

ASSEMBLY
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Agenda item 14

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**Adopted on 4 December 2013
(Agenda item 14)**

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FACILITATION CONVENTION

THE ASSEMBLY,

DESIRING to facilitate maritime traffic by simplifying and reducing to a minimum the formalities, documentary requirements and procedures on the arrival, stay and departure of ships engaged in international voyages,

BEING CONCERNED that excessive requirements for documents, lack of standardized procedures, failure to capitalize on the use of systems for the electronic exchange of information, disproportionate border controls, and lack of coordination, cooperation and coordination between control authorities, nationally and internationally, may cause delays to international maritime traffic,

BEING CONCERNED ALSO that a failure by ships and port facilities to take adequate measures to prevent the carriage of illicit drugs, contraband, stowaways and threats to public health on board ships may lead to avoidable legal action against those ships and seafarers,

RECALLING the adoption of the Convention on the Facilitation of Maritime Traffic, 1965 (hereinafter referred to as the FAL Convention), to which 115 States are parties (112 out of 170 IMO Member States and three non-Member States),

RECALLING that the annex to the FAL Convention contains, inter alia, a number of "Standards" and "Recommended Practices" on formalities, documentary requirements and procedures which should be applied on arrival, during their stay, and on departure to ships, their crew, passengers, baggage and cargo,

MINDFUL that many of the national authorities responsible for the application of those controls on ships, their crew, passengers, baggage and cargo are agencies other than port and maritime authorities not normally well represented at meetings of the Organization,

RECALLING that recommended practices 7.11 and 7.12 of the FAL Convention encourage the establishment of national maritime transport facilitation programmes and national maritime transport facilitation committees, respectively,

NOTING that, since its adoption in 1965 and entry into force on 5 March 1967, the annex to the Convention was amended 11 times between 1969 and 2005,

RECALLING that the Facilitation Committee, at its thirty-fifth session, had agreed to initiate a comprehensive revision of the Convention with a view to ensuring that it adequately addressed the present and emerging needs of the shipping industry, as well as to modernize its provisions, taking into account, inter alia, developments in the transmission of information and data by electronic means and the Single Window concept,

RECALLING that the 2014 World Maritime Day theme is: IMO conventions: effective implementation,

1 INVITES all Member States to place a high priority on working towards the full and effective implementation of the FAL Convention;

2 URGES all non-Contracting Governments to resolve any practical difficulties in respect of ratification or approval of, or accession to, the FAL Convention;

3 URGES FURTHER all Contracting Governments to review their current national legislation, national maritime transport facilitation programmes, coordination mechanisms and procedures for the application of controls on arrival, during their stay, and on departure to ships, their crew, passengers, baggage and cargo to ensure that they are fit for purpose;

4 REQUESTS all Contracting Governments to review the status of any differences notified to the Secretary-General pursuant to article VIII of the FAL Convention and to advise the Secretary-General of any changes;

5 ENCOURAGES all Member States and international organizations to participate actively in the comprehensive review of the annex to the FAL Convention and to take measures to ensure the contribution of relevant public authorities, in order to ensure that the annex to the Convention is updated and enhanced.
