THE UN AND PIRACY

In a briefing of 17th September from IMO reference was made to a reply letter to the IMO Secretary-General and heads of international shipping and seafarer organizations in which United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed concern about the intolerable human cost of piracy off the coast of Somalia and its serious consequences regionally and globally.

He also welcomed the theme chosen by the IMO Council for World Maritime Day 2011, Piracy: orchestrating the response. While underlining the need to reinforce the collective response at sea, on land, and in judicial systems around the world, and to provide effective and sustainable solutions to the governance, security and humanitarian difficulties faced by Somalia, Mr. Ban stated that he will “bring to the attention of the Security Council the unacceptable plight of hostages currently being held by pirates in Somalia” and that he will seek the Security Council’s support, “to develop an approach that might obtain their release.”

Mr. Ban further added that, “the United Nations, in partnership with the broad range of concerned international institutions and organizations, including the IMO, will spare no effort to address the challenges resulting from piracy.”