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ASSEMBLY
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Agenda item 40

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**Adopted on 5 December 2003
(Agenda item 40)**

**APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICES TO THE ORGANIZATION
OF MR. WILLIAM A. O'NEIL**

THE ASSEMBLY,

WISHING TO RECORD WITH DEEP APPRECIATION the outstanding contribution made by Mr. William A. O'Neil to the purposes and functions of the Organization during the fourteen-year period of his stewardship from 1 January 1990,

RECOGNIZING WITH GRATITUDE his commitment to the ideals and mission of the Organization concerning improvement of the safety of life at sea, protection of the marine environment and the enhancement of maritime security, and to fostering and promoting global acceptance and effective implementation of IMO's safety, security and environmental treaty instruments,

APPRECIATING DEEPLY his leadership, counsel, clarity of vision and purpose, as well as his strong and effective advocacy of the adoption of an effective global maritime safety culture,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that during his tenure there has been a material and sustained reduction in both loss of life at sea and marine pollution from ships,

APPRECIATING ALSO his personal contribution to securing globally applicable safety, security and environmental standards and to the consequent high regard and respect in which IMO is held, as evidenced by:

- (i) his firm commitment to the universality of IMO and to widening its Membership, which now stands at 162 Member States and three Associate Members;
- (ii) his strong encouragement of effective participation in the Organization's work by all sectors of the industry, which has fostered new partnerships;
- (iii) his development of new sources of extrabudgetary funding to support the Organization's technical co-operation programme, which has better enabled developing States to adopt and implement the Organization's instruments;

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- (iv) his dedication to strengthening the relevance and capacity of the Organization's educational institutions, which have become firmly established global providers of maritime training and education; and
- (v) his landmark success in creating the Seafarers Memorial Fund, which has won the warm and generous support of the maritime sector and of seafarers in particular, enabling the creation of a distinguished public monument to seafarers at IMO Headquarters,

RECALLING Assembly resolution A.908(22) adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-second session in November 2001, concerning an Agreement between the Organization and the Host State regarding the extension to Permanent Representatives and Divisional Directors of the full privileges and immunities provided in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, as modified by Annex II applicable to IMO,

EXPRESSES ITS DEEP APPRECIATION to the Secretary-General for his tireless efforts in bringing this long-standing matter to a successful conclusion, to the full satisfaction of the Council and the Assembly; and

RECALLING ALSO:

- (i) his most effective handling of the financial crisis which faced the Organization in the late 1980s and early 1990s;
- (ii) his commitment to improving the Organization's financial framework and to the achievement of contribution levels of 98%, which rank the Organization as among the best in the United Nations system in terms of contributions; and
- (iii) his prudent management of the Organization's resources and consistent delivery of the Organization's work programme and budget, and his commitment to increased transparency, innovation and management of change,

EXPRESSES ITS DEEP GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION to Mr. William A. O'Neil for his personal commitment and contribution in successfully furthering the overall purposes of the Organization by charting an inspirational course, and for achievements which have resulted in increased worldwide recognition of IMO's organizational effectiveness.