

ANNEX 22**RESOLUTION MSC.129(75)
(adopted on 21 May 2002)****MARITIME SAFETY AND SAFETY-RELATED RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS**

THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 28(b) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Committee,

RECALLING ALSO that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), at its 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC), reallocated what had been the Maritime Mobile-Satellite Service in the frequency bands 1530-1544 MHz and 1626.5-1645.5 MHz to a “generic” Mobile-Satellite Service,

RECALLING FURTHER that to protect maritime communications, the ITU included a footnote in its Radio Regulations (provision 5.353A) stating that “priority shall be given to accommodating the spectrum requirements for distress, urgency and safety communications of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. Maritime mobile-satellite distress, urgency and safety communications shall have priority access and immediate availability over all other mobile-satellite communications operating in a network. Mobile-satellite systems shall not cause unacceptable interference to, or claim protection from, distress, urgency and safety communications of the GMDSS.”

NOTING that regulation IV/4.8 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended in 1988, requires every ship, while at sea, be capable of transmitting and receiving general radiocommunications to and from shore-based radio systems or networks,

NOTING ALSO that IMO considers that general radiocommunications contain substantial safety and safety-related communications necessary for the safe operation of shipping,

CONSIDERING that, unless the above safety-related communications are clarified, general radiocommunications receive no special protection under provision 5.353A of the Radio Regulations,

NOTING FURTHER that the IMO position regarding this matter was submitted to WRC-92, WRC-95 and WRC-97,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue at its sixth session,

1. REAFFIRMS that all GMDSS maritime safety and safety-related radiocommunications should be afforded adequate, effective and immediate access and protection, regardless of how it is routed or to whom it is addressed;
2. NOTES that the Radio Regulations define distress, urgency and safety radiocommunications in Articles 32 and 33;

3. NOTES ALSO that distress, urgency and safety radiocommunications include, but are not limited to:

- .1 transmissions of maritime safety information;
- .2 distress calls and traffic;
- .3 acknowledgment and relaying of distress calls;
- .4 search and rescue co-ordination communications;
- .5 ship movement service communications;
- .6 communications related to the safe operation of ships;
- .7 communications related to navigation;
- .8 meteorological warnings;
- .9 meteorological observations;
- .10 ship position reports; and
- .11 medical emergencies (e.g. MEDICO/MEDIVAC);

4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General to communicate this resolution to the International Telecommunication Union.
