

Resolution A.1093(29)

Adopted on 2 December 2015 (Agenda item 19(g))

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR MERCHANT VESSELS AND THEIR CREW INVOLVED  
IN THE RESCUE OF MIXED MIGRANTS AT SEA

ASSEMBLY  
29th session  
Agenda item 19(g)

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THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 98 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and regulation V/33 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the duty of ships to assist those in distress or in danger of being lost at sea,

GRAVELY CONCERNED about the current worldwide crisis of migration involving the greatest movement of displaced persons in nearly seventy years, including the transportation of mixed migrants by sea in grossly overloaded, unsafe vessels resulting in the loss of thousands of lives,

RECOGNIZING the perils of the sea and that any rescue, in particular those involving multiple survivors, necessarily entails danger not only to those being rescued but to the rescuers themselves,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that, in the period from January 2014 to December 2015 in the Mediterranean Sea alone, over 1,350 merchant vessels diverted from their intended voyage to rescue over 57,000 mixed migrants in danger of being lost at sea, a number unprecedented in history,

NOTING WITH GREAT ADMIRATION the extraordinary efforts, great skill, courage, professionalism and selfless concern for others demonstrated by crews of all merchant vessels involved in the rescue operation of migrants at sea,

HAVING CONSIDERED the endorsement by the Council, at its 114th session, of the Secretary-General's proposal that all merchant vessels involved in the rescue of migrants around the world be given special recognition for their extraordinary efforts in rescuing mixed migrants at sea,

1        COMMENDS all merchant vessels and their crew participating in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea for their bravery, professionalism and compassion embodying the highest traditions of the sea;

2 REQUESTS the Secretary-General to issue special certificates, retroactively from 1 January 2014, marking this commendation by the Assembly, to be awarded to any merchant vessel and its crew participating in the rescue of mixed migrants at sea;

3 FURTHER REQUESTS Member Governments to provide information to the Secretary-General on merchant vessels and their crew deserving such commendation.

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