



INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION



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ASSEMBLY  
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Agenda item 19

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**Resolution A.964(23)**

**Adopted on 5 December 2003  
(Agenda item 19)**

**FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO UNCED AND WSSD**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Articles 1(d) and 2(a) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the purposes of the Organization and the functions of the Assembly in relation to consideration of any matters concerning shipping and the effect of shipping on the marine environment that may be referred to the Organization by any organ or specialized agency of the United Nations,

RECALLING ALSO that, by resolution A 47/190 (1992), the General Assembly of the United Nations endorsed, *inter alia*, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, as adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) on 14 June 1992 and that, by resolution A 47/191 (1992), the United Nations specialized agencies were requested to strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term plans, as appropriate, in line with Agenda 21,

RECALLING FURTHER that, by resolution A.832(19) of 23 November 1995, the IMO Assembly requested the MEPC, as IMO's focal point for follow-up action to UNCED, to keep the maritime sector's contribution to UNCED under continuous review with the aim of facilitating any follow-up action by IMO and Member States on those elements of Agenda 21 falling within IMO's mandate,

NOTING that the MEPC, by resolution MEPC.67(37), adopted the Guidelines on Incorporation of the Precautionary Approach in the Context of Specific IMO Activities,

NOTING ALSO that the Organization has, since UNCED 1992, achieved significant progress in the areas designated in Agenda 21 for prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution from ships and that the MEPC has, with contributions from the MSC and TCC, prepared three comprehensive reports on IMO's achievements which were submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1994, 1999 and 2002 respectively,

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NOTING FURTHER that on 4 September 2002 the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) adopted the Plan of Implementation, which strongly reaffirmed its commitment to the Rio principles and the full implementation of Agenda 21,

NOTING FINALLY that a number of the provisions in the Plan of Implementation are relevant to the work of IMO, especially paragraph 34, which emphasizes the need to enhance maritime safety and protection of the marine environment from pollution by actions at all levels to:

- (a) invite States to ratify or accede to and implement the conventions and protocols and other relevant instruments of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) relating to the enhancement of maritime safety and protection of the marine environment from marine pollution and environmental damage caused by ships, including the use of toxic anti-fouling paints and urge IMO to consider stronger mechanisms to secure the implementation of IMO instruments by flag States;
- (b) accelerate the development of measures to address invasive alien species in ballast water and urge IMO to finalize the IMO International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its forty-ninth session,

1. REQUESTS the MSC, MEPC, TCC and the Secretariat to take into account the relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation in their respective activities;
2. REQUESTS ALSO Member Governments to keep their maritime sector's contribution to UNCED and WSSD under continuous review and provide relevant information to the Organization with the aim of facilitating follow-up action by the Organization and Member Governments on those elements falling within IMO's mandate;
3. REQUESTS FURTHER the Secretary-General to ensure the continuing participation of the Secretariat of the Organization in all relevant aspects of the follow-up to UNCED and WSSD, in particular regarding chapter 17 of Agenda 21 adopted by UNCED and paragraph 34 of the Plan of Implementation adopted by WSSD.

