



ILO input to the report of the Secretary-General on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

ILO activities in 2008

Shipping and fishing

It will be recalled from previous submissions that the *Maritime Labour Convention, 2006*, was adopted in 2006 by the International Labour Conference at its 94th Session (10th Maritime Session) in Geneva. *The Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188)* and its accompanying *Work in Fishing Recommendation (No. 199)* were adopted by the 96th Session of the Conference in 2007. Earlier, in 2003, the 91st Session of the Conference had adopted the *Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185)*. Most of the ILO's maritime work in 2008 concerned the promotion of these instruments and the preparation of tools to assist member States in their implementation of these instruments.

Tripartite Expert Meeting to Adopt Guidelines on Flag State Inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (Geneva, 15-19 September 2008)

Tripartite Expert Meeting to Develop Guidelines for Port State Control Officers Carrying out Inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (Geneva, 22-26 September 2008)

The 94th (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference, which adopted the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, also adopted a number of resolutions. Resolution IV, concerning the development of guidelines for port State control, requested that the Director-General of the ILO convene a tripartite expert meeting to develop suitable guidance for port State control officers. Resolution XIII, concerning the development of guidelines for flag State inspection, requested that the Director-General convene a tripartite expert meeting to develop suitable guidance for flag State inspection.

In accordance with a decision taken by the Governing Body at its 301st (March 2008) Session, the Tripartite Expert Meeting to Adopt Guidelines on Flag State Inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 was held from 15 to 19 September 2008. The text of the *Guidelines on Flag State Inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006*, as adopted by the meeting, may be found at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---normes/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_099068.pdf.

The above meeting was followed (22 to 26 September 2008) by the Tripartite Expert Meeting to Develop Guidelines for Port State Control Officers Carrying out Inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006. Both meetings will be held at the International Labour Office in Geneva. The text of the *Guidelines for Port State Control Officers Carrying out Inspections under the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006* may be found at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---normes/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_099069.pdf.

At its 303rd Session November 2008), the Governing Body of the ILO took note of the guidelines and requested the Director-General to publish them as soon as possible and to promote them together with the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on Liability and Compensation Regarding Claims for Death, Personal Injury and Abandonment of Seafarers

It will be recalled that the Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group was established in 1998, to consider questions of liability and compensation in connection with crew claims, to ensure, through the operation of appropriate international instruments, the rights of crew members/seafarers to adequate compensation for loss of life, personal injury and abandonment, and to formulate suitable recommendations to the IMO Legal Committee and the Governing Body of the ILO, as appropriate. The ILO has previously reported on session of the Joint Working Group held prior to 2008. The Joint Working Group held two sessions in 2008, with the Seventh session being held in Geneva at ILO headquarters in February, and the Eighth session being held at the same venue in July. The reports of these meeting may be found at: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/techmeet/imoilowg/abandon.htm>

ILO regional and national maritime activities

The ILO has been promoting ratification and implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 through the Maritime Convention, 2006 Action plan 2006-2011 (see: http://www.ilo.org/global/What_we_do/InternationalLabourStandards/Maritime/aboutConvention/lang--en/docName--WCMS_088034/index.htm). Regional and national seminars have been, and will continue to be, held worldwide.

An Asian Regional Seminar on the ILO's Work in Fishing Convention, hosted by the Republic of Korea, was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 2-4 September 2008. Additional sub-regional and national activities have been held in Africa and Latin America as part of technical cooperation activities funded by Spain.

The ILO also has continued its cooperation with the FAO and the IMO on the develop of publications focusing on improving safety and health of fishers. There is a continual exchange of information and expertise among the three agencies on fishing sector issues.

Ship recycling

ILO participation in IMO drafting process for a Convention on ship recycling

In 2007 and 2008 the ILO continued to participate in consultations, taking place at the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee and its Intersessional Working Group, relating to a proposed Convention on ship recycling. In this process the ILO emphasizes the existence of generally applicable ILO standards on occupational safety and health as well as ILO guidelines on shipbreaking.

Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping

The ILO hosted the 3rd session of this working group (JWG) in Geneva October 29-31 in 2008.

The JWG continued to consider the current work programmes of the pertinent bodies of the respective organizations on the issue of ship scrapping. Issues dealt with included joint technical cooperation projects and interim measures to be taken prior to the entry into force of the IMO convention on ship recycling.

The JWG discussed a joint proposal for a Global Programme for Sustainable Ship Recycling and agreed to support the general approach, inviting members and observers to assist in further developing the Programme and calling on the three Secretariats to report to their respective governing bodies on progress made.

Another item discussed extensively by the JWG was the issue of interim measures. The JWG recognized a number of principles and practical measures that it adopted as recommendations.

Participation in UNCIPO panel

The Director of the ILO's International Labour Standards Department participated in the Discussion Panel "Maritime security and safety" at the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, Ninth meeting, 23-27 June 2008, in Segment 4 concerning "Focus of people at sea", presenting on the topic "International Labour Standards and Decent Work: Taking account of the 'people factor' in an integrated approach to improved maritime security and safety".

**Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations
on Oceans and the Law of the Sea to the 63rd Session of
the General Assembly**

The ILO welcomes the references to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 and the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) in the Report of the Secretary-General on Oceans and the Law of the Sea to the 63rd Session of the General Assembly.

Geneva, 27 January 2009.