



ASSEMBLY
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Agenda item 17(b)

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**Adopted on 2 December 2009
(Agenda item 17(b))**

ARREARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 60(b) (previously Article 55(b)) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization, which provides that “the Assembly shall apportion the expenses among the Members in accordance with a scale to be fixed by it after consideration of the proposals of the Council thereon”,

RECALLING ALSO Article 61 (previously Article 56) of the Convention stating that “any Member which fails to discharge its financial obligation to the Organization within one year from the date on which it is due shall have no vote in the Assembly, the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee or the Facilitation Committee unless the Assembly, at its discretion, waives this provision”,

RECALLING ALSO the provision of Rule 56*bis* of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, under which “any Member wishing to request a waiver of the provision of Article 61 in respect of itself shall submit a written application to the Secretary-General at least one month before the Assembly giving reasons therefor, with a payment schedule indicating the timescale over which arrears will be paid”,

RECALLING ALSO the provision of Rule 56*ter* of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, which provides that “any Member seeking election to the Council shall have discharged its obligations to the Organization or shall have committed itself at least one month before the Assembly to a schedule of payment submitted to the Secretary-General to do so”,

RECALLING FURTHER Regulation 5.4 of the Financial Regulations of the Organization, adopted by means of resolution A.1017(26), under which contributions and advances shall be considered as due and payable in full within thirty days of receipt of the communications of the Secretary-General, or as of the first day of the calendar year to which they relate, whichever is later,

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RECALLING ALSO the introduction of the Contributions Incentive Scheme established in 1988 by resolution A.629(15), to encourage early payment of contributions in accordance with the Financial Regulations by providing for the Organization's interest earnings on contributions to be distributed to Member States in accordance with an agreed formula,

WELCOMING the Secretary-General's continuous efforts to secure timely payment from Member States,

NOTING that it is in the interests of all Member States to expedite payment of contributions in order that the Organization can focus on its primary aims of improving safety at sea and reducing marine pollution from ships,

RECALLING WITH CONCERN that the level of arrears of contributions has caused serious difficulties in the past in the financial management of the Organization and in the execution of its work programme,

WELCOMING the efforts which Member States have made to pay off their arrears and to settle the current year's contribution,

CONSIDERING that the timely payment of contributions is essential to enable the Organization to maintain its work programme,

1. INVITES the attention of Member States to the provisions of resolution A.629(15)B under which a contributions incentive scheme is currently in operation to encourage early payment of contributions;
2. URGES Member States which have not yet done so to make payment of any arrears at the earliest date;
3. ALSO URGES Member States to make payment of their contribution for the current year in accordance with Regulation 5.4 of the Financial Regulations;
4. REQUESTS all Members of the Council to set an example in this regard by the prompt payment of their annual contributions;
5. REQUESTS ALSO the Council to continue to treat the problem of arrears of contributions as a matter of high priority;
6. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of all Member States, and to continue to take all possible steps to ensure prompt payment of each current year's contributions and of arrears of contributions.