INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Resolutions
Adopted by the
International Labour Conference
at Its 55th (Maritime) Session

(Geneva, 1970)

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Resolutions Adopted by the International Labour Conference at Its 55th (Maritime) Session

(Geneva, 1970)

I

Resolution concerning Industrial Relations in the Shipping Industry

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Noting that the Joint Maritime Commission at its 20th Session (1967) recognised the need for close consultation and co-operation between the shipowners and seafarers on the complex problems of industrial relations in the industry, accentuated by rapid technological changes,

Noting that the Commission considered that to be capable of solving the issues involved in this sphere effective communication between the parties would be essential to evolve flexible and efficient organisational structures of negotiating machinery,

Noting further that personnel management on board ship is of keen concern in the search for practical answers to the questions involved;

1. Requests that governments, shipowners and seafarers be asked to co-operate in a study in depth by the ILO into the various aspects of industrial relations in relation to the shipping industry, with particular reference to such questions as existing legislation, the extent to which shipowners and seafarers are represented by their own organisations, the method of settling disputes, industrial consultation and collective bargaining, and relations on board ship and ashore, and what facilities exist for seafarers' representatives on board ship in connection with the above;

2. Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to arrange for such a study to be undertaken and to report back to the Joint Maritime Commission on the findings, together with a summary of them.

II

Resolution concerning Holidays with Pay

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Recalling the resolution concerning holidays with pay for seafarers adopted at its 54th Session;

Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to ask the Joint Maritime Commission to consider at an early meeting the revision of the Paid Vacations (Seafarers) Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 91), in the light of the Holidays with Pay Convention (Revised), 1970 (No. 132).

1 Adopted on 28 October 1970.
Resolution concerning the Health of Seafarers

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Considering the valuable work so far carried out by the four sessions of the Joint ILO-WHO Committee on the Health of Seafarers,

Considering that there are a number of other aspects of seafarers' health which the Joint Committee has recommended should receive further study, such as health services for seafarers, standards of fitness for seafarers, medical records and recording, training of personnel in first aid and nursing care, and personal hygiene and other preventive measures,

Considering that the good health of seafarers is not only important to the seafarers themselves but constitutes a vital ingredient in the safe and efficient operation of ships;

Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, in co-operation with the World Health Organisation, to convene an early session of the Joint Committee to deal with these questions, together with, in particular, the preventive care of the teeth and mouth and the effects of immersion in sea water.

Resolution concerning Revision of Conventions

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Considering that several international labour Conventions concerning seafarers’ conditions of work and life were adopted as long as fifty years ago, and have received varying degrees of ratification,

Considering that the shipping industry has developed substantially over this period, both technically and in regard to industrial relations, as well as the conditions of employment of seafarers;

Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to have a study made to assist the Joint Maritime Commission to form a view as to whether any of the international labour Conventions applying to seafarers should be revised to bring them up to date, and whether any of the international labour Recommendations should be supplemented by new instruments, and to have this study referred to a session of the Joint Maritime Commission at an early date.

Resolution concerning the Convocation of the Joint Maritime Commission

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Considering that the International Labour Office has been requested to carry out a number of studies concerning the conditions of employment of seafarers, and that these studies should be referred with as little delay as possible to the Joint Maritime Commission for consideration;

1 Adopted on 28 October 1970.
Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to convene a session of the Joint Maritime Commission at an early date after the completion of the studies, in consultation with the parties concerned.

VI

Resolution concerning Compensatory Leave

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,
Recognising that the exigencies of the maritime industry may frequently involve seafarers in periods of extended absence from home and family life,
Considering that seafarers should be provided with adequate opportunities to unite with their families, and
Believing that certain arrangements for providing such opportunities could be improved if the practices now being followed in various countries were more widely known;
Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to call upon the Director-General to collect and publish up-to-date information concerning—
(a) the arrangements in force in various countries concerning leave to which seafarers are entitled, including annual leave and compensatory leave for work done at weekends and on public holidays at sea and in port;
(b) any other special leave arrangements within the industry, applicable for example to various types of ships, such as tankers, bulk carriers and container vessels.

VII

Resolution concerning the Protection of Young Seafarers

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,
Recalling that provisions for the protection of young seafarers have been included in such international instruments as the Minimum Age (Trimmers and Stokers) Convention, 1921 (No. 15), the Medical Examination of Young Persons (Sea) Convention, 1921 (No. 16), and the Minimum Age (Sea) Convention (Revised), 1936 (No. 58),
Considering that there may be a need for further special provisions in respect of the employment of young seafarers in such fields as—
(a) hours of permitted duty;
(b) holidays and rest periods;
(c) areas of work;
(d) opportunities for higher education;
Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to arrange for these and related subjects to be examined in order to identify whether there are any areas in which a need can be demonstrated for further measures of this sort, and to arrange for the results of this study to be submitted to an early session of the Joint Maritime Commission to obtain its advice as to the desirability of any further action.

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1 Adopted on 28 October 1970.
VIII

Resolution concerning Flags of Convenience

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Recalling that the question of the social condition and safety of seafarers in relation to the registration of ships has been considered by several sessions of the Joint Maritime Commission,

Recalling that these discussions led to the adoption by the 41st (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference of the Seafarers’ Engagement (Foreign Vessels) Recommendation, 1958 (No. 107), and of the Social Conditions and Safety (Seafarers) Recommendation, 1958 (No. 108),

Considering that the number and tonnage of vessels registered under the flags of States with which the shipowners concerned have no national connection have continued to increase,

Considering that the International Labour Organisation has a responsibility to endeavour by all means to encourage acceptance of the provisions of the international instruments cited above;

Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to ask the governments of member States, within the provisions of article 19 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, to report on an urgent basis on measures that have been taken in their respective countries to implement the provisions of the Seafarers’ Engagement (Foreign Vessels) Recommendation, 1958 (No. 107), and the Social Conditions and Safety (Seafarers) Recommendation, 1958 (No. 108), and that an analysis of the replies of governments be submitted by the International Labour Office to the next session of the Joint Maritime Commission, which should consider what further action may be necessary in the light of this information.

IX

Resolution concerning Technical Co-operation

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Considering that over the past fifty years the International Labour Conference has adopted twenty-seven international labour Conventions and sixteen international labour Recommendations concerning the conditions of work and life of seafarers, which, taken together, are known as the International Seafarers’ Code,

Considering that many of these instruments have been ratified and applied in countries throughout the world, and, even where not formally ratified, have influenced the law and practice affecting seafarers,

Considering that many of the less developed countries are in the process of developing or are contemplating the establishment of national merchant fleets,

Believing that the governments, shipowners and seafarers of these countries would benefit from application of the provisions of the Seafarers’ Code,

Bearing in mind the objectives of the United Nations Second Development Decade and the ILO’s World Employment Programme;

1 Adopted on 28 October 1970.
Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to inform the governments and, through them, the shipowners' and seafarers' organisations in each developing country of the co-operation which the ILO can provide in this field at the request of governments to assist them in implementing the International Seafarers' Code, and to advise governments of the advantages which such assistance can provide.

X

Resolution concerning Regional Maritime Conferences

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,
Noting the results achieved by the First and Second Asian Maritime Conferences,
Considering that many of the employment problems of Asian seafarers arise also for seafarers in countries in other parts of the world,
Considering that regional conferences are of particular importance for developing countries and noting that the great majority of those countries are now Members of the International Labour Organisation,
Considering that the growth of merchant fleets in these countries has added new dimensions to already existing problems while creating others, and
Believing that the holding of regional maritime conferences would be in the interest of the entire maritime world;
Urges the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to invite the Joint Maritime Commission to consider the advisability of convening in the near future regional maritime conferences on the lines of those which have already been held for the Asian region.

XI

Resolution concerning Seamen's Welfare on Board Vessels (Sewage Disposal)

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,
Noting that certain ships lack facilities whereby crew members may use the ships' water closets while in port, resulting in inconvenience to the persons concerned,
Noting also that in some ports the disposal of sewage is increasingly subject to laws which prevent the use of certain forms of equipment;
Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to collaborate with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization with the object of considering the question of promoting seamen's welfare on board vessels in port by studying the possibility of improving methods of sewage disposal from vessels such that the sanitary facilities which are provided on board may be used without infringement of national and international legislation dealing with the avoidance of pollution.

1 Adopted on 28 October 1970.
2 Adopted unanimously on 28 October 1970.
Resolution concerning the Minimum Basic Wage for Able Seamen

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Considering that the Wages, Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Recommendation, 1958, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 41st (Maritime) Session, provides in Paragraph 2 that: “The basic pay or wages for a calendar month of service of an able seaman employed in a vessel to which this Recommendation applies should not be less than the equivalent of twenty-five pounds in currency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or seventy dollars in currency of the United States of America, whichever of these amounts may from time to time be the greater . . . “,

Noting that the value of money generally has decreased since the adoption of the Recommendation in 1958 and may be expected to vary further in the future,

Considering that it is desirable, with a view to maintaining the standard of the Recommendation, to determine periodically the equivalent of the wage figures contained therein, having regard to the fall in the value of money;

1. Concludes that, on that basis, the figures of £42 and US$100 can be regarded as the present equivalent of the wage figures contained in the Recommendation;

2. Urges the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to invite the Joint Maritime Commission, at its next and each subsequent session, to review the question and to embody in a resolution the figures it considers at that time to be the equivalent of the wage figures contained in the Recommendation, having regard solely to the fall in the value of money;

3. Urges that, in giving effect to the Recommendation, Members should apply, in substitution for the wage figures contained therein, the figures set forth in Paragraph 1 above and, subsequently, the figures which may at any time be those recommended by the Joint Maritime Commission in pursuance of Paragraph 2 above;

4. Invites the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to bring this resolution to the attention of all the Members of the International Labour Organisation; and

5. Requests the Director-General of the International Labour Office to ensure that in connection with any examination of the effect given to the Recommendation account is taken of the terms of this resolution.

XIII

Resolution concerning Continuity of Employment of Seafarers

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having regard to the Employment of Seafarers (Technical Developments) Recommendation, 1970, in particular Part IV on regularity of employment and income;

1 Adopted on 29 October 1970.

2 Adopted unanimously on 27 October 1970.
Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to invite the Director-General to submit a report on continuity of employment of seafarers to an early session of the Joint Maritime Commission.

XIV

Resolution concerning Sports Activities for Seafarers

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,
Considering the importance of developing sports activities for seafarers when their ships are in port,
Considering the desirability for sports activities for seafarers to be co-ordinated at the international level;
Requests the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to invite the Joint Maritime Commission to study the problems involved in the possible establishment of an International Sports Committee for Seafarers, with a view to facilitating international co-operation, including the preparation of programmes for International Sports Weeks and the organisation of the already established International Football Series.

XV

Resolution concerning International Co-operation in the Field of Seafarers' Welfare

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,
Considering that it has become increasingly necessary to provide effective welfare services to seafarers in port and on board ship,
Considering that it is essential to co-ordinate the activities of the various bodies concerned with this problem,
Noting that the tripartite subcommittee set up to deal with the welfare of seafarers has, on a number of occasions, drawn the attention of governments to the necessity of co-ordination already called for by various organisations;
1. Expresses the hope for greater co-ordination at the international level of the activities of the various bodies in the field of seafarers' welfare;
2. Reaffirms the principle that international co-operation and co-ordination at all levels must be encouraged by all means;
3. Requests the Director-General of the International Labour Office to undertake studies on measures to be adopted for further development of international co-operation in this field and to submit the results of these studies to a coming session of the tripartite subcommittee set up to study the welfare of seafarers.

1 Adopted unanimously on 27 October 1970.