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

**Accession by Tonga**

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 accession by the Kingdom of Tonga was effected by the deposit of an instrument on 16 April 2014.

Article 18(1) 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 35% 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-nine Contracting States to the Convention, representing approximately 30.25%\* 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 2013. Tonnage figures are liable to fluctuate from year to year.