



## IMCO

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MARINE POLLUTION, 1973

#### IMCO ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE 1973 CONFERENCE ON MARINE POLLUTION

Attached for information are copies of the following Resolutions of the IMCO Assembly, which relate to the convening of and preparation for the International Conference on Marine Pollution, 1973:

- Resolution A.176(VI) - Marine Pollution (adopted on 21 October 1969);
- Resolution A.237(VII) - Acceleration of the Maritime Safety Committee's work programme (adopted on 12 October 1971);
- Resolution A.241(VII) - International Conference on Marine Pollution, 1973 (adopted on 13 October 1971).

## MARINE POLLUTION

The Assembly,

*Bearing in mind* that the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954 (as amended in 1962), of which IMCO is the depositary Organization, and in particular, amendments to that Convention adopted by the present session of the Assembly, has made a significant contribution towards prevention of pollution of the sea by oil,

*Recalling* United Nations Resolution 2467B (XXIII) concerning the hazardous and harmful effects of pollution that might arise from the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor and the protection of living and other resources from the consequences of such pollution,

*Recalling also* United Nations Resolution 2414 (XXIII) inviting the Member States and Organizations dealing with marine pollution, especially IMCO and the IAEA, to promote the adoption of effective international agreements on the prevention and control of marine pollution as may be necessary,

*Recalling in addition* United Nations Resolution 2398 (XXIII) by which the General Assembly decided to convene, in 1972, a United Nations Conference on Human Environment,

*Recalling further* Council Resolution C.42(XXI) regarding the objectives of the Organization, in particular the placing of restraints upon the contamination of the sea, land and air or other similar injury by or from ships and vessels and other equipment operating in the marine environment,

*Noting* the decision of the Maritime Safety Committee with a view to implementing the foregoing Resolutions, to formulate proposals for the prevention of pollution of the land, sea and air by ships, vessels and other equipment operating in the marine environment,

*Noting also* the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, considered by the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction (A/AC/138/13), concerning the inter-secretariat meeting held in Geneva (July 1969), in which the United Nations, IMCO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO and the IAEA participated, and the work of the Joint IMCO/FAO/UNESCO/WMO Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP) as recorded in the report of its first session held in London from 17-21 March 1969 (GESAMP I/11),

*Noting further* the report of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor which referred to the activities of IMCO and suggested that the international conventions of which it is the depositary be so complemented as to take into account problems relating to:

- (i) the safety of construction, equipment and operation of drilling rigs, production platforms, submersibles and other devices used for the exploitation and transportation of sea-bed resources;
- (ii) the safety of the people working on them;

RESOLUTION A.176(VI)

- (iii) the danger arising from ships navigating in the area where underwater operations take place;
- (iv) the spillage of oil and other noxious or hazardous substances into the sea due to the exploitation of sea-bed resources,

*Being conscious* of the responsibility of the Organization in the field of prevention and control of pollution of the marine environment including the pollution which might arise from the exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and ocean floor,

*Invites* the Maritime Safety Committee to proceed with its work on marine pollution with all possible speed with a view to achieving early implementation of effective measures for the prevention and control of marine pollution, and to co-operate fully with other interested organizations in carrying out this task,

*Decides* to convene, in 1973, an international Conference on Marine Pollution for the purpose of preparing a suitable international agreement for placing restraints on the contamination of the sea, land and air by ships, vessels and other equipment operating in the marine environment,

*Invites* the Member States to recognize the need for urgency in applying effective control measures for preventing pollution of the marine environment from ships, vessels and other equipment and to submit to the Organization necessary information for this purpose.



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A VII/Res.237  
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## IMCO

ASSEMBLY - 7th session  
Agenda item 10

### ACCELERATION OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLUTION A.237(VII)  
adopted on 12 October 1971

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that Resolution 1 of the International Conference on Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954, calling for "The complete avoidance as soon as practicable of discharge of persistent oil into the sea" was reaffirmed by the 1962 Conference,

RECALLING ALSO that Resolution A.176(VI) adopted on 21 October 1969 invited the Maritime Safety Committee to proceed with its work on marine pollution with all possible speed with a view to achieving early implementation of effective measures for the prevention and control of marine pollution and to co-operate fully with other interested organizations in carrying out this task,

RECALLING FURTHER the decision to convene in 1973 an International Conference on Marine Pollution for the purpose of preparing a suitable international agreement for placing restraints on the contamination of the sea, land and air by ships, vessels and other equipment operating in the marine environment,

A. VII/Res.237

NOTING that Resolution A.176(VI) invited the Member States to recognize the need for urgency in applying effective control measures for preventing pollution of the marine environment from ships, vessels and other equipment and to submit to the Organization necessary information for this purpose,

NOTING FURTHER that there has arisen within a sizable portion of the world scientific community the conclusion that the introduction of oil into the sea has a harmful effect on the food chain,

RECOGNIZING that the oceans of the world can no longer be considered as unlimited waste dumping grounds,

BEING CONSCIOUS that the pollution of the seas causes vast economic and aesthetic harm,

URGES governments to implement the provisions of the 1969 amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954, as soon as possible without awaiting the results of the International Conference on Marine Pollution 1973, so that the marine environment can be afforded the immediate protection inherent in the 1969 amendments,

DECIDES that the International Conference on Marine Pollution 1973, shall have as its main objectives the achievement, by 1975 if possible but certainly by the end of the decade, of the complete elimination of the wilful and intentional pollution of the seas by oil and noxious substances other than oil, and the minimization of accidental spills,

DECIDES FURTHER that the Maritime Safety Committee should direct its appropriate Sub-Committee to give first priority to the problem of achieving these goals.

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A VII/Res.241  
13 October 1971

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## IMCO

ASSEMBLY - 7th session  
Agenda item 23

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MARINE POLLUTION, 1973

RESOLUTION A.241(VII)  
adopted on 13 October 1971

THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Article 16 of the Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, concerning the functions of the Assembly,

RECALLING its Resolution A.176(VI) by which it decided to convene in 1973, an international conference on marine pollution for the purpose of preparing a suitable international agreement for placing restraints on the contamination of the sea, land and air by ships, vessels and other equipment operating in the marine environment and called upon the Maritime Safety Committee to proceed with its work on marine pollution with all possible speed in co-ordination with other interested organizations,

NOTING further its Resolution A.237(VII) by which it decided that the 1973 Conference shall have as its main objective the achievement by 1975 if possible but certainly by the end of the decade, of the complete elimination of the wilful and intentional pollution of the seas by oil and noxious substances other than oil and the minimization of accidental spills,

A VII/Res.241

ENDORSES the decisions taken by the Council at its twenty-sixth session, concerning the subject matter for the Conference and other matters relating to the prevention of marine pollution (MSC XXIV/3/1), and the Reports of the Maritime Safety Committee with respect to the preparatory work now in progress,

RECOGNIZING the imperative need to achieve this objective and the need for policy directives if the preparatory work on marine pollution is to be successful in meeting the objectives which are inherent in its decision to hold the Conference,

REAFFIRMS its decision to convene such Conference and to provide the means therefor,

REQUESTS Council, the Maritime Safety Committee and the Legal Committee to proceed as a matter of urgency with the necessary preparations,

AUTHORIZES Council, in the light of further progress made in the preparatory work within the Organization and also developments in the United Nations system, to provide appropriate policy directives and make such modifications to the subject matter of the Conference as it may consider necessary and to fix the precise date of the Conference to be convened in 1973,

INVITES the Secretary-General to make all the requisite arrangements for the Conference including the issue of invitations to States, Members of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and Parties to the Statutes of the International Court of Justice together with Observers from such governmental and non-governmental organizations as are normally present at Conferences convened by IMCO.

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