

RESOLUTION A.677(16)

*Adopted on 19 October 1989
Agenda item 12*

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF PROTECTION
OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING article 17 of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, and resolution 22 of the International Conference on Marine Pollution, 1973, concerning the promotion of technical co-operation to further the aims and purposes of that Convention,

RECALLING resolution A.140(V) on the participation of the Organization in the United Nations Development Programme and technical assistance in the field of marine pollution,

RECALLING ALSO resolution A.349(IX) on technical assistance in the field of marine pollution,

RECALLING FURTHER resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987, by which the General Assembly adopted the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and resolution 42/187 of 11 December 1987 by which the General Assembly welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which address the important issue of environmentally sound and sustainable development,

RECOGNIZING that a safe and environmentally sound international maritime transport system is an essential element of sustainable development,

RECOGNIZING ALSO the increasing importance of the technical assistance activities of the Organization in the field of protection of the marine environment and, in particular, those activities that are related to the prevention, control and combating of marine pollution from ships,

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the development of an "IMO strategy for the protection of the marine environment" and the role of "global programmes for the protection of the marine environment" and other relevant components of the IMO technical assistance programme in achieving the principal objectives of this strategy,

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the financial support of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations and national donor agencies for the technical assistance programme of the Organization,

NOTING ALSO that expertise in the field of protection of the marine environment is available among the Member States of the Organization and other international organizations,

NOTING FURTHER MEPC/Circ.210 of 14 September 1988 by which Member States were requested to inform the Organization on environmental problems associated with maritime transport activities,

1. REAFFIRMS the desirability of continuing to enhance the activities of the Organization in the field of technical assistance for the protection of the marine environment;
2. INVITES the Secretary-General, in co-operation with interested Member States, relevant international organizations and donor agencies, to undertake on a priority basis an evaluation of the problems faced by developing countries in the prevention, control and combating of marine pollution from ships and related matters and, in particular, problems encountered in the implementation of the relevant Conventions, taking into account, *inter alia*, technological trends, changing trade patterns and evolving transport modes and port development, with a view to formulating the long-term objectives of the Organization's technical assistance programme in the field of the protection of the marine environment;
3. REQUESTS the Marine Environment Protection Committee, on the basis of this evaluation, to take steps and to make recommendations, as appropriate;
4. REQUESTS ALSO the Member States to inform the Organization on difficulties in ratifying or implementing the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), pursuant to MEPC/Circ.210 of 14 September 1988;
5. REQUESTS FURTHER the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its seventeenth session the outcome of the aforementioned evaluation and the status of the Organization's technical assistance programme in the field of the protection of the marine environment;
6. DECIDES to consider and endorse, as appropriate, at its seventeenth session, the overall strategy and objectives of the Organization's technical assistance programme in the field of the protection of the marine environment.