THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Article 16(i) of the IMCO Convention concerning the functions of the Assembly,

RECOGNIZING the need for ensuring unencumbered exploitation of sea-bed resources as well as safety at sea,

HAVING CONSIDERED difficulties which would result from the congestion of navigable waters by off-shore platforms or other structures,

HAVING ALSO CONSIDERED the Recommendation adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee at its eighteenth session,

RECOMMENDS that Governments:

(i) ensure that the exploitation of sea-bed resources does not seriously obstruct sea approaches and shipping routes;
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(ii) consider the establishment of fairways or shipping routes through off-shore resource exploration areas at an early stage so as to ensure the unencumbered passage of marine traffic through the areas at all stages of exploitation;

(iii) take into account the principles adopted by IMCO with respect to routeing when considering the establishment of such fairways or shipping routes.