

CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE ORGANIZATION (INMARSAT)

THE STATES PARTIES TO THIS CONVENTION:

CONSIDERING the principle set forth in Resolution 1721 (XVI) of the General Assembly of the United Nations that communication by means of satellites should be available to the nations of the world as soon as practicable on a global and non-discriminatory basis,

CONSIDERING the relevant provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, concluded on 27 January 1967, and in particular Article 1, which states that outer space shall be used for the benefit and in the interests of all countries,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that a very high proportion of world trade is dependent upon ships,

BEING AWARE that considerable improvements to the maritime distress and safety systems and to the communication link between ships and between ships and their management as well as between crew or passengers on board and persons on shore can be made by using satellites,

DETERMINED, to this end, to make provision for the benefit of ships of all nations through the most advanced suitable space technology available, for the most efficient and economic facilities possible consistent with the most efficient and equitable use of the radio frequency spectrum and of satellite orbits,

RECOGNIZING that a maritime satellite system comprises mobile earth stations and land earth stations, as well as the space segment,

AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of this Convention:

- (a) "Operating Agreement" means the Operating Agreement on the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), including its Annex.
- (b) "Party" means a State for which this Convention has entered into force.
- (c) "Signatory" means either a Party or an entity designated in accordance with Article 2(3), for which the Operating Agreement has entered into force.
- (d) "Space segment" means the satellites, and the tracking, telemetry, command, control, monitoring and related facilities and equipment required to support the operation of these satellites.