

**RESOLUTION ON ACCELERATING THE RATIFICATION PROCESSES OF THE HNS, BUNKERS
AND WRECK REMOVAL CONVENTIONS, AND THE 1996 PROTOCOLS TO LLMC 1976,
ADOPTED ON 16 APRIL 2008**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PORTS AND
HARBORS (IAPH) IN DUNKIRK, FRANCE**

BEING AWARE of the slow ratification processes of the Hazardous & Noxious Substances Convention (HNS C) 1996 and the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage 2001 (Bunkers C) and intending to avoid a similar fate for the Nairobi Wreck Removal Convention 2007 (Wreck Removal C),

APPLAUDING the fact that the Bunkers C is now expected to enter into force on 21 November 2008 after ratifications having been completed by twenty States representing 21.52 % of the world's tonnage,

NOTING that the HNS C needs to be adapted by a Protocol to the HNS C in order to modify the concept of the receiver in this convention, and that it is expected that States which not yet have ratified the HNS C might postpone ratification until the HNS C has been adapted by the protocol which might take another two years,

NOTING FURTHER when implementing the Wreck Removal C States should consider to extend its application to wrecks located in its territorial waters in order to let benefit those who are responsible for such waters from the beneficial effects of this convention,

MINDFUL that said conventions make an essential contribution to the preservation of the environment and the adequate, prompt and effective compensation of persons who suffer damage caused by incidents in connection with maritime trade and shipping,

RECOGNIZING that the prompt coming into force of said conventions also plays a key role in the context of Places of Refuge where the being into force of said conventions would facilitate the prompt and accurate decision making process of coastal States and Port Authorities absorb related risks for the community as a whole,

1. URGES States to ensure, as a matter of priority, the ratification of the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996, the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001, the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007, and the 1996 Protocols to the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims (LLMC) 1976;
2. URGES States to facilitate, as a matter of priority, the adaptation of the HNS C with a protocol with a view to modify the concept of receiver in this convention;
3. URGES States when implementing the Wreck Removal C to consider to extend its application to wrecks located in its territorial waters in order to let benefit those who are responsible for such waters from the beneficial effects of this convention.

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