

RESOLUTION A.580(14)

Adopted on 20 November 1985

Agenda item 10(b)

**REGIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS AND
REGIONAL CHARTING GROUPS**

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 and marine pollution,

RECALLING ALSO resolution A.419(XI) by which it adopted the World-wide Navigational Warning Service,

RECALLING FURTHER resolution A.532(13) by which it recommended Governments to arrange for or encourage the prompt transfer of new hydrographic information to appropriate authorities and invited Governments to conduct hydrographic surveys to modern standards, co-operate with other Governments having less extensive hydrographic capabilities, and promote support for relevant technical assistance,

NOTING that the Organization has, through representation to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), urged the adoption of measures intended to make more effective the implementation of those provisions concerning charts and nautical publications incorporated in international conventions,

NOTING FURTHER that Member States of IHO are engaged in a concerted effort to promote regional co-operation and technical assistance in hydrography, and to develop world-wide an international chart series, through the establishment of regional hydrographic commissions or regional charting groups,

RECOGNIZING that timely collection and promulgation of new hydrographic information in chart or navigational warning form and the availability to the mariner of adequate charts and publications are vital to the safety of navigation, maritime commerce and the economic prosperity of all coastal States,

APPRECIATING that involvement of all coastal States in the effort to improve charting would greatly enhance both the flow of important navigational warning information to the mariner and the rate at which adequate nautical charts become available in an international series,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its fiftieth session,

1. ENDORSES the concept of IHO-sponsored regional hydrographic commissions or regional charting groups;
2. URGES Governments to establish such regional bodies where they do not already exist;
3. INVITES Governments to give favourable consideration to participation in such regional bodies when approached by IHO, in order to facilitate the development of co-operative hydrographic programmes and the establishment or strengthening of hydrographic services world-wide.