

Resolution A.846(20)

*Adopted on 27 November 1997
(Agenda item 24)*

**LONG-TERM WORK PLAN OF THE ORGANIZATION
(UP TO 2004)**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution A.836(19) by which it approved the subjects for consideration in the long-term work plan of the Organization in the period up to 2002,

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 and resolution A.777(18) on the Work methods and organization of work in Committees and their subsidiary bodies,

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 2004 as set out in the annex to the present resolution;
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 resolution A.777(18) and to report or recommend, as necessary, to the Assembly at its twenty-first 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 have 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 2004. This list is not exhaustive and the subjects are not listed in order of priority.

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE

The subjects below marked with an asterisk are considered as high-priority subjects. The remainder should be considered as such, and work on them initiated accordingly, only after proposals substantiating their importance and urgency have been submitted and endorsed by the Committee or a compelling need to do so has been clearly established and the Committee has agreed that urgent action should be taken on them.

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 ships (and other marine vehicles), training and qualification of seafarers and fishing vessel personnel, manning from a safety standpoint, rules for the prevention of collisions, handling of cargoes, maritime safety procedures and requirements, implementation of the global SAR plan, hydrographic information, log-books and navigational records, marine casualty investigations, salvage 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 contents of resolutions A.500(XII) and A.777(18).
- 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, enforcement, monitoring, technical interpretation and improvement of conventions, codes, recommendations and guidelines.
- *2 Role of the human element in the prevention of maritime casualties and accidents and promotion and maintenance of a safety culture.
- *3 Shipboard and shore-based management for the safe operation of ships.
- *4 Formal safety assessment.
- 5 Safety aspects of the design, construction, machinery, electrical installations, equipment and operation of specific types of ships, such as ro-ro ships, ships carrying solid bulk cargoes, oil tankers, chemical tankers, gas carriers, high-speed craft, fishing vessels, mobile offshore drilling units, special purpose ships, offshore supply vessels, nuclear merchant ships, barge carriers, barges carrying dangerous chemicals in bulk, diving systems and other novel types of craft.
- 6 Procedures for the control of ships, including deficiency reports.
- *7 Casualty statistics and investigations into serious casualties.
- 8 Safety-related aspects of working conditions on board fishing vessels.
- 9 Harmonization of survey and certification requirements.

- 10 Training, watchkeeping and operational procedures for maritime personnel, including seafarers, fishermen, maritime pilots, VTS operators, those responsible for maritime safety in mobile offshore units, and shore-based port personnel.
- 11 Measures to improve navigational safety, including ships' routing, requirements and standards for navigational aids (including the development of functional requirements of shipborne navigational systems and requirements), ship-reporting systems and vessel traffic systems.
- *12 Full development of the global maritime distress and safety system and other maritime radiocommunication matters (including maritime safety information, shipborne radio equipment and operational procedures) and the provision of maritime search and rescue services.
- 13 Safe evacuation, survival and recovery following maritime casualties or in case of distress.
- 14 Safe handling and carriage by sea of solid and liquid bulk cargoes and container safety matters.
- 15 Safe handling and carriage of dangerous goods in packaged form, including portable tanks, unit loads, other cargo transport units, shipborne barges and intermediate bulk containers (IBCs).
- *16 Review of the INF Code and consideration of related matters.
- 17 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.
- 18 Safe transport of dangerous cargoes and related activities in port areas.
- 19 Intact stability, subdivision, damage stability and load lines of ships.
- 20 Tonnage measurement of ships.
- 21 Manoeuvrability of ships.
- 22 Matters pertaining to fire safety on board ships.
- 23 Prevention of piracy and unlawful acts against ships.
- 24 Transboundary movement of hazardous waste.
- 25 Co-operation with the United Nations and other international bodies on matters of mutual interest.

LEGAL COMMITTEE

Subjects

- 1 Consideration of the legal status of novel types of craft, such as air-cushion vehicles, operating in the marine environment.
- 2 A possible convention on the regime of vessels in foreign ports.
- 3 Possible revision of maritime law conventions in the light of proven need and subject to the directives in resolution A.500(XII).

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE

I Objectives

- 1 Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 1 and 38 of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization, to encourage adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships with due regard to the context of resolutions A.500(XII) and A.777(18). More immediately to promote world-wide acceptance, implementation

and uniform interpretation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), as well as of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC), 1990.

- 2 To adhere to the principles and declaration adopted by UNCED in the field of marine environment protection and response, including the principle of the precautionary approach.
- 3 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.
- 4 To promote, in co-operation with UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank, in particular the Global Environment Facility, and national development agencies, IMO's programmes of technical assistance in the field of marine environmental protection, including the management and execution of large-scale projects.

II Specific subjects

- 1 Implementation, enforcement, amendment and uniform interpretation of the provisions of MARPOL 73/78 and related codes, recommendations and guidelines, and monitoring of the effectiveness with which the Convention is implemented, including:
 - .1 Enforcement mechanism and procedures for the control of ships and discharges under MARPOL 73/78;
 - .2 the examination of the role of the human element in all measures aimed at the elimination of intentional pollution and minimization of accidental discharge of harmful substances;
 - .3 penalties for infringement of Convention provisions; and
 - .4 casualty investigations in relation to marine pollution.
- 2 Follow-up action to UNCED, in particular with respect to the implementation of Agenda 21 regarding the prevention of degradation of the oceans.
- 3 Review of the standards for the design, construction, equipment and operation of oil and chemical tankers.
- 4 Categorization of noxious liquid substances and harmful substances.
- 5 Identification and protection of particularly sensitive areas, including a review of resolution A.720(17).
- 6 Implementation of the ISM Code with regard to effective management for the prevention and control of marine pollution.
- 7 Implementation of the INF Code and related matters, including environmental impact assessment and salvage and recovery of INF Code materials lost.
- 8 Consideration of measures to minimize the risks of introducing harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens with discharges from ships of ballast water and associated sediments, with a view to preparing legally binding provisions on ballast water management, together with implementation guidelines thereto, for adoption by a conference in 2000.
- 9 Promotion of the provision of adequate reception facilities in all ports and use thereof by ships, including the application of environmentally sound techniques for the treatment and ultimate disposal of ships' wastes and the development of a financing scheme for the establishment and operation of reception facilities.
- 10 Consideration of the harmful effects of the use of antifouling paints for ships.

- 11 Development of measures to prevent pollution from small craft.
- 12 Development of measures for the prevention of marine pollution by noxious solid substances carried in bulk.
- 13 Implementation, enforcement, amendment and uniform interpretation of the provisions of the OPRC Convention, and implementation of the OPRC Conference resolutions, including:
 - .1 national capacity building for main pollution preparedness and response;
 - .2 promotion of bilateral and regional arrangements for marine pollution preparedness and response;
 - .3 promotion of training and transfer of technology;
 - .4 development of guidelines and training materials for response measures, including the development and updating of anti-pollution manuals; and
 - .5 extension of the OPRC Convention to include harmful substances other than oil.

III Priorities

- 1 In considering the specific subjects of the long-term work plan, the Committee agreed to give a high priority to the following subjects:
 - .1 review of Annexes I and II of MARPOL 73/78 (paragraph II.1);
 - .2 measures to promote implementation of Annex VI of MARPOL 73/78 (paragraph II.1);
 - .3 INF Code related matters, and preparedness and response related to carriage of INF Code material (paragraph II.7);
 - .4 harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water (paragraph II.8); and
 - .5 preparation of the instrument to expand the OPRC Convention to include hazardous and noxious substances (paragraph II.13).

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

I Objectives

- 1 Pursuant to the provisions of the IMO Convention, the Technical Co-operation Committee: establishes guidelines for the development and implementation of the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP); considers and prioritizes technical co-operation programmes and projects for the implementation of activities for which IMO acts as the executing or co-operating agency; and considers any other matters relating to IMO's functions in the technical co-operation field.
- 2 The objective of the ITCP is to assist developing countries in strengthening their institutional, legal, managerial, scientific, technical and training capacities to implement global rules and standards contained in the treaty and non-treaty instruments adopted by IMO in its four areas of concentration, namely:
 - .1 maritime safety and related aspects of shipping and ports;
 - .2 marine environment protection;
 - .3 maritime legislation; and
 - .4 facilitation of international maritime traffic.

- 3 In addition to the above, the ITCP also takes into account the need for technical co-operation in the following matters which are generic to the four areas of concentration and which also relate to the effective implementation of related IMO instruments, guidelines and recommendations:
- .1 women in development;
 - .2 suppression of unlawful acts;
 - .3 drug use and alcohol abuse; and
 - .4 piracy.
- 4 The relevant technical committees of the Organization develop technical co-operation subprogrammes in their respective areas of concentration. These are subsequently amalgamated by the Technical Co-operation Committee as the ITCP, on the basis of the subprogrammes' common goals and overall strategies. Accordingly, as developed by the Technical Co-operation Committee, the ITCP defines the Organization's technical co-operation objectives, policies and guiding principles, as well as the modalities for developing, delivering and co-ordinating a truly integrated programme of technical assistance.

II Structure of the ITCP

- 5 In accordance with the principles previously endorsed by the IMO Assembly and contained in UN General Assembly resolutions 44/211, 47/199 and 50/120, the ITCP is articulated and is to be implemented on the basis of the decentralized management of IMO's technical co-operation activities. Accordingly, the ITCP reflects an integrated regional programme approach, to encourage the development of co-ordinated and integrated perspectives on maritime matters in each developing region.

III Specific subjects

- 6 Within the ambit of the ITCP, the Technical Co-operation Committee will monitor and, as appropriate, develop directives and guidance for:
- .1 the Organization's technical co-operation policies, in the light of:
 - developments in the regulatory framework of the Organization;
 - general socio-economic development trends;
 - guidelines established by the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, particularly as regards the triennial reviews of the UN system's operational activities for development and the Agenda for Development now being prepared by the UN General Assembly; and
 - relevant global or sectoral Conferences;
 - .2 the development of appropriate programmes and projects relating especially to flag State and port State implementation and other priority subjects identified by the technical committees and other organs of the Organization;
 - .3 the Organization's structural arrangements for the progressive development and implementation of the ITCP, including arrangements at Headquarters and the extension of IMO's presence in the developing regions;
 - .4 the mobilization of financial and in-kind resources for the implementation of the ITCP, including the promotion of technical and economic co-operation among developing countries (TCDC and ECDC) and the successor arrangements to the support costs formulae of the United Nations Development Programme;
 - .5 the follow-up to UNCED and Agenda 21, with particular regard to sustainable human resource development and its required financing, including the development of future programmes and projects, extra-budgetary activities and financial mechanisms based on the internalization of costs;

- .6 the further integration of women in the maritime and port sectors, including modalities for the effective implementation of the Committee's resolutions TC 1(39) and TC 2(40) and necessary follow-up to the Beijing Conference of 1995;
- .7 the continued and expanded support to global, regional and national maritime training institutions, including the development of financial mechanisms to ensure their sustainability, the future relationship between the World Maritime University and its branches and the effective implementation of the 1995 STCW and STCW-F Conventions; and
- .8 the Committee's methods and organization of work, as required by Assembly resolution A.777(18).

FACILITATION COMMITTEE

Subjects*

- *1 The implementation, technical interpretation and improvement of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL), 1965, and its annex.
- *2 Facilitation activities within the Organization, including:
 - .1 promotional activities carried out in co-operation with Member Governments, FAL Contracting Governments and organizations concerned; and
 - .2 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 the clearance of ships.
- 4 Examination and possible adoption of elements of conventions, codes and recommendations of a facilitative nature elaborated by other organizations.
- 5 Consideration and formulation of proposals for amending the FAL Convention or its annex, including harmonization with other similar United Nations conventions.
- 6 Formalities connected with the arrival, stay and departure of ships, persons and cargo.
- 7 Methods of handling inadequately documented passengers.
- *8 Adoption of measures which are not covered by the FAL Convention to facilitate the entry and departure of ships, persons and cargo.
- 9 Facilitation aspects of IMO's work on prevention and suppression of unlawful acts at sea and in ports.
- 10 Facilitation aspects of measures to prevent and suppress illicit drug trafficking.
- 11 Facilities for elderly and disabled passengers.
- *12 Ship/port interface matters.

* The subjects marked with an asterisk are considered as high-priority subjects.