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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF
SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS, 2004**

Accession by Niue and the Russian Federation

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, and to state that the accession by Niue and the Russian Federation was effected by the deposit of instruments on 18 May 2012 and 24 May 2012, respectively.

Article 18 of the Convention provides as follows:

"1 This Convention shall enter into force twelve months after the date on which not less than thirty States, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than thirty-five per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping, have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or have deposited the requisite instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in accordance with article 17."

There are, at present, thirty-five Contracting States to the Convention, representing approximately 27.95%* of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping.

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This tonnage percentage is based on world tonnage figures provided by IHS-Fairplay, effective as of 31 December 2011. Tonnage figures are liable to fluctuate from year to year.