



NINTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Labour Standards for the Fishing Sector

1. In keeping with decisions taken by the Governing Body at its 284th, 285th, 286th and 287th Sessions,¹ the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Labour Standards for the Fishing Sector met in Geneva from 2 to 4 September 2003. The agenda of the Meeting was to “discuss issues to be included in a comprehensive standard (a Convention and a Recommendation) on work in the fishing sector”.²
2. The Meeting of Experts was attended by 16 Government experts,³ eight Employer experts, eight Worker experts, and 17 advisers. The Chairperson, appointed by the Officers of the Governing Body, was Mr. E. Sidorov. The Vice-Chairpersons were: Mr. J. O’Neill (Government expert, Canada), Mr. J. Magnusson (Employer expert, Iceland), and Mr. P. Mortensen (Worker expert, Denmark).
3. The Meeting used as a background document the law and practice report *Conditions of work in the fishing sector*, Report V(1) for the 92nd (June 2004) Session of the Conference. The Office also prepared a document entitled “Proposed issues for discussion” (MELSFS/2003/4) to assist in the discussion, and it provided an oral update on the replies so far received by the Office to the questionnaire included at the end of the law and practice report. The experts discussed issues covered by the seven existing ILO fishing standards (five Conventions and two Recommendations) as well as other possible issues (e.g. occupational safety and health and social security).
4. The Meeting of Experts adopted a report on its proceedings. Attached to that report is the Chairperson’s summary of the debate. In accordance with article 39 of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference, the Office is preparing a second report for the 92nd Session of the Conference on the basis of the replies received to the questionnaire.

¹ See GB.284/Inf.1; GB.285/20, paras. 11-12; GB.286/21, paras. 16-17; GB.287/12, paras. 3-5.

² At its 283rd Session (March 2002), the Governing Body had decided to place on the agenda of the 92nd Session (2004) of the Conference an item on “a comprehensive standard (a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation) on work in the fishing sector” (GB.283/2/1, para. 4(b)).

³ Of these, nine participated at “no cost” to the ILO.

This second report required by the Conference will contain proposed conclusions with a view to a Convention and Recommendation for labour standards for the fishing sector, as required by the Standing Orders. In preparing this report, the Office will take into account the report of the Meeting of Experts, including the Chairperson's summary.

Geneva, 2 October 2003.