

## GC Decision 22/2 V

### Marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 21/28 of 9 February 2001, in which the Council requested the Executive Director to support the establishment of a joint International Maritime Organization/United Nations Environment Programme forum on emergency response to marine pollution,

Aware of the concerns of the international community regarding marine safety and protection of the marine environment from accidental pollution and the need to strengthen the safety conditions of maritime transport,

Acknowledging the commitment made in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Error! Bookmark not defined. urging the International Maritime Organization to consider stronger mechanisms to secure implementation of its instruments by flag States,

Deeply concerned that the maritime transport of certain substances still poses important risks for the marine and coastal environment as evidenced by the recent accident off the Spanish coast,

Reaffirming the importance of the speedy implementation of the legal commitments contained in multilateral environmental and maritime transport agreements,

1. Invites the International Maritime Organization to actively review international regulations regarding single-hull tankers, especially those involved in the transport of heavy fuel oil, and to consider their more timely phasing out, to the degree that this is possible, with a view to reducing serious risk to the environment;

2. Highlights the need to promote the adequate protection of the marine areas and coastal zones that fulfil the criteria for the designation of particularly sensitive sea areas and advocates the furthering of the process of designating those areas in the framework of the International Maritime Organization;

3. Invites the International Maritime Organization to consider establishing a supplementary compensation fund for oil pollution victims, as well as for remediation of environmental damage through a protocol that could be considered for adoption during the Diplomatic Conference to be convened by the International Maritime Organization from 12 to 16 May 2003;

4. Encourages the strengthening of cooperation, at the regional and international levels, to prevent pollution and combat it in the event of a spill;

5. Invites all coastal and flag States that have not yet done so to consider ratification of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 and also the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation on Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000, and to implement all the commitments of those instruments;

6. Invites the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Maritime Organization to strengthen their cooperation for an effective implementation at the regional level, of the global rules and regulations regarding prevention and combating of pollution from shipping;

7. Requests the Executive Director, in the framework of the Regional Seas Programme to support the regional implementation of the present decision, in full cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, as appropriate.