag or Engaged in Illegal Operations of the “Dark Fleet”</b>
<b>Keynote</b>	<i>This Session will reflect on the unintended consequences of sanctions against vessels and more specifically on the status of seafarers working on board vessels that are either fraudulently registered or are part of the “dark fleet”. It will discuss situations where the flag State is unwilling to exercise effective jurisdiction and control over its vessel and will not be in a position to protect the rights of the crews on board the vessels. Also, the case where such vessel is detained or has an accident, the fate of seafarers’ rights under the ILO instruments.</i>
<b>09:00 – 09:15</b>	Speaker: <b>Sofia Galani, Panteio University of Athens</b>

<b>09:15 – 09:45</b>	Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Anna Kaparaki, Liverpool John Moores University</b></li> <li><b>2. Sergii Kazantzev, WMU</b></li> </ol>
<b>09:45 – 10:30</b>	Discussion led by Chair: <b>Khanssa Lagdami, WMU</b>
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Session 6: Measures to Address the Incidents of Damage of Submarine Cables and Pipelines by Ships in the Maritime Zones of Coastal States.</b>
<b>Keynote</b>	<i>This Session will reflect on the recent events where submarine cables and pipelines were cut and sabotaged in the waters under the jurisdiction of coastal States. It will explore options under the UNCLOS and IMO Conventions for the affected States to safeguard these critical infrastructures.</i>
<b>11:00 – 11:15</b>	Speaker: <b>Youri van Logchem, NCLOS</b>
<b>11:15 – 11:45</b>	Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Amb. Marie Jacobsson</b></li> <li><b>2. Robert Beckman, CIL</b></li> </ol>
<b>11:45 – 12:30</b>	Discussion led by Chair: <b>Henning Jessen, WMU</b>
<b>12:30 – 13:30</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>13:30 – 15:00</b>	<b>Session 7: The Option of Using the Dispute Settlement Mechanism under UNCLOS for the Resolution of Possible Disputes between States on Matters Pertaining to Vessels that are Involved in Illegal Operations by the “Dark Fleet”</b>
<b>Keynote</b>	<i>This Session will look at the pros and cons of action by concerned States to invoke the compulsory binding dispute settlement procedures under Part XV of UNCLOS against flag States that either lack the capacity or have no interest in ensuring that ships flying their flag are involved in illegal operations of the “dark fleet”.</i>
<b>13:30 – 13:45</b>	Speaker: <b>Judge Konrad Jan Marciniak, ITLOS</b>
<b>13:45 – 14:15</b>	Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Robert Beckman, CIL</b></li> <li><b>2. Kristina Siig, SDU</b></li> </ol>
<b>14:15 – 15:00</b>	Discussion led by Chair: <b>George Theodoridis, WMU</b>
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<i>Closing Remarks</i>
<b>15:30 – 17:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>