RESOLUTION LC.55(SM)

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE LONDON CONVENTION 1972

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES,

RECALLING Article IX of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention 1972), which provides that Contracting Parties shall promote, through collaboration within the Organization and other international bodies, support for those Parties requesting it to further the aims and purposes of this Convention;

RECALLING ALSO that the Organization currently implements its Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme to provide support to Contracting Parties in need of assistance for the implementation of the provisions of the London Convention 1972 and to non-Contracting Parties which have declared their intention to become a Party to the London Convention 1972;

RECALLING FURTHER in particular, the Global Waste Survey that was commissioned by the Organization in September 1991 for addressing the potential global implications of the prohibition of sea disposal of industrial waste as of 1 January 1996, especially in developing countries and to formulate a plan that would assist Contracting Parties to address their commitment to scientific and technical support in a practical and cost-effective manner; and that its findings were presented to and noted by the Eighteenth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties;

NOTING the various activities that have been undertaken by the Organization and the Contracting Parties, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, for the purpose of providing technical co-operation and assistance, including in the past the provision of the financial resources necessary for the Global Waste Survey by individual Contracting Parties and through the Organization's regular budget and recognizing the importance of partnership among the Organization, donors and recipient countries;

HAVING CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention 1972, which contains detailed provisions in article 12 concerning regional co-operation, article 13 concerning technical co-operation and assistance and article 26 which provides for a transitional period as a means to encourage, in particular, developing countries to become Contracting Parties to the Protocol;

DESIRING to promote ratification by developing countries of the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention 1972, in particular those having been identified by the Global Waste Survey as having problems with waste management and disposal as well as those which are States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and which are not Contracting Parties to the London Convention 1972:

1 ADOPTS the framework for a Technical Co-operation and Assistance Programme under the London Convention 1972 as annexed for further elaboration into a Programme for adoption at the Nineteenth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties.

2 URGES Contracting Parties to consider providing, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, as appropriate, the necessary means to strengthen the national capacities of developing countries and to carry out technical co-operation and assistance activities in order to assist with the implementation of the London Convention 1972 or the 1996 Protocol.

3 INVITES the Secretary-General of the Organization to take note of the above and to inform the Council of the importance the Contracting Parties to the Convention place on technical co-operation and assistance, as evidenced by their ongoing support for these activities, in particular, through the inclusion of articles 12, 13 and 26 in the 1996 Protocol and that there be a consideration of the allocation of sufficient resources, including adequate staff on the Secretariat, to support technical co-operation and assistance in order that developing countries may effectively implement and achieve compliance with the London Convention 1972 and the 1996 Protocol.

4 FURTHER INVITES the Secretary-General to approach the permanent representatives to the Organization and request that they inform their representatives to the Council, if appropriate, and to the Assembly of the importance of the issue of technical co-operation and assistance to the Contracting Parties to the London Convention 1972.

5 CALLS UPON the Secretary-General to intensify contacts with potential donors for the purpose of funding technical co-operation and assistance for the implementation of the London Convention 1972 or the 1996 Protocol.

6 INVITES ALSO the Secretary-General to inform States that are non-Contracting Parties to the Convention about the 1996 Protocol, in particular articles 12, 13 and 26.

ANNEX

FRAMEWORK FOR A TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME UNDER THE LONDON CONVENTION 1972

1 Objectives

1.1 This document provides a framework which is intended to serve as a basis for developing and implementing a programme of technical co-operation and assistance (the Programme) among Contracting Parties to the London Convention 1972 (the Convention). It will also provide for technical co-operation and assistance for those developing countries and countries in transition to market economies that have indicated their intention to become contracting parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention 1972 (the Protocol) or have ratified or acceded thereto. The Programme should provide support to those States in need of assistance to take effective measures to prevent, reduce and where practicable eliminate pollution of the sea caused by dumping of wastes or other matter in accordance with the objectives of the Convention or the Protocol.

1.2 The specific objectives of the Programme are to:

.1 promote membership to the Protocol;

.2 strengthen national marine pollution prevention and management capacities to achieve compliance with the Convention or, after its entry into force, the Protocol; and

.3 co-operate with other organizations and agencies to ensure a co-ordinated approach to technical co-operation and assistance, avoiding duplication of effort.

2 Technical Co-operation and Assistance Under the Convention

2.1 Currently, technical co-operation and assistance under the Convention is carried out as part of the IMO Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP). The ITCP covers a broad range of activities for maritime safety, protection of the marine environment, legislation and facilitation; the Convention is only one area covered by the ITCP.

2.2 The need for technical co-operation and assistance to implement the objectives of the Convention is well-established. For the period of 1997 and early 1998 alone, seven project proposals, as reflected in the appendix, have been developed and planned by the Secretariat, donors, and recipient countries. Funding for six of these projects is already confirmed through voluntary funding provided by Contracting Parties to the Convention on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

2.3 Secretariat service to support the execution of these projects is necessary. It has been estimated that for these six projects alone, a Technical Implementation Officer is needed on a full-time basis for 12-18 months. Although there are two members of the Secretariat responsible for the administration of the Convention, they have limited time available due to their ongoing duties.

3 The Framework for the Programme

The Programme will result in the development and implementation of individual projects which will be based on country requests and identified needs. The Programme, which will assist in achieving the objectives of the Convention or the Protocol, should be based on the following:

.1 Networking and provision of information relevant to the Convention or the Protocol:

- Co-operation with relevant international organizations, including industry and non-governmental organizations;
- Clearing-house functions regarding relevant scientific and technical information;
- Gathering and developing information based on country needs; and
- Dissemination of information to promote technical co-operation activities on a national and regional basis;

.2 Advice and consultation relating to legal, technical, scientific and administrative support to further the development and implementation of the Convention or the Protocol;

.3 Seminars, training and workshops, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, organized at national and regional levels to promote the effective implementation of the Convention or the Protocol;

.4 Project management involving the development, execution, tracking and evaluation of individual projects, with a periodic reassessment of their effectiveness; and

.5 Assessment of the overall effectiveness of the Programme.

APPENDIX

Technical co-operation and assistance activities planned under the Convention

1 Development of four National Profiles on Marine Pollution Prevention and Management in Eastern and Southern Africa .

2 Regional networking on integrated waste management in Eastern and Southern Africa.

3 Waste management in the context of integrated coastal zone management in Latin America.

4 Development of a National Profile on Marine Pollution Prevention and Management for Venezuela.

5 Development of a modular training package to implement the Waste Assessment Framework, as contained in Annex 2 to the Protocol.

6 Regional Workshop on Waste Management in Southern Africa in co-operation with the Government of South Africa.

7 Completion of advice requested by the Government of Thailand on its preparation of ratification of the Protocol.