



FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Maritime matters

**Follow-up to the resolution concerning
tonnage measurements and accommodation
adopted by the 96th Session of the
International Labour Conference**

1. In March 2008, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to:¹
 - (a) continue to monitor the developments at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and to evaluate any amendment to, or interpretation agreements of, the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 (“the 1969 TM Convention”), that could have an impact on the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), especially on its Annex III;
 - (b) monitor developments and evaluate any amendment to, or interpretation agreements of the 1969 TM Convention that could have an impact on the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC); and
 - (c) encourage the IMO to give full consideration to possible amendments to, or interpretation agreements of, the 1969 TM Convention that would lead to improved welfare of seafarers or fishers or both.
2. The Office followed up on these requests through participation in meetings of the IMO’s Sub-Committee on Stability and Load Lines and Fishing Vessels Safety (SLF) and correspondence groups established by SLF to consider possible amendments to the 1969 TM Convention.
3. Most recently, SLF 52 (London, 25–29 January 2010) considered the report of a correspondence group established on this issue by SLF 51 (London, 14–18 July 2008). The correspondence group’s report focused on several possible options for amending the 1969 TM Convention, some of which, as had been noted by the ILO secretariat and other members of the group, could have an impact on crew accommodation on ships and fishing vessels. When examining the report, SLF 52 also considered other related submissions.

¹ GB.301/PV, para. 246 and GB.301/STM/5/4.

These included those noting that the existing method of measuring gross tonnage created a disincentive for shipowners to build ships with accommodation for cadets/trainees, thereby undermining efforts to train future seafarers, particularly future ship's officers, and contributing to shortages of qualified officers.

4. The SLF, after much debate, agreed to re-establish the correspondence group on the 1969 TM Convention, to be coordinated by the United States, and instructed it to take into account comments made and decisions taken by the Sub-Committee and to:
 - (a) consider further and finalize the information provided in annex 2 to document SLF 52/5/2 (report of the correspondence group) with respect to improving the effect of the 1969 TM Convention on the design of ships and in particular with reference to the effect on safety;
 - (b) examine, in relation to the options listed:
 - (i) the improvement of crew accommodation; and
 - (ii) the tonnage measurement of ships carrying deck cargoes and, in particular, of containerships;
 - (c) identify and investigate the benefits and disadvantages of the options listed in annex 2 to document SLF 52/5/2; and
 - (d) submit a report to SLF 53.
5. The Office will continue to monitor this work and evaluate any amendment to, or interpretation agreements of, the 1969 TM Convention that could have an impact on the MLC and Convention No. 188. In doing so, the Office will continue to encourage the IMO to give full consideration to possible amendments to, or interpretation agreements of, the 1969 TM Convention that would lead to improved welfare of seafarers or fishers or both. The Office notes that, bearing in mind the information presented in paragraph 3 above, this issue may be of particular interest to the ILO in light of the resolution concerning recruitment and retention of seafarers, adopted by the 94th Session of the International Labour Conference, which, inter alia, provided that "flag States should encourage operators of ships which fly their flag to provide training berths for new seafarers and for cadets", and, more generally, on the increased emphasis by the ILO on the promotion of training, especially of young persons, in the context of the current crisis.

Geneva, 16 February 2010.

Submitted for information.