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Agenda item 26(a)

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**RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES**

**(a) Report on the decisions of the General Assembly of the
United Nations on matters of relevance to IMO**

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This report draws attention to resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council communicated to IMO.

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: None

1 Since the eighty-ninth session of the Council in November 2002, the Secretary-General has received from the Secretariat of the United Nations the following resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council which deal with matters of relevance to IMO or which address requests to organizations within the United Nations system.

General Assembly resolutions	Title
Resolution 57/41 of 21 November 2002	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
Resolution 57/141 of 12 December 2002	Oceans and the Law of the Sea.
Resolution 57/142 of 12 December 2002	Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and on the high-seas/illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, fisheries by-catch and discards, and other developments.
Resolution 57/143 of 12 December 2002	Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

General Assembly resolutions	Title
Resolution 57/270 of 20 December 2002	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.
Economic and Social Council resolutions	Title
Resolution 2002/23 of 24 July 2002	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.
Resolution 2002/30 of 25 July 2002	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the Specialized Agencies and the International Institutions Associated with the United Nations.

2 By resolution 57/141 entitled “Oceans and the Law of the Sea”, the General Assembly of the United Nations recognizes the important role that the competent international organizations have in relation to ocean affairs, and in implementing the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It welcomes the initiatives of IMO to counter the threat to maritime security from terrorism and the initiatives taken by IMO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration to address the issue of the treatment of persons rescued at sea. Progress reports on these two issues are submitted to the Council under items 11 and 12. The General Assembly also urges all States and relevant international bodies to co-operate to prevent and combat piracy and armed robbery at sea; and to work together co-operatively with the IMO to strengthen measures to prevent the embarkation of ships involved in the smuggling of migrants. States are also urged to become parties to the relevant IMO Conventions on maritime safety and security.

3 Furthermore, in the area of marine environment, marine resources and sustainable development, the General Assembly decides to establish by 2004 a regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment under the United Nations and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare proposals on modalities. The Secretary-General will make the necessary arrangements for IMO to be consulted in the preparation of the proposals and to be represented in the open-ended informal consultative process on oceans and law of the sea which will discuss:

- (a) protecting valuable marine ecosystems; and
- (b) safety of navigation; for example, capacity-building for the production of nautical charts.

4 The General Assembly also urges IMO to finalize the International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments. The Council may note that it has already approved the convening of the Diplomatic Conference on Ballast Water Management in early 2004 instead of in October 2003, (see C 89/D, paragraph 6.2 (ii)).

5 The texts of the resolutions have been circulated to Governments through other channels and are, therefore, not annexed to this document.

6 The Secretary-General has no specific proposals for action by the Council in respect of the resolutions listed in this document at this stage. As usual, he will follow further discussions on the resolutions within the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system and in the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB). Any conclusion reached, or action proposed, in connection with any of the resolutions, which may be of interest to IMO will be reported to the Council.

Action requested of the Council

7 The Council is invited to take note of the information in this document and to comment or decide, as it may deem appropriate.
