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ASSEMBLY  
23rd session  
Agenda item 6

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**Resolution A.945(23)**

**Adopted on 24 November 2003  
(Agenda item 6)**

**1991 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL  
MARITIME ORGANIZATION  
(Institutionalization of the Facilitation Committee)**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution A.640(16) by which it decided to take the necessary steps at its seventeenth regular session to adopt amendments to the Convention on the International Maritime Organization (the IMO Convention) in order to institutionalize the Facilitation Committee in the IMO Convention,

RECALLING resolution A.724(17) adopted on 7 November 1991 relating to the adoption of amendments to the Convention on the International Maritime Organization (hereinafter referred to as the 1991 amendments),

FURTHER RECALLING that, in accordance with the provisions of Article 66 of the IMO Convention, the 1991 amendments will enter into force twelve months after the requisite instruments of acceptance from two-thirds of the Members of the Organization have been deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

RECALLING ALSO resolution C.75(88) adopted by the Council on 14 June 2002 by which the Council urged those Member Governments which had not yet done so to accept the 1991 amendments as soon as possible with a view to achieving the requisite two thirds of the Members of the Organization needed in order to give effect to the institutionalization of the Facilitation Committee,

REAFFIRMING the importance of the entry into force of the 1991 amendments for further enhancing the facilitation of international maritime traffic through institutionalization of the Facilitation Committee,

BEING CONCERNED that, 12 years after the adoption of the 1991 amendments, the requisite number of acceptances for the amendment to enter into force has not yet been achieved, falling short of the required two thirds of IMO Member Governments by 30,

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EMPHASIZING that acceptance of the 1991 amendments bears no financial implications to Member Governments,

FURTHER EMPHASIZING that acceptance of the 1991 amendments and becoming a Party to the FAL Convention are two separate matters, and that acceptance of the 1991 amendments can be effected independently of ratification of the FAL Convention,

NOTING with appreciation the considerable efforts made by the Secretary-General, in response to the concerns of Member Governments regarding the slow rate of acceptance of the said amendments, to communicate with Member Governments which had not accepted the 1991 amendments and encourage them to give the matter prompt consideration and take relevant appropriate action,

MINDFUL of the ongoing strategic review of the FAL Convention being undertaken by the Facilitation Committee, which is taking into account technological and other developments in the area of international maritime traffic, including those pertaining to maritime and ports security,

EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE that the Facilitation Committee will continue to make an important contribution to the facilitation of international maritime traffic, to which Member Governments, the industry, seafarers and the travelling public attach ever-increasing importance,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Council at its ninetieth session,

1. WELCOMES the action already undertaken by Member Governments in accepting the 1991 amendments;
2. URGES those Member Governments which have not yet done so to accept the 1991 amendments as soon as possible to enable them to enter into force without further delay, thus institutionalizing the Facilitation Committee;
3. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to encourage Member Governments to accept the 1991 amendments and to provide assistance to those Members in need thereof;
4. FURTHER REQUESTS the Council to keep the matter under review and take action as appropriate.