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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR AN
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT
FOR IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON
CERTAIN PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Fourth session

Bonn, 20-25 March 2000

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF ONGOING INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE
WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Related work on persistent organic pollutants under
the International Maritime Organization

Note by the secretariat

1. At its twenty-first session, held from 15 to 26 November 1999, the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), adopted, inter alia, resolution A.895(21) on anti-fouling systems used on ships. The resolution urges the Marine Environment Protection Committee of IMO to work toward the expeditious development of a global legally binding instrument to address harmful effects of anti-fouling systems used on ships as a matter of urgency. It also supports the view that the legally binding instrument should ensure a global prohibition of the application of organotin compounds, which act as biocides in anti-fouling systems on ships, by 1 January 2003, and a complete prohibition of the presence of organotin compounds, which act as biocides in anti-fouling systems on ships, by 1 January 2008.

2. The secretariat has the honour to transmit to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee the attached resolution A.895(21) of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization. This information is circulated as submitted by the secretariat of IMO and has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/POPS/INC.4/1.

Annex

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION



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IMO

ASSEMBLY
21st session
Agenda item 11

A 21/Res.895
4 February 2000
Original: ENGLISH

**Resolution A.895(21)
adopted on 25 November 1999**

ANTI-FOULING SYSTEMS USED ON SHIPS

THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING that Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

NOTING ALSO that scientific studies and investigations by Member Governments and other competent international organizations have shown that some anti-fouling systems used on ships pose a substantial risk of adverse impacts on ecologically and economically important marine organisms,

RECOGNIZING that, due to the international nature of shipping and the need to avoid distortions in the global shipping, shipbuilding and shiprepair markets, actions to prohibit or otherwise control anti-fouling systems on ships are most effectively accomplished through a global, legally binding instrument,

NOTING IN PARTICULAR the serious concern regarding anti-fouling systems in which organotin compounds act as biocides, and being convinced that the introduction of such organotin compounds into the marine environment must be prevented,

RECALLING that chapter 17 of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), calls upon States to take measures to reduce pollution caused by organotin compounds used in anti-fouling systems,

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RECALLING ALSO that the Marine Environment Protection Committee, by resolution MEPC.46(30), recommended that Governments, *inter alia*, consider appropriate ways to prohibit the use of tributyltin compounds in anti-fouling systems,

RECOGNIZING the importance of protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of anti-fouling systems used on ships,

RECOGNIZING ALSO that the use of anti-fouling systems to prevent the build-up of organisms on the surface on ships is of critical importance to efficient commerce,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the need to continue to develop anti-fouling systems which are effective and environmentally safe,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendation made by the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its forty-second session,

1. URGES the Marine Environment Protection Committee to work towards the expeditious development of a global legally binding instrument to address the harmful effects of anti-fouling systems used on ships as a matter of urgency;
 2. AGREES that the legally binding instrument to be developed by the Marine Environment Protection Committee should ensure a global prohibition of the application of organotin compounds which act as biocides in anti-fouling systems on ships by 1 January 2003, and a complete prohibition of the presence of organotin compounds which act as biocides in anti-fouling systems on ships by 1 January 2008;
 3. URGES ALSO Member Governments to encourage industries to continue to develop, test, and use as a high priority anti-fouling systems which do not adversely impact on non-target species and otherwise degrade the marine environment;
 4. CALLS UPON Governments to develop assessment procedures for evaluating anti-fouling systems and to consider their impact on the environment and society;
 5. CALLS FURTHER UPON Governments to continue to promote scientific and technical research on the environmental impacts of anti-fouling systems.
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