

Resolution A.738(18)

*Adopted on 4 November 1993
(Agenda item 11)*

MEASURES TO PREVENT AND SUPPRESS PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety,

RECALLING ALSO article 100 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, which provides for all States to co-operate to the fullest possible extent in the repression of piracy on the high seas or in any other place outside the jurisdiction of any State,

REAFFIRMING resolution A.545(13), which, *inter alia*, urges Governments to take, as a matter of highest priority, all measures necessary to prevent and suppress acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships in or adjacent to their waters, including strengthening of security measures,

REAFFIRMING ALSO resolution A.683(17), which, *inter alia*, invites all Governments to increase their efforts, as a matter of highest priority, to suppress and prevent acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships in or adjacent to their waters as well as to ensure that further and prompt action, including strengthening of security measures, is taken against pirates and armed robbers reportedly operating in their waters,

NOTING with great concern the still disturbing number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships and the often ferocious nature of such attacks,

NOTING ALSO the grave danger to life and the grave navigational and environmental risks to which such incidents can give rise,

RECOGNIZING the Secretary-General's initiative in creating the Working Group on the Malacca Strait Area,

RECOGNIZING ALSO the significant reduction in the number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Malacca Strait area since the implementation of countermeasures by the littoral States, including co-ordinated sea patrols,

DESIRING to devise measures to prevent and eliminate piracy and armed robbery against ships,

BEARING IN MIND MSC/Circ. 622, which recommends Member Governments, in particular those within areas identified as areas affected by acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, to take any necessary action to implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the report on the Malacca Strait area relating to combatting piracy and armed robbery against ships,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendations made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its sixty-second session,

1. URGES all Governments to continue their efforts to prevent and suppress acts of piracy and armed robbery (piratical attacks) against ships at sea;
2. URGES ALSO Governments to recommend to vessels registered under their flags precautionary measures for the avoidance of such attacks, and procedures to be followed if they occur, including particularly the immediate reporting to the nearest or other appropriate rescue co-ordination centre (RCC) and, if possible, the coastal State as well as to the flag State concerned any such attacks or attempted attacks;

3. FURTHER URGES Governments, as appropriate, to establish and maintain close liaison with neighbouring States to facilitate the apprehension and conviction of all persons involved in piratical attacks;
4. URGES FURTHER Governments of coastal States to make arrangements with coast earth stations to ensure prompt delivery of reports of piratical attacks to the authorities concerned;
5. INVITES Governments to consider the use of surveillance and detection techniques, and the capability of preventing and responding to piratical attacks;
6. ALSO INVITES Governments, as appropriate, to develop and continue co-operation agreements with neighbouring States, including the co-ordination of patrol activities and of the response by rescue co-ordination centres;
7. REQUESTS Governments to instruct national rescue co-ordination centres or other agencies involved, on receipt of a report of an attack, to inform promptly the local security forces so that contingency plans may be implemented and to warn shipping in the immediate area of the attack;
8. RECOMMENDS to Governments that each national rescue co-ordination centre which may be contacted by rescue co-ordination centres from other States be capable of communicating in English at all times;
9. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to seek means of providing support from donor countries and international financial institutions for Governments requesting technical and financial assistance on the prevention and suppression of piratical attacks;
10. REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee to consider the adoption of a special signal for use by ships under attack or threat of attack;
11. REQUESTS FURTHER the Maritime Safety Committee to keep this matter under review and take such further action as it may consider necessary in the light of developments.