



THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Agenda of the 2005 sessions of the
International Labour Conference****(b) Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference
(2004) and the date, place and agenda of
the 94th (Maritime) Session (2005) of the
International Labour Conference**

1. It is to be recalled that at its 280th (March 2001) Session, the Governing Body, upon the recommendation made to it by the Joint Maritime Commission at its 29th Session (January 2001), established a High-level Tripartite Working Group and a Tripartite Subgroup to assist with the work of developing the proposed new single instrument which would consolidate the existing body of 69 ILO maritime Conventions and Recommendations and one Protocol. The Governing Body also took note of the recommendation made to it by the Joint Maritime Commission to convene a preparatory technical conference in 2004 for the first discussion of the proposed new instrument and to convene a Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference in 2005 to adopt the instrument. The Joint Maritime Commission proposed the following agenda for the Maritime Session of the Conference:
 - (a) consolidation of ILO maritime instruments; and
 - (b) general discussion on the developments in the industry; and, in addition, proposed that
 - (c) a resolutions committee be appointed in accordance with article 17 of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference.
2. Item (a) above requires a decision of the Governing Body, proposed below. The general discussion referred to under (b) could, if so decided, be carried out in the context of the discussion of the Director-General's report, made in accordance with article 12 of the Conference Standing Orders, read with the Note for Maritime Sessions at the end of the Standing Orders. A resolutions committee, as referred to under (c), would, if considered necessary, normally have to be established to consider resolutions in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 17 of the Standing Orders, read with the Note for Maritime Sessions.
3. To date, two meetings of the High-level Tripartite Working Group and two meetings of the Tripartite Subgroup have taken place. At the last meeting of the Subgroup (3-7 February 2003), a preliminary draft for a Convention on maritime labour standards was discussed

with a view to its submission to the High-level Tripartite Working Group, which is scheduled to meet in July 2003. Following the practice relating to the adoption of maritime instruments, a preparatory technical conference is envisaged for 2004 to conduct a first discussion of the draft consolidated text.

4. The Director-General notes that considerable preparatory work has been undertaken in the framework of the High-level Tripartite Working Group and the Subgroup and that a number of reports have been prepared by the Office, and others have been submitted by constituents, to enable a discussion of a number of issues of importance for the new instrument. These issues essentially relate to the exercise of consolidation and drafting, to mechanisms for the amendment of the new Convention and to means of enforcing its provisions; it is intended to incorporate into the new instrument existing maritime labour standards without significant revision of their substance. In these circumstances, the Director-General considers that the important preparatory documents, including the reports of the High-level Tripartite Group and the Subgroup, and the draft instrument to be prepared with accompanying commentaries, would be adequate to facilitate the exchange of views in a preparatory technical conference as required by article 10, paragraph 9, of the Governing Body's Standing Orders.
5. The Governing Body was informed at its 285th (November 2002) Session that the Director-General was exploring the possibility that a member State may be willing to host the Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference.¹ The Office is currently holding talks aimed at agreeing upon the necessary arrangements for both the preparatory technical maritime conference and the full Maritime Session. In consequence of this, a limited provision has been made in the Programme and Budget proposals for 2004-05, currently before the Governing Body.² To the extent that such an option is not possible, the Director-General will return to the Governing Body with further proposals.

6. *The Governing Body may therefore wish to decide:*

(a) that a preparatory technical maritime conference:

- (i) be held in Geneva in September 2004;***
- (ii) should consist of tripartite delegations from all interested member States of the Organization, each delegation being comprised of one Government delegate, one Shipowner and one Seafarer delegate, together with such advisers as might be considered necessary; and***
- (iii) should discuss, and make recommendations concerning, an instrument to consolidate maritime labour standards, on the basis of a draft to be submitted to it by the Office;***

(b) that the Office shall, following the procedure set out in paragraph 4(b) of article 38 of the Conference Standing Orders, itself draw up, on the basis of the work of the preparatory technical conference, the final report to be communicated to governments in accordance with paragraph 2 of that article;

¹ GB.285/PFA/9, para. 8.

² GB.286/PFA/9, information Annex I.

- (c) *that a Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference be scheduled for 2005, in addition to the regular June 2005 session, with the precise date and place being decided upon finally at a subsequent session of the Governing Body;*
- (d) *to place on the agenda of the Maritime Session of the Conference, with a view to a single discussion, the adoption of an instrument to consolidate maritime labour standards.*

Geneva, 14 February 2003.

Point for decision: Paragraph 6.