

DRAFT IMO CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL ACTS
AGAINST MARITIME NAVIGATION

In accordance with a mandate given to it by the Council of the International Maritime Organization, and Ad hoc Preparatory Committee held two meetings (London, March 2-6, and Rome, May 18-22) under Canadian chairmanship and succeeded in adopting a draft Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of navigation and a Protocol on unlawful acts against fixed platforms. The Committee used, as the basis of its work, a draft convention prepared by Italy, Austria and Egypt. The Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee reported on its work to the IMO Council at its 58th session in June 1987, and submitted the draft instruments to the IMO Legal Committee for comments at an extraordinary session of the Committee in October 1987. A Diplomatic Conference, which was held in Rome, March 1-10, 1988, adopted the two instruments. The Committee of the Whole, the main drafting organ at the Conference, was under Canadian chairmanship.

The two instruments adopted established principles and mechanisms contained in existing anti-terrorist conventions to new situations, namely incidents on board ships and on fixed platforms. This closes a gap in the application of anti-terrorist instruments exposed by the terrorist seizure of the Italian liner "Achille Lauro" in October 1985.