

**Convocation of the 94th (Maritime) Session (February 2006)
of the International Labour Conference**

It is my pleasure to inform you that, in accordance with the decision taken by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office at its 286th (March 2003) Session, the Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference will open on **Tuesday, 7 February 2006 at 10 a.m.** It will be held at the *Palais des Nations*, Geneva, and will end on **Thursday, 23 February 2006.**

A preliminary meeting of the Government group will take place on Sunday, 5 February at 10 a.m. in the ILO headquarters. Arrangements are being made for further preliminary meetings of all three groups, as required, on Monday, 6 February.

The mandate of this Maritime Session is to examine, with a view to its adoption, a maritime labour Convention to replace almost all ILO maritime labour Conventions that have been adopted since 1920.

--- I enclose the *Conference Guide – Maritime Session* which includes detailed information on the Conference programme together with other relevant items.

Reports for examination by the Conference will be sent to you at least two months before the session, to allow their distribution to delegates, including non-government delegates and technical advisers, to enable them to prepare themselves adequately for the work of the Conference. The reports will also be accessible on the ILO website, as is the *Guide*, at the following address:

<www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/reim/ilc/ilc94/index.htm>

As constituents are reminded in the *Conference Guide*, the draft instrument to be considered is the fruit of four years of intensive tripartite endeavour. It is essential, for the success of the Conference, that full account is taken of the work already done and the consensus already achieved.

Special attention is drawn to section 10 (Participation) of the *Conference Guide*, which deals with the composition of delegations. Accordingly, member States are called upon to ensure that national delegations are fully tripartite and include the necessary maritime and interdisciplinary expertise. You are also urged to make every effort to achieve a gender balance in delegations.

I should be grateful if you would kindly ensure that the credentials of your country's tripartite delegation are deposited with the Office of the Legal Adviser of the ILO before the deadline of **Monday, 23 January 2006**. The form for credentials of delegations is attached. —
— The accompanying *Explanatory note for national delegations*, and the *Conference Guide* in its section 10, give detailed instructions on the deposit of credentials.

You are encouraged to take careful note of section 11 of the *Guide*, which concerns the health and safety of participants during the Conference, and section 12, which, under the heading *Registration*, gives details of the badges required for access to the Conference premises.

The Official Relations Branch will provide any further information you may require concerning the 94th Session of the Conference. The contact details for this Branch are given in Appendix I to the *Conference Guide*.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Juan Somavia
Director-General