



TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
COMMITTEE
56th session
Agenda item 12

TC 56/12
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REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE ON ITS FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION

1 GENERAL

Introduction

1.1 The Technical Co-operation Committee held its fifty-sixth session from 13 to 15 June 2006 under the chairmanship of Mr. Ben Owusu-Mensah (Ghana).

1.2 The session was attended by delegations from the following Member Governments:

ALGERIA	JAMAICA
ANGOLA	JAPAN
ARGENTINA	KENYA
BAHAMAS	LIBERIA
BANGLADESH	LITHUANIA
BELIZE	MALAYSIA
BRAZIL	MALTA
CANADA	MARSHALL ISLANDS
CHILE	MEXICO
CHINA	MOROCCO
COLOMBIA	MYANMAR
COTE D'IVOIRE	NETHERLANDS
CUBA	NIGERIA
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	NORWAY
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	PANAMA
ECUADOR	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
EGYPT	PERU
FRANCE	PHILIPPINES
GABON	PORTUGAL
GERMANY	REPUBLIC OF KOREA
GHANA	RUSSIAN FEDERATION
GREECE	SAUDI ARABIA
GUATEMALA	SINGAPORE
HONDURAS	SOUTH AFRICA
INDONESIA	SPAIN
ITALY	SWEDEN
	THAILAND

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TURKEY
TUVALU
UKRAINE
UNITED KINGDOM

UNITED STATES
URUGUAY
VANUATU
VENEZUELA

1.3 The session was attended by observers from the following intergovernmental organizations:

INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)
MARITIME ORGANIZATION FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA (MOWCA)

and by observers from the following non-governmental organizations:

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (ICS)
THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(IMarEST)

Secretary-General's Opening Statement

1.4 In welcoming delegates to the meeting, the Secretary-General drew attention to the Committee's role in overseeing the development and implementation of the Organization's technical co-operation policies and activities. In this context, the Committee would consider a consolidated report on the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium illustrating that the results for the period were the highest ever recorded, both in terms of volume and of the delivery rate, with global and regional activities totalling some US\$13 million in 2005 alone and reaching a total of US\$27 million for the biennium. This represented an increase of US\$1.5 million over the previous two years, resulting in the delivery of 74 missions and 224 training events with some 7,367 participants.

1.5 On this year's theme for World Maritime Day, namely, "Technical Co-operation: IMO's response to the 2005 World Summit", the Secretary-General emphasised that both the Council, when adopting the theme, and the Assembly, when adopting resolution A.986(24) on "The Importance and Funding of Technical Co-operation as a Means to Support the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals", identified the maritime needs of Africa as requiring special emphasis.

1.6 In that context, one of the agreed priorities for Africa was the coverage of the continent's coastline by an adequate search and rescue infrastructure starting with the establishment of a new regional Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) in Mombasa, Kenya and two Maritime Rescue Subcentres in Victoria, Seychelles and Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania. This would be followed by MRCCs in South Africa, Nigeria, Liberia and Morocco, in line with the decisions of the IMO Conference on Search and Rescue and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, held in Florence, Italy, in 2000.

1.7 The Secretary-General expressed his thanks and appreciation to the host countries for providing facilities and personnel for the operation of the centres, as well as to the private sector donors, through Inmarsat and IMSO, for the donation of equipment. He also expressed appreciation to the International Search and Rescue Fund, the International Transport Workers' Federation and the Union of Greek Shipowners, which donated over US\$1 million to the Tsunami Maritime Relief Fund, including US\$500,000 to support the development of SAR infrastructure in the Indian Ocean.

1.8 Against the continuing commitment to Africa, the Secretary-General announced his decision to transfer an additional sum of up to US\$800,000 from the un-programmed reserves of the Technical Co-operation Fund to support maritime capacity-building activities in the continent, including, for example, assistance in the development and implementation of safety regulations for non-Convention vessels and the provision of additional fellowships for study at the World Maritime University, the IMO International Maritime Law Institute and, on a cost-sharing basis, for training at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, in Alexandria, Egypt, which has traditionally offered training places to students from Africa.

1.9 Expressing grave concern at the loss of over 1,400 lives at sea in accidents involving passenger ferries and other merchant vessels since the beginning of 2006, the Secretary-General noted that five of the accidents happened off the coast or in the internal waters of Africa and four concerned non-Convention vessels. In this context, he emphasized that IMO was paying special attention to the safety of non-Convention vessels, including small fishing vessels and domestic passenger ferries, and providing assistance in whatever way it might be needed. In a wider context, he informed the Committee that the Organization had joined forces with INTERFERRY to implement a project aimed at enhancing the safety of non-Convention ferries in developing countries. An initial pilot phase of the project in Bangladesh would serve as a model for projects in other countries facing similar difficulties.

1.10 The Secretary-General referred, in particular, to the tragic sinking of the **Al-Salaam Boccaccio 98** in February 2006 with the loss of over 1,000 lives and said that the Organization responded expeditiously to the tragedy and mobilized experts, through the ITCP, to assist in locating and recovering the vessel's voyage data recorder. Assistance was also given to review the maritime safety administration systems in Egypt. The Secretary-General expressed his thanks to the Governments of France and of the United Kingdom for facilitating the provision of such expertise.

1.11 With respect to the ITCP's long-term financial sustainability, the Secretary-General noted that last year's Assembly considered it important to ensure that, starting in 2008, not less than 75% of the net annual surplus in the Printing Fund should be transferred to the TC Fund and that the Council should accord priority to that Fund in allocating any available balances thereafter. He also noted that 2005's sales reached an outstanding level of £6.5 million, which resulted in the second highest profit recorded at £2.8 million. Nevertheless, he pointed out that the Organization's financial capacity to continue to underwrite the high level of technical assistance delivered in the last biennium, primarily through the operation of the TC Fund, remained problematic. Whilst this was an issue which the Committee had been examining for some considerable time, the Secretary-General suggested that the Committee needed to indicate the direction it would like to pursue, make clear its views on the subject and make sound recommendations to the Council to assist it to make the right decisions. In expressing his appreciation for all financial and in-kind contributions to the ITCP, the Secretary-General invited Member States and international organizations to continue, and if possible increase, their appreciable support for IMO's technical co-operation activities.

1.12 Recalling that the last session of the Committee had endorsed the proposal of the Marine Environment Protection Committee to establish a trust fund to encourage developing countries towards safe and environmentally-sound management of ship recycling, the Secretary-General announced the establishment of the "International Ship Recycling Trust Fund", on 1 May 2006, and encouraged Member States and the maritime industry to contribute to the Fund at their earliest convenience.

1.13 The Secretary-General then turned to a few additional issues of a more general nature. The first concerned security at IMO meetings. Complacency about security was not an option, and no compromise could be allowed on this critical issue. All delegates should therefore abide by the security rules in place, as outlined in the updated security information provided in Circular letter No.2692, issued on 20 January 2006.

1.14 The Secretary-General then referred to the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme and recalled that the Committee had contributed to its optimization, in particular with respect to identifying the capacity-building aspects. He outlined three areas on which he would appreciate receiving favourable responses from the Member States:

- that they offer themselves for audit, as requested in resolution A.974;
- that they nominate auditors to enable the selection of audit teams for the conduct of the audit of volunteering Members; and
- that they nominate qualified auditors to participate in the regional training courses which the Organization was planning to convene to provide uniform training for effective implementation of the Scheme. This training would be in addition to the courses already conducted in Slovenia, Sri Lanka and Ecuador.

1.15 He emphasized that the capacity-building aspect of the Scheme was very important and would cover assistance in preparing for the audit; identifying obstacles to completing the audit; and addressing audit findings and recommendations.

1.16 Noting that some initial resources from the TC Fund and donors had been secured to finance such capacity-building activities and that the Secretariat did not anticipate a large number of requests for technical assistance at the beginning of the Scheme's operation, the Secretary-General expressed his appreciation to Egypt, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom for contributing to the ITCP Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme programme and urged other Member States to make similar contributions.

1.17 Concerning the planned refurbishment of the Headquarters Building, the Secretary-General reminded delegates that the building would be closed for approximately 12 months between the summers of 2006 and 2007, during which period the Secretariat would move to offices provided by the Host Government, located at 55 Victoria Street, and the meetings of the Council, Committees and Sub-Committees would be held elsewhere in London and abroad. As far as the next meeting of the Committee was concerned, arrangements were being made for it to be held in London, at the International Coffee Organization, during the week from 18 to 22 June 2007.

1.18 He expressed the hope that delegates would be prepared to face, with resolute spirit and good humour, any discomfort and disruption from normal operations experienced during the refurbishment period and that they would accept them as their contribution to the efforts to create and pass on to the next generation of IMO delegates and staff a building worthy of the technological, IT and communication facilities of the 21st century – one, which would also incorporate state-of-the-art safety, security and health features and of which all would be proud. In spite of the more limited facilities available during the refurbishment period, the Secretariat would endeavour to continue providing the quality service delegates were accustomed to and all assistance from delegations towards facilitating those efforts would be greatly appreciated.

1.19 In closing, the Secretary-General paid a special tribute to a long-standing member of the World Maritime University faculty, Professor Günther Zade of Germany, who had passed away recently. Professor Zade was the Vice-Rector and Academic Dean of the University for 18 years

and, after his retirement in 2001, continued to serve as a research fellow, with responsibility for producing the WMU Journal also. His wonderful personality and outstanding contribution to the establishment, development and progress of WMU in the service of the global maritime community, along with that of Professor Houssin of France, who had also passed away recently, would be dearly missed.

1.20 The Committee, recalling the World Maritime Day theme focus on the special maritime needs of Africa, expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his decision, as highlighted in paragraph 1.8, to allocate an additional sum of up to US\$800,000 to Africa.

Adoption of the Agenda

1.21 The Committee adopted the agenda as it appeared in document TC 56/1.

2 WORK OF OTHER BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

2.1 The Committee had before it documents TC 56/2, TC 56/2/Add.1, TC 56/2/Add.2 and TC 56/2/1. Document TC 56/2 reported on the outcome of the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly, the ninety-fourth ordinary and twenty-third extraordinary sessions of the Council, the thirty-second session of the Facilitation Committee, the fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of the Marine Environment Protection Committee and the twenty-seventh Consultative Meeting of the London Convention. Document TC 56/2/Add.1 reported on the technical co-operation aspects of the Strategic Plan for the Organization (for the six-year period 2006 to 2011), the High-Level Action Plan of the Organization and Priorities for the 2006-2007 Biennium. Document TC 56/2/Add.2 reported on the outcome of the ninety-first session of the Legal Committee and the eighty-first session of the Maritime Safety Committee. Document TC 56/2/1, submitted by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), provided information on actions taken by IHO in the field of capacity-building since the Committee's fifty-fifth session in June 2005.

2.2 The Committee was informed of the outcome of MEPC 54 regarding the need for feedback on the impact of the IMO's technical co-operation programmes as far as the vision and priority objectives of MEPC were concerned. In this regard, the Committee noted that, at its next session in June 2007, it would be considering the methodology and themes for the next Impact Assessment Exercise (IAE) which should take place in 2008 and the Committee could consider the inclusion of marine environment protection issues.

2.3 The Committee was also informed that MEPC 54 had noted the need to ensure a minimal period of bondage to the relevant Government service, in cases where personnel had been trained with ITCP resources; such bondage aimed at ensuring that the knowledge acquired was effectively utilized. The Committee recalled that the matter had been already considered at its fifty-fourth session in June 2004, when it reviewed the recommendations of the report of the Impact Assessment Exercise covering the period 2000-2003 (document TC 54/7/1). The IAE consultants had recommended that, on completion of training financed through the ITCP, participants should be committed to a minimum period of service to government. On this point, it had been considered that such a commitment was not feasible for the type of short-term training activity that was generally sponsored through the ITCP. Conversely, while such a commitment could be desirable where a fellowship was sponsored for the longer-term training provided at WMU, IMLI, and, possibly, IMA in Trieste/Italy, its imposition was generally a matter for the nominating authorities, rather than for the sponsor or training institution.

2.4 The Committee noted the information provided by the IHO (document TC 56/2/1) on efforts it had made in the field of capacity-building since its fifty-fifth session. The Capacity Building Committee (CBC) had held its third meeting in June 2005 in Cartagena (Colombia) and technical visits had been carried out to Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Namibia, Uganda, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. The objective of these visits was to inform the authorities of the countries on the new obligations they had as signatories to the SOLAS Convention after the entry into force of the amendments to Chapter V and the recent resolutions of the United Nations Assembly about the obligations regarding hydrography as a contribution to the economic development of maritime countries. A Technical Workshop had been organized for the countries in the Meso-American and Caribbean Sea Hydrographic Commission, in conjunction with the third CBC meeting. The Workshop focused on Phase I of Hydrographic Capability-Building (gathering and dissemination of hydrographic and safety of navigation information). The Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAthC) conducted a one-week seminar for the Chairmen of the National Hydrographic Committees of the countries in the EAthC region. The objective of the seminar was to raise awareness, at government level, of the importance of hydrography to safety of navigation and national economic development and to explore initiatives of common regional interest.

2.5 The Committee was informed of the outcome of the twenty-fourth regular session of the Assembly with respect to the Strategic Plan and the High-Level Action Plan for the Organization. The Assembly adopted resolution A.970(24) on the Strategic Plan for the Organization (for the six-year period 2006 to 2011) as well as resolution A.971(24) on the High-level Action Plan of the Organization and Priorities for the 2006-2007 Biennium.

2.6 With the adoption of the latter resolution, the Organization was now able to monitor its performance against the Strategic Plan's strategic directions, using the agreed performance indicators as well as its related high-level actions using the agreed biennial priorities.

2.7 With regard to the priorities for the current biennium, the IMO Committees were invited to act as requested in resolutions A.970(24) and A.971(24), taking into consideration the additional directions given by the Council and Assembly, namely to:

- take into account, in the context of the prioritization of their work during the current biennium, the five issues (listed in paragraph 7 of document TC 56/2) identified by the *ad hoc* Council Working Group on the Organization's Strategic Plan;
- set aside sufficient time at their future sessions to consider their high-level actions and associated priorities for the current biennium, in order to ensure that they both accurately and concisely described their planned activities;
- ensure that, when considering proposals for new work programme items, the issues to be addressed were those which fell within the scope of the Strategic Plan (C 95/D, paragraph 4.2); and
- ensure that, when reporting progress on work done towards fulfilling the Organization's aims and objectives, to do so using the framework of the high-level actions and planned biennial outcomes (C 95/D, paragraph 4.2).

2.8 In accordance with reporting arrangements, the Committee was informed that, at its fifty-seventh session in June 2007, it would be considering the draft high-level action plan and priorities for the 2008-2009 biennium. The outcome of these deliberations would be reviewed

and considered by the Council at its ninety-eighth session in June 2007. It would then be reviewed by the Council Working Group on the Organization’s Strategic Plan at its sixth meeting in September 2007 and submitted for consideration and approval by the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session in November/December 2007.

2.9 The Committee’s attention was drawn to document C 96/5(a) “Strategy and Planning - Monitoring of performance”, which had been prepared for consideration by the Council at its ninety-sixth session in June 2006. Since the adoption by the Assembly of the revised Strategic Plan, the Secretariat had collated the latest information available on the Organization’s performance, as measured against the performance indicators in resolution A.970(24). The document also reported on the outcome of the work.

2.10 With respect to performance indicator no. 14 “Delivery of technical assistance”, document C 96/5(a) provided the following information:

14	Delivery of technical assistance	2000 Base	2005
(a)	Percentage of planned activities delivered	51%	76%
(b)	Activities delivered: planned and unplanned percentages		
	Planned = 137 Delivered = 124	-	91%
	Pending = 13	-	9%
	Delivered = 177 Planned = 124	-	70%
	Un-planned = 53	-	30%
(c)	Number of partnerships with Governments, organizations and industry	8	33
(d)	Number of trainees in IMO institutions and IMO-sponsored workshops	3,306	3,372

2.11 One delegation, when commenting on performance indicator No.14, “Delivery of technical assistance”, suggested that the definition of this indicator should provide more precise and accurate information and should indicate, for example, the Member States receiving technical assistance, the number of IMO programmes, etc.

2.12 In reply to this suggestion, the Director, TCD, informed the Committee that the performance indicators were developed for the macro-measurement of the performance of the Organization. The detailed information on the activities delivered was contained in the biennial reports on the technical co-operation activities implemented under the ITCP.

2.13 On this point, the Head, Policy and Planning Unit, advised the Committee that the performance indicators and their definitions were the result of careful consideration by the Council Working Group on the Organization’s Strategic Plan. It was suggested that more time should be given to test these indicators in practice before proposing any changes.

2.14 The Committee noted:

- .1 with appreciation, the information provided by the IHO on its important capacity-building activities in developing country regions;
- .2 the information provided on the work of other bodies, in particular, Assembly resolution A.970(24) and resolution A.971(24) on the Strategic Plan and the High-Level Action Plan respectively and the actions requested of the Committee in this regard;

- .3 that it would consider, at its fifty-seventh session, its planned outputs for the 2008-2009 biennium.

2.15 The Committee agreed to:

- .1 set aside sufficient time, at its future sessions, to consider the high-level actions and their associated priorities, in order to ensure that they both accurately and concisely described its planned activities;
- .2 report progress towards fulfilling the Organization's aims and objectives using the framework of the high-level actions and planned biennial outputs when reporting on its work to the Assembly at its twenty-fifth regular session;
- .3 ensure, when considering proposals for new work programme items, that the issues to be addressed were those which fell within the scope of the Strategic Plan; and
- .4 review its guidelines for the organization and method of its work and, as appropriate, that of its subsidiary bodies, in order to require that submissions for new work programme items included an indication of how they related to the scope of the Strategic Plan.

3 INTEGRATED TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

3.1 Biennial report on 2004-2005

3.1.1 The Committee was informed that the biennial report on 2004-2005 (TC 56/3 and TC 56/3/Add.1) summarized the results achieved through the implementation of the ITCP for the year 2005 and for the biennium as a whole, so as to allow a wider perspective of IMO's TC delivery and to conform to the ITCP planning schedule. The biennial report reflected the information and data on programme outputs, in-kind support and financial resource delivery, respectively, under separate annexes. Reference was also made to the supplementary document, TC 56/INF.2/Rev.1, which provided the Committee with a report on technical co-operation personnel engaged through TC programme activities during 2005.

3.1.2 The Committee's attention was drawn to one of the key outcomes for the biennium, which was the remarkable and sustained increase in financial delivery against activities implemented through the Secretariat, or through partnerships with external bodies and programmes. Records showed that the aggregate expenditure levels against programmes amounted to over US\$27 million, an increase of US\$1.5 million over the previous biennium and the highest levels achieved to-date under the ITCP, marking a sharp increase in expenditure of 89.5% between 1999 and 2005.

3.1.3 Over the biennium, activities totalling some US\$27 million had been implemented at the regional and global level, at an average delivery rate against budgets of 77% over the biennium. The Secretariat summarized the biennial outputs and achievements, noting that 107 courses, seminars and workshops had been held at the national level and a further 117 at regional levels. These activities resulted in the training of some 7,367 participants world-wide, an increase of around 1000 over the results of the previous biennium.

3.1.4 The breakdown by region and by discipline provided a comprehensive insight into the benefits accrued to each region under each major component, reflecting the priorities of both

donors and recipients, and the degree to which they were converted into practical results at the local level.

3.1.5 The overall donor profile trends reflected a general stabilization of relative ratios between donors, apart from the TC Fund which increased from 14.8% in 1999 up to 47.3% of expenditure in 2005. The overriding proportion of the ITCP-funding base was provided by the TC Fund and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) respectively, which between them accounted for 71.2% of expenditure. Twenty-three donors covered the remaining programme, of which 14 represented less than 1% each of the total disbursements. The significance of the “pyramid structure” of IMO’s TC donor-profile, with a concentration of two primary sources at the top and a wide, fragmented base, had important implications for the long-term sustainability of the ITCP and the forward-planning of TC activities.

3.1.6 The value of non-financial inputs played an increasing part in facilitating the implementation of regional and national activities, primarily through the provision of host facilities for seminars and workshops, of consultants on a no-fee basis for short-term advisory missions, and of equipment. The impact of this assistance as an adjunct to the financial support received from donors was recognized by the Organization. Information on in-kind contributions over the biennium was provided in annex 2 of document TC 56/3.

3.1.7 The Committee was informed that the biennial report would be made available on the IMO website, with the intention of maximizing the dissemination of this information to all interested parties.

3.1.8 The Secretariat thanked all the donors for their commitment to the ITCP and encouraged them to continue and, if possible, to increase their support to the ITCP.

3.1.9 The Secretariat (Maritime Safety Division) also provided a verbal account of the maritime security “Train-the-Trainer” programme, which was launched in September 2004 to identify potential instructors and thereby build up a cadre of instructors equipped to train others using the IMO model courses for Ship, Company and Port Facility Security Officers (IMO Model Courses 3.19, 3.20 and 3.21 respectively). This programme complemented the programme of regional, subregional and national maritime security seminars and workshops.

3.1.10 In contrast to the IMO Global Maritime Security Programme, the “Train-the-Trainer” programme provided no financial support to the course participants, whose travel and all other costs were expected to be met by their sponsoring organizations. Other cost-reducing measures included the precondition that host countries would provide in-kind support, and training lecturers would be made available on a no-fee basis.

3.1.11 Some 341 instructors had been trained through the 17 regional training courses which had been carried out by December 2005. The Committee was informed that a number of host countries and training institutes had provided in-kind support for the implementation of this training. Direct financial support to the “Train-the-Trainer” programme was provided by the United Kingdom, while direct financial support to participants had been provided by the Republic of Korea and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE). A number of national “Train-the-Trainer” courses had been conducted also using the same material.

3.1.12 The Committee noted with interest the successful delivery of the “Train-the-Trainer” programme and suggested that this and other cost-sharing methodologies should be considered by the Secretariat in the implementation of other ITCP programmes.

3.1.13 The Committee expressed support and appreciation for the clarity and clear and thorough documentation submitted for its consideration. A number of delegations noted that the volume and range of activities delivered in the field over the biennium represented a considerable achievement in assisting developing regions to strengthen their capacities to meet international maritime norms and standards.

3.1.14 Further appreciation was expressed for the assistance provided to specific countries, which included a number of workshops, both regional and subregional, to enable Member States to strengthen their compliance with IMO rules and standards on a wide range of maritime subjects. A number of requests were made for the inclusion of additional technical co-operation activities under the ITCP for 2006-2007.

3.1.15 A number of delegations took the opportunity to summarize the range of activities they had undertaken in collaboration with IMO during the 2004-2005 biennium, including details of in-kind contributions provided by recipient countries to facilitate the delivery of specific activities. The benefit of this assistance to the further strengthening and development of national and regional capacities was much appreciated, and IMO was urged to maintain the programme of co-operation.

3.1.16 One delegation suggested that, in future, the biennial report on the ITCP should capture the performance indicators required under the Organization's Strategic Plan. This would assist the Council in establishing targets and linking the work of TCC to the wider strategic framework of IMO.

3.1.17 The Director, TCD, expressed appreciation for the positive remarks regarding the quality and transparency of the report, and reminded the Committee that the success in the delivery of the ITCP was the result of team work between TCD, MSD and MED, with support from AD and LED and the Regional Co-ordinators, as well as external partners, including regional organizations and Member States. Recognition should be given to the new partnership arrangements which had played a significant role in the delivery of TC activities.

3.1.18 The Director, TCD, stated that any specific requests for assistance would be constructively taken into account, as would any suggestions on the presentation of the biennial report prior to its posting on the IMO website. With reference to the suggestion that the biennial report should provide relevant links to the Organization's Strategic Plan, the Secretariat would take on board the inclusion of the performance indicators relating to technical co-operation.

3.1.19 The Committee:

- (a) took note of the information contained in documents TC 56/3, TC 56/3/Add.1, and TC 56/INF.2/Rev.1, especially the in-kind contributions which were received from donor countries and organizations to facilitate the implementation of the seminars and workshops;
- (b) took note of the transparency and clarity of the data which was presented and supported the efforts made by the Secretariat to provide the Committee with a structured, well-presented analysis of the ITCP results;
- (c) took note of the significant volume and range of the technical co-operation assistance delivered in the field;

- (d) requested the Secretariat to consider using the “Train-the-Trainer” methodology in other ITCP programmes;
- (e) expressed its appreciation to all the donors who had made cash contributions to the multilateral technical co-operation trust funds and/or provided in-kind support to facilitate the implementation of ITCP activities; and
- (f) urged IMO Member States, international and regional organizations and the maritime industry to maintain, and if possible, to increase their financial and in-kind contributions to the ITCP.

3.2 Linkage of the ITCP to the 2005 World Summit outcome and the achievement of relevant Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

3.2.1 The Committee had before it documents TC 56/3/1 submitted by Angola, TC 56/3/2 submitted by South Africa and TC 56/3/3 submitted by the Secretariat. The first two documents provided information on the linkage between the goals of the ITCP and the achievements of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the definition of Maritime Poverty respectively, while the third document provided information on the outcome of the 2005 World Summit at the United Nations.

3.2.2 The Director, TCD, introduced document TC 56/3/3 which included at annex the report of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted by the UN General Assembly as Resolution A/RES/60/1. The Committee recalled that Resolution A/RES/60/1 called for action from Member States, civil society and other stakeholders, and for the UN system as a whole to be more effective and efficient across the breadth of its agenda and to demonstrate greater coherence in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Committee’s attention was drawn to the following paragraphs of Resolution A/RES/60/1 which were relevant to IMO’s Technical Co-operation activities:

- Paragraph 3 : **UN Millennium Declaration and the MDGs**
- Paragraphs 20 and 22: **Global partnership for development**
- Paragraphs 40 to 42: **South-South Co-operation**
- Paragraphs 48 to 56: **Sustainable Development: Managing and protecting our common environment**
- Paragraphs 58 and 59: **Gender equality and empowerment of women**
- Paragraphs 64 and 66: **Countries with special needs (Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States)**
- Paragraph 68: **Meeting the special needs of Africa**
- Paragraphs 81 to 91: **Terrorism**

3.2.3 The Committee noted that the theme of World Maritime Day in 2006 was “**Technical Co-operation: IMO’s Response to the 2005 World Summit**” which was a reflection of the work of the Organization being in coherence with the wider context of the international agenda set by the United Nations. In this respect, it was also noted that the IMO mission strongly supported the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and would contribute substantively to the delivery of the 2005 World Summit Outcome: in promoting environmental sustainability; in strengthening the Organization’s maritime security framework and securing global consensus on the Organization’s work on vital shipping lanes, recognized by the UN as a key element in the global fight against terrorism and in sustaining the security of maritime transport and the global

supply chain in general. It was emphasized that the Organization's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) contributed to the UN's wider development goals by promoting sustainable development, human resource development and capacity-building.

3.2.4 The Committee further noted that IMO's partnership arrangements for technical co-operation, human resource development and capacity-building programmes, as well as the strengthening of the maritime administrations and infrastructures of developing countries, including the implementation of the report of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan, were relevant and in line with some of the reaffirmations and commitments of the 2005 World Summit outcome. With regard to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which were also recognized by the 2005 World Summit, the Committee recalled that under the Strategic Plan for the Organization (for the six-year period 2006 to 2011), adopted by the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly as resolution A.970(24), IMO had undertaken to pay special attention to the shipping needs of the SIDS and the LDCs.

3.2.5 Finally, the Committee noted that the special needs of Africa was one of the key objectives of the Millennium Declaration and that most of the UN system's work in Africa took into account the action plans of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). In this regard, the Committee further noted that IMO had also aligned its ITCP delivery in Africa in line with the NEPAD-related programmes within its area of mandate including the development of SAR facilities along the African coast which was also among the priorities of IMO. The Committee recalled that the Council in November 2004 had approved the establishment of an International Search and Rescue Fund to be used for the development and improvement of technical co-operation activities relating to SAR along the African coast (anti-clockwise from Morocco to Somalia).

3.2.6 The delegations of Angola and South Africa introduced documents TC 56/3/1 and TC 56/3/2 respectively which contained information on "Achieving Millennium Development Goals through the ITCP" and "Defining Maritime Poverty" respectively. It was noted that the document presented by Angola was a collaborative effort of all the Member States that formed part of the Correspondence Working Group which was established by the twenty-fourth Assembly.

3.2.7 The Committee recalled that, at its last session, it was agreed that the delegation of Angola prepare a paper addressing the formulation of a strategy for the strengthening of the linkage between the IMO's ITCP and the UN's MDGs, for submission to this session and that the twenty-fourth session of the IMO Assembly established a Correspondence Working Group to assist Angola in formulating the paper. The Committee also recalled that it invited the delegation of South Africa to present a paper at this session of TCC on the definition of "Maritime Poverty".

3.2.8 Over twenty delegations congratulated the delegations of Angola and South Africa for the excellent and thought-provoking documents that they had presented. It was noted that the two papers formed a good basis for the Committee's future deliberations on how to link the ITCP with the MDGs and to develop a criteria for assessing maritime activity and resource capacity, and that time had come for addressing these issues.

3.2.9 Some delegations felt that there was a need for more time to examine and harmonize both documents so as to reach a clear definition of what needed to be done and to be more pragmatic, bearing in mind that the objectives of the MDGs went beyond the mandate of IMO. It was suggested that a Working Group be established to harmonize the documents with a view to using

the information in developing the Committee's input to the High Level Action Plan for the Strategic Plan for the Organization.

3.2.10 One delegation noted that while it was among the first to request that a linkage between the ITCP and MDGs be established and while it supported the paper by Angola, it, however, observed that the Committee should approach Angola's paper with a modest and pragmatic approach. It also pointed out that the UN system was undergoing reforms, especially with respect to funding mechanisms, and that IMO therefore needed to follow closely the UN reform process and discussions, and take the outcome into account in developing its resource mobilization strategy. Furthermore, it was important that IMO be recognized as a leader in matters of maritime technical co-operation.

3.2.11 In the context of the above intervention, the Secretary-General informed the Committee about IMO's involvement in relevant activities at the United Nations, including his participation at the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), chaired by the Secretary-General of the UN, and the Directors' of the Technical Co-operation and Administrative Divisions participation at the CEB's High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), respectively. The Organization was following closely the ongoing UN reform process aimed at enhancing system-wide coherence and effectiveness and, in this regard, the Secretary-General drew the Committee's attention to paragraphs 168 and 169 of the annex to document TC 56/3/3 ("System-wide coherence") and to document C 96/14(a) "Relations with the United Nations and the specialized agencies", which was to be considered by the Council at its forthcoming ninety-sixth session.

3.2.12 The Secretary-General noted further that the discussions in the Committee had given IMO a good lead on how to proceed and that the Committee, with a view to establishing the linkage between the MDGs and IMO's work on them, might wish to reflect on them, as adopted by the 2000 Millennium Summit, i.e.:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

He suggested that goals 7 and 8 were particularly relevant to the mandate and activities of IMO.

3.2.13 The Committee took note of the information provided in documents TC 56/3/1, TC 56/3/2 and TC 56/3/3 which clearly highlighted the need to demonstrate the conceptual linkage between the goals of the ITCP and the MDGs and expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Angola and South Africa for the submission of the two documents. Several delegations were of the opinion that document TC 56/3/3 was important and that it should be used as a base document.

3.2.14 The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a consolidated paper on the basis of documents TC 56/3/1, submitted by Angola, TC 56/3/2, submitted by South Africa and other sources including TC 56/3/3, submitted by the Secretariat, in consultation with these and other interested delegations. The draft consolidated document should be considered by an intersessional working group, to be convened in London in February 2007. The Committee

expressed its appreciation to the delegation of South Africa for its offer to host the meeting. The output of the intersessional meeting would be submitted to the fifty-seventh session of TCC in June 2007.

3.2.15 The Committee took note of document TC 56/3/4, entitled “The Marine Initiative”, submitted by Sweden. This document provided information on the initiative of the Swedish Government to identify marine environment and coastal zone development as priority areas in the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency’s (SIDA) “Action programme for Sustainable Development”.

4 FINANCING THE ITCP

4.1 Technical Co-operation Fund: Biennial report on the 2004-2005 programme

4.1.1 The Committee had before it the biennial report on the 2004-2005 programme (document TC 56/4), relating to the programme of allocations approved by TCC and the Council in June 2003 to support activities of the ITCP for 2004-2005.

4.1.2 Following the revision, in June 2004, of the Rules of Operation governing the TC Fund, activities delivered with support from the Fund were reported on a biennial basis to the Council and TCC, at the conclusion of each respective ITCP implementation cycle. The subject report on the 2004-2005 biennium would be considered by the Council at its ninety-sixth session in the week following TCC 56. The Secretariat outlined a number of changes to the report structure, including the disaggregation of maritime security activities from the customary “maritime safety and security” category in order to highlight the impact of the support provided in the implementation of the ISPS Code. Summary charts were also provided on the comparative ratio of disciplines within each region.

4.1.3 The Committee’s attention was drawn to the key outcomes for the biennium, including the sustained growth in expenditure trends, from US\$2.7 million in 2000 to a high of US\$6.2 million in 2005, which highlighted the significance of the TC Fund in meeting the continuing demand to assist developing regions in discharging their responsibilities with regard to their compliance with IMO norms and standards.

4.1.4 Most aspects of IMO’s mandate were addressed during the biennium, including: development of flag and port State capacities; preparation of maritime legislation; implementation of the STCW Convention and of the ISM and IMDG Codes; training for pollution preparedness and response; fellowships for study at WMU and IMLI; the conversion of an IMO model course into an interactive distance learning tool; and the enhancement of maritime security, which continued to be a priority throughout the biennium. The priority accorded to the Africa region over the biennium under review was reflected in the number of activities (67) delivered with TC Fund funding or co-funding.

4.1.5 The Committee took note of the final report on activities of the TC Fund programme for 2004-2005 (document TC 56/4) and expressed its appreciation to the many partner States, institutions and recipient countries for providing cost-sharing contributions for the TC Fund activities, both in terms of cash resources as well as in-kind support in the form of experts, hostship facilities and equipment. These resources were an essential adjunct to the delivery of the ITCP, and the Committee encouraged them to continue their generous support to IMO’s technical co-operation programme.

4.1.6 One delegation commented on the apparent duplication of information provided under the ITCP and TC Fund biennial reports, both of which were comprehensive and bulky reports, and suggested that the Secretariat should consider providing one single combined report. The Committee agreed that an appropriate revision of the Rules of Operation of the TC Fund with respect to the further streamlining of reporting practices should be submitted to TCC 57 by the Secretariat, for subsequent approval by the Council.

4.1.7 One delegation noted that several TC documents used “Anglophone and Francophone” linguistic categories when referring to Africa, when, in fact, there were other linguistic categories, for example, “Lusophone”. The Secretariat agreed to take the necessary action to deal with this matter in future reports on the ITCP delivery in the light of common practice in the UN system.

4.2 Mechanism to ensure the long-term sustainable financing of the ITCP (resolution A.986(24))

4.2.1 The Committee had before it documents TC 56/4/1, TC 56/4/1/Add.1, TC 56/INF.3 and TC 56/INF.4.

4.2.2 The Committee noted that document TC 56/4/1 provided a succinct summary of past consideration of the issue of long-term sustainable financing of the ITCP. Significant milestones were:

- the historic decision by the Assembly at its nineteenth session (November 1995) to transfer the surplus of the Printing Fund to the TC Fund;
- the adoption by the TCC at its forty-sixth session (November 1998) of a “Long-term funding and resource mobilization strategy”, which recommended a number of ways to address the significant shortfalls in ITCP resources;
- the adoption by the Assembly at its twenty-first session (November 1999) of resolution A.901(21) on “IMO and technical co-operation in the 2000s”, which, for the first time, urged the Organization’s development partners to acknowledge and respond to the direct relationship between IMO’s regulatory and technical co-operation work and the promotion of sustainable development and to give increased priority to the maritime sector within the national and multilateral development aid programmes;
- the establishment of four Regional Presence Offices in Africa and in East Asia between 1999 and 2003 which, in addition to co-ordination and delivery of the ITCP work to mobilize resources at the national level, had mobilized an estimated US\$1.5 million in Africa since their establishment;
- the adoption by the Assembly at its twenty-third session (November/December 2003) of resolution A.965(23) on “Development and improvement of partnership arrangements for technical co-operation” to develop and improve partnership arrangements in order to ensure the long-term and sustainable delivery of ITCP activities; and
- finally the adoption by the TCC at its fifty-fifth session of the following five precepts to guide strategy for resource mobilization:

- .1 ensuring that the TC Fund is maintained as a core fund to support the delivery of the primary activities of the biennial ITCP, and as a means to attract cost-sharing participation from external donor countries and organizations;
- .2 maximizing the cost-effectiveness of the delivery mechanism – i.e. by reducing costs without lowering the quality of the services provided;
- .3 establishing an equitable financial mechanism which can ensure the sustainability of a certain minimum level or core capacity of the Organization to respond to the emerging technical assistance needs of developing member countries;
- .4 mobilizing external financial and in-kind support through partnerships with Member States, organizations and industry, to supplement the core funding of the ITCP; and
- .5 sharing responsibility for resource mobilization.

4.2.3 Document TC 56/4/1 also provided a summary of the principle sources of funding for the ITCP implementation. Aside from several major programmes negotiated with the GEF, the implementation of the ITCP was funded by the TC Fund, bilateral and multilateral trust funds and one-off targeted cash donations. The TC Fund, the principal source of which was the surplus of the Printing Fund, was the principle resource for the delivery of the planned core activities of the ITCP, accounting for an average of 68% of the ITCP funding requirements since 2001.

4.2.4 The Committee was informed that document TC 56/4/1/Add.1 suggested “options” for establishing a mechanism to ensure the long-term sustainable financing of the ITCP in accordance with operative paragraph 5 of resolution A.986(24). That resolution requested the Secretariat to submit for consideration of the Committee at its fifty-sixth session, “relevant options for generating the necessary reserves in the TC Fund to enable it to overcome any reduction in transfers arising from reduced annual surpluses in the Printing Fund” which needed to be considered in the context of the long-term sustainable financing of the ITCP.

4.2.5 The Committee noted that the problem for the future was securing a reliable source of funding for what could be described as a core programme of activities financed by the TC Fund. Voluntary donor funding and support, as well as multilateral funds, would always be needed and sought to supplement the core and meet specific emerging needs and priorities, for example: maritime security, SAR, voluntary audit, ship recycling, ballast water management, etc.

4.2.6 It was also pointed out that it might also be useful to make a distinction between a “mechanism”, which implied a certain level of automaticity and reliability, which was in place with the “Printing Fund - TC Fund nexus”, and a “strategy”, which encapsulated a number of actions to promote resource mobilization.

4.2.7 The Committee took note of information paper TC 56/INF. 3 entitled “Funding for United Nations Development Co-operation - Challenges and Options”, published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UNDESA), and information paper TC 56/INF.4, a copy of the report of the UN Secretary-General on Funding options and modalities for financing operational activities for development of the UN system.

4.2.8 In response to two delegations who questioned the necessity of this exercise, the Director, TCD, recalled the numerous Assembly resolutions, including resolution A.986(24), which

anticipated the fact that the current funding arrangements would not be sufficient in the long-term to meet the needs of the ITCP, and which mandated the Committee to develop a sustainable funding mechanism. However, the Committee also recognized the need to provide the Secretariat with clear guidance so that the appropriate measures could be taken to forward TCC's recommendations to the Council and Assembly.

4.2.9 It was noted that the common factor to all three options was the Printing Fund-TC Fund nexus, which provided a measurable and reliable source of financing. However, those funds were insufficient to meet the needs of the developing regions, as expressed through the ITPC, resulting in a considerable shortfall of resources, and furthermore it would be prudent to avoid any over-dependence on the volume of sales under the Printing Fund, as the level of the surplus of the Fund could not be predicted in advance.

4.2.10 The Committee was provided with an outline of the three options under reference in document TC 56/4/1Add.1. Option A "TC Fund Plus Supplementary Assessment", in the main, consisted of the establishment of a TC Supplementary Fund which would be resourced through the regular budget, based on an increased assessment for Member States. Option B "TC Fund Plus Voluntary Supplement" entailed the establishment of a modality to encourage Member States and donor organizations to make voluntary funding commitments. Finally, Option C "Status quo plus" was predicated on continuing the present arrangement of TC Fund and voluntary contributions through bilateral and multilateral trust funds.

4.2.11 A number of delegations expressed their concern over the potential introduction, as expressed under Option A, of an additional assessment charge, which would be levied through the regular budget in order to establish a TC Supplementary Fund. Such a measure would be difficult for a number of national administrations to implement, given the restrictions applicable to their governmental budgets, even if the criteria for establishing the level of such an assessment were modified. However, one delegation stated that it would be easier, from the perspective of their governmental procedures, to contribute to the TC Fund under one single regular budget assessment contribution, rather than to follow the more complex and uncertain route of seeking additional voluntary donations.

4.2.12 The primary concern over the introduction of a voluntary supplementary TC Fund, as proposed under Option B, was the potential, in the future, for the supplementary contribution to become mandatory. A number of delegations expressed their reluctance to give such an undertaking.

4.2.13 The Director, TCD, informed the Committee that the information provided on the UNEP modality known as "voluntary indicative scale of contributions" was not an integral part of Option B, and should be considered as an explanatory footnote.

4.2.14 The Committee considered options outlined in the document, including the possible introduction of a modest assessment or charge on non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with IMO. Some concern was expressed over the ability of the smaller NGOs to fund such a charge. It was also pointed out that many NGOs were making substantial technical inputs to the regulatory work of the Organization.

4.2.15 It was noted that the Secretariat and TCC follow an effective planning process, identifying regional needs and incorporating them, together with the thematic priorities, within the ITCP, and allocating TC Fund and other donor resources accordingly. The Secretariat also undertook resource mobilization, primarily through the active establishment of partnerships, to allay the funding shortfall. One delegation suggested that the Organization's new ERP system

would facilitate closer examination of the cost components of programmes, with a view to optimizing the use of funds, and thus achieve more with limited resources. It ventured that a breakdown of the cost components could also assist in internalizing in-kind support in the ITCP funding paradigm.

4.2.16 It was also noted that it was incumbent upon recipient countries to optimize their utilization of the assistance they received from IMO.

4.2.17 The Director, TCD, recalled the importance that the Secretariat placed on the in-kind support which was provided primarily, although not exclusively, by recipient countries, but noted that by its very nature, such assistance was associated with a delivery of an existing activity, such as the conduct of a seminar or workshop, which required budget allocations to support the travel and daily expenses of regional participants.

4.2.18 One delegation expressed the view that the introduction of dedicated multilateral trust funds had removed some of the flexibility in the allocation of their contributions to the ITCP, stating that one single integrated fund for TC might provide a greater measure of choice, with the proviso that contributions to that fund could still be ring-fenced. This comment was supported by other delegations. In addition, concern was expressed at the multiplicity of multilateral trust funds and the tendency for this to dilute contributions to the TC Fund and its linkage to the ITCP.

4.2.19 One delegation outlined the benefits accrued from TCDC activities, including their provision of experts, on a no-fee basis, to recipients within their region. The multiplier effect of this type of assistance had encouraged further intra-regional collaboration in the maritime sector.

4.2.20 One delegation suggested that a potential source of supplementary funding could be the levy of a modest fee, which would be defined on a biennial basis, to meet the shortfall in the biennial financing of the ITCP for all vessels and companies which have IMO numbers and unique identification numbers.

4.2.21 One delegation expressed the view that, for the long-term sustainability of TC funding, the proposal to establish a Supplementary Assessment should not be permanently discounted.

4.2.22 The great majority of interventions made by delegations expressed support for Option C, with a proviso that it be implemented as a dynamic concept, elements of which should be adapted to go beyond the existing measures in place.

4.2.23 The Committee:

- .1 noted the information provided by the Secretariat;
- .2 noted Assembly resolution A.986(24) (TC 56/2, annex), on the importance and funding of technical co-operation as a means to support the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to the provision concerning future transfer from the Printing Fund to the TC Fund; and
- .3 requested the Secretariat to submit an appropriate revised proposal, based on a modified Option C, to TC 57 for consideration, with a view to making a final recommendation to Council.

4.3 Voluntary Trust Funds

4.3.1 The Secretariat submitted documents TC 56/4/2 and TC 56/4/2/Add.1, which provided information on voluntary trust funds and on cash contributions made to the ITCP activities since the Secretariat's report to TCC 55 held in June 2005 and up to 31 May 2006.

4.3.2 Since the Secretariat's report to TCC 55, the International Maritime Security Trust Fund had seen four new donors, namely the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The Government of the United States had made an additional contribution and pledged more funds.

4.3.3 With respect to the International SAR Fund, the Committee noted that, since the publication of document TC 56/4/2/Add.1 on 1 June 2006, a further donation to the International SAR Fund had been received from Mr. E.E. Mitropoulos in the amount of US\$5,000 - representing one quarter of the prize money that accompanied the Environment Award bestowed on him by the Union of Greek Shipowners. This recent donation now brings the total capital in the International SAR Fund to US\$65,482, as at 9 June 2006.

4.3.4 The International Ship Recycling Trust Fund had been established with effect from 1 May 2006 and no funds had yet been received for this Fund.

4.3.5 The Committee noted that there were four bilateral trust funds in operation that provided financial support for the ITCP delivery. They were the Protocol between the Government of France and IMO, the MoU on Technical Co-operation between the United Kingdom and IMO, the IMO/Republic of Korea Programme on Technical Co-operation and the Grant Agreement between Canada and IMO on the Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Programme. Of the four bilateral trust funds, the Canada Grant Agreement was the new arrangement that had been developed since the last session of the TCC.

4.3.6 Since the Secretariat's report to TCC 55, and as at 31 May 2006, ten donors (Japan, Germany, Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, UNEP, IACS and the Union of Greek Shipowners) had contributed a total of some US\$2,058,000 to the ITCP and to the Tsunami Maritime Relief Fund.

4.3.7 The Committee was informed that the delegation of South Africa had pledged US\$15,000 for the International Maritime Security Trust Fund.

4.3.8 The Committee commended the Secretariat for the clarity of the information provided on voluntary trust funds. The Committee expressed its appreciation to all the donors who had made cash contributions to the multilateral and bilateral technical co-operation trust funds and/or directly to ITCP activities and also urged Member States, international and regional organizations and the maritime industry to make financial contributions to the ITCP.

4.3.9 The Committee:

- (a) took note of the final report on activities of the TC Fund programme for 2004-2005 (TC 56/4);
- (b) also took note of the status of voluntary trust funds and the cash contributions made since TCC 55 (TC 56/4/2 and TC 56/4/2/Add.1);

- (c) expressed its appreciation to all the donors who had made cash contributions to the multilateral and bilateral technical co-operation trust funds and/or directly to ITCP activities; and
- (d) urged IMO Member States, international and regional organizations and the maritime industry to make financial contributions to the ITCP.

5 PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

5.1 The Committee had before it document TC 56/5 which provided information on the status of the IMO Regional Co-ordination scheme and on the progress made towards achieving the objective of decentralizing the implementation of the ITCP through the Regional Co-ordination scheme in Africa and through partnership arrangements with regional organizations and institutions in other regions.

5.2 The Committee also had before it document TC 56/5/1 on the implementation of resolution A.965(23), which provided the current status of partnership arrangements made for IMO technical co-operation activities.

5.3 With respect to the Regional Presence in Africa, the Committee was informed that the three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed between IMO and the Governments of Kenya, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire for the establishment of IMO Regional Presence offices for Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa (Anglophone and Francophone) respectively had expired on 31 December 2005 and that, by exchange of letters with the three host Governments, the MoUs had been extended for a further period of two years i.e. up to 31 December 2007.

5.4 The Committee noted that, in 2005, the three IMO Regional Co-ordinators in Africa had carried out a total of 27 needs assessment and/or advisory missions in 16 countries and that these had resulted in 11 different requests for technical assistance. In addition to carrying out needs assessment missions, the Regional Co-ordinators had represented IMO at various other regional and subregional meetings and continued to facilitate the co-ordination of the implementation of the ITCP in Africa, as detailed in document TC 56/5.

5.5 With regard to the decentralization of the implementation of the ITCP through the Regional Co-ordinators' scheme and to partnership arrangements with regional organizations and institutions, the Committee noted that, in 2005, IMO had continued to work closely with the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA) and the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA) and that the signing of the MoUs with these institutions had facilitated the delegation of the implementation of three activities in co-operation with the IMO Regional Co-ordinators in Africa.

5.6 The Committee also noted that the IMO Regional Co-ordinator for East Asia, based in Manila (Philippines), had carried out three needs assessments missions and had assisted in the delivery of six regional and national activities and participated in seven regional or national training events. She had also visited the Secretariat of the Association of South-East Asian Nations to identify new linkages between the regional ITCP activities for 2004-2005 and ASEAN new maritime programmes.

5.7 With respect to the delivery of technical co-operation through regional organizations and institutions, the Committee noted the activities delivered during 2005 including:

- PMAESA and PMAWCA had succeeded during 2005 in executing three activities on PSC and sensitivity mapping in Africa.
- In the Arab and Mediterranean region, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport in Egypt had continued to facilitate IMO's access to the existing technical facilities of the Academy for the delivery of regional ITCP activities, with substantial in-kind support from the Academy. In July 2005, IMO and the Academy had agreed on the next activities to be executed by the Academy and on the fellowships to be granted to African students.
- During 2005, IMO's collaboration with the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and with MEMAC in the ROPME Sea area and with PERSGA in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden had intensified and strengthened and most of activities carried out in 2005 had been co-financed with these institutions.
- ASEAN, PEMSEA, SACEP, SPC, SPREP had also been very active in their respective areas and the implementation responsibility delegated to them had continued to function effectively in the implementation and delivery of ITCP activities in Asia and in the Pacific Islands region.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, 16 technical assistance activities, as detailed in paragraphs 54 to 56 of document TC 56/5, had been successfully delivered in 2005 through the decentralized partnership co-operation arrangements with ROCRAM, ROCRAM-CA and REMPEITC-Carib.

5.8 With reference to document TC 56/5/1, the Committee noted that, to date, there were 35 partnership arrangements in operation. Twenty-one of them had been made with developing countries and 14 with international and regional organizations. Of the 35 partnership arrangements, seven partnership agreements had been developed since TC 55 with the Governments of Australia, Canada, Iran, Mexico, Venezuela and with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as well as the non-governmental industry organization INTERFERRY.

5.9 Several delegations representing countries served by the IMO regional presence offices expressed their appreciation for the support provided by the Regional Co-ordinators for the delivery of ITCP activities at regional and national levels and noted that the number of activities carried out in their respective regions had increased since the establishment of the regional presence offices in Africa and in the Philippines.

5.10 One delegation suggested that, in the interest of greater participation and accountability, a process be put in place whereby the countries served by the Regional Co-ordinators were convened on an annual basis for the purposes of the needs identification process and feedback.

5.11 A number of delegations disagreed with this and pointed out that the Regional Co-ordinators were accountable in the first instance to IMO as staff members. The Secretariat mentioned that IMO had introduced a process of periodic consultations with the countries of the region to evaluate the performance of the Co-ordinators with the most recent exercise indicating satisfaction.

5.12 The Secretariat confirmed that, since the establishment of the regional presence scheme, there had been two assessments, in 2001 and in 2005, which had concluded that the scheme had

an appreciable impact and was responsive to the needs of the “user countries”. It also pointed out that the function of the Regional Co-ordinators was to facilitate implementation of the agreed ITCP which takes into account, *inter alia*, the needs of the region. Furthermore, it was the desire to promote regional ownership and involvement that had motivated IMO to establish the Regional Co-ordinators’ scheme and the partnership arrangements for the delivery of technical co-operation through regional organizations and institutions. It was also stated that the Secretariat would welcome any suggestions for improvement of the work of the Regional Co-ordinators.

5.13 Many delegations expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the support given by IMO through the partnership arrangements with ROCRAM, ROCRAM-CA and REMPEITC-Carib and through the invaluable assistance provided by the Regional Maritime Advisor in the Caribbean region. They informed the Committee that the Caribbean region would continue to require the assistance of the Regional Maritime Advisor and that it was essential to maintain the post beyond the year 2006.

5.14 One delegation informed the Committee of the 20 years of operation of ROCRAM. It was highlighted that despite the diversity of the development in the components of the maritime sector of the ROCRAM States, the ROCRAM Secretariat had developed and put into practice a second version of the regional maritime strategies. It was also noted that despite achieving good results, and thanks to IMO’s technical co-operation efforts, the region needed and continued to need support in order to achieve its maritime development.

5.15 A number of delegations informed the Committee of their achievements in the field of maritime legislation, marine pollution prevention, maritime safety and security in their respective countries and regions. They voiced their satisfaction with the technical assistance received so far through the ITCP and in particular with respect to the safety of non-Convention ships, inland waterways regulations, SAR, piracy and the training of personnel and seafarers. They also appealed to the Secretariat for further assistance to serve their needs or to complete activities that had been planned but not carried out.

5.16 Two delegations informed the Committee that they were ready to establish partnership MoUs for the provision of in-kind support. In particular, the delegation from Venezuela indicated its willingness to develop a trust fund agreement with IMO, under the IMO/Venezuela MoU signed in 2005. This trust fund would be to assist the ITCP in education and training of the human element of the maritime sector as well as strengthening the maritime institutions through the implementation of a fellowship programme for the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Another delegation emphasized the importance of the development of such partnerships as a tool for the implementation of the ITCP and for regional co-operation. It presented the results achieved through the MoU signed with IMO and encouraged the establishment of such MoUs with Member States, maritime institutes and the maritime industry.

5.17 In concluding this agenda item, the Committee:

- .1 noted that partnership arrangements for technical co-operation and delivery had continued to function successfully and that the decision of TCC to decentralize further the delivery of technical co-operation activities had increased the volume of work delegated to existing partnership arrangements with regional organizations and to the Regional Co-ordinators;
- .2 noted the significant increase in the number of partnership MoUs developed since TC 55;

- .3 recorded its appreciation to all the host countries of the IMO Regional Presence offices, to all partners who were, or had been, involved in regional co-ordination and delivery, as well as to donors for their financial contributions and support; and
- .4 urged IMO's development partners to continue to collaborate and assist IMO in the implementation of ITCP activities.

6 VOLUNTARY IMO MEMBER STATE AUDIT SCHEME

6.1 The Committee had before it document TC 56/6 which reported on the outcome of the Council's and Assembly's work on the development of the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme.

6.2 The document also provided information on the implementation of the global ITCP programme "Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme". Sixty-eight participants had attended the three training courses for auditors held so far, namely in Slovenia (12 to 16 September 2005), Sri Lanka (20 to 24 February 2006) and Ecuador (27 to 31 March 2006). In addition to the other two courses scheduled for 2006 (Egypt from 17 to 21 June and Tanzania from 18 to 22 September), another four were scheduled for 2007 to be held in Fiji, Algeria, Nigeria and in the Caribbean region in a host country to be confirmed.

6.3 With respect to the potential impact of the global ITCP Programme on the TC Fund resources, it was noted that it was too early in the roll out of the Scheme to gauge the effect it might have on the TC Fund. The first audit would start in September 2006 and 20 Governments had indicated their preparedness to be audited, five of which were developing countries.

6.4 The Committee was also informed that the Algerian Maritime Authority had notified the Secretariat of its readiness to host a regional training course for auditors for the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme for Francophone countries, which was scheduled for March 2007. The Algerian Maritime Authority also kindly offered to provide accommodation and food free-of-charge for one trainee from each participating country.

6.5 The Committee:

- .1 took note of the information provided;
- .2 expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Slovenia, Sri Lanka and Ecuador for hosting the training courses for auditors;
- .3 recalled that the Governments of the Netherlands, Egypt and the United Kingdom had contributed to the "Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme" programme;
- .4 expressed its appreciation to the Swedish Maritime Administration for donating US\$30,000 towards the programme; and
- .5 urged other Member States, organizations and industry to make further contributions to the ITCP to support the "Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme" programme.

7 PROGRAMME ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE MARITIME SECTOR

7.1 The Committee was provided with a status report on the implementation of the Programme for the Integration of Women in the Maritime Sector (IWMS) from January to December 2005. Financed through the TC Fund, the IWMS activities included the provision of short-term fellowships for women, and an ongoing series of regional workshops.

7.2 With regard to the latter activity, the noticeable increase in the number of women employed at the management level of national maritime and port authorities had made it possible for the Secretariat to move on from the initial phase of sensitization, and to facilitate the establishment of formal networks or associations for women employed in maritime authorities, in ports, and in related maritime employment such as lecturing in maritime institutes.

7.3 In line with the focus on the Africa region, initial discussions had also taken place with a view to establishing a formal association in the West and Central Africa subregion for professional women in the port sector, and a regional meeting to launch the association would be planned shortly. The Committee's attention was drawn to the priority given to Africa in the allocation of short-term fellowships in 2004 and in 2005, when the region received 60% of the fellowships allocated.

7.4 In addition to the training aspect of the Programme, the Secretariat had been pro-active in its efforts to increase the number of women consultants recruited to undertake TC activities. Gender remained one of the considerations in the selection of appropriate consultants, taking into account levels of technical expertise and regional experience.

7.5 A number of delegations commended the Secretariat for maintaining the impetus since the establishment, in 1988, of the IMO Programme for the Integration of Women in the Maritime Sector, and requested that this programme be maintained.

7.6 The relevance of this issue to national administrations was highlighted by a number of delegations who spoke of the increased participation of women at the senior management and director level within their regions, and referred, in some cases, to the equal training opportunities provided to women who wished to train for maritime and seafaring careers. Wide support was expressed for the programme implemented by the Secretariat and the results achieved to date, including the participation in TCC of woman graduates, trained through the ITCP at the International Maritime Law Institute, who now held high-level executive posts within their national maritime administrations.

7.7 One delegation informed the Committee that they would present a document on this agenda item at the next session of TCC in June 2007.

7.8 Another delegation pointed out the link between this programme and MDG 3 "Promote gender equality and empower women".

7.8 The Committee:

- .1 took note of the report on the implementation activities undertaken under the Programme for the Integration of Women in the Maritime Sector (IWMS) from January to December 2005; and

- .2 expressed its appreciation to the maritime and port authorities who had supported the establishment of networks to strengthen the integration of women in the maritime sector.

8 INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FELLOWSHIPS

World Maritime University (WMU)

8.1 The Secretary-General referred to documents C 96/12(a) and C 96/12(b) and updated the Committee on the outcome of the last Board of Governors' meeting which was convened in Malmö, Sweden, recently. The Committee was advised that the Board of Governors' annual report noted the University's remarkable progress in 2005, especially in academic reform and development, international recognition and collaboration, research and consultancy and student enrolment.

8.2 The University's financial operations for the year ended 31 December 2005 received an "unqualified" opinion by the External Auditors.

8.3 The Committee noted two significant milestones in WMU's history in 2005, namely, a 40% rise in its student population over previous years with a total of 282 full-time M.Sc. students in three campuses, which was the highest number of students ever registered. This comprised 199 students in the Malmö campus and 44 and 39 students in the Shanghai and Dalian campuses in China respectively. In addition, over 300 students attended short-term Professional Development and distance-learning courses organized by WMU, bringing to over 600 the total number of maritime professionals trained by the University.

8.4 For the first time, approximately half of the full-time WMU students were self-funded with their studies being financed by their employers, governments or themselves.

8.5 The Committee was informed that the University now had a total of 2,061 graduates from 144 countries and territories worldwide and that the number of students enrolled to date had exceeded 2,300 globally. Demand for study at the University continued unabated, far outstripping WMU's current capacity in terms of the necessary resources to satisfy it. For its part, the ITCP continued to support the University, through the TC Fund, with the provision of fellowships with six fellowships allocated for 2005 and four in 2006.

8.6 Financially, the University's budget for 2006 projected a total income of US\$9.2 million and a total expenditure of US\$8.8 million respectively, which compared favourably with the 2005 budget, as approved by its Board of Governors, of total income and expenditure at US\$8.9 million and US\$8.8 million respectively. The projected rise in the University's income in 2006 was due to the steady growth in donor support and revenue generation by the WMU faculty from research, consultancy and the Professional Development Course programme. The University's tight control over its expenditure in 2005 helped to achieve a healthy budget surplus that year.

8.7 The Secretary-General urged the Member States and the maritime industry to join the traditional and new donors of the University to provide this financial support and to secure its long-term future.

8.8 The Committee was also advised that the Board of Governors endorsed a proposal by the Chancellor for a review of the University, from a governance and oversight perspective, which

would take into account, and build on, any relevant issues raised in the two earlier academic audits of WMU by the Association of European Universities (formerly CRE and now EUA).

8.9 The proposed review, to be funded by the University, was intended to ensure that WMU continued to flourish in the future, and in particular, that the expansion of its programmes and activities was carefully controlled and effectively overseen in the light of the Organization's own strategic direction and objectives.

8.10 The Secretary-General also paid tribute to a long-standing member of the WMU faculty and a key member of the "Founding Fathers" of the WMU, Professor Günther Zade, who had passed away recently. Professor Zade had given 18 years of invaluable service to the University as Vice-Rector and Academic Dean, and even after his retirement from active service in 2001, he continued to serve WMU as a research fellow and was responsible for producing the WMU Journal.

8.11 The Committee invited the Secretary-General to convey, on its behalf, condolences to the families of Professor Zade and of Professor Pierre Houssin of France, who had passed away recently.

8.12 The Committee noted, with appreciation, the information provided by the Secretary-General on the University.

IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)

8.13 The Secretary-General referred to documents C 96/13(a), C 96/13(a)/Add.1, C 96/13(a)/1, C 96/13(b) and C 96/13(b)/Add.1 concerning the report of the IMLI Governing Board on the Institute's operation and academic activities and budget for the period 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, and its proposed budget for the periods 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008.

8.14 The Institute's academic reputation continued to thrive with the outstanding performance of its 332 graduates from 102 States and territories worldwide and the high level posts many of them had been entrusted with in their native countries; and also by the increased number of eminent visiting fellows.

8.15 The Committee was informed that the Governing Board had received an "unqualified" report on its Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2005 in which the External Auditor had noted, in paragraph 11 of his Financial Audit Report, that "...the funding position of the Institute continued to be healthy".

8.16 The Committee was also informed that the Governing Board had noted, with appreciation, that funds from donors whose sustained contributions, either by general donations to the Institute's funds or by the donation of scholarships, had enabled IMLI to develop and had resulted in sufficient income to cover the Institute's budget for the 2005-2006 academic year.

8.17 It noted, with appreciation, that funds authorized by the Council for the year 2005-2006 had permitted the award of six full fellowships to students from developing countries, thus enabling students from countries with insufficient access to external funds to attend the Institute and had further enhanced the activities of the ITCP.

8.18 The Committee further noted that the Governing Board was also grateful for the continued support, in the period 2005-2006, of the Nippon Foundation, which provided ten full

scholarships, and Lloyd's Register of Shipping, which provided three full scholarships, as well as the continued support from Member States, in particular, Malta and Switzerland.

8.19 The Committee took note of the information provided.

IMO International Maritime Academy

8.20 The Secretary-General introduced document TC 56/8/2 which set out the Academy's academic activities in 2005 as well as its programme for 2006.

8.21 The Committee was informed that the Organization contributed a total of €105,292 in 2005 for the conduct of the Flag State Implementation course programme, and also supported the Academy through the provision of course and reference material, expert advice on course content and the selection of lecturers and participants, and the supply of course and reference materials to the Academy's library on an ongoing basis.

8.22 It was further informed that the Academy had received contributions amounting to €241,800 from the Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia for the conduct of the course on Marine Accident Investigation Procedures.

8.23 The Secretary-General recorded his appreciation to the Government of Italy and the Province of Trieste; the Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia; the European Union; and the International Hydrographic Organization, for their assistance and support of the Academy during the year under review.

8.24 The delegation of Italy then informed the Committee that the Academy was in the final stages of an internal re-organization aimed at modifying its current juridical status from a "consortium" to that of a "foundation", after which, it would have a new legal framework with the direct and institutional involvement of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

8.25 The Committee took note of the information provided.

9 ACCESS TO IMO INSTRUMENTS IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT

9.1 The Committee had before it document TC 56/9, which provided information on the feedback of the questionnaire analyses obtained by the Secretariat on the extent to which developing countries were making use of the scheme for free access to IMO text and any difficulties they might have encountered.

9.2 The Committee recalled that the findings of an analysis and evaluation of the pattern of website downloads between July 2003 and February 2005 were reported to the fifty-fifth and ninety-fourth sessions of the Committee and Council respectively (documents TC 55/9 and C 94/3(e)/3) in June 2005. The conclusion of the evaluation was that no obvious change had been observed in the pattern of adoption or ratification of, or accession to, the relevant IMO instruments during the course of the scheme. It was further observed that the main users of the service offered in the scheme were in the private sector and in developed countries. Both the TCC and Council decided that the scheme should be maintained for another year and requested the Secretariat to undertake a survey, within the ambit of the ITCP, to assess the impact of the

scheme on developing countries and to assess how the scheme might be utilized more extensively and effectively.

9.3 The Committee noted that out of 139 questionnaires sent out by the Secretariat, 96 responses had been received reflecting a 69% response rate, which was considered very good for this kind of survey. The analysis of the response to each question in percentage terms was clearly illustrated in the thirteen pie-charts against each question from paragraph 4 of document TC 56/9. The Committee was informed that the key points of the comments received from Member States could be summarized as follows:

- lack of computer hardware and software, expensive Internet connection charges and/or poor Internet facilities;
- documents too big to download making download slow, even at high or broadband speeds;
- ratification and implementation of IMO instruments depended on many other factors, including political and therefore availability of “free electronic texts” was not the solution or the only factor;
- the scheme was very important but developing countries needed more technical assistance in capacity-building if they were to implement IMO instruments effectively;
- IMO should assist developing countries with computer hardware to enable them to benefit from the scheme;
- lack of awareness that the “free electronic texts” were available on the IMO websites;
- there was not a great demand for the texts chosen for the scheme and therefore the study had weaknesses, it would have been better if more IMO documents had also been made available;
- it was too expensive to download and print documents and if the objective was to assist developing countries to ratify IMO Conventions, then it would be more helpful to supply them with “hard copies”; and
- most Member States still wanted “hard copies” of IMO instruments.

9.4 The Committee noted that the analysis of the survey and the feedback obtained had concluded that:

- .1 no obvious impact had been observed in the pattern of adoption, ratification of and/or implementation, or accession to, the relevant IMO instruments by developing countries;
- .2 58% of the Member States had not downloaded any of the IMO texts while 68% believed that there had been no changes in the number of IMO Conventions ratified by the countries as a result of availability of free IMO texts electronically;

- .3 while 70% believed that the availability of free IMO texts for download from the Internet was very useful, only 34% believed that the objective of the scheme had been achieved;
- .4 45% believed that the scheme was not working because of lack of computer hardware and/or poor/inadequate Internet facilities and that 23% believed that the objective of the scheme was not relevant to the lack of implementation by the developing countries; and
- .5 the existence of IMODOCS and the free IMO texts online website represented a duplication of effort on the part of IMO resources.

9.5 Many delegations expressed satisfaction with the way the survey was conducted and maintained the view that the scheme should continue. While noting the problems encountered by developing countries in utilizing the scheme, many delegations felt that developing countries would eventually catch up with accessing the free IMO texts online and that, where feasible, they should be assisted accordingly. One delegation reminded the Committee that the word “pilot” should have been deleted since the scheme was no longer a pilot one.

9.6 Some delegations pointed out that the website where the free IMO texts were placed was not user-friendly and that they had difficulties in accessing downloads. One delegation expressed a concern that it was not able to access free texts in the Spanish language.

9.7 One delegation pointed out that the Committee should consider and address the difficulties and challenges faced by developing countries in utilizing the scheme, as concluded by the survey. He observed that if a maritime administration in a country had no computers to access the free IMO online texts, then ways and means of giving technical assistance to such a country should be explored. A few delegations raised concerns about some of the negative interpretation of the results of the survey.

9.8 In response to some of the issues raised by delegations, the Secretariat clarified to the Committee that all the free IMO texts available online were in the six languages and what was required was to establish a better delivery mechanism. It was also recalled that the purpose of the survey was to find out the difficulties encountered by developing countries in utilizing the scheme.

9.9 The Committee took note of the information provided in document TC 56/9 and:

- .1 expressed its appreciation to all Member States who took part in the survey and responded to the questionnaires;
- .2 noted that the 69% response rate to the questionnaires was good;
- .3 noted that 70% of the respondents believed that the availability of free IMO texts for download from the Internet was very useful;
- .4 noted that 45% of the respondents believed that the lack of computer hardware and/or poor/inadequate Internet facilities prevented them from making use of the scheme;

- .5 called on the Member States and the donor community to consider providing the maritime administrations of developing countries with computer hardware to enable them to benefit from access to IMO texts in electronic format; and
- .6 recommended that the Secretariat should re-examine the method by which free access to IMO texts in electronic format was operated with a view to improving user-friendliness and avoiding duplication and report on the results to TC 57.

10 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2007

10.1 In accordance with Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Technical Co-operation Committee, the Committee elects its officers once a year.

10.2 The Committee was informed that the present Chairman, Mr. Ben Owusu-Mensah (Ghana), and the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Fikret Hakguden (Turkey) were available for re-election for 2007.

10.3 The Committee re-elected Mr. Ben Owusu-Mensah (Ghana) as Chairman and Mr. Fikret Hakguden (Turkey) as Vice-Chairman, unanimously.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 With reference to the announcement by the Secretary-General in his opening address to the Committee concerning new MRCCs in Africa, the delegation of Nigeria informed the Committee that the MRCC equipment was already in place in Nigeria.

12 ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COUNCIL

The Council was invited to:

- .1 note that the delivery of the ITCP during the 2004-2005 biennium was the highest recorded, both in terms of volume and of delivery rate;
- .2 note that the Committee agreed to further consider the linkage between the ITCP and the Millennium Development Goals at an intersessional working group to be convened in London and expressed its appreciation to the delegation of South Africa for its offer to host the meeting;
- .3 endorse the decision of the Committee to consider further the issue of securing the long-term financing of the ITCP on the basis of maintaining the Printing - TC Fund nexus, as supplemented by bilateral and multilateral funding, partnerships and enhanced fund-generating modalities;
- .4 note the successful completion of the survey on the extent to which developing countries are making use of the scheme to provide free access to IMO instruments in electronic format and endorse the recommendation that the Secretariat should re-examine the method by which free access to IMO texts in electronic format is operated with a view to improving user-friendliness and avoiding duplication;

- .5 endorse the recommendation that Member States and the donor community be encouraged to provide the maritime administrations of developing countries with computer hardware to enable them to benefit from access to IMO texts in electronic format; and
 - .6 consider document C 96/10/Add.1 on the report of the fifty-sixth session of the Technical Co-operation Committee and, in accordance with article 21(b) of the IMO Convention, transmit the report, with its comments and recommendations, to the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly.
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