

**RESOLUTION A.523(13)**

*Adopted on 17 November 1983  
Agenda item 10(b)*

**CHARGES FOR DISTRESS, URGENCY AND SAFETY MESSAGES  
THROUGH THE INMARSAT SYSTEM**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 16(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations concerning maritime safety,

RECALLING ALSO resolution 2 adopted by the International Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, which recommends that States should arrange that participation in ship reporting systems shall be free of message cost to the ships concerned,

BEARING IN MIND that the existing terrestrial maritime radiocommunication services for distress, urgency and safety messages are free of charge to shipping,

NOTING that INMARSAT accounts with its coast earth station owners for all communications other than the initial distress call and message,

NOTING FURTHER that the charges to ships and land subscribers for communication services provided via the INMARSAT system are established by national telecommunication entities in conformity with national policies and practices,

RECOGNIZING the advantages of the INMARSAT service for distress, urgency and safety purposes,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that States should make multilateral arrangements for compensation of coast earth stations handling the remainder of the distress traffic as well as urgency and safety messages,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its forty-eighth session,

1. RECOMMENDS States owning a coast earth station to arrange that the initial "distress message" through the INMARSAT system shall be free of charge to shipping;
2. RECOMMENDS ALSO that States make every effort, consistent with domestic laws and policies, to arrange that the remainder of the distress traffic as well as urgency and safety messages through the INMARSAT system shall be free of charge to shipping;
3. RECOMMENDS FURTHER that an accounting system be established whereby charges for the remainder of the distress traffic as well as urgency and safety messages be shared equitably amongst the countries concerned with that traffic.