

ASSEMBLY
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Agenda item 12

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Resolution A.1161(32)

**Adopted on 15 December 2021
(Agenda item 12)**

**ENTRY INTO FORCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
2012 CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety,

RECALLING ALSO that the International Conference on the Safety of Fishing Vessels ("the International Conference") held in Cape Town, South Africa, adopted, on 11 October 2012, the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977 ("the Agreement"),

NOTING that the International Conference, by resolution 1 on *Early Implementation of the Agreement*, inter alia believed that the Agreement would eliminate difficulties encountered by a number of States with substantial fishing fleets in implementing the 1993 Torremolinos Protocol and would provide international standards for the safety of fishing vessels which could be implemented by all States concerned,

NOTING WITH CONCERN that more than 44 years after the first international convention to address the safety of fishing vessels, the 1977 Torremolinos Convention, was adopted, there is still no internationally binding regulatory regime in force concerning the safety of such vessels,

REMAINING CONVINCED that the continuing and alarmingly high number of fishing vessel personnel fatalities and of fishing vessels reported lost every year could be reduced by the global, uniform and effective implementation of the Agreement,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the benefits that Sustainable Development Goals 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) and 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development) will provide to fishing activities and the development of States' national maritime strategies related thereto,

RECALLING that, through resolution A.1107(29) on *Entry into force and implementation of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement*, inter alia it urged States to consider accepting the Agreement at the earliest possible opportunity,

RECALLING ALSO that the Ministerial Conference on the Safety of Fishing Vessels held in Torremolinos, Spain, from 21 to 23 October 2019, adopted the Torremolinos Statement on the Cape Town Agreement of 2012, relating to fishing vessel safety and combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing,

RECOGNIZING that increased safety standards for fishing vessel design, construction and equipment will also positively impact the working conditions of fishing vessel personnel and the safety of search and rescue and emergency response services in mitigating the consequences of fishing vessel casualties, as well as assist in the prevention of marine pollution, including plastic pollution, from fishing vessels and in combatting IUU fishing,

BELIEVING that the promotion of technical cooperation and the provision of technical assistance, including the development of dedicated guidance on the implementation of the Agreement, will aid States lacking adequate expertise to implement its provisions,

GREATLY APPRECIATING the efforts and contributions made by Member States, FAO, ILO and The Pew Charitable Trusts to support the regional and national seminars and webinars on the implementation and ratification of the Agreement, which have been held in all regions of the world since 2014,

ENCOURAGED by the determination of the 51 signatory States of the Torremolinos Declaration on the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the implementation of the provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977, to take action so that the entry-into-force criteria of the Agreement are met by the target date of 11 October 2022,* the tenth anniversary of its adoption,

1 URGES Governments that have not yet become parties to the Agreement to consider doing so by 11 October 2022;

2 INVITES Governments which experience difficulties in the process of becoming Parties to the Agreement to inform the Organization of the circumstances thereof, so that consideration can be given to taking appropriate action in this respect, including providing necessary technical and legal assistance;

3 ENCOURAGES Member States with technical and legal expertise on matters relating to fishing vessel safety to provide technical and legal assistance on the said matters to States that are seeking such assistance;

4 REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee to continue reviewing the situation concerning entry into force of the Agreement;

5 REQUESTS the Secretary-General to continue taking any such additional measures as may be required aimed at assisting Member Governments in the process of becoming Parties to and implementing the Agreement.

* Upon completion of relevant review at national level.

