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| **Press release** |

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| **New data highlights lack of gender diversity in maritime** |

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| *London, UK, 16 May 2025**2024 IMO-WISTA Women in Maritime Survey indicates ongoing* *gender disparity in the maritime sector, sparking renewed calls for action.*The second Women in Maritime survey, jointly published by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Women’s International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA), provides new insights into gender diversity within the industry.The report presents data on the proportion and distribution of women working in the maritime sector from IMO Member States and the private sector.The results are based on an analysis of a larger number of women working in maritime across the public and private sectors: 176,820 women in 2024 compared to 151,979 in 2021. In particular, there was a substantial increase in the number of Member States participating. However, the latest dataset shows that women account for just under 19% of the total workforce sampled, compared to a share of 26% in the catchment group reported in 2021.Of the sample group, women account for 19% of the workforce of national maritime authorities in Member States, and only 16% of the surveyed private sector workforce (excluding seafarers). At sea, women remain vastly underrepresented, accounting for just 1% of the total number of seafarers employed by surveyed organisations.**Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General, IMO**, said: “The second IMO-WISTA Women in Maritime Survey provides valuable insights into the sector’s progress since the baseline dataset gathered in the 2021 survey. Greater participation in the survey from Member States and industry is a welcome indication of growing engagement with gender matters."However, there is some way to go. Female representation is still disproportionately low, and women represent a small fraction of the seagoing workforce, highlighting the urgent need for continued commitment and action. We must redouble our efforts to foster a truly diverse and inclusive maritime industry.”Providing insights into leadership, workforce participation, policies and education in both the public and private sectors, the report highlights significant variances between activities. Greater female representation was found in emerging sectors such as Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and decarbonisation services, while others, such as bunkering and legal services, recorded a decline.**Elpi Petraki, President, WISTA International,** said: “The Women in Maritime Survey was designed to deliver real data on the state of gender diversity in maritime and offer guidance on the areas that require more attention. The intention is to inspire change and act as a collective call to action."Attracting, retaining and promoting women - both on land and at sea - remains a priority moving forward. However, the new data also shows how opportunities across the industry continue to be limited for women due to barriers such as gender stereotyping, workplace safety concerns, a lack of family friendly policies and the ongoing gender pay gap.”The report provides detailed recommendations on how Member States and industry can contribute to improving gender diversity in maritime, by enhancing recruitment and retention initiatives, expanding mentorship and leadership development programmes, strengthening policy implementation and guaranteeing safe and supportive working environments.As part of the commitment from the IMO and WISTA International to enhance gender diversity within the maritime sector, the survey and its findings contribute to the implementation of the fifth United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goal (UNSDG5) – to achieve gender quality and empower all women and girls – by providing comparable data to support the development of programmes and policies to encourage female participation within the maritime industry.Download the full report here: [IMO](https://j-l-a.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=af149bc1342b1fb5513034e2e&id=e4fa4361a0&e=7696306aa0) / [WISTA International](https://j-l-a.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=af149bc1342b1fb5513034e2e&id=fb1dacd175&e=7696306aa0) |

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| **For further information, please contact:**WISTA International: Laura Betteley, Global Communications Coordinator**Wista@Wistainternational.com** **Press enquiries:**Debbi Bonner, Managing Director, JLA Media Ltd**Debbi.bonner@j-l-a.com** **International Maritime Organization:**Natasha Brown, Head of Outreach and Communications**nbrown@imo.org** **International Maritime Organization (IMO):**The International Maritime Organization – is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships. IMO's work supports the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs), including SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. IMO's gender capacity-building programme  incorporates gender considerations into IMO's policies and procedures, while supporting access to maritime training and employment opportunities for women in the maritime sector.**WISTA International**: Formed in 1974, the Women’s International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA International) is a global organisation connecting executives and decision-makers around the world. WISTA International serves as a connector for its network of more than 6,000 professionals from all sectors of the maritime industry. Today, National WISTA Associations (NWAs) are active in 62 countries, providing in-country and regional networking, business and skill-building opportunities, corporate visibility, and facilitating relationships within the industry. Each NWA is a member of WISTA International, which guides and cooperates with national associations on upholding the values and aims, and achieving the objectives agreed at the international association’s AGM.  |

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