

**RESOLUTION A.676(16)**

*Adopted on 19 October 1989  
Agenda item 12*

**TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

AWARE of the risk of damage to human health and the environment involved in the marine transport and related handling of hazardous wastes,

AWARE ALSO of the effective international safety and environmental rules and standards developed by IMO which are generally accepted and recognized and are applicable to the marine transport of hazardous wastes and their related handling in ports,

MINDFUL that recent increased global concern about the need to control stringently the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and ensure their safe and environmentally sound disposal gave rise to the adoption, in March 1989, of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal ("Basel Convention"),

NOTING that the Basel Convention, *inter alia*, requires that hazardous wastes subject to the Convention must be packaged, labelled and transported in conformity with generally accepted and recognized rules and standards in the fields of packaging, labelling and transport, and that due account must be taken of relevant internationally recognized practices,

NOTING ALSO that the Preamble to the Basel Convention states, *inter alia*, that hazardous wastes should be transported in accordance with relevant international conventions and recommendations, and that the Convention requires, in the case of accident during transboundary movement of hazardous wastes which is likely to present risks to human health and the environment of other States, that these States are immediately informed,

NOTING FURTHER resolution 7 "Co-operation between the International Maritime Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme in the Review of Existing Rules, Regulations and Practices with respect to Transport of Hazardous Wastes at Sea", adopted by the Basel Conference on 22 March 1989,

AFFIRMING the unique responsibility and competence of the Organization in the field of safe and environmentally sound marine transport and, in particular, the applicability of its relevant rules, standards and recommendations to the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes involving marine transport and related handling,

BEARING IN MIND the necessity and importance of world-wide adherence to implementation and enforcement of relevant IMO conventions,

RECOGNIZING that there is a need to review the existing rules, regulations, and practices with respect to the marine transport of hazardous wastes in the light of the Basel Convention and current experience of the effectiveness of these rules, regulations and practices,

1. REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee to review jointly the relevant rules, regulations and practices with respect to the marine transport of hazardous wastes in the light of the Basel Convention with a view to recommending any additional measures needed, including information, documentation and other precautionary measures, in order to assist coastal States, flag States, and port States in fulfilling their responsibilities with respect to the protection and preservation of the marine environment, and to report on the results of the review, and on the action taken, to the Assembly at its seventeenth regular session;
2. REQUESTS ALSO the Legal Committee and the Facilitation Committee to review the implication of the Basel Convention for their work and to take the necessary action, as appropriate;
3. URGES Governments to accept – so far as this has not yet been done – Annex III of MARPOL 73/78 to facilitate the early entry into force of that Annex and the amendments thereto;
4. RECOMMENDS that, pending the completion of the aforementioned action by the relevant bodies of the Organization, the Member States take all necessary measures so as to ensure that the marine transport of hazardous wastes and their related handling in ports do not endanger the ship, its complement, port personnel, and the marine environment;
5. REQUESTS FINALLY the Secretary-General to communicate this resolution and the results of the review and any action taken by the Organization with respect to the marine transport of hazardous wastes to the first meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Basel Convention through the Executive Director of UNEP.

**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,