



ASSEMBLY
23rd session
Agenda item 17

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Resolution A.961(23)

**Adopted on 5 December 2003
(Agenda item 17)**

**WIDER ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROTOCOL OF 1988 RELATING TO THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON LOAD LINES, 1966**

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 that on 5 April 1966 the International Conference on Load Lines adopted the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (hereinafter referred to as the "Convention"), which entered into force on 21 July 1968,

RECALLING FURTHER that on 11 November 1988 the International Conference on the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification adopted the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (hereinafter referred to as the "Protocol"), which entered into force on 3 February 2000,

NOTING that the Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventy-seventh session, adopted amendments to Annex B to the Protocol which, on condition that they are deemed accepted on 1 July 2004 in accordance with paragraph 2(f)(ii)(bb) of article VI thereof, will enter into force on 1 January 2005 in accordance with paragraph 2(g)(ii) of the same article,

NOTING ALSO that the Committee, at its seventy-sixth session, acknowledged that the amendments would not, upon entry into force, affect the Convention and recognized that, as a consequence and on the basis of the Protocol's status at MSC 76, the amendments would apply only to approximately 60% of the world's merchant fleet, i.e. to those ships flying the flags of States Parties to the Protocol,

NOTING WITH CONCERN that such a situation might lead to an undesirable two-tier system whereby ships would be subjected to different safety regimes, depending whether the flag Administration is a Contracting Government to the Convention or a Party to the Protocol as well,

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BEING CONVINCED that a single and universal regulatory regime relating to load lines would contribute substantially to enhancing maritime safety globally,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its seventy-seventh session,

URGES all Contracting Governments to the Convention which have not yet become Party to the Protocol to do so at the earliest possible opportunity by applying article IV thereof.
