

RESOLUTION A.643(16) adopted on 19 October 1989
LONG-TERM WORK PLAN OF THE ORGANIZATION
(UP TO 1996)



ASSEMBLY - 16th session
Agenda item 27

IMO

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THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolution A.631(15) by which it approved the subjects for consideration in the long-term work plan of the Organization in the period up to 1994,

RECALLING ALSO that it requested the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee to keep the respective lists of subjects under review in the light of developments in the work of the Organization while continuing to bear in mind the directives contained in resolution A.500(XII) on the objectives of the Organization in the 1980s,

HAVING CONSIDERED the proposal of the Council for the long-term work plan which has been prepared in the light of the views of the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee,

1. APPROVES the long-term work plan comprising an indicative list of subjects for consideration by the Organization for the period up to 1996 as set out in the Annex to the present resolution;

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2. REQUESTS the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee to keep the respective lists of subjects under review in the light of developments in the work of the Organization, while continuing to bear in mind the directives contained in resolution A.500(XII) and to report or recommend, as necessary, to the Assembly at its seventeenth regular session;

3. FURTHER REQUESTS all committees, when considering proposals for future work, to ensure that the subjects proposed are those on which significant work could reasonably be envisaged in the foreseeable future;

4. EMPHASIZES that all proposed items, and especially those involving amendments to existing conventions, particularly those which had been in force for a short period, should be evaluated by reference to the directives in resolution A.500(XII), and that due attention should be given to the requirement that a well documented "compelling need" must be demonstrated for new or revised standards;

5. REITERATES ITS REQUEST to the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee, when reviewing the long-term work plan and in making recommendations for the work programme for subsequent periods, to bear in mind the desirability of scheduling not more than one conference in each year, save in exceptional circumstances.

ANNEX

The following is an indicative list of subjects for consideration by the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee for the period up to 1996. This list is not exhaustive and the subjects are not listed in order of priority.

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE

I Objectives

1 Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 1 and 28 of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization, to encourage the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in respect of matters concerning maritime safety and efficiency of navigation including any matter within the scope of the Organization concerned with aids to navigation, construction and equipment of vessels (and other marine vehicles), training and qualification of seafarers, manning from a safety standpoint, rules for the prevention of collisions, handling of dangerous cargoes, maritime safety procedures and requirements, hydrographic information, log-books and navigational records, marine casualty investigations, salvage and rescue, and any other matter directly affecting maritime safety (e.g. fire safety, maritime communications and the safe transport of cargoes generally) and with due regard to the context of resolution A.500(XII).

2 To provide the necessary machinery for performing any duties assigned to it and to maintain such close relationship with other bodies as may further the purposes of the Organization.

II Specific subjects

1 Implementation, technical interpretation and improvement of conventions, codes, recommendations and guidelines.

2 Procedures for the control of ships including deficiency reports.

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- 3 Casualty statistics and investigations into serious casualties.
- 4 Examination of the role of the human element in maritime casualties and accidents.
- 5 Safety-related aspects of working conditions on board fishing vessels.
- 6 Harmonization of survey and certification requirements.
- 7 Training, watchkeeping and operational procedures for maritime personnel, including seafarers, fishermen, maritime pilots and those responsible for maritime safety in mobile offshore units.
- 8 Shipboard and shore-based management for the safe operation of ships.
- 9 Measures to improve navigational safety, including ships' routing, requirements and standards for navigational aids and ship reporting systems.
- 10 The global maritime distress and safety system and other maritime radiocommunication matters including navigational warning services, shipborne radio equipment and operational procedures.
- 11 Survival in case of maritime casualty or distress, and the provision of maritime search and rescue services.
- 12 Safe carriage of solid bulk cargoes, timber, grain and other cargoes by sea, including containers and vehicles.
- 13 Carriage of dangerous goods in packaged form, portable tanks, unit loads, other transport units, shipborne barges and intermediate bulk containers (IBCs).
- 14 Carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel.
- 15 Emergency procedures and safety measures for ships carrying dangerous goods, medical first aid in case of accidents involving dangerous goods and the safe use of pesticides in ships.

- 16 Safe handling and storage of dangerous goods in port areas.
- 17 Intact stability, subdivision, damage stability and load lines of ships.
- 18 Tonnage measurement of ships.
- 19 Safety considerations for machinery and electrical installations in ships.
- 20 Manoeuvrability of intact and disabled ships.
- 21 Control of noise and related vibration levels on board ships.
- 22 Matters pertaining to fire safety on board ships.
- 23 Reduction of the use in ships of ozone-depleting agents.
- 24 Safety aspects of the design, construction, equipment and operation of specific types of ships, such as fishing vessels, oil tankers, chemical tankers, gas carriers, dynamically supported craft, mobile offshore drilling units, special purpose ships, offshore supply vessels, nuclear merchant ships, roll-on roll-off ships, barge carriers, barges carrying dangerous chemicals in bulk and diving systems.
- 25 Prevention of piracy and unlawful acts against ships.
- 26 Revision of the 1977 Torremolinos International Convention.
- 27 Possible development of a computer database on the applicable requirements of IMO instruments.
- 28 Transboundary movement of hazardous waste.
- 29 Co-operation with the United Nations and other international bodies on matters of mutual interest.

LEGAL COMMITTEE

- 1 Draft convention on offshore mobile craft.
- 2 Arrest of seagoing ships, subject to the results of the work in respect of maritime liens and mortgages and related subjects.
- 3 Draft convention on civil jurisdiction, choice of law, recognition and enforcement of judgements in matters of collision at sea.
- 4 Consideration of the legal status of novel types of craft, such as air-cushion vehicles, operating in the marine environment.
- 5 A possible convention on wreck removal and related issues.
- 6 A possible convention on the regime of vessels in foreign ports.
- 7 Legal status of ocean data acquisition systems (ODAS).
- 8 Possible revision of maritime law conventions in the light of proven need and subject to the directives in resolution A.500(XII), including, in particular, revision of the 1976 Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims in order particularly to update the limitation therein, subject to the conclusions reached in respect of future work on the draft HNS Convention.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE

I Principal objectives

- 1 Solution of problems involved in the implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78) including examination of the problems of implementation of MARPOL 73/78 in relation to the protection of the marine environment in special areas.

2 Development of suitable procedures for the enforcement of conventions relating to marine pollution.

3 Promotion of technical co-operation, including the development of regional arrangements on co-operation to combat pollution in cases of emergency.

4 Entry into force of the optional Annexes to MARPOL 73/78.
Promotion of wider acceptance of MARPOL 73/78.

II Specific subjects

1 Uniform interpretation and application of the provisions of MARPOL 73/78 and possible amendments thereto.

2 Reception facilities for residues.

3 Oily-water separators and oil discharge monitoring and control systems.

4 Procedures for the control of ships and discharges under MARPOL 73/78.

5 Survey and certification of ships under MARPOL 73/78.

6 Penalties for infringement of convention provisions.

7 Casualty investigations in relation to marine pollution.

8 Arrangements for combating major incidents or threats of marine pollution.

9 Promotion of arrangements for combating marine pollution at the national, regional and global level including international co-operation on oil pollution preparedness and response.

10 Development and updating of the Anti-pollution Manual.

11 Identification of particularly sensitive sea areas.

- 12 Categorization of noxious liquid substances and harmful substances.
- 13 Prevention of pollution by noxious solid substances in bulk.
- 14 Measures on board ships to minimize the escape of pollutants in the case of accidents.
- 15 Shipboard and shore-based management for the prevention of marine pollution.
- 16 Prevention of air pollution from ships, including fuel oil quality.
- 17 Recommendation concerning tonnage measurement of ballast spaces in segregated ballast tankers.
- 18 Transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.
- 19 Use of tributyl-tin compounds in anti-fouling paints for ships.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

1 In accordance with the provisions of the IMO Convention, the Technical Co-operation Committee will:

- (a) consider programmes relating to the implementation of technical co-operation projects for which IMO acts as the executing or co-operating agency;
- (b) consider any other matters relating to IMO's functions in the technical co-operation field; and
- (c) keep under review the work of the Organization's technical co-operation programme.

2 In order to optimize the utility of scarce donor resources available for technical co-operation activities, the work plan of the Organization includes the implementation of programmes delineated in the IMO publications entitled

Strategy for Maritime Training, Strategy for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Strategy for the Integration of Women in the Maritime Sector.

The publications address current and future assistance requirements, and provide outlines of areas in which enhanced technical co-operation activities are required in order to assist developing countries in the effective implementation of international treaty instruments on maritime safety, marine pollution prevention and control, and other technical aspects of shipping and ports.

3 The highest priority will continue to be placed on maritime training at the basic, certificate-of-competency, advanced and post-graduate levels through the implementation of programmes of human resources development with special emphasis on the promotion of self-reliance.

4 The technical co-operation needs of developing countries which will require particular attention during the coming years include the following:

- maritime training equipment and programmes to enhance training standards in the areas of navigation, technical port operations, containerization systems, marine pollution prevention, and related aspects of technical shipping and ports;
- harmonization of maritime legislation with international conventions and regulations;
- waste reception facilities and aerial remote sensing equipment;
- pragmatic plans to facilitate the implementation of:
 - the global maritime distress and safety system (GMDSS);
 - standards relating to safe transport, handling and carriage of dangerous goods in port areas and on board ships;
 - emergency response procedures and safety measures for ships carrying dangerous goods, noxious liquid substances in bulk, harmful chemicals in packaged form, etc.

5 The Organization will be involved in the implementation and follow-up of the following principal activities:

- backstopping of ongoing global, interregional, regional and national projects;
- advice and assistance to developing countries relating to the formulation of technical co-operation projects;
- negotiations with donors and Governments relating to the approval of project proposals;
- co-ordinating the implementation of technical co-operation activities with the donors and Governments involved;
- fielding of missions to provide advisory and expert services;
- organization and provision of technical inputs with respect to seminars, workshops, model courses and other training events;
- arrangement of short- and long-term fellowships in various areas dealing with the technical aspects of shipping and ports;
- promoting the integration of women in the maritime sector;
- promoting activities consistent with the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC);
- collaboration with other agencies in the longer-term programming exercises of technical co-operation activities for the benefit of developing countries.

6 In the context of objectives and activities mentioned above, particular emphasis will be placed on:

- the world-wide implementation of IMO model courses at the branches of the World Maritime University and other training institutions in all developing regions;

- the development and implementation of courses at the IMO International Maritime Training Academy at Trieste, Italy, and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute at Valletta, Malta.

7 In order to narrow the gap between the maritime technical co-operation needs of developing countries and the resources available for this purpose, the Technical Co-operation Committee considered it necessary that the Organization:

- enlist the support of traditional donors to maintain at current levels the contributions provided to the IMO technical co-operation programme;
- enlarge the base of donors by enlisting the support of traditional maritime States which could each provide 5% or more of total IMO technical co-operation expenditures;
- increase the co-operation with major multilateral financial institutions such as the World Bank in the programming and implementation of IMO-related project activities for the benefit of developing countries;
- enlist the support of non-governmental organizations;
- further promote technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) and;
- appeal to the donor Governments currently providing invaluable training opportunities to maritime administration and port personnel of developing countries to turn these offers into a more permanent programme of human resources development in the technical maritime fields.

FACILITATION COMMITTEE

1 The implementation, technical interpretation and improvement of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965, and its Annex.

- 2 Facilitation activities within the Organization including:
 - promotional activities carried out in co-operation with Member Governments, Contracting Governments and organizations concerned; and
 - facilitation aspects of forms and certificates emanating from other activities of the Organization.
 - 3 IMO policy on automatic data processing of shipping documents and documents used for clearance of ships.
 - 4 Examination and possible adaptation of elements of conventions, codes and recommendations of a facilitative nature elaborated by other organizations.
 - 5 Consideration and formulation of proposals for amending the Convention or its Annex including harmonization with other United Nations FAL conventions.
 - 6 Formalities connected with the arrival, stay and departure of ships, persons and cargo.
 - 7 Adoption of measures which are not covered by the FAL Convention to facilitate the entry and departure of ships.
 - 8 Facilitation aspects of IMO's work on unlawful interference with international maritime traffic.
 - 9 Facilitation aspects of methods to control the illicit drug traffic.
 - 10 Methods of handling inadequately documented passengers.
 - 11 International directory of national documentary requirements.
 - 12 Facilities for elderly and disabled passengers.
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