

## **Annex: Quotes from the STAR Taskforce Members**

### Ms Mary Liew, General Secretary of Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU)

“SMOU is glad to be working with our tripartite partners to progress the SEAVAX initiative into its next phase, extending vaccination to international seafarers calling at the port of Singapore. It is important for Singapore as an International Maritime Hub to protect our key maritime workers as they work on board ships to keep the global supply chain moving. SMOU will continue to collaborate with tripartite partners to safeguard the welfare of seafarers so that they can fulfil their roles with a peace of mind, and return home safely and timely to their loved ones. This is a positive way forward to see our maritime industry recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.”

### Mr Kam Soon Huat, President of the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS)

“SOS fully supports the initiative to make vaccination readily available and accessible for seafarers. We recognise the immense contributions of seafarers for keeping global trade moving despite the challenges they face amid the pandemic. Providing vaccination for seafarers is crucial and offering them the choice to receive the vaccine in Singapore is likewise an essential component of the global vaccination strategy. SOS will continue to work closely with maritime tripartite partners and global unions to protect the jobs and livelihood of seafarers.”

### Mr Stephen Cotton, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)

“A big divide is emerging between those countries, mostly wealthy and mostly in the Global North who have vaccinated their populations twice and some even three times by now; and the rest of the world, who happen to be the people who keep our critical supply chains moving. Without more international seafarers getting offered more vaccines in more places, then we are really kneecapping the global recovery. I commend the Singaporean port authority, seafarers' unions and local shipping industry for being part of global solutions with this growing initiative.”

### Captain Belal Ahmed, Chairman of the International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC)

“I am delighted to hear that the Singapore Government and the shipping industry are taking this vital step to safeguard the seafarers' health, thus ensuring global supply chains run smoothly in this pandemic. IMEC is proud to be part of this tripartite cooperation.”