A Resolution Submitted by the Communauté Métropolitaine de Québec (CMQuébec), QC

EMPOWERING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE AND GREAT LAKES TRANSPORT NETWORK TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BLUE ECONOMY

May 2024

WHEREAS the maritime transportation system of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin forms a vital artery for the economic development of Quebec and Canada, supported by a port network that plays an essential role within this system.

AND WHEREAS with more than 3,700 kilometres including the St. Lawrence Seaway, the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes transportation system is a true gateway to the industrial heartland of North America.

AND WHEREAS the maritime industry in Quebec represents nearly 30,000 jobs at sea and on land, working for more than 300 companies offering services in the fields of transport, transhipment, storage, pilotage, ship repair and shipbuilding.

AND WHEREAS the Quebec port system handles more than 100 million tonnes of cargo per year, with nearly three-quarters of the cargo transshipped in the St. Lawrence ports being international cargo.

AND WHEREAS several ports in the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes transportation system have aging infrastructure that will require major investments to upgrade over the next few years. For example, the Port of Quebec has estimated its investment needs at $400 million over five years for infrastructure maintenance.

AND WHEREAS this infrastructure is also undergoing accelerated degradation linked to climate change, adding further pressure on these facilities and increasing the challenges of maintenance and upgrading as well as investment.

AND WHEREAS maritime transport is a sustainable and safe mode of transport, constantly improving its environmental performance thanks to an evolving regulatory framework, the Green Marine environmental programme and concrete measures to promote decarbonization, among other things.

AND WHEREAS the maritime industry and all its partners in research and development can contribute to the development of a blue economy by continuing to act as an economic lever for companies in Quebec and Canada while improving environmental performance and focusing on innovation to this end.

AND WHEREAS the energy transition and the decarbonization of the maritime transport system also require major investments that will ultimately have a positive impact on the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Cities Initiative use its power and influence to promote the allocation of adequate government funding to maritime industry stakeholders for the maintenance and upgrading of port infrastructures, as well as for decarbonization measures, such as the electrification of wharves

- The challenges related to competitiveness, the legislative framework and the decarbonization of the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes maritime transportation network be included in the work of the Mayors Commission on Economic Transformation and in a future action plan

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to: federal and provincial transportation ministries, as well as relevant partners in the marine sector in the basin.