ANNEX 2

RESOLUTION LDC.44(14)

THE APPLICATION OF A PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LONDON DUMPING CONVENTION

THE FOURTEENTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING,

HAVING REGARD to the responsibilities of Contracting Parties, especially in relation to Articles I and II of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (the London Dumping Convention),

AWARE of the concern regarding the health and preservation of the marine environment,

AWARE ALSO that the quantity, diversity and complexity of chemical compounds entering the environment make it difficult to determine the overall threat to the environment,

RECOGNIZING that human activities and social development need to be managed in a manner that will limit contamination of the marine environment by wastes and other matter, and thereby to ensure that the viability of marine ecosystems and the legitimate uses of the sea are sustained for the benefit of present and future generations,

RECALLING resolution LDC.40(13) of 2 November 1990 concerning the protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas,

RECALLING ALSO UNEP decision 15/27 of 25 May 1989, by which the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme recommended the principle of precautionary action, the Governing Council's decision SS.II/4B of 3 August 1990 on a comprehensive approach to hazardous waste, and its decision SS.II/6 of the same date on the effective global protection of ocean and coastal ecosystems,

RECALLING FURTHER the decisions taken in other international fora on a precautionary approach to environmental protection,

MINDFUL that existing pollution control approaches, under the London Dumping Convention, have been strengthened by shifting the emphasis from a system of controlled dumping based on assumptions of the assimilative capacity of the oceans, to approaches based on precaution and prevention,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the work on the development of an improved framework for the implementation of the London Dumping Convention,

1 AGREES that in implementing the London Dumping Convention the Contracting Parties shall be guided by a precautionary approach to environmental protection whereby appropriate preventive measures are taken when there is reason to believe that substances or energy introduced in the marine environment are likely to cause harm even when there is no conclusive evidence to prove a causal relation between inputs and their effects;

2 AGREES FURTHER that Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to ensure the effective implementation of the precautionary approach to environmental protection and to this end they shall:

(a) encourage prevention of pollution at the source, by the application of clean production methods, including raw materials selection, product substitution and clean production technologies and processes and waste minimization throughout society;

(b) evaluate the environmental and economic consequences of alternative methods of waste management, including long-term consequences;

(c) encourage and use as fully as possible scientific and socio-economic research in order to achieve an improved understanding on which to base long-range policy options;

(d) endeavour to reduce risk and scientific uncertainty relating to proposed disposal operations; and

(e) continue to take measures to ensure that potential adverse impacts of any dumping are minimized, and that adequate monitoring is provided for early detection and mitigation of these impacts; and

3 INVITES the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization to bring this resolution to the attention of the Preparatory Committee of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

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