

**RESOLUTION A.646(16)**

*Adopted on 19 October 1989  
Agenda item 10*

**SAFETY OF FISHERMEN AT SEA**

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,

BEARING IN MIND the purpose of the International Maritime Organization to encourage the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning maritime safety,

NOTING that available statistics show that casualty and accident rates amongst fishermen at work considerably exceed those of other seamen,

NOTING ALSO that after more than twelve years from its adoption the Torremolinos Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977, has not yet entered into force,

BEING AWARE that despite considerable work within the International Maritime Organization as regards fishing vessel safety there is not yet in force any international instrument that addresses in particular safety of fishermen at sea,

BEING ALSO AWARE that fishing vessels operate in economic zones extending far into international waters and associated deep-sea marine environments,

MINDFUL of the outcome of the International Symposium on Safety and Working Conditions Aboard Fishing Vessels, held in Rimouski, Canada, from 22 to 24 August 1989,

RECOGNIZING that work is needed at international level to further improve the safety of fishing vessels and their crews, and that the International Maritime Organization, in consultation with other international organizations such as the International Labour Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, is the appropriate body to deal with this matter,

RECOGNIZING ALSO that, to improve safety of fishermen at sea, due consideration must be given to setting standards, not only for vessels, working environment and equipment, but also for fishermen's training,

1. RESOLVES that the Organization gives a high priority to work aimed at enhancing safety of fishing vessels and of fishermen at sea;
2. REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee to take all necessary steps to meet this objective including the earliest possible consideration and approval of a protocol to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977, and the facilitation of a rapid entry into force of the protocol modifying and incorporating the provisions of the said Convention;

3. URGES the Maritime Safety Committee to consider casualty statistics for fishing vessels and fishermen, as a matter of high priority, in order to develop at a later stage the appropriate amendments to conventions and codes to improve the safety of fishermen at sea;

4. REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee to consider an amendment to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, dealing with training and certification of crews on fishing vessels, taking into consideration resolutions A.484(XII): Basic principles to be observed in keeping a navigational watch on board fishing vessels, A.539(13): Certification of skippers and officers in charge of a navigational watch on fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over, A.576(14): Standards for skippers and officers in charge of a navigational watch on fishing vessels of less than 24 metres in length operating in unlimited and limited waters, and the *Document for Guidance on Fishermen's Training and Certification* issued by FAO, ILO and IMO.