



EIGHTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

The proposed consolidated maritime labour Convention: A progress report**Third Meeting of the High-level Tripartite Working Group on Maritime Labour Standards
(Geneva, 30 June to 4 July 2003)**

1. Reports on the two previous meetings of the High-level Tripartite Working Group on Maritime Labour Standards (HLTWG) have been presented to the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards. In addition, an information paper on progress¹ was discussed in the Committee last March. It had been prepared by the Office, with the assistance of the HLTWG's Subgroup, at the request of the Governing Body on the Committee's recommendation. The HLTWG held its third meeting from 30 June to 4 July 2003. The report of that meeting is contained in document TWGMLS/2003/10.
2. It would appear, from the third meeting, that the consolidated maritime labour Convention is "on course" for its envisaged adoption by the International Labour Conference in 2005. There is general agreement on the basic structure and content of the Convention, which implements the innovative solutions endorsed by the HLTWG at its first meeting in 2001. Agreement has still to be reached, however, on certain elements of the structure and there are important, and sometimes difficult, areas in the four titles of the Convention setting out the maritime labour standards themselves that have not yet been fully discussed. It was therefore essential that a fourth meeting of the HLTWG be held before submission of a draft to the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference scheduled for September 2004. Thanks to an offer made by the Government of France, it will be possible for the fourth meeting to be held in Nantes from 19 to 23 January 2004.
3. The new draft Convention under preparation for the HLTWG in January will benefit not only from the guidance provided by the HLTWG at its third meeting, but also from comments and suggestions on the draft discussed at that meeting that were sent to the Office (at the HLTWG's invitation) by the representatives of the Shipowners and Seafarers and of 15 Governments as well as the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Geneva, 1 October 2003.

¹ GB.286/LILS/8.