



## General Assembly

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### Fifty-seventh session

Item 25 (a) of the preliminary list\*

### **Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea**

#### **Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the letter dated 24 January 2002 from the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) (see annex) transmitting IMO Assembly resolution A.922(22) on the Code of Practice for the Investigation of Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships.

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\* A/57/50/Rev.1.

**Annex****Letter dated 24 January 2002 from the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization addressed to the Secretary-General**

In my letter of 8 June 2000 (A/55/311, annex) I had referred to the concern caused to this organization (IMO) and its member Governments by the increasing number and seriousness of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships and seafarers in various parts of the world. I had also expressed the appreciation of IMO of the support of the General Assembly of the United Nations for its efforts to prevent and suppress these unlawful acts and to ensure that their perpetrators did not go unpunished. Such support has been demonstrated on a number of occasions and, most recently, by the adoption, on 28 November 2001, of resolution 56/12 on oceans and the law of the sea. In that resolution, the General Assembly, among other things, reiterated its call upon States to cooperate fully with IMO and implement its relevant guidelines.

At its recent twenty-second session (19-30 November 2001), the IMO Assembly, bearing in mind the rights and obligations of States under the international law of the sea, including the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and recognizing with concern the grave danger to the safety of life at sea, maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment arising from acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, adopted resolution A.922(22) on the Code of Practice for the Investigation of the Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships. By so doing, the IMO Assembly also responded positively to the recommendation made at the second session, in May 2001, of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process established by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/33 in order to facilitate the annual review by the Assembly of developments in ocean affairs, that IMO should be invited to complete quickly the said Code.

In adopting the aforementioned resolution, the IMO Assembly invited Governments to cooperate in the interests of safety of life at sea and environmental protection by increasing their efforts to suppress and prevent acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, and requested me to bring the resolution and the Code annexed thereto to the attention of the United Nations, and other international organizations concerned, for information and appropriate action. I am pleased to do so by attaching a copy of both herewith (see appendix) and should be most grateful if you would bring them to the attention of the appropriate bodies of the United Nations for information and action as they may deem appropriate.

(Signed) W. A. O'Neil  
Secretary-General