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ASSEMBLY
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Agenda item 9

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Resolution A.998(25)

Adopted on 29 November 2007

**NEED FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW, AND AMENDMENTS
TO EXISTING, INSTRUMENTS**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution A.500(XII) whereby it directed the Council and the committees to entertain proposals for new conventions or amendments to existing conventions only on the basis of clear and well-documented demonstration of compelling need, taking into account the undesirability of modifying conventions not yet in force or of amending existing conventions unless such latter instruments have been in force for a reasonable period of time and experience has been gained of their operation, having regard to the costs to the maritime industry and the burden on the legislative and administrative resources of Member States,

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the progress achieved in the implementation of the provisions of resolution A.500(XII),

APPRECIATING the efforts of the Council, through the Organization's Strategic Plan, to enhance the importance of capacity-building to ensure universal and uniform application of the Organization's instruments,

FURTHER NOTING that, unless the Council, the committees and their subsidiary bodies adopt a cradle-to-grave approach in relation to matters concerning capacity-building, technical co-operation and assistance, the chances of success in the ratification and effective implementation of IMO instruments may be reduced by the level of unpreparedness or lack of capacity that Governments, particularly of developing countries, experience at the point when implementation of such instruments is urgently required,

CONSIDERING that the lack of capacity within States has a direct relationship to the level and quality of implementation of existing, new and/or amended instruments and that the low speed of ratification is partly due to the lack of understanding of the original intentions of the instrument and what is required of Member States in order to realize full benefits of implementation,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that, even though States may have ratified newly adopted or amended instruments, the lack of preparation through capacity-building and training, or the absence of a guidance document to implementation, results in an undesirable lack of success to effective implementation of these instruments,

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1. DIRECTS the Council to coordinate the work of the committees and their subsidiary bodies towards ensuring, as far as possible, a balanced level of implementation of new instruments;
2. RECOMMENDS that the Council and the committees consider, as a means to promote and enhance capacity-building efforts, proposals for the development of new instruments and/or amendment to existing ones after an assessment of implications for capacity-building and technical co-operation has been undertaken;
3. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that the committees should establish a mechanism to identify new instruments requiring the provision of technical assistance prior to implementation, issues requiring special focus when developing technical co-operation and assistance activities relating to the implementation of new measures, and new instruments requiring a simplified guide for implementation;
4. INSTRUCTS all IMO organs, under the coordination of the Council, to make arrangements, within their work programmes and guidelines on the organization and method of their work, so as to enable as many Member States as possible to participate actively in the work of such organs and their subsidiary bodies;
5. REQUESTS the Council to monitor progress on the implementation of this policy on a regular basis.
