

Resolution A.725(17)
Adopted on 7 November 1991
(Agenda item 23)

ARREARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 55(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization which provides that the Assembly shall apportion the expenses of the Organization in accordance with a scale to be fixed by it after consideration of the proposals of the Council thereon,

RECALLING ALSO Article 56 of the Convention which states that any Member which fails to discharge its financial obligation to the Organization within one year from the date on which it is due, shall have no vote in the Assembly, the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee or the Technical Co-operation Committee unless the Assembly, at its discretion, waives this provision,

RECALLING FURTHER regulation 5.4 of the Financial Regulations of the Organization, under which contributions are considered as due and payable in full within 30 days of receipt of the notice of assessment issued by the Secretary-General or as of the first day of the calendar year to which they relate, whichever is the later,

WELCOMING the Secretary-General's continuous effort to secure timely payment from Member States,

NOTING that it is in the interests of all Member States to expedite payment of contributions in order that the Organization can focus on its primary aims of improving safety at sea and reducing marine pollution,

NOTING ALSO that there are still delays in the payment of the current year's contributions and in the settlement of contributions due and payable for earlier years,

NOTING FURTHER that a number of countries have made special efforts to pay off their arrears and to settle the current year's contribution,

NOTING WITH CONCERN that the level of arrears of contributions has caused serious difficulties in the financial management of the Organization and in the execution of its work programme and has resulted in a cash deficit as at 31 December 1990,

NOTING FURTHER that the cash deficit as at 31 December 1990 caused the deferral of the distribution to Member States of the interest earnings on contribution receipts during 1990, under the provisions of resolution A.629(15)B on the contributions incentive scheme,

CONSIDERING that urgent action is now necessary to ensure the prompt payment by Member States of the approved level of annual assessments,

1. INVITES the attention of Member States to the provisions of resolution A.629(15)B under which a contributions incentive scheme is currently in operation to encourage early payment of contributions;
2. URGES Member States to make payment of any arrears at the earliest date;

3. ALSO URGES Member States to make payment of their contribution for the current year as soon as possible within the year in accordance with regulation 5.4 of the Financial Regulations;
4. REQUESTS all Members of the Council to set an example in this regard by the prompt payment of the current year's contribution;
5. REQUESTS the Council to continue to treat the problem of arrears of contributions as a matter of high priority and in this respect requests all Members of the Council to set an example by the prompt payment of arrears;
6. INVITES the Council to keep under review the extent to which the contributions incentive scheme has influenced the pattern of contribution payments;
7. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of all Member States, and to continue to take all possible steps to ensure prompt payment of each current year's contributions and of arrears of contributions.