THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Article 16(i) of the Convention on the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly with regard to maritime safety,

HAVING CONSIDERED the Merchant Ship Search and Rescue Manual (MERSAR) prepared by the Maritime Safety Committee and communicated to all concerned (MSC/Circ.63 and 73),

HAVING NOTED that the Committee recommended Member Governments to put the Manual into effect forthwith by giving it wide distribution and encouraging vessels under their flag to adhere to it as necessary so that experience could be gained,

HAVING ALSO NOTED with approval that the Committee has included in its long-term programme the formulation of an international agreement on a Search and Rescue System,

DECIDES:

(a) to adopt the Manual, and

(b) to endorse the Committee's recommendation for putting it into effect,
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REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee to:

(a) take the necessary action for keeping the Manual up to date and amended as appropriate, and

(b) consider in due course the status of the Manual in the context of the agreement on a Search and Rescue System.