



## EIGHTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Other questions****Report of the meeting on ship scrapping<sup>1</sup>  
between the International Labour Office (ILO),  
the secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC)  
and the secretariat of the International Maritime  
Organization (IMO)  
(Geneva, 13-14 January 2004)****Background**

1. The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP 6, December 2003) requested the secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC) to explore the possibility of developing an inter-agency technical assistance project on ship scrapping together with the IMO and ILO and to consider the establishment of a joint working group with the IMO and ILO as a means of achieving a common understanding of the problem and the character of the required solutions. The 49th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) (July 2003) of the IMO supported these proposals and requested the secretariat of the IMO to liaise with the ILO and SBC in order to prepare the following for consideration by the 51st Session of the MEPC (April 2004):
  - (a) a draft project objective for the inter-agency technical assistance project; and
  - (b) draft terms of reference for the joint working group.

**Towards inter-agency cooperation**

2. In order to advance inter-agency cooperation, the secretariats of the IMO, ILO and SBC met in Geneva, at the ILO, from 13 to 14 January 2004 to explore the establishment of a joint working group. The existing agreements between the ILO and IMO, and the ILO and UNEP are considered to provide a sufficient basis to constitute such a group.

<sup>1</sup> Since the Basel Convention employs the term ship “dismantling”, and the IMO the phrase ship “recycling”, whereas the ILO refers to ship “breaking” it was tentatively agreed to use the neutral term “ship scrapping” when referring to a possible joint working group between the three organizations.

3. The three secretariats agreed that a Joint ILO-IMO-Basel Convention Working Group (Joint WG) should act as a forum for consultation, coordination and cooperation in relation to the work programme and activities of the ILO, IMO and the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention with regard to issues related to ship scrapping. The Joint WG would take a coordinated approach to ship scrapping with the aim of avoiding duplication and overlap with respect to the mandates of the respective organizations.<sup>2</sup>
4. The Joint WG should meet regularly on a rotating basis between the headquarters of the ILO, IMO and SBC, or at any other venue agreed upon. The host agency would assume the role of secretariat. The composition of the Joint WG would consist of representatives appointed by each organization, the number to be appointed by each being decided by agreement between them.<sup>3</sup> The Joint WG should ensure, as appropriate, representation of all geographical regions of the world with an interest in the subject matter. Other interested parties, expressing a wish, could be allowed to participate in the discussions of the Joint WG. The Joint WG would determine its own procedures.
5. At present, the only ship-scrapping technical cooperation project is an ILO project on Safe and Environment-friendly Ship Recycling in Bangladesh.<sup>4</sup> However, all three agencies have proposals to develop further activities.
6. With respect to technical assistance, regional or national workshops and seminars on ship scrapping may be organized jointly, or individually by the ILO, IMO and SBC. These workshops/seminars should aim at raising awareness on the safety, health and environmental issues associated with ship scrapping and provide guidance on the implementation of the provisions of each organization's respective guidelines. Any organization organizing a workshop or seminar would invite the other two organizations to participate.
7. It was acknowledged that, for some developing countries, the implementation of the relevant guidelines on ship scrapping would necessitate massive investment, in e.g. adequate waste reception facilities at the recycling yards, environmentally sound waste management systems and appropriate infrastructure to ensure decent working conditions. For this reason, there may be a need to develop a global programme with a strategy for resource mobilization (e.g. World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility, UNDP, bilateral donors), in which the three organizations would participate.
8. The first meeting of the Joint ILO-IMO-Basel Convention Working Group will be held before the end of 2004.
9. The 51st Session of the MEPC (April 2004) and the third Session of the Open-ended Working Group (April 2004) will be informed of the outcome of the above deliberations.
10. The Committee is invited to take note of the progress towards a collaborative approach to ship scrapping.

Geneva, 21 January 2004.

<sup>2</sup> One of the first items the Joint WG would examine would be the three sets of guidelines themselves.

<sup>3</sup> Language drawn from the existing Agreement between the ILO and IMO (1959).

<sup>4</sup> BDG/03/055/A/01/99, signed 18 December 2003.