



SEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Other questions**Report of the Second Session of the Joint
FAO/ILO/IMO Working Group on Fishermen's
Training and Certification**

(London, 18-22 January 1999)

1. At its 270th Session (November 1997), the Governing Body authorized the holding of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Working Group on Fishermen's Training and Certification in London from 12 to 16 January 1998, with a composition of four representatives from the ILO (two Employer and two Worker representatives), two representatives of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and two representatives of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).¹
2. The Joint Working Group first met in London in January 1998. It reviewed a draft revised Document for Guidance on Fishermen's Training and Certification, prepared by the FAO in order, inter alia, to bring it into line with the provisions of the IMO's International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995, so as to include a chapter concerning the functional approach to training and to reflect provisions of the FAO's Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries. The Working Group did not have sufficient time to complete its work and therefore recommended that the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), in consultation with the appropriate bodies of the FAO and ILO, approve a Second Session for the purpose of completing the work. This recommendation was agreed by the Governing Body of the ILO at its 273rd Session (November 1999),² and by the 69th Session (11-20 May 1998) of the Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO and the appropriate FAO body.
3. Subsequently, the Second Session of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Working Group on Fishermen's Training was held at IMO headquarters from 18 to 22 January 1999. A copy of its report is attached. The Group completed its work and invited the Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO, and the appropriate FAO and ILO bodies –

¹ GB.270/STM/4/1, GB.270/11 and GB.270/205, para. 44.

² GB.273/STM/2, GB.273/10 and GB.273/273/205, para. 28.

- (a) to take note of the Group's recommendations that the Maritime Safety Committee consider a review of the STCW-F requirements concerning celestial navigation (paragraph 4.5) and the need for inclusion of a mandatory requirement for officers in charge of an engineering watch on fishing vessels powered by main propulsion machinery of 750 kW or more (paragraph 7.1);
 - (b) to agree to the Group's recommendation for amending the title of the Document for Guidance to "FAO/ILO/IMO Document for Guidance on the Training and Certification of Fishing Vessel Personnel" (paragraph 4.8);
 - (c) to take note of the revised Document for Guidance on Fishermen's Training and Certification;³
 - (d) to agree to the joint publication of the revised Document for Guidance on Fishermen's Training and Certification;
 - (e) to approve the report in general.
4. At its 71st Session, the Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO considered and approved, in general, the report of the Second Session of the Joint Working Group. The Committee agreed to the Group's recommendation to amend the title of the Document for Guidance to the "FAO/ILO/IMO Document for Guidance on the Training and Certification of Fishing Vessel Personnel" and agreed to consider it further at its 72nd Session (17-26 May 2000) after it had been considered by the 31st Session of the STW Subcommittee (10-14 January 2000). It also agreed that the revised document, under its new title, should be published jointly with the FAO and ILO. To this effect, the Committee requested the secretariat to enter into consultations with the secretariats of the two other organizations, as appropriate.⁴
5. As regards the ILO, at its 268th Session (March 1997) the Governing Body decided that a Tripartite Meeting on Safety and Health in the Fishing Industry would be included in the programme of sectoral meetings for 1998-99 and that the Tripartite Meeting should assess work done by the FAO/ILO/IMO Working Group. As reported in document GB.277/STM/3/3, the Tripartite Meeting met in Geneva from 13 to 17 December 1999 and concluded that the revised text of the FAO/ILO/IMO Document for Guidance required no additional substantive changes prior to completion, and that the IMO should be encouraged to finalize and publish this document as soon as possible.
6. At its 31st Session (London, 10-14 January 2000), the IMO's Standards of Training and Watchkeeping Subcommittee considered the report of the Joint Group, agreed on minor amendments to the text and invited the Maritime Safety Committee to consider and approve the revised Document for Guidance. It also invited the Committee to instruct the secretariat to publish, in conjunction with the FAO and ILO, the revised Document for Guidance. The Maritime Safety Committee will consider this issue when it meets at its 72nd (May 2000) Session.
7. In view of the fact that the Tripartite Meeting on Safety and Health in the Fishing Industry concluded that the Document for Guidance required no additional substantive changes prior to completion and that the IMO should be encouraged to finalize and publish the Document for Guidance as soon as possible, and that the Subcommittee of the IMO with

³ Copies of the revised document, MSC 71/INF.3, will be made available.

⁴ MSC 71/23, Report of the Maritime Safety Committee on its 71st Session.

technical competence in this subject area has also not indicated any need for more than minor amendments, *the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may wish to recommend that the Governing Body –*

- (a) take note of the report of the second session of the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Working Group on Fishermen's Training;*
- (b) authorize the Director-General to consult with the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the publication, as soon as possible, of the revised Document for Guidance on the Training and Certification of Fishermen under the new title of "Document for Guidance on the Training and Certification of Fishing Vessel Personnel".*

Geneva, 2 February 2000.

Point for decision: Paragraph 7.

Appendix