



## FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Update on the ILO's participation in the development by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of safety recommendations for small fishing vessels**

1. At its 300th Session (November 2007) the Governing Body:
  - (i) authorized the continued participation by the ILO in the development of safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels, and participation by an ILO tripartite delegation to the next (51st) Session of the IMO's Subcommittee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels' Safety (SLF 51);
  - (ii) invited the nomination of one representative each from the Governments, Employers and Workers to participate, at no cost to the Office, in the work of the correspondence group and in the ILO delegation to SLF 51 in 2008; and
  - (iii) requested the Office to continue to report to the Committee on any new developments concerning this work.
2. Furthermore, at its 301st Session (March 2008), the Governing Body authorized the Governments and the Employers' and Workers' groups to each nominate a representative to participate, at no cost to the Office, in the work of the correspondence group and in the ILO delegation to SLF 51.<sup>1</sup> The Employers' group nominated James Hudson (United Kingdom) as Employer representative and Cor Blonk (Netherlands) as Employer Adviser, and the Workers' group nominated Rossen Karavich (United Kingdom) as Worker representative. The Government group did not nominate a representative.
3. Subsequently, the ILO delegation, consisting of Mr Hudson, Mr Karavich, Mr Blonk and Mr Wagner (ILO Senior Maritime Specialist), participated in SLF 51 (London, 14–18 July 2008). Mr Wagner, Mr Blonk and a representative of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) also participated in an informal meeting of the correspondence group the previous week (London, 8–10 July 2008).

<sup>1</sup> GB.301/19.

4. SLF 51 continued its consideration of the draft safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels. Among other things, it noted an information paper, submitted by the Office, on the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), and Work in Fishing Recommendation, 2007 (No. 199).
5. SLF 51 established a working group on safety of small fishing vessels. The working group was chaired by Captain Nigel Campbell of South Africa. Captain Campbell served as Chairperson of the Committee on the Fishing Sector at the 96th Session of the ILC, at which Convention No. 188 and its accompanying Recommendation were adopted. The ILO delegation participated actively in this working group. Among other things, the working group and SLF 51 resolved possible conflicts between the draft safety recommendations and Convention No. 188 or Recommendation No. 199. The outcome of the working group, as well as of SLF 51 as a whole, is available on the IMO web site.
6. SLF 51 considered the report of the working group, and, inter alia, re-established the correspondence group, under the coordination of the Government of South Africa, and instructed it, among other things, to:
  - further develop the draft safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels;
  - further develop the draft guidelines to assist competent authorities on the implementation of Part B of the Fishing Vessel Safety Code, the Voluntary Guidelines and the Safety Recommendations and consider the title; and
  - submit a report to SLF 52.

## Implications for the ILO

7. As may be recalled, Convention No. 188 includes provisions related to the occupational safety and health of fishers. This includes, in Article 31, that “Each Member shall adopt laws, regulations or other measures concerning ... the prevention of occupational accidents, occupational diseases and work-related risks on board fishing vessels, including risk evaluation and management, training and on-board instruction of fishers”. Recommendation No. 199 includes further guidance on occupational safety and health, recommending, inter alia, that Members should address to the extent practicable, and as appropriate to the conditions in the fishing sector, a number of technical specifications listed in its Paragraph 47.
8. The development of joint FAO/ILO/IMO guidance related to safety and health of fishers and safety of fishing vessels, whether large or small, is relevant to the promotion and implementation of these ILO instruments. The importance of such guidance was highlighted in the Asian Regional Seminar on the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (Seoul, 2–4 September 2008). The FAO, ILO and IMO have had a long history of producing joint publications related to the safety and health of fishers. Indeed, the FAO/ILO/IMO Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels and the FAO/ILO/IMO Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels were referred to in Recommendation No. 199. The finalization of the draft safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels is in line with this long-term effort. It is also desirable that the draft safety recommendations, once finalized, should be put before the Governing Body so that they can be published as another joint FAO/ILO/IMO publication. ILO participation in the further development of the draft guidelines to assist competent authorities on the implementation of Part B of the Fishing Vessel Safety Code, the Voluntary Guidelines and the Safety Recommendations is

also advisable. Such additional guidance will assist in improving the safety and health of fishers and strengthen implementation of Convention No. 188 and Recommendation No. 199. Finally, these joint FAO, ILO and IMO meetings and publications represent a unified United Nations system approach to safety and health in the fishing sector and ensure that not only governments, but also employers' and workers' organizations are involved in producing such international guidance.

9. For this reason, it is recommended that the ILO continue to play an active role in this inter-agency work.
10. ***The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may wish to recommend to the Governing Body that it:***
  - (i) ***authorize the continued participation by the ILO in the development of safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels, and participation by an ILO tripartite delegation, at no cost to the Office, in the next (52nd) Session of the IMO's Subcommittee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels' Safety, with the aim of, inter alia, putting the final document before the Governing Body for approval as a joint FAO/ILO/IMO publication;***
  - (ii) ***subject to the decision taken with regard to (i) above, invite the nomination of one representative each from the Governments, Employers and Workers to participate, at no cost to the Office, in the work of the correspondence group and in the ILO delegation to the 52nd Session of the IMO's Subcommittee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels' Safety; and***
  - (iii) ***authorize participation by the ILO in the further development of draft guidelines to assist competent authorities on the implementation of Part B of the Fishing Vessel Safety Code, the Voluntary Guidelines and the Safety Recommendations and consider the title.***

Geneva, 7 October 2008.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 10.