Resolution on “Contribution of ports to the mitigation of climate change and its effects”
Adopted on May 12, 2017 by the IAPH Annual General Meeting of the 30th World Ports Conference in Bali, Indonesia

RECOGNIZING that the Paris Agreement entered into force on November 4, 2016 that unites all nations in a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects;

NOTING that the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization at its 70th session in October 2016 has approved the roadmap for developing a “Comprehensive IMO strategy on reduction of GHG emissions from ships”, which foresees an initial GHG strategy to be adopted in 2018;

NOTING FURTHER that IAPH supported the development of this roadmap by submission MEPC 70/7/9 and that IAPH will be a co-sponsor for a submission on the level of ambition for the IMO strategy at MEPC at its 71st session in July 2017 submitted by Germany et al (MEPC 71/7/8);

BEING AWARE that;
  ● Ports worldwide have a position at the crossroad of the land based and maritime industry;
  ● Ports occupy a unique place as key 'hubs' in global supply chains, which enables them to influence the sustainability of those supply chains;
  ● The possible consequences of climate change, such as the rise of sea level and extreme weather conditions may threaten the future of ports and their accessibility;
  ● Transport through ports, port operations, and industrial activities at ports contribute to greenhouse gas emission;
  ● Ports have many opportunities and a responsibility to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
  ● Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions may be effectively combined with measures that reduce emissions of criteria pollutants and operating costs.
  ● Developments like renewable energy, low carbon fuels, energy transition and the circular economy create new markets and possibilities for ports and the maritime industry.

RECALLING that in 2008 the IAPH WORLD PORTS CLIMATE CONFERENCE published the WORLD PORTS CLIMATE DECLARATION;

CONSIDERING that in the light of the developments in Paris in December 2015 and the roadmap proposed by MEPC, a reconfirmation of responsibility and action with new perspectives for ports might be in place;

IT IS RESOLVED that ports around the world are urged to take their responsibility, within their respective regional and national conventions and requirements, using amongst others the initiatives of the WPCI program which are now being redefined and included in the World Ports Sustainability Program, to take action to contribute to the mitigation of climate change and its effects by adaptation measures for port structures and by facilitating the shipping industry and port industry in all possible ways to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.