

RESOLUTION A.631(15)

*Adopted on 20 November 1987
Agenda item 26*

**LONG-TERM WORK PLAN OF THE ORGANIZATION
(UP TO 1994)**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolution A.591(14) by which it approved the subjects for consideration in the long-term work plan of the Organization in the period up to 1992,

RECALLING ALSO that it requested the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee to keep the respective lists of subjects under review in the light of developments in the work of the Organization while continuing to bear in mind the directives contained in resolution A.500(XII) on the objectives of the Organization in the 1980s,

HAVING CONSIDERED the proposal of the Council for the long-term work plan which has been prepared in the light of the views of the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee,

1. APPROVES the long-term work plan comprising an indicative list of subjects for consideration by the Organization for the period up to 1994 as set out in the Annex to the present resolution;
2. REQUESTS the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee to keep the respective lists of subjects under review in the light of developments in the work of the Organization, while continuing to bear in mind the directives contained in resolution A.500(XII) and to report or recommend, as necessary, to the Assembly at its sixteenth regular session;
3. FURTHER REQUESTS all Committees, when considering proposals for future work, to ensure that the subjects proposed are those on which significant work could reasonably be envisaged in the foreseeable future;
4. EMPHASIZES that all proposed items, and especially those involving amendments to existing conventions, particularly those which had been in force for a short period, should be evaluated by reference to the directives in resolution A.500(XII), and that due attention should be given to the requirement that a well documented "compelling need" must be demonstrated for new or revised standards;
5. REITERATES ITS REQUEST to the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee, when reviewing the long-term work plan and in making recommendations for the work programme for subsequent periods, to bear in mind the desirability of scheduling not more than one conference in each year, save in exceptional circumstances.

ANNEX

The following is an indicative list of subjects for consideration by the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and the Facilitation Committee for the period up to 1994. This list is not exhaustive and the subjects are not listed in an order of priority.

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE

I Objectives

- 1 Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 1 and 28 of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization, to encourage the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in respect of matters concerning maritime safety and efficiency of navigation including any matter within the scope of the Organization concerned with aids to navigation, construction and equipment of vessels (and other marine vehicles), training and qualification of seafarers, manning from a safety standpoint, rules for the prevention of collisions, handling of dangerous cargoes, maritime safety procedures and requirements, hydrographic information, log-books and navigational records, marine casualty investigations, salvage and rescue, and any other matter directly affecting maritime safety (e.g. fire safety, maritime communications and the safe transport of cargoes generally) and with due regard to the context of resolution A.500(XII).
- 2 To provide the necessary machinery for performing any duties assigned to it and to maintain such close relationship with other bodies as may further the purposes of the Organization.

II Specific subjects

- 1 Implementation, technical interpretation and improvement of conventions, codes, recommendations and guidelines.
- 2 Procedures for the control of ships including deficiency reports.
- 3 Casualty statistics and investigations into serious casualties.
- 4 Harmonization of survey and certification requirements and authorization granted to non-governmental organizations to conduct surveys.
- 5 Training, watchkeeping and operational procedures for maritime personnel, including seafarers, fishermen, maritime pilots and those responsible for maritime safety in mobile offshore units.
- 6 Shipboard and shore-based management for the safe operation of ships.
- 7 Measures to improve navigational safety, including ships' routing, requirements and standards for navigational aids and ship reporting systems.
- 8 The global maritime distress and safety system and other maritime radiocommunication matters including navigational warning services, shipborne radio equipment and operational procedures.
- 9 Survival in case of maritime casualty or distress, and the provision of maritime search and rescue services.

- 10 Safe carriage of solid bulk cargoes, timber, grain and other cargoes by sea, including containers and vehicles.
- 11 Carriage of dangerous goods in packaged form, portable tanks, unit loads, other transport units, shipborne barges and intermediate bulk containers (IBCs).
- 12 Carriage of bulk chemicals in offshore support vessels.
- 13 Carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel in purpose-built and non-purpose-built ships.
- 14 Emergency procedures and safety measures for ships carrying dangerous goods, medical first aid in case of accidents involving dangerous goods and the safe use of pesticides in ships.
- 15 Safe handling and storage of dangerous goods in port areas.
- 16 Intact stability, subdivision, damage stability and load lines of ships.
- 17 Tonnage measurement of ships.
- 18 Safety considerations for machinery and electrical installations in ships.
- 19 Manoeuvrability of intact and disabled ships.
- 20 Control of noise and related vibration levels on board ships.
- 21 Matters pertaining to fire safety on board ships.
- 22 Safety aspects of the design, construction, equipment and operation of specific types of ships, such as fishing vessels, oil tankers, chemical tankers, gas carriers, dynamically supported craft, mobile offshore drilling units, special purpose ships, offshore supply vessels, nuclear merchant ships, roll-on roll-off ships, barge carriers, barges carrying dangerous chemicals in bulk and diving systems.
- 23 Prevention of piracy and unlawful acts against ships.
- 24 IMO ship identification number scheme.
- 25 Possible revision of the 1977 Torremolinos International Convention.
- 26 Co-operation with the United Nations and other international bodies on matters of mutual interest.
- 27 A possible single (unified) international instrument (i.e. one comprehensive convention concerning safety of life at sea and marine environment protection) incorporating and superseding relevant conventions and instruments currently applicable, which might include:
 - 1974 SOLAS Convention
 - 1978 SOLAS Protocol
 - 1966 Load Line Convention
 - MARPOL 73/78
 - International Bulk Chemical Code
 - International Gas Carrier Code

LEGAL COMMITTEE

- 1 Draft convention on offshore mobile craft.
- 2 Arrest of seagoing ships, subject to the results of the work in respect of maritime liens and mortgages and related subjects.
- 3 Draft convention on civil jurisdiction, choice of law, recognition and enforcement of judgements in matters of collision at sea.
- 4 Consideration of the legal status of novel types of craft, such as air-cushion vehicles, operating in the marine environment.
- 5 A possible convention on wreck removal and related issues.
- 6 A possible convention on the regime of vessels in foreign ports.
- 7 Legal status of ocean data acquisition systems (ODAS).
- 8 Possible revision of maritime law conventions in the light of proven need and subject to the directives in resolution A.500(XII), including in particular:
 - (a) revision of the 1974 Athens Convention in order to update the limitation amounts and provide for a procedure for the speedy amendment of those amounts; and
 - (b) revision of the 1976 Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims in order particularly to update the limitation figures therein, subject to the conclusions reached in respect of future work on the draft HNS Convention.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE

I Principal objectives

- 1 Solution of problems involved in the implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78) including examination of the problems of implementation of MARPOL 73/78 in relation to the protection of the marine environment in special areas.
- 2 Development of suitable procedures for the enforcement of conventions relating to marine pollution.
- 3 Promotion of technical co-operation, including the development of regional arrangements on co-operation to combat pollution in cases of emergency.
- 4 Entry into force of the optional Annexes to MARPOL 73/78.

II Specific subjects

- 1 Uniform interpretation and application of the provisions of MARPOL 73/78 and possible amendments thereto.
- 2 Reception facilities for residues.
- 3 Oily-water separators and oil discharge monitoring and control systems including those for light refined oils and oil-like substances.

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- 4 Procedures for the control of ships and certificates and the control of discharge from ships.
- 5 Surveys and certification of ships under MARPOL 73/78.
- 6 Penalties for infringement of convention provisions.
- 7 Casualty investigations in relation to marine pollution.
- 8 Arrangements for combating major incidents or threats of marine pollution.
- 9 Promotion of regional arrangements for combating marine pollution.
- 10 Development and updating of anti-pollution manual.
- 11 Identification of particularly sensitive sea areas.
- 12 Categorization of noxious liquid substances and harmful substances.
- 13 Prevention of pollution by noxious solid substances in bulk.
- 14 Measures on board ships to minimize the escape of pollutants in the case of accidents.
- 15 Shipboard and shore-based management for the prevention of marine pollution.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

I In accordance with the provisions of the IMO Convention, the Technical Co-operation Committee:

- (a) considers programmes relating to the implementation of technical co-operation projects for which IMO acts as the executing or co-operating agency;
- (b) considers any other matters relating to IMO's functions in the technical co-operation field; and
- (c) keeps under review the work of the Secretariat concerning technical co-operation.

II The work of the Technical Co-operation Committee is expected to follow the same pattern as in the past and will be governed by the nature of the requests for assistance received from Governments.

III The main objectives of the work plan in general and specific projects will be:

- 1 Advice and assistance to Governments of developing countries for the development of well co-ordinated and more efficient maritime transport systems.
- 2 The promotion of adequate infrastructure in the shipping and ports sector.
- 3 The promotion of appropriate self-reliance at the national level; the encouragement of subregional and regional co-operation, particularly technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC).

4 Advice and assistance to Governments of developing countries in taking appropriate measures to ratify important conventions and instruments of IMO and to implement their provisions.

5 The planning and organization of courses, workshops and seminars as and when the occasion arises to emphasize the importance of maritime training, maritime safety and prevention of marine pollution from ships.

FACILITATION COMMITTEE

1 The implementation, technical interpretation and improvement of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965 and its Annex.

2 Facilitation activities within the Organization including:

(a) promotional activities carried out in co-operation with Member Governments, Contracting Governments and organizations concerned; and

(b) facilitation aspects of forms and certificates emanating from other activities of the Organization.

3 IMO policy on automatic data processing of shipping documents and documents used for clearance of ships.

4 Examination and possible adaptation of elements of conventions, codes and recommendations of a facilitative nature elaborated by other organizations.

5 Consideration and formulation of proposals for amending the Convention and recommendations of a facilitative nature elaborated by other organizations.

6 Formalities connected with the arrival, stay and departure of ships, persons and cargo.