

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME
CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION



ASSEMBLY - 12th session
Agenda item 21

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IMCO

RESOLUTION A.500(XII)

adopted on 20 November 1981

OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION IN THE 1980s

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING that at its eleventh session it assigned the highest priority to the promotion of the implementation of the international standards and regulations for the improvement of maritime safety and for the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

RECOGNIZING the ceaseless efforts by the Secretary-General in promoting the world-wide implementation of these standards and the results achieved thus far,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that, during the 1980/81 biennium, the Organization received from its Member States over 300 ratifications and acceptances in respect of IMCO international conventions,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that many subjects have been assigned high priority on the work programme of the Organization, either because they are part of the implementation process for IMCO instruments or because serious problems require early multilateral solutions, and that these subjects by themselves could be sufficient to absorb all available Committee time and efforts for the remainder of this decade,

CONSIDERING the report of the Secretary-General, supported by statements of delegations at the eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Assembly, that, taking into account the differences in available technical resources and in the processes of legislation among Member States, time is needed for maritime administrations to formulate national rules and regulations for effective implementation of IMCO conventions, and for the maritime industry to comply with them,

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CONSIDERING FURTHER the deliberations of the Council concerning the need for the appropriate Committees to take into account the usefulness of amending conventions only after such instruments have been operated for reasonable periods,

BEING DESIROUS of providing an institutional means to assure achievement of defined IMCO objectives while maintaining reasonable flexibility to meet contingencies,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the relative infrequency of Assembly sessions and the functions of the Council as defined by Article 27 of the IMCO Convention,

1. DIRECTS the Council to co-ordinate the work of Committees and their subsidiary bodies through assignment of priorities among general subject areas, resolution of conflicts, promulgation of work programme goals, and establishing such procedures and requirements as may be necessary to meet Organization objectives consistent with this resolution and other pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Assembly;
 2. DIRECTS FURTHER that the Council, in performing this co-ordinating function, takes into account the views of the Committees on priorities and their responsibilities for substantive technical and legal matters;
 3. RECOMMENDS that the Council and the Committees entertain proposals for new conventions or amendments to existing conventions only on the basis of clear and well-documented demonstration of compelling need, taking into account the undesirability of modifying conventions not yet in force or of amending existing conventions unless such latter instruments have been in force for a reasonable period of time and experience has been gained of their operation, and having regard to the costs to the maritime industry and the burden on the legislative and administrative resources of Member States;
 4. RECOMMENDS that the Committees carry out their functions on the basis of the principle that provisions of new conventions or of amendments to existing conventions relating to the structure of ships should apply only to ships built after the entry into force of the instrument or instruments in question and that other provisions should not apply to ships built before the entry into force of the instrument or instruments in question unless there is a compelling need and the costs and benefits of the measures have been fully considered;
 5. INVITES Member Governments to bring this resolution to the attention of their representatives who attend meetings of the Organization.
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