Resolutions adopted by the
International Labour Conference at its 84th (Maritime) Session
(Geneva, October 1996)

I

Resolution concerning the application of revised
Convention No. 9 to the fisheries sector

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,
Recognizing the current crisis in the fishing industry which has serious
repercussions on the labour and social standards of fishermen and which has
resulted in the abandonment of many crew members of fishing vessels in ports
worldwide without any recourse to compensation for lost earnings and assistance
with repatriation except from charitable organizations,
Recognizing also the increasing globalization of the industry which has led
to the recruitment and placement of fishermen on board foreign flag vessels and
the important initiatives undertaken by other international fora with regard to the
management and conservation of fish stocks,
Noting the urgent need to apply international labour standards to fishermen
and to expressly extend a number of the international labour maritime standards
to the fishing sector,
Noting also the adoption of the Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers
Convention, 1996,
Invites the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to:
1. Promote the application to fishermen of the Recruitment and Placement of
Seafarers Convention, 1996, by Members following consultations between
representative organizations of fishermen and fishing vessel owners and the
competent authority,
2. Convene an early tripartite meeting for the fishing sector to assess which of
the other ILO maritime instruments should be applied to the fishing sector
through the adoption of appropriate protocols, and/or the adoption of new
international labour standards for the sector and in this regard to place the
issue of new labour standards for fishermen on the agenda of an early session
of the International Labour Conference.

1 Adopted on 21 October 1996.
II

Resolution concerning the recruitment and placement of seafarers

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization, Noting that the Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers Convention, 1996 was adopted in Geneva on 21 October 1996 in order to ensure that international labour standards regulating the activities of persons, companies, institutions, agencies or other organizations which are engaged in recruiting or placing seafarers should reflect current best practices in the shipping industry, Further noting that the above Convention provides that no fees or other charges for recruitment or providing employment to seafarers shall be borne directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, by the seafarer, Noting also that the Fee-Charging Employment Agencies Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 96), which applies to all categories of workers with the exception of seafarers, is to be discussed with a view to its revision at the 85th Session of the International Labour Conference, June 1997, Recognizing that Convention No. 96 specifically excludes the placing of seafarers from its scope, Considering that it is essential that recruitment and placement services operating in the shipping industry should be regulated in such a manner as to take full account of the international aspects and of the particular nature of maritime employment, Invites the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to instruct the Director-General to bring to the attention of delegates to the 85th Session of the International Labour Conference, June 1997, the urgent need to maintain the exclusion of the placing of seafarers, taking into account the adoption by the 84th (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference of the Recruitment and Placement of Seafarers Convention, 1996.

III

Resolution concerning the application of the Seafarers’ Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Convention, 1996

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization, Having discussed the second item on its agenda, entitled “Revision of the Wages, Hours of Work and Manning (Sea) Convention (Revised), 1958 (No. 109), and Recommendation, 1958 (No. 109)”, Invites the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to request the Director-General, as a matter of priority, to develop the guidelines and standardized format referred to in Articles 5 and 8 of the Seafarers’ Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Convention, 1996, taking into account the texts

1 Adopted on 21 October 1996.
and proposals made at the Committee and the discussions thereon, and recommends that a tripartite group of experts be convened by the ILO to assist in this exercise.

IV

Resolution concerning the IMO/STCW Convention of 1978, as amended, and the application of the Seafarers' Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Convention, 1996

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization, Noting the Seafarers' Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Convention, 1996, Recalling article 19, paragraph 8, of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization, Recalling also the adoption of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended in 1995, by the International Maritime Organization, Declares that nothing in this Convention is intended to enable Members ratifying the Convention which are also Parties to the revised Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) to apply provisions to watchkeeping seafarers that are less favourable than those contained in the revised STCW Convention and are inconsistent with the minimum rest period provisions of that Convention.

V

Resolution concerning the inspection of seafarers' working and living conditions

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization, Having discussed the first item on its agenda, entitled "Revision of the Labour Inspection (Seamen) Recommendation, 1926", Considering the importance of the implementation of the instruments relating to the inspection of seafarers' working and living conditions, Recalling the Guidelines for Procedure in respect of inspection of labour conditions on board ship issued by the International Labour Office in 1990, Invites the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to request the Director-General to make proposals for a further Meeting of Experts to review the guidelines in the light especially of the standards adopted by the present session of the Conference and for the promotion of the widest possible use of such guidelines.

1 Adopted on 21 October 1996.
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