THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING the successful outcome of the 1995 Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 (STCW Conference),

NOTING ALSO STCW Conference resolution 12 on the contribution of the World Maritime University (WMU) in the achievement of enhanced standards of maritime training and the invitation of the STCW Conference to consider adopting a similar resolution,

BEING AWARE that many countries, in particular developing countries, may have difficulty in achieving the levels of training and assessment required by the amended Convention,

BEING ALSO AWARE that there is a continuing need for personnel in the international maritime field to have an adequate level of education and training in order to achieve the objectives of the Organization for safer shipping and cleaner oceans in a uniform and effective manner worldwide,

RECOGNIZING the significance of the contribution of WMU graduates, particularly in developing countries, to the implementation of the amended STCW Convention and improved standards of training, as well as to the implementation of standards incorporated in various maritime safety and pollution prevention-related conventions of the International Maritime Organization in general,

NOTING FURTHER that this continuing need can be met by the WMU assuming a leading role in the transfer of maritime education and knowledge through its activities and in the networking of advanced maritime training establishments,

1. REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee and the Technical Co-operation Committee, under the co-ordination of the Council, to:

   (a) utilize the resources and expertise of the WMU to transfer maritime education and knowledge wherever needed, particularly in developing countries; and

   (b) encourage and support the WMU to assume a leading role in the promotion and implementation of a network of advanced maritime training establishments;

2. RECOMMENDS STRONGLY that Governments continue to support and utilize the resources of the WMU to meet their needs for highly trained maritime lecturers and administrators.