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Circular Letter No.3936
19 June 2019

To: Governments of Argentina, Canada, China, the Cook Islands, Denmark, Liberia, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Turkey*

IMO Member States, United Nations and its specialized Agencies, Intergovernmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with IMO

Subject: **Fourth session of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters, to be held in Torremolinos, Málaga, Spain, from 23 to 25 October 2019**

GENERAL

1 The Secretary-General has the honour to invite representation at the fourth session of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) and Related Matters (JWG 4) co-hosted by the Government of Spain, which has been scheduled to take place from 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 23 to Friday, 25 October 2019, at the Torremolinos Congress Centre, Calle México 3, 29620, Torremolinos, Málaga, Spain.

2 The opening of the fourth session of the JWG will take place after the closure of the Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing to be held in Torremolinos, Málaga, Spain, from 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 21 October, to 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 23 October 2019 (Circular Letter No.3932). JWG 4 will be convened at the same venue as the Ministerial Conference and the Government of Spain has agreed to sponsor JWG 4, so there will be no cost to the Organization.

3 The session will be conducted in English without interpretation.

BACKGROUND

4 The JWG was established as a result of the call made by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, which met in April 1999, highlighting the issue of flag and port State responsibilities and the need for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and IMO to cooperate on solving problems relating to IUU fishing.

* Other IMO Member States, United Nations and its specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status may attend the session as observers.

Joint FAO/IMO Working Group

5 The issue of IUU fishing was considered in detail during the eighth session (24 to 28 January 2000) of the Sub-Committee on Flag State Implementation (FSI), which recognized that IMO, and, in particular, the Sub-Committee itself, could provide assistance to FAO on this matter. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its seventy-second session (17 to 26 May 2000) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), at its forty-fifth session (2 to 6 October 2000) included a new high priority item on "Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing and related matters" in the Sub-Committee's work programme and agreed to the establishment of the JWG.

First session of the JWG

6 The first session of the JWG was held at the Headquarters of FAO in Rome (Italy) from 9 to 11 October 2000 following the decision of MSC 72 and MEPC 55. Its report (FSI 9/15) was considered by FSI 9, MEPC 46 and MSC 74. The Governments of Argentina, Canada, China, Denmark, Liberia, the Republic of Korea and Turkey represented IMO. The Governments of Australia, Chile, Japan, Malta, the Philippines, South Africa, the United States of America and the European Community represented FAO. The Secretariat of the International Labour Organization (ILO) was also represented. Five other Member States; Brazil, Greece, Iceland, Mexico and the Netherlands; and two international non-governmental organizations; the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and Birdlife International attended as observers.

Second session of the JWG

7 Following the decision of MEPC 55 and MSC 82, the second session of the JWG was held from 16 to 18 July 2007 at the Headquarters of FAO in Rome (Italy). MSC 83 and MEPC 57 agreed to refer the full report of JWG 2 (MSC 83/15/1 and MSC 83/INF.12) to FSI 16 for detailed consideration. The Governments of Argentina, Canada, China, Denmark, Liberia, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Turkey represented IMO. The Governments of Australia, Chile, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Philippines and the United States of America, and the European Commission represented FAO. Iceland participated as an observer. In addition, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN/DOALOS), the Secretariat of ILO, and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) were represented.

Third session of the JWG

8 The third session of the JWG was held from 16 to 18 November 2015, at IMO Headquarters, following the decisions of MEPC 67 and MSC 94. The Governments of Argentina, Canada, China, the Cook Islands, Denmark, Liberia, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Turkey agreed to represent IMO. The Governments of Australia, Chile, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Philippines, the United States of America and the European Union represented FAO. Observers from Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, France, Greece, Indonesia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Poland, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic and Vanuatu participated. In addition, the Secretariat of ILO, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST), ITF, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the World Animal Protection and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) were represented.

Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Working Group

9 The Governing Body of ILO, at its 335th session (14 to 28 March 2019), following concurrence by MEPC 72 and MSC 99 with the decision of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, at its thirty-second session (11 to 15 July 2016), that ILO should formally join the JWG, was invited to consider the desirability of the participation of ILO as a third and full member of the JWG. The Governing Body authorized the participation of ILO as a full member in the JWG and decided that two representatives of employers and two representatives of workers would be appointed by their respective groups.

FOURTH SESSION OF THE JWG

IMO representation and draft agenda

10 Based on the consideration of the outcome of JWG 3 by III 4, MEPC 72 and MSC 99 agreed to a four-year interval between JWG meetings (MSC 99/22, paragraph 9.35). MSC 101 approved the holding of the fourth session of the JWG and agreed that IMO should be officially represented by the following ten Member States: Argentina, Canada, China, the Cook Islands, Denmark, Liberia, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain and Turkey (MSC 101/24, paragraph 10.16). The provisional agenda for JWG 4, as approved by MSC 101, is set out in annex 1.

Registration

11 To ensure appropriate logistical arrangements are in place for the meeting, the Secretary-General would appreciate being notified, in advance (if possible by **Wednesday, 9 October 2019**), of the names of representatives, delegates and observers, as appropriate, intending to participate in JWG 4.

12 **Member States, IGOs and NGOs in consultative status with IMO** wishing to attend JWG 4 are required to provide, prior to the meeting date, the names of all members of their delegations attending JWG 4, identified as "IUU-JWG4", via the Online Meeting Registration System (OMRS), as advised in Circular Letter No.3463 of 14 July 2014.

13 **Government representatives who have never registered for an IMO meeting**, but have attended meetings of other UN agencies (e.g. FAO, ILO, etc.), should contact the IMO Secretariat if they need assistance with registration. Any matters relating to registration and the use of the OMRS should be communicated to:

Registration Unit
Meeting Services and Interpretation Section
Email: onlineregistration@imo.org

14 **IGOs and NGOs in consultative status with other UN agencies** (e.g. FAO, ILO, etc.), but not IMO, wishing to attend JWG 4 are required to provide, the names of all the members of their delegations, using the pre-registration form set out in annex 2 for each named participant. The form should be accompanied by an official letter signed by the responsible person of the organization concerned. The list and the pre-registration forms should be sent by email to JWG@imo.org not later than **Wednesday, 9 October 2019**. This will facilitate both entry into the Conference Hall and production of the list of participants by the Secretariat.

Financial support

15 For Member States that already receive financial support for participation at the Ministerial Conference (See Circular Letter No.3932) and wish to also attend JWG 4, the Organization will be considering requests to provide further assistance in relation to accommodation expenses on a first come first serve basis. Such additional financial assistance will be available to support the participation of two delegates from each beneficiary Member State qualified under the ITCP. Such requests should be sent to fvs@imo.org not later than **Friday, 16 August 2019** in accordance with the information contained in Circular Letter No.3932.

Submission of JWG 4 documents

16 For processing by IMO and dissemination through IMODOCS, all documentation for the meeting should be submitted via email in the following word processing format in order to standardize the presentation of documents:

- font: Arial;
- font size: 11;
- justification: full;
- margins: 2 cm top, 2.5 cm bottom, left and right.

A template is available on the IMODOCS website for use in the preparation of documents (<https://docs.imo.org>). Documents should be submitted **not later than Friday, 13 September 2019** through the IMO Secretariat using the following email address: iuu@imo.org. Documents commenting on those documents received by 13 September 2019 may be submitted up to **Friday, 27 September 2019**.

Access to JWG 4 documents

17 Further to the decision taken by the Council, at its 120th regular session (C 120/D, paragraph 4.9), MEPC 73 (MEPC 73/19, paragraph 15.29) and MSC 100 (MSC 100/20, paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3), regarding the issue of access to information and transparency, submitters of meeting documents are invited to give their consent for their documents to be released to the public prior to the meeting by checking the "opt-in box" at the top right corner of the new document template (pre-session public release). In the absence of explicit consent, submissions will not be released to the public prior to the meeting. However, in order to facilitate access to documents by all FAO and ILO participants, submitters of meeting documents may wish to give preference to the "opt-in box" option. Notes by the FAO, ILO and IMO Secretariats will be released to the public prior to the meeting.

18 Relevant documentation will be made available on the IMO website (<http://www.imo.org>). On the home page go to "IMO Documents" under "IMO Meetings", "IMODOcs", "Meeting Documents", "III Sub-Committee" and finally "FAO/ILO/IMO JWG" (<https://docs.imo.org/Category.aspx?cid=798>). FAO, ILO and IMO participants should contact matthew.camilleri@fao.org, wagner@ilo.org or bmcastex@imo.org, respectively, if difficulties are encountered to access the website.

Travel information

19 Those wishing to attend the Conference should make the required arrangements for their travel and stay in Spain, including any visa which they may require, and should have adequate travel and medical insurance cover for that purpose. Neither the Organization nor Spain have or assume any responsibility in this respect.

20 Further information on travel to Spain, including information on visa requirements and available hotels, which has been provided by the Government of Spain, is set out in annex 3.

ANNEX 1

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**Fourth session of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters* to be held at the Torremolinos Congress Centre, Torremolinos, Spain from 23 to 25 October 2019
Session commences at 2.30 p.m. on 23 October 2019**

- 1 Opening
- 2 Arrangements for the fourth session of the Joint Working Group
- 3 Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair
- 4 Adoption of the agenda
- 5 Update by the Secretariats on the status of IUU fishing (responsibilities of flag States, port States, coastal States, market States, fishing personnel training/providing States, and States with fleet managing, food processing and food distribution companies)
- 6 Global legal framework:
 - .1 status of instruments:
 - .1 FAO (PSMA, Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (VGFSP) and FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear and other relevant international fisheries instruments);
 - .2 ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No.188); Declaration and Conventions concerning Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work; Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (also relevant are the Work in Fishing Recommendation, 2007 (No.199) and ILO non-binding guidelines relevant to implementation of these binding standards); and
 - .3 IMO (Cape Town Agreement; STCW-F Convention; Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, 2005; Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels, 2005; Safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels; Implementation Guidelines on part B of the Code, the Voluntary Guidelines and the Safety Recommendations; MARPOL Annex V; and London Convention and Protocol (LC/LP)).
 - .2 ocean governance and urgency for bringing the Cape Town Agreement into force; and

* Pending final endorsement by the Council

- .3 road map for United Nations inter-agency cooperation for rapid worldwide ratification and implementation of the international agreements relating to the fisheries sector, and development of indicators for the 2030 SDGs (Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators).
- 7 Status of combating IUU fishing International, regional and national interagency coordination to combat IUU fishing, fisheries-related crimes and crimes associated with fisheries:
 - .1 use of monitoring, control and surveillance tools;
 - .2 compliance information and intelligence exchange;
 - .3 regulation of transshipment practices at sea and in port;
 - .4 joint or coordinated inspection and enforcement schemes (integrated broader port State control);
 - .5 cooperation with other organizations (e.g. UNODC, Interpol);
 - .6 regional and global information exchange mechanisms; and
 - .7 national interagency coordination.
- 8 Cooperation and dialogue on labour issues and fisheries
 - .1 relationship to the improvement of working conditions on board fishing vessels, including addressing violations of fundamental principles and rights at work (e.g. forced labour, child labour); and
 - .2 safety of observers at sea.
- 9 Cooperation and dialogue on environmental issues related to fisheries (e.g. marine debris)
- 10 Joint/Global capacity development programmes (including PSMA/IUU fishing, marine debris, ALDFG, port reception facilities and waste management, regulatory aspects of MARPOL Annex V, and the LC/LP):
 - .1 development and implementation; and
 - .2 funding, including potential additional partnerships.
- 11 Status of development of the FAO's Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels and IMO ship identification number scheme (resolution A.1078(28))
 - .1 allocation and use of ship identification numbers;
 - .2 reliability of data collected and verification processes;
 - .3 linkage with other relevant information systems and schemes; and
 - .4 progress in adopting the IMO ship number scheme through Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

- 12 Agencies' review processes of, and follow-up actions to, the report and recommendations of JWG 4
- 13 Future collaboration between FAO, ILO and IMO and preparation of JWG 5
- 14 Any other business
- 15 Adoption of the report

ANNEX 2

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE NOT IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH IMO

Registration

Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with other UN agencies (e.g., FAO, ILO, etc.), but not IMO, are required to provide, prior to the date of JWG 4, the names of their representatives and/or observers using the pre-registration form below. The pre-registration form should be accompanied with an official letter signed by the responsible, or duly authorized, person of the organization concerned. The forms and official letter should be sent to JWG@imo.org. This facilitates both their entry into the Conference hall and production of the list of participants by the Secretariat.

Access to the Conference Hall

Once the registration procedure is completed, delegates will be issued at the Venue with an access badge to the Conference hall. Issue of the access badge will require photographic proof of identity, e.g. passport, identity card or driving licence. Delegates may also be required to show proof of identity at any time while they are in the Conference Centre, if requested by Security.

Delegates whose names are not on the pre-registration list at the Conference venue will be requested to fill out the below pre-registration form and, if necessary, contact the responsible person of their organization in order to process their authorization to attend the Conference.

Assistance with registration

IGOs and NGOs that are not in consultative status with IMO that have questions about the above registration procedures should communicate any questions to fvs@imo.org. Delegates are advised that the Registration Desk will be open from 12.30 a.m. on **Wednesday, 23 October 2019**, when early arrival would be appreciated.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

(Please transmit the official letter and completed form(s)
by **Wednesday, 9 October 2019** to JWG@imo.org

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE JOINT FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group (JWG) ON ILLEGAL,
UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING AND RELATED MATTERS**

TORREMOLINOS (MÁLAGA), SPAIN, 23 TO 25 OCTOBER 2019

Delegation of¹	
UN Agency Status²	
Capacity³	
Title⁴	
Last or Family Name	
First Name	
Position or Job title	
Office address	
Line 1	
Line 2	
Line 3	
City/Town	
State/County	
Postal/Zip Code	
Country	
Telephone number	
Facsimile number	
Mobile phone number⁵	
Email address	

-
- 1 Insert name of Inter-governmental Organization or Non-governmental Organization.
 - 2 List the UN agency where your organization has consultative status. This will be verified by the IMO Secretariat.
 - 3 Insert for example Representative or Observer, as appropriate.
 - 4 e.g. Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr., Admiral, Captain, etc.
 - 5 Optional.

ANNEX 3

TRAVEL, VISA AND ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN

1 FOCAL PERSON IN SPAIN

Mr. Luis Fernández
Directorate General of the Merchant Marine.
Department/ Ministry of Public Works and Transport.
Telephone Number: +34 91.597.92.85
Email address: torremolinos.conf@fomento.es

2 SPANISH SECRETARIAT

The Spanish Secretariat will provide the necessary logistical arrangements and requirements for the Conference. They will be stationed at the Directorate General of Merchant Marine, C/ Ruiz de Alarcón, nº1, Madrid, Spain, C.P. 28071; and at the Torremolinos Congress Centre (TCC), Calle México, 3, Torremolinos (Málaga) – España/Spain – C.P. 29620. Tel. (+34) 952 379 203.

3 HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Delegates should make their own accommodation arrangements. The hotels for which the Spanish Secretariat has arranged special rates are listed below together with the relating contact details. Those wishing to stay at one of the listed hotels should contact the relevant hotel directly.

4 ARRIVAL AND IMMIGRATION COURTESIES

4.1 Delegates are requested to provide hotel accommodation, arrival and departure details to the focal person in Spain to facilitate transfer services to and from the Congress Centre.

4.2 A special immigration lane/counter and welcoming team will at the Málaga-Costa del Sol International Airport Terminal to assist delegates on arrival. Further information will be provided in due course.

5 TRANSPORT SERVICES

5.1 Delegates should make their own travel arrangements from and to the airport upon arrival and departure. This can be done by making a related request to the hotel or by using the available airport metered taxis or other services. Information on available means of transport can be found at <https://turismotorremolinos.es/en/planning/transport/>

5.2 Spain will provide shuttle services at scheduled times from the hotels listed in section 10 of this annex to and from the Congress Centre from Monday, 21 October until Friday, 25 October 2019.

6 IMMIGRATION/VISA REQUIREMENTS

6.1 The embassies and consular offices of Spain all over the world have been advised of the celebration of the Conference and JWG and of the future delegates' visa requirements due to it. Any questions on immigration requirements of the Spanish Government should be directed to the Spanish diplomatic or consular mission in your country.

6.2 It is strongly recommended that Delegates and accompanying individuals who require visas for entry to Spain check the visa requirements with a Spanish Consulate/Embassy. All involved procedures for obtaining a visa should be carried out directly by the interested party as soon as possible, since otherwise it cannot be guaranteed that the visa be approved and issued on time.

6.3 Spain will work jointly with the IMO Secretariat to identify the registered participants by each country in order to facilitate the processing of visas with the relevant embassies or consulates.

7 GUIDELINES ON THE ENTRY OF TEMPORARY VISITORS TO SPAIN

7.1 Citizens from some non-EU countries are required to hold a visa when travelling to the [Schengen Area](#). The European Union has a common list of countries whose citizens must have a visa when crossing the external borders and a list of countries whose citizens are exempt from that requirement. These lists are set out in [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1806](#). Generally, a short-stay visa issued by one of the Schengen States entitles its holder to travel throughout the 26 Schengen States for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. Visas for visits exceeding that period remain subject to national procedures.

7.2 List of countries whose nationals are required to be in possession of a Visa when crossing the external borders of the Member States of the European Union (EU Regulation n°2018/1806 – annex I) are listed below:

Afghanistan	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kyrgyzstan	Sao Tomé and Príncipe
Algeria	Djibouti	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Saudi Arabia
Angola	Dominican Republic	Lebanon	Senegal
Armenia	Ecuador	Lesotho	Sierra Leone
Azerbaijan	Egypt	Liberia	Somalia
Bahrain	Equatorial Guinea	Libya	South Africa
Bangladesh	Eritrea	Madagascar	South Sudan
Belarus	Eswatini	Malawi	Sri Lanka
Belize	Ethiopia	Maldives	Sudan
Benin	Fiji	Mali	Suriname
Bhutan	Gabon	Mauritania	Syrian Arab Republic
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Gambia	Mongolia	Tajikistan
Botswana	Ghana	Morocco	Thailand
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Mozambique	Togo
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Myanmar	Tunisia
Cabo Verde	Guyana	Namibia	Turkey

Cambodia	Haiti	Nepal	Turkmenistan
Cameroon	India	Niger	Uganda
Central African Republic	Indonesia	Nigeria	United Republic of Tanzania
Chad	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Oman	Uzbekistan
China	Iraq	Pakistan	Viet Nam
Comoros	Jamaica	Papua New Guinea	Yemen
Congo	Jordan	Philippines	Zambia
Côte d'Ivoire	Kazakhstan	Qatar	Zimbabwe
Cuba	Kenya	Russian Federation	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Kuwait	Rwanda	

7.3 List of countries whose nationals are exempt from the requirement to be in possession of a visa when crossing the external borders of the Member States for stays of no more than 90 days in any 180-days period. (EU Regulation n°2018/1806 – annex II):

Albania ⁽¹⁾	El Salvador	Montenegro ⁽⁵⁾	San Marino
Andorra	Georgia ⁽³⁾	Nauru ⁽⁶⁾	Serbia ^{(5) (*)}
Antigua and Barbuda	Grenada ⁽²⁾	New Zealand	Seychelles
Argentina	Guatemala	Nicaragua	Singapore
Australia	Holy See	North Macedonia ⁽¹⁾	Solomon Islands
Bahamas	Honduras	Palau ⁽⁶⁾	Timor-Leste ⁽⁶⁾
Barbados	Israel	Panama	Tonga ⁽⁶⁾
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁽¹⁾	Japan	Paraguay	Trinidad and Tobago
Brazil	Kiribati ⁽²⁾	Peru ⁽⁶⁾	Tuvalu ⁽⁶⁾
Brunei Darussalam	Malaysia	Republic of Korea	Ukraine ⁽⁷⁾
Canada	Marshall Islands ⁽⁶⁾	Republic of Moldova ⁽⁴⁾	United Arab Emirates ⁽²⁾
Chile	Mauritius	Saint Kitts and Nevis	United States of America
Colombia	Mexico	Saint Lucia ⁽²⁾	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Micronesia (Federated States of) ⁽²⁾	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ⁽⁶⁾	Vanuatu ⁽⁶⁾
Dominica ⁽²⁾	Monaco	Samoa	Venezuela

(*) Excluding holders of Serbian passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Directorate.

(1) The exemption from the visa requirement shall only apply to holders of biometric passports.

(2) The exemption from the visa requirement shall apply from the date of entry into force of an agreement on visa exemption to be concluded with the European Union.

(3) The exemption from the visa requirement shall be limited to the holders of biometric passports issued by Georgia in line with standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

(4) The exemption from the visa requirement shall be limited to the holders of biometric passports issued by Moldova in line with standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

(5) The exemption from the visa requirement shall only apply to holders of biometric passports.

(6) The exemption from the visa requirement shall apply from the date of entry into force of an agreement on visa exemption to be concluded with the European Union.

(7) The exemption from the visa requirement shall be limited to the holders of biometric passports issued by Ukraine in line with standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

7.4 For citizens of Hong Kong, China; Macao, China, and British citizens who are not nationals of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, please see the conditions provided in [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1806](#).

8 WEATHER

8.1 Torremolinos and Málaga have a subtropical-Mediterranean climate, which means that it offers mild temperatures all year round without any drastic changes. The rainfall in the province of Málaga tends to occur during short periods, concentrating the majority of these rainfalls, amongst the winter months.

8.2 Torremolinos and Málaga enjoy an average of 330 sunny days a year with an average temperature of 22°C.

8.3 The weather forecast can be found at:
<http://www.aemet.es/es/eltiempo/prediccion/municipios/torremolinos-id29901>

9 TRAVEL TIPS AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Airport information

9.1 Torremolinos is in the heart of the Costa del Sol and it is a leading destination of this touristy area in Andalusia (Spain).

9.2 The city of Torremolinos is located just 10 minutes away from Málaga-Costa del Sol International Airport with direct access to the A-7 an AP-7 motorway and the N-340 highway.

9.3 The United Kingdom has the highest volume of passenger flights to/from Málaga-Costa del Sol International Airport, with London Gatwick Airport having the most flights, followed by Manchester Airport. These British airports are followed by other European destinations: Amsterdam/Schiphol, Copenhagen, Dublin and Brussels.

9.4 Málaga-Costa del Sol International Airport also has scheduled flights to the rest of Spain, most significantly to Barcelona, Madrid-Barajas and Palma de Mallorca.

9.5 The Airport has adequate traveller facilities: duty-free and souvenir shops, tourist information and assistance counters, hotel and agency representatives, car rental services, banks and automated teller machines, postal service, national and international direct dial telephone booths, medical care and left luggage offices. The Airport is handicapped-friendly and offers free special assistance for passengers with reduced mobility. Upon request, assistance will be ready when you arrive at the airport.

9.6 Detailed information on the Airport at:
<http://www.aena.es/en/malaga-airport/index.html>

9.7 Passenger services provided by the airport at:
<http://www.aena.es/en/malaga-airport/passenger-services.html>

Medical Care at the airport

9.8 Málaga-Costa del Sol International Airport has a medical centre at floor 0 in its terminal and 12 Cardiac Rescue Points, equipped with SAEDs (Semi-Automatic External Defibrillators), which are intended to help users in the event of cardiac arrest.

Passengers with reduced Mobility

9.9 As in all European airports, Málaga-Costa del Sol International Airport assists passengers with reduced mobility. This European Union measure represents great social progress for disabled people and, therefore, all the financial, material and human resources have been put in place to provide a quality service that guarantees access to air travel for everyone and between all points within European territory, irrespective of their disability. See more information on:

<http://www.aena.es/en/passengers/people-reduced-mobility/general-information.html>

Customs, taxes, luggage

9.10 Information on customs and taxes can be found at:

<http://www.aena.es/en/passengers/movement-goods-money.html>

http://www.aena.es/csee/ccurl/367/829/Folleto_viaj_noUE_ENG.pdf

9.11 Information on travel documents can be found at:

<http://www.aena.es/en/passengers/travel-documentation.html>

9.12 Information about luggage can be found at:

<https://www.aeropuertodemalaga-costadelsol.com/eng/regulations-hand-luggage.htm#medication>

http://www.aena.es/csee/ccurl/367/829/Folleto_viaj_noUE_ENG.pdf

Airport departure fees

9.13 All fees and taxes are included in the flight ticket.

Currency and exchange rate

9.14 Unit of currency in Spain: Euro

9.15 Exchange offices at the airport buy and sell more than 80 currencies in foreign bank notes, travellers' cheques and accept credit and debit cards, international money transfers, tax refunds and airline vouchers.

Tipping

9.16 Tipping is expected for many services. The standard practice is no more than 10% of the total bill. Tipping is optional on bills that already include a service charge.

Torremolinos City Map

9.17 https://turismotorremolinos.es/media/documents/Torremolinos_plano_web.pdf

Local transport

9.18 A comprehensive public transport network is available to Torremolinos visitors. Metered and fixed rate taxis are widely available nationwide.

Food and dining out

9.19 Torremolinos features a rich and varied cuisine and is the home of fried fish. Anchovies, sardines, red mullet, squid, baby squid and cuttlefish reach their zenith here. There are also unbeatable sardines cooked over an open fire, excellent rice and paella, refreshing gazpacho, and popular stews.

9.20 Dishes that can be enjoyed in the classic beach restaurants or typical, long-established bars of Calvario – true shrines of the local flavours which you can pair with a good Málaga wine, a beer or a soft drink. Torremolinos has become a place of pilgrimage for lovers of top-quality cooking for all tastes.

9.21 More than 250 restaurants and bars combine signature cuisine, creativity and designer tapas with the best traditional recipes. An extensive and varied cuisine to satisfy the most demanding of palates. Spanish gastronomy is very rich, varied and healthy and many restaurants can also be found featuring different styles of Spanish cooking. International cuisine can be easily found all over Spain as well.

Shopping

9.22 Torremolinos and Málaga city are large open shopping centres capable of offering the best products and services. Businesses specialising in handicrafts coexist with major fashion, shoe wear, jewellery and souvenir brands, and with lovely shops where will find the best presents for family and friends, with the San Miguel street as the main commercial axis in the city. Both cities offer a modern network of modern and comprehensive shopping centres and malls.

9.23 The Spaniards are fashion lovers and are not afraid to play with trends. However, it is worth noting for visitors that prices of Spanish high street brands can be up to 20% lower in Spain than in other European countries.

Business and banking hours

9.24 Business and administrative activity starts at 9.00 a.m. until 6.00 p.m. Shopping activity starts at 10.30 a.m. until 8.00 p.m., from Monday to Saturday as a general rule. Banks are open from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, with automated teller machines (ATMs) that operate for 24 hours.

Credit cards

9.25 All International credit cards such as Visa, Diners Club, MasterCard and American Express Card are widely accepted in Spain.

Electricity

9.26 Spain uses 230/220 volts of electricity, 50 cycles and F-type sockets.

Water

9.27 Water in Spain is highly recommended for drinking and in general of good quality, but also bottled mineral water is available in all hotels, restaurants, resorts, supermarkets and convenience stores.

Communications facilities

9.28 Communications services and facilities in Spain are modern and state-of-the-art with a wide national coverage as far as mobile telephony, computing and internet access are concerned. The postal and mail system is very efficient as well.

Newspapers and foreign press publications are available at major hotels, malls and bookstores in all Spanish cities. International TV channels are also available at hotels.

Medical services

9.29 Modern public and private hospitals are widespread in the area of the Costa del Sol, with Málaga featuring the best services. In case of medical urgency, please dial the 112-telephone number to receive quick assistance. Most hotels also have first-aid assistance. The health care system of Spain one of the best in the world and is public, universal and free.

General information about Spain

9.30 Spain is a constitutional monarchy, with a hereditary monarch and a bicameral parliament, "Las Cortes Generales" (General Courts). The Spanish Constitution of 1978 "protect all Spaniards and all the peoples of Spain in the exercise of human rights, their cultures and traditions, languages and institutions". Spain is a full democracy.

9.31 Spain is now composed of 17 autonomous communities and two autonomous cities (Ceuta y Melilla) with varying degrees of autonomy thanks to its Constitution, which nevertheless explicitly states the indivisible unity of the Spanish nation.

9.32 Spain enjoys good weather, popular coastlines, diverse landscapes, historical legacy, vibrant culture and excellent infrastructures and has gain the international respect all over the world.

9.33 The defence of human rights and of mutual understanding among cultures have all made our country a significant actor on the international stage. Solidarity is an undeniable value of Spaniards, who are world leaders in organ donation and our society is one of the most committed to humanitarian projects in the world.

9.34 Spaniards believe in innovation and scientific research as part and parcel of social progress. Throughout history, Spaniards have demonstrated audacity and ingenuity to overcome the most challenging and diverse obstacles.

9.35 Spain is the country of the European Union that has the longest coastline with a rich and varied natural and maritime heritage, which requires great conservation and protection efforts.

9.36 Spanish geographical location, near to the axis of the most important maritime routes in the world, has placed Spain in a leading and strategic position in the international trade as logistic platform of southern and western Europe, where Spanish ports and harbours play an outstanding role in the logistics of the world economy.

9.37 Traffic and maritime trade play an outstanding role in the development of the Spanish economy. Spain's position is geostrategic because of the quality and the excellent offer of our network of port infrastructures, a transport space cohesive and integrated in Europe and in the world, the confidence deposited in our country by the international maritime industry and the effort and professionalism of people who work in the Spanish maritime and port sector.

9.38 The importance of ports as links for the logistics and transport chains comes from the following figures: The State-owned Spanish Port System includes 46 ports of general interest, managed by 28 Port Authorities and account for close to 60% of exports and 85% of imports, which represents 53% of Spanish foreign trade with the European Union and 96% with third countries. Spanish ports have become are some of the most important maritime transport hubs of southern Europe.

9.39 The infrastructure network for land transport is modern and competitive with modern highways connecting all main cities in Spain and giving access to Portugal and France. In this respect, Spain has the most extensive high-speed rail network in Europe, and the second-most extensive in the world after China. As of October 2010, Spain has a total of 3,500 km (2,174.80 miles) of high-speed tracks linking cities all around Spain with trains reaching speeds up to 300 km/h (190 mph).

9.40 As far as air transport is concerned, there are 47 public airports in Spain connecting points around the world and being a hub to Europe, South America, Africa, Asia and other destinations. The busiest one is the airport of Madrid (Barajas), with 50 million passengers in 2011, being the world's 15th busiest airport, as well as the European Union's fourth busiest.

9.41 With a long fishing tradition, Spain is considered one of the main players in the fishing sector. His struggle to achieve a responsible, sustainable and properly regulated activity, makes our country a world reference. Spain is also one of the first producers of fishing goods in the European Union. The fishing segment is considered in Spain as a highly competitive sector, with great projection and future development as shown by the indicators related to the construction of last generation fishing vessels, the commitment to the application of sustainable fishing practices or the improvements introduced in the new fisheries policy at the level of the European Union.

9.42 Spain and its maritime coasts are a hub of tourist activity, which offer a strategic position between the continents and the seas.

9.43 The open and hospitable nature of Spanish people is a hallmark of our country. Throughout our history, different cultures have coexisted in Spain, resulting in our tolerant and peaceable character open to visitors interested in our cultural assets. <https://espanaglobal.gob.es/en/we-are/creative>

9.44 In the last five decades, international tourism in Spain has grown to become the second largest in the world. In 2017, Spain was the second most visited country in the world; recording 82 million tourists, which marked the fifth consecutive year of record-beating numbers.

Tours and special interest activities

9.45 Tour packages, from day trips to five-day programmes, are special ways of discovering Spain and its wealth of culture. Special interest activities include golfing, game-fishing, diving, white-water rafting and other aqua sports, trekking, spelunking and safari trips. See the following link for more information: <https://turismotorremolinos.es/en/>

10 LIST OF HOTELS

HOTEL NAME	TEL. (+34)	WEBSITE:
AMARAGUA	952 38 47 00	https://www.amaragua.com/
CAMINO REAL	952 38 30 55	http://camino-real.hotels-torremolinos.com/en/
ESSENCE HOTEL BOUTIQUE BY DON PAQUITO	952 387 711	https://www.essencehotel.es/
GRAN CERVANTES BLUE SEA	952 38 40 33	https://www.blueseahotels.com/en/hoteles/destinos/costa-del-sol/torremolinos/blue-sea-gran-hotel-cervantes
ISABEL	952 38 17 44	https://www.hotelisabel.es/
FENIX TORREMOLINOS	952 05 19 94	https://www.thepalmexperiencehotels.com/en/hotel-fenix-torremolinos/
MARCONFORT BEACH CLUB	952 38 1400	https://en.marconfort.com/
HOTEL NAME	TEL. (+34)	WEBSITE:
MARCONFORT GRIEGO	952 38 54 55	https://en.marconfort.com/marconfort-griego/all-inclusive-hotel-costa-del-sol
MELIÁ COSTA DEL SOL*	952 38 66 77	https://www.melia.com/en/hotels/spain/torremolinos/melia-costa-del-sol/index.html
PEZ ESPADA	952 38 03 00	https://www.medplaya.com/hotels/hotel-pez-espada-torremolinos.html
PRINCESA SOLAR	952 37 24 77	http://www.hotelprincesasolar.com/index.php/es/
PUENTE REAL	952 37 66 31	https://www.puentereal.com/en/
RIU COSTA DEL SOL	952 37 56 25	https://www.riu.com/en/hotel/spain/malaga-torremolinos/clubhotel-riu-costa-del-sol/index.jsp
RIU NAUTILUS	952 38 52 00	https://www.riu.com/en/hotel/spain/malaga-torremolinos/hotel-riu-nautilus/index.jsp
HA ROC COSTA PARK	952 37 47 37	https://en.roc-hotels.com/hotel-roc-costa-park-hotel-in-malaga/
ROC LAGO ROJO	952 38 76 66	https://en.roc-hotels.com/hotel-roc-lago-rojo-hotel-in-malaga/
ROYAL AL ANDALUS	952 38 12 00	https://www.hotelroyalandalus.es/en/
SOL HOUSE COSTA DEL SOL*	952 38 70 66	https://www.melia.com/en/hotels/spain/torremolinos/sol-house-costa-del-sol/index.html
SOL DON MARCO*	952 05 53 00	https://www.melia.com/en/hotels/spain/torremolinos/sol-don-marco/index.html
SOL DON PABLO	952 38 38 88	https://www.melia.com/en/hotels/spain/torremolinos/sol-don-pablo/index.htm
SOL DON PEDRO*	952 38 68 44	https://www.melia.com/en/hotels/spain/torremolinos/sol-don-pedro/index.html
SOL PRÍNCIPE*	952 38 41 00	https://www.melia.com/en/hotels/spain/torremolinos/sol-principe/index.html
TROPICANA BEACH CLUB	952 38 66 00	https://www.hotelmstropicana.com/en/

* Hotels providing a special booking platform for delegates interested in attending the Conference. Further information will be submitted in due course.