

of enhancing stability is to build on the existing framework of international maritime conventions.

Although a comprehensive fabric of international maritime agreements and conventions exists, the extent of ratification and acceptance is far from consistent throughout the world. In this respect, the Middle East is no exception. Nevertheless, those instruments are respected on a sufficiently wide basis to show that Middle East states generally accept the maritime responsibilities outlined in them. This can be seen by looking at a cross section of the major conventions:

- 1) 1948 Convention on the International Maritime Organization (IMO);
- 2) 1971 Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and Ocean Floor and in the Sub-soil Thereof (SEABED);
- 3) 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (82CON);
- 4) 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, (SOLAS74), amended in 1981, 1983;
- 5) 1972 Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG72);
- 6) 1979 International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR79)
- 7) 1954 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil (OIL54)

The tables below show which of the various Middle East states have accepted or ratified those conventions.