

## **HNS MADE EASY – INITIAL DRAFT TEXT**

- Shipping is truly, and inherently, a global industry. The international shipping industry is responsible for carrying 90% of world trade and is critical to the functioning of global commerce.
- Much of global trade involves ships that can carry hazardous and noxious substances (HNS), which are critical components of manufacturing and energy production. However, in the unlikely event of an incident or spill, these HNS can be threat to safety, the environment and human health.
- HNS includes volatile and dangerous substances that can explode causing loss of life and personal injury. Others can be toxic to nearby populations. The marine environment can also be polluted disrupting economic activities, such as fishing and tourism, which depend on clean oceans.
- The international community has developed measures to prevent incidents from occurring in the first place and to effectively prepare for and respond to such incidents when they do occur.
- Incidents can be costly to clean-up and response measures can vary greatly depending on the type of HNS involved.
- There is currently no global mechanism in force to address losses and damages resulting from an HNS incident.
- The 2010 HNS Convention is the culmination of a global effort to address a critical gap in the network of liability and compensation regimes.