RESOLUTION A.176(VI) adopted on 21 October 1969

MARINE POLLUTION

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THE ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND that the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954 (as amended in 1962), of which IMCO is the depositary Organization, and in particular, amendments to that Convention adopted by the present session of the Assembly, has made a significant contribution towards prevention of pollution of the sea by oil,

RECALLING United Nations Resolution 2467B (XXIII) concerning the hazardous and harmful effects of pollution that might arise from the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor and the protection of living and other resources from the consequences of such pollution,

RECALLING ALSO United Nations Resolution 2414 (XXIII) inviting the Member States and Organizations dealing with marine pollution, especially IMCO and the IAEA, to promote the adoption of effective international agreements on the prevention and control of marine pollution as may be necessary,
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RECALLING IN ADDITION United Nations Resolution 2398 (XXIII) by which the General Assembly decided to convene, in 1972, a United Nations Conference on Human Environment,

RECALLING FURTHER Council Resolution C.42(XXI) regarding the objectives of the Organization, in particular the placing of restraints upon the contamination of the sea, land and air or other similar injury by or from ships and vessels and other equipment operating in the marine environment,

NOTING the decision of the Maritime Safety Committee with a view to implementing the foregoing Resolutions, to formulate proposals for the prevention of pollution of the land, sea and air by ships, vessels and other equipment operating in the marine environment,

NOTING ALSO the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, considered by the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction (A/AC/138/13), concerning the inter-secretariat meeting held in Geneva (July 1969), in which the United Nations, IMCO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO and the IAEA participated, and the work of the Joint IMCO/FAO/UNESCO/WMO Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP) as recorded in the report of its first session held in London from 17-21 March 1969 (GESAMP I/11),

NOTING FURTHER the report of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor which referred to the activities of IMCO and suggested that the international conventions of which it is the depositary be so complemented as to take into account problems relating to:
(i) the safety of construction, equipment and operation of drilling rigs, production platforms, submersibles and other devices used for the exploitation and transportation of sea-bed resources;

(ii) the safety of the people working on them;

(iii) the danger arising from ships navigating in the area where underwater operations take place;

(iv) the spillage of oil and other noxious or hazardous substances into the sea due to the exploitation of sea-bed resources,

BEING CONSCIOUS of the responsibility of the Organization in the field of prevention and control of pollution of the marine environment including the pollution which might arise from the exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and ocean floor,

INVITs the Maritime Safety Committee to proceed with its work on marine pollution with all possible speed with a view to achieving early implementation of effective measures for the prevention and control of marine pollution, and to co-operate fully with other interested organizations in carrying out this task,

DECIDES to convene, in 1973, an international Conference on Marine Pollution for the purpose of preparing a suitable international agreement for placing restraints on the contamination of the sea, land and air by ships, vessels and other equipment operating in the marine environment,
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INVITES the Member States to recognize the need for urgency in applying effective control measures for preventing pollution of the marine environment from ships, vessels and other equipment and to submit to the Organization necessary information for this purpose.