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**Adopted on 5 December 2003
(Agenda item 12)**

ARREARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS

THE ASSEMBLY,

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

RECALLING ALSO 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 56 in respect of itself shall submit a written application to the Secretary-General 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 states that any Member seeking election to the Council shall have discharged its financial obligations to the Organization or shall have committed itself to a schedule submitted to the Secretary-General so to do,

RECALLING FURTHER Regulation 5.4 of the Financial Regulations of the Organization, under which contributions are considered as due and payable in full within thirty days of receipt of the notice of assessment issued by the Secretary-General or as of the first day of the calendar year to which they relate, whichever is the later,

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

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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,

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 a number of countries 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 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 the current year's contribution;
5. REQUESTS 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.