



INTERNATIONAL
OIL POLLUTION
COMPENSATION
FUND

ASSEMBLY
8th session
Agenda item 3

FUND/A.8/2
1 August 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GRANT OF OBSERVER STATUS

Note by the Director

Introduction

1 Article 18.10 of the Fund Convention provides that the Assembly determines which inter-governmental and international non-governmental organisations shall be admitted to take part, without voting rights, in meetings of the Assembly, the Executive Committee and subsidiary bodies. The Assembly adopted at its 2nd session "Guidelines on Relations between the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund and Inter-Governmental Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations" (document FUND/A.2/13/1). These guidelines contain the criteria for the grant of observer status to international non-governmental organisations.

2 In addition to the inter-governmental organizations especially mentioned in Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and Executive Committee, the Assembly has granted observer status to two inter-governmental organizations, the EEC and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and to seven international non-governmental organizations, BIMCO, CMI, ICS, ITOFF, CRISTAL, OCIMF and the International Group of P & I Clubs.

3 The Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) and the Advisory Committee on Pollution of the Sea (ACOPS) have requested observer status with the IOPC Fund. The organisations have submitted information about their structure and have indicated the areas in which they have common interests with the IOPC Fund.

Friends of the Earth International (FOEI)

4 FOEI, which was founded in 1969, is an international non-governmental organisation which has its international secretariat in Amsterdam (The Netherlands). It comprises at

present 25 national member groups worldwide. It enjoys consultative status with IMO since 1973. The Organisation participated actively in the 1984 Diplomatic Conference on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connexion with the Carriage of Certain Substances by Sea.

5 The purpose of the Organisation is to promote understanding and appreciation of the need for and otherwise further by all lawful means the preservation, protection and restoration of the natural resources and natural beauty of areas of the world and all other aspects of man's natural environment. To this end the FOEI will seek to influence government decision-making on environmental matters, to influence public opinion through publications on the environment and to influence international policy on the environment through co-ordination with concerned citizen groups and international agencies.

6 FOEI has in its application stated that, partly as a result of the 1984 Diplomatic Conference, the Organisation has developed a keen interest in the activities of the IOPC Fund and its importance for the protection and preservation of the marine environment. The Organisation is of the opinion that it can make valuable contribution to the work of the IOPC Fund, in particular to give information about the perception and needs of victims of oil pollution damage.

7 The Director considers that FOEI fulfils the requirements laid down in the above-mentioned guidelines. In his view, the FOEI can be expected to make contributions to the activities of the IOPC Fund, in particular by giving the environmentalist's point of view on questions of oil pollution damage.

Advisory Committee on Pollution of the Sea (ACOPS)

8 ACOPS, which has its headquarters in London, was established in 1952 with the principal objective of assisting in the preparation of the 1954 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil. ACOPS is an umbrella organisation, representing various groups interested in the protection of the marine environment, such as tourism, amenity and statutory bodies, industry, trade unions and local authority associations.

9 The aims and purposes of ACOPS are, according to its constitution:

- (a) to promote the preservation of the seas of the world from pollution by human activities;

- (b) to promote and conduct research into the causes and effects of pollution of the seas, including research into means whereby the injurious effects of such pollution may be affected or reduced; and to publicise and comment on such research and the appropriate action taken;
- (c) to advance public education by the study of the impact of human activities, especially those activities concerned with extractive and manufacturing industries and transport, upon the natural resources of the sea.

10 ACOPS has observer status with IMO. It participated in the 1984 Diplomatic Conference on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connexion with the Carriage of Certain Substances by Sea.

11 The Director considers that ACOPS fulfils the criteria laid down in the above-mentioned guidelines. He is of the opinion that ACOPS will be able to contribute to the IOPC Fund's work, ia by providing specialised information on oil pollution.

Action to be taken by the Assembly

12 The Assembly is invited to take a decision on these applications for observer status.
