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ASSEMBLY
24th session
Agenda item 19

A 24/Res.975
23 January 2006
Original: ENGLISH

Resolution A.975(24)

**Adopted on 1 December 2005
(Agenda item 19)**

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VOLUNTARY IMO MEMBER STATE
AUDIT SCHEME**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention of the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

RECALLING the Framework and Procedures for the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme (hereinafter referred to as the "Audit Scheme") adopted through resolution A.974(24),

RECALLING ALSO the "Code for the implementation of mandatory IMO instruments" adopted through resolution A.973(24),

NOTING that the Audit Scheme contains references to the "Code for the implementation of mandatory IMO instruments", as appropriate; and that the Code, in addition to providing guidance for the implementation and enforcement of IMO instruments, forms the basis of the Audit Scheme, in particular concerning the identification of the auditable areas,

NOTING ALSO that the "Code for the implementation of mandatory IMO instruments" adopted through resolution A.973(24) does not include security-related matters,

NOTING FURTHER that the Framework does not identify obligations and responsibilities relating to maritime security as being within the scope of the Audit Scheme,

RECOGNIZING NEVERTHELESS the importance of Maritime Security,

RECOGNIZING ALSO that the relevant security-related regulations have been adopted only recently, and that time is required for the necessary quality reviews by Member States to ensure optimum efficiency of their implementing procedures,

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RECOGNIZING FURTHER that obligations and responsibilities relating to maritime security may be under the responsibility of different national authorities within Member States,

RECALLING that other safety and environmental protection responsibilities of Member States are also presently outside the scope of the Code and the Audit Scheme,

BEING DESIROUS to assist Governments to improve their capabilities and overall performance in order to comply with the full range of obligations and responsibilities set out in the IMO instruments to which they are party,

1. REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee to review the future feasibility of including, within the scope of the Audit Scheme, security-related and other functions not presently covered, to identify any implications of broadening the scope of the Audit Scheme in this way and to report to the Council, as appropriate;
 2. REQUESTS the Council to develop suitable provisions for the possible future inclusion of other safety-, environmental protection- and security-related issues in the Audit Scheme, taking into account the experience gained from the implementation of the Scheme and of any salient safety-, environmental protection- and security-related issues identified by the Committees;
 3. INVITES the Council, at an appropriate time, to consider whether and how to incorporate such matters in the Scheme.
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