



TWELFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues

1. The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues met on 8 November 2004. The Chairperson was Mr. Rimkunas (Government, Lithuania) and the Employer and Worker Vice-Chairpersons were Ms. Sasso Mazzufferi and Mr. Zellhoefer, respectively.
2. The Officers congratulated Ms. Doumbia-Henry on her appointment as Director of the International Labour Standards Department, thanked her for her dedication and enthusiasm concerning sectoral activities and looked forward to continuing to work with her on maritime issues. They welcomed Mr. Jennings as the Acting Director of the Sectoral Activities Department.

I. Implementation of the Sectoral Activities Programme: Progress report

3. The Committee had before it a paper on progress towards implementation of the Sectoral Activities Programme.¹
4. Ms. Paxton, Executive Director of the Social Dialogue Sector, introduced the document, which outlined the progress to date in the action programmes and lessons learned, as well as issues the Committee might like to consider when deciding upon the proposed programme for the biennium 2006-07 in March 2005. While some action programmes had had a slow start, their progress was now evident. In cooperation with other departments, the Sectoral Activities Department had been able to leverage its resources, as had been suggested by the Committee. The Office was seeking guidance on options for the coming biennium in the light of current activities and the budgetary situation. The sectors for specific consideration were selected on the assumption that the maritime sector activities would continue to be based on standard setting and that the ports sector would be joined with the transport sector. Issues such as the rotation of sectors for consideration and the number of sectors dealt with were important, as the budgetary constraints had implications not only for the sectors “in focus”, but more so for the other sectors, as non-staff resources would need to be halved in 2006-07. The Committee might consider whether some action programmes might continue in the next biennium and whether a thematic approach for more than one sector was an option. Possible themes were global production systems,

¹ GB.291/STM/1.

migrant workers, or a sectoral approach to the follow-up to the resolution concerning tripartism and social dialogue. The structure, number and size of activities, especially meetings, merited careful thought. Having a regional balance for each action programme might be too ambitious. Ms. Paxton explained that large sectoral meetings were more expensive than the current action programmes and suggested that the Committee might also want to consider the feasibility of smaller and shorter meetings. The best use of reduced resources for the next biennium could be to have fewer meetings or action programmes. Guidance from the Committee would be reflected in the Office's proposal to be submitted to its next session and could also facilitate the linking of sectoral activities with other ILO programmes.

5. Mr. Jennings, Acting Director of the Sectoral Activities Department, summarized the meeting that had been held with constituents a week earlier to review the progress in the action programmes. Delays in setting up national steering groups had occurred and a greater flow of information, including on the membership of national steering committees and on the outcome of meetings, was required. The Office would act accordingly and looked forward to increased information exchange between the social partners and the Office. Many issues raised (e.g. the identification of other stakeholders and relevant ministries, or local resource mobilization) could be best addressed in close collaboration with the social partners. The action programmes were making good use of synergies between existing ILO programmes and promised to provide added value to the follow-up to the resolution concerning tripartism and social dialogue, to which the new programmes could be linked. There had been sectoral successes in leveraging the funds allocated. For some programmes, a single biennium might be too short and their continuation should be reassessed in the context of the discussion on the programme for 2006-07. The review meeting's conclusions were that action programmes were a worthwhile addition to the sectoral activities programme, but should not entirely replace sectoral meetings. The current framework needed to be reassessed and the merits and challenges of suggestions such as a thematic approach or the continuation of current action programmes evaluated. While the goal to uphold an even geographical distribution had been supported, a reduction in the number of countries for each action programme would no longer allow such a principle to be upheld for every single action programme. A review meeting would be held in February 2005 that would provide an input into the Committee's discussion on future programmes.
6. Mr. Zellhoefer congratulated Ms. Doumbia-Henry on her appointment as Director of the International Labour Standards Department, welcomed Mr. Jennings' leadership of the Sectoral Activities Department and introduced Ms. Raquel Gonzales as the new assistant Workers' group secretary. He also underscored the continuing link between the International Labour Standards Department and the Sectoral Activities Department, which the Workers' group had historically supported. The outcome of the Preparatory Technical Maritime Conference was positive, ending with a draft consolidated instrument that had the potential to become a "Seafarers' Bill of Rights". He was confident that the consolidation of maritime labour standards would be completed successfully. He reiterated the support of the Workers' group for the new approach to sectoral activities, which enhanced the relevance of activities by allowing for flexibility in respect to possible activities, including international meetings and action programmes at the national level. The start of the new approach had led to problems, some of which were inherent in starting any process, and some of which resulted from a long and time-consuming selection procedure. While the Office was already targeting those, further information on the composition of national steering groups and local ILO support was required. A guideline could be established about the channels for participation, indicating the persons responsible for communication and implementation at the national level. Further work was also required on a better integration of global union federations at regional levels, using their existing structures. Other aspects to be considered were the creation of a policy

framework endorsed by constituents at the international level and the importance of global framework agreements for work at the sectoral level. Reminding the Committee of the ILO's speedy response to the crises in the civil aviation and tourism sectors following the events of 11 September 2001, Mr. Zellhoefer suggested that – as an urgent matter – a meeting on “ILO Action to Avert Crisis in the Global Textile and Clothing Industries” should be held at the earliest possible convenience. The phasing out of the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) at the end of the year was a concern for workers and their families, as well as for some of the world's poorest countries, which were almost entirely dependent on the textile and clothing sector for their export earnings and employment opportunities. The foreseeable consolidation of suppliers could also lead to fewer supplying countries, with serious consequences for millions of workers. Reskilling and retraining were needed, as well as measures to ensure the integration of displaced workers into new or expanded consolidated suppliers. Integrated action from the global to the local level was needed. The proposed two-day meeting should allow the ILO to take the lead in bringing together social partners, governments and other key players to develop proposals on how to avert crisis and to promote decent work in the sector, as well as to give detailed consideration to the roles of international organizations, national governments, international brands and retailers, the textile and clothing industry and consumers. The Workers' group also suggested that the Office set up – towards the end of January – an informal consultation with the two groups' secretariats and the regional coordinators in order to move towards a consensual agreement on the programme for the coming biennium.

7. Ms. Sasso Mazzufferi noted progress in working closely with field offices to get the action programmes under way. Although tripartism and social dialogue took time, it was clear that the process adopted had been too cumbersome and should be adapted to reality. As a result, a majority of the action programmes were still in their early stages. Provided that tripartite consensus remained the rule throughout all programmes, the Employers' group would support the Office's proposals in paragraph 11 to aid the process. Meetings were full alternatives to an action programme and each sector's view on what activity should be chosen for the next biennium should be respected; the programme of sectoral activities should not be exclusively “budget-driven” and other issues needed to be taken into consideration. There should be no dilution of the ILO's programme of meetings; they were “the windows of the ILO” and provided opportunities for the Office and its constituents to interact and ensure that relevant problems were addressed. Given that certain pressing problems were often sector-specific, it was not surprising that, in a recent survey, many employers' organizations had expressed interest in a sectoral meeting for the next biennium. In the chemical sector and the mechanical and electrical sector, the Employers' group insisted on having tripartite meetings and was open to suggestions regarding the commerce sector and the food and drink sector. A meeting on ageing workers in the mechanical and electrical sector had been suggested. The Employers' group opposed any further merging of sectors. Some combinations, such as the transport sector (air, rail, road) already featured different, sometimes incompatible, characteristics. The group also opposed the suggested thematic approach, since it could not address the specific problems of the sectors involved. While the next sectoral meeting for the chemical sector was the ideal setting for a preliminary discussion on a Protocol to the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), other outputs of meetings should be considered. All decisions on the kind of activities needed to be determined individually for and by each sector. The Office's suggestion to reduce the number of participants in meetings to 15 was the maximum reduction the Employers' group could consider, but a reduction in meeting length to less than five days was not a viable solution. Time was needed to negotiate, draft and adopt conclusions. Accordingly, the Employers' group had already expressed reservations on the procedures for the forthcoming three-day meeting for the transport equipment sector. Instead of reducing activities in certain sectors, the period for one full rotation of all 22 sectors should be over three biennia rather than the current two, thus retaining an even distribution of resources between sectors, while reducing the number of in-focus sectors in

each biennium. A new system needed to be implemented for the identification of proposals for sectoral activities. The Office, in collaboration with the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), should send out a joint letter to all governments and social partners, asking them consensually to identify issues and activities that should be addressed by the forthcoming sectors in focus. Those responses should be examined by the Committee, which could then determine feasible activities that were in the interests of sectoral constituents. On the suggestion of Mr. Zellhoefer to hold a meeting on liberalization in the textile sector, Ms. Sasso Mazzufferi explained that the issue was also of great importance to the Employers' group, especially as far as SMEs were concerned. She supported the request in principle, provided that it would not be limited to finding ways to protect workers but, more importantly, would focus on promoting and enhancing productivity and competitiveness, as that constituted the real solution for the sector.

8. An Employer member (Mr. Trogen) emphasized that tripartite meetings for the chemicals sector provided an ideal opportunity for employers to discuss problems of importance to their enterprises in a tripartite setting while familiarizing themselves with the work of the ILO. In his experience, employers were very interested in industrial committee meetings, whereas the purpose of action programmes was difficult to explain, as most issues specific to his industry were global in nature and should be discussed at the global level in the ILO.
9. An Employer member (Mr. Anand) stated that social dialogue and tripartism were the cornerstones and foundations of the ILO. If obstacles to those principles existed, they needed to be studied and addressed so that tripartism and social dialogue could be brought forward, given that they were requirements for decent work. A study on tripartism in the Asia-Pacific region, published five years ago, reported that only a limited number of people understood the importance of tripartism. As the informal sector posed particular problems in that respect, a study needed to be undertaken that would allow those obstacles to be overcome. The lack of resources could be addressed if more effort was put into finding locally available resources to fund action programmes. While it might be necessary to restrict the number of participants in a meeting who were paid for by the Office, a certain number of additional participants could be allowed to attend at their own expense.
10. A representative of the Government of Japan, speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific group, understood the initial difficulties and noted the delays, but stressed that his group wanted to move the action programmes forward. The common goals and objectives of the ILO's sectoral activities were the gathering of characteristic information and knowledge on each sector and providing opportunities for sectoral social dialogue. Challenges to the new approach were budgetary constraints and limited human resources, as well as the lack of a system for the efficient and complete data-gathering of input from each country or region, which could help streamline the process. At the same time, the new approach provided possibilities for countries to become proactive in those sectors that they considered important and allowed social partners at national level or in rural areas to take part in sectoral activities. The number of participating countries in each action programme should be no more than three or four, the number of sectors implemented should be no more than six or seven, a thematic approach should be limited, and traditional sectoral meetings should be integrated with the action programme approach.
11. The representative of the Government of the United States, speaking on behalf of IMEC, suggested that clear goals needed to be determined and common measures of performance established. Each programme should develop benchmarks and indicators to evaluate impact. By sharing expertise, pooling resources and through better integration, greater efficiency could be achieved. In order to meet the Office's goals of impact, relevance, timeliness, flexibility and effectiveness, agendas should be focused and the length of meetings might be reduced, so that more high-ranking participants could attend.

Participation in meetings might be limited to 15 or less Workers' or Employers' representatives. Lessons could be learned from the transport equipment meeting, to be held in January 2005. The principle of rotation conflicted with the need to respond to critical needs when allocating resources. Greater use of cross-sectoral activities should also be made to provide more focused meetings and a more efficient use of resources. The Office needed to consult with Governments to get their views on the size, composition and topics of meetings, and the content of action programmes.

12. The representative of the Government of Kenya noted that the new approach comprised both action programmes as well as sectoral meetings and welcomed the efforts to achieve cost-sharing and integration with the Decent Work Pilot Programme. Although concrete activities had started in some of the programmes, a final evaluation of their success needed to be made at a later stage. The principle of rotation and the number of sectors covered should be retained, and the 11 sectors listed in the paper should be in the focus for 2006-07. She endorsed the point for decision.
13. The representative of the Government of Japan supported the statements made on behalf of the Asia-Pacific group and IMEC. In order to make best use of the limited ILO resources, implementation had to be efficient and thus effective.
14. The representative of the Government of the Russian Federation suggested that the number of sectors could be reduced in the next biennium. His Government supported the continuation of work in the maritime industry, a sector of special importance to his country, and supported the joining of certain sectors to reduce the number of covered sectors, as well as a reduction in the number of participants and the length of meetings. It was important, however, for the ILO to be able to react flexibly to the needs of sectors. He also agreed with the suggestion to open up meetings to additional Employers' or Workers' representatives, provided that did not lead to additional costs to the ILO.
15. The representative of the Government of Nigeria supported the sectoral activities programme and favoured rationalization, but not integration, with other departments. The peculiarities of each sector needed to be recognized. He supported the Office's suggestions, as well as the proposal to reduce the number of participants in meetings, while allowing additional participants to take part.
16. Ms. Paxton noted that there was agreement in some areas, whereas others needed further consultation. That should take place as soon as possible in the light of the deadline for preparing the paper for the next session. Importantly, strong support for sectoral activities had been reflected in the proposed strategic policy framework, which had recognized the importance of the ILO's work at the sectoral level. Given the limited resources, the new approach included a resource mobilization strategy, which was under active consideration. The non-staff resources comprised about US\$155,000 for each in-focus sector compared to US\$25,000 for each of the other sectors. The latter allocation would diminish considerably in the next biennium, providing only minimal support for programmes that were not in focus. Consideration was being given to the best ways to benchmark and evaluate the impact of action programmes, and views from Committee members were welcome. Ms. Paxton noted that the Employers' group had, in principle, supported the suggestion of the Workers' group to hold a meeting on the phasing out of the MFA. She informed the Committee that the Office had already commissioned two papers on labour aspects and social benchmarking that would be published by the end of 2004. Regarding the meeting, further objectives, inputs required and outputs expected needed to be specified; costs, logistics and timing needed to be considered. Given that all the Department's resources were committed, it was likely that a formal request for additional resources would have to be made to the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee. Further informal consultations needed to be held, particularly with Government members of the Committee.

17. The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body note the report and the views expressed in the context of preparing proposals for a programme of sectoral activities in 2006-07 for discussion at the March 2005 session of the Governing Body.

II. Technical assistance in the framework of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185)

18. The Committee had before it a paper on technical assistance in the framework of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185).²

19. Ms. Doumbia-Henry, Director of the International Labour Standards Department, introduced the agenda item and drew the attention of the Committee to the paper on the establishment of arrangements and procedures under Article 5, paragraphs 6-8, of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185), which was before the Committee on Legal Issues and International Labour Standards.³ At its March 2004 session, the Governing Body had adopted standards for the biometric identifier referred to in Convention No. 185. The Governing Body had recognized the financial implications and the need for technical cooperation, as stressed in the relevant Conference resolutions. The Office was continuing work to facilitate the implementation of the Convention. A programme of testing equipment and software for compliance with the provisions of the Convention and for interoperability had just ended and a final report on the findings, as well as on concepts of operation, outlining all steps required for the implementation of Convention No. 185, would be published in the near future. The tests had been conducted on a cruise vessel, thanks to the support of her owners, the International Shipping Federation (ISF) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), and with the participation of all seafarers on board.

20. Ms. Sasso Mazzufferi agreed with the need for technical cooperation and, in recognition of the importance of Convention No. 185, also supported the requests for donors to provide assistance in that regard, provided that it was not at the expense of other technical cooperation projects.

21. Mr. Zellhoefer expressed the appreciation of the Workers' group for the efforts of the Office to ensure interoperability as regards the biometric identifier of the seafarers' identity document. The choice of the International Labour Conference had been based on existing technology. Member States should consider the contribution that seafarers made to national economies, especially those who worked under foreign flags. The Workers' group drew attention to the financial support provided by the ITF for the ILO's work on this issue and the United States Government's contribution of US\$250,000. He urged other donor countries and international institutions to step forward and thus help achieve the widest possible ratification and implementation of Convention No. 185.

22. The representative of the Government of El Salvador, speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), underlined the importance of Convention No. 185. He noted that the costs of implementation, together with technological problems, could impede ratification. Technical and financial assistance

² GB.291/STM/2.

³ GB.291/LILS/6.

should be provided to developing countries, especially to allow technological transfer and for training personnel. The development by the ILO of a “model system” for the production of prototype identity documents in conformity with Convention No. 185 would be very useful for member States and would reduce production and implementation costs. The Governing Body should urge donor countries to provide funding for the Office to support a programme of technical assistance.

23. The representative of the Government of Germany said that there should be an adequate flow of information within the Office, so that no duplication of work occurred now that two departments were simultaneously working on the implementation of the Convention.
24. The representative of the Government of Nigeria emphasized the technical and financial implications of the Convention, which intended to ensure decent and sustainable employment of seafarers in the current security situation. Nigeria had ratified the Convention on 19 August 2004 and was committed to its implementation. Nigeria had been designated an exemplar nation and had accepted to host data from other African countries that were unable to bear the cost of setting up and maintaining a national database. Therefore, Nigeria supported the Office’s appeal for the funding of a technical cooperation programme.
25. The representative of the Government of Indonesia saw the Convention as part of other efforts to improve the conditions of work and life of seafarers, namely the forthcoming consolidated maritime labour Convention. Indonesia had started tripartite consultations with a view to ratifying Convention No. 185. However, the Convention posed serious challenges to Indonesia and other developing countries both technically and financially. Indonesia, therefore, supported the appeal made by the Office to enable the appropriate assistance to be provided.
26. The representative of the Government of China agreed that Convention No. 185 was important and urged the Office to promote its ratification and assist countries having difficulties with implementation.
27. The representative of the Government of the Republic of Korea expressed his Government’s support for the maritime activities of the ILO. The Republic of Korea looked forward to reviewing its national legislation in the light of the forthcoming consolidated maritime labour Convention. The ILO should assist in bridging the technological gap which existed in some member States as far as the application of Convention No. 185 was concerned.
28. Ms. Doumbia-Henry confirmed that, in addition to the three ratifications already received, India, Indonesia and the Philippines, the countries that supplied the largest number of seafarers, had confirmed their intention to ratify the Convention. She thanked the ITF for the substantial and timely advance of money for the testing programme, which was to be returned once sufficient funding had been secured, and the Government of the United States for its substantial donation. Those had enabled the Office to undertake the testing of equipment and software in connection with the biometric identifier that needed to be included in the identity documents in accordance with the Convention. In response to the concerns of the German delegation, she assured the Committee that no duplication of work should occur, since the responsibility for maritime activities had remained with her. In response to Ms. Sasso Mazzufferi’s concern, she said that the technical cooperation was being funded by specialized donors or agencies and would not infringe on other sources of technical cooperation.
29. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body:*

- (a) *confirm the priority that should be given to the planning and financing of the kind of assistance referred to above; and*
- (b) *remind member States and other potential donors of the urgent necessity to consider the appeal of the Office to provide assistance in order to enable developing and transition economy countries to ratify and effectively implement Convention No. 185.*

III. Report of the International Symposium on Employers' Organizations and the Challenges Facing Business Today (Geneva, 15-17 December 2003)

- 30. Mr. Retournard, Director of the Bureau for Employers' Activities, introduced the report on the International Symposium on Employers' Organizations and the Challenges Facing Business Today, held in Geneva in December 2003.⁴ The symposium had provided an opportunity for employers' organizations and their members to exchange views on the challenges facing them and to discuss ways of meeting those. Governance emerged as a key theme and the Bureau for Employers' Activities was following up the meeting by developing and publishing a guide to good governance in employers' organizations. A training programme targeted at the professional staff of employers' organizations was also being developed. Participants had found the symposium useful and suggested an active follow-up.
- 31. Ms. Sasso Mazzufferi explained that the proposed follow-up would be very useful to employers' organizations throughout the world. Work on the areas for collaboration between the ILO and the IOE, suggested in paragraph 4, was particularly helpful to her group.
- 32. The Committee took note of the report.

IV. Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers in the Event of a Maritime Accident

- 33. The Committee had before it a paper on the Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on the Fair Treatment Of Seafarers in the Event of a Maritime Accident.⁵
- 34. Ms. Doumbia-Henry introduced the document, and reminded the Committee that the Governing Body had decided to form a Joint Working Group at its 290th Session (June 2004). The Committee was being asked to recommend that the Governing Body take note and approve the Terms of Reference of the Working Group, as accepted by the IMO Legal Committee. The Legal Committee, at its 89th Session (25-29 October 2004), had accepted the terms of reference for the Joint Working Group with a small amendment, adding at the end of the fourth bullet point "including various liability and compensation regimes". The IMO Legal Committee had also nominated eight member States (China, Egypt, Greece,

⁴ GB.291/STM/3.

⁵ GB.291/STM/4.

Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Turkey, and the United States) with the proviso that any other government could attend the meeting as an observer. The first session of the Working Group was scheduled for 17-19 January 2005.

35. Mr. Zellhoefer indicated that the Workers' group was extremely concerned by the criminalization of seafarers, which constituted serious impediments to achieving decent work at sea, and it believed that recent cases were of doubtful legality under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. His group, therefore, supported the joint efforts of the IMO and the ILO through the Joint Ad Hoc Working Group and the Terms of Reference, as amended.
36. Ms. Sasso Mazzufferi confirmed the approval of the Employers' group of the Terms of Reference, as amended by the IMO Legal Committee.
37. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body:*
 - (a) *note the information provided; and*
 - (b) *approve the terms of reference of the Joint IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers in the Event of a Maritime Accident, as amended by the IMO Legal Committee.*

V. Other questions

(a) Invitation to participate in the Conference of the World Tourism Organization on Analysing Tourism in the Global Economy: Applications of the Tourism Satellite Account (2005)

38. The Committee had before it a paper on the invitation to participate in the Conference of the World Tourism Organization on Analysing Tourism in the Global Economy: Applications of the Tourism Satellite Account (2005).⁶
39. Ms. Sasso Mazzufferi approved the point for decision in paragraph 5 of the document.
40. Mr. Zellhoefer pointed out that the World Tourism Organization was one of the few international organizations that recognized the private sector. Trade union presence was ensured by the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers (IUF). That involvement had always been positive and provided access to various sources of information as well as a better possibility to make the voice of the trade union movement heard by the various tourism actors. The Workers' group supported the ILO's work on tourism labour accounting systems, as the sector needed better, clearer and more reliable information on the sectoral labour market. Given the World Tourism Organization's expertise in developing methodologies for statistics, the Workers encouraged the Office to strengthen its cooperation with it in that field. The Workers' group agreed with the principle and the objectives of the Conference and supported the Office's participation, and asked it to remind the World Tourism Organization to invite workers' and employers' organizations to take part.

⁶ GB.291/STM/5/1.

41. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body note the information provided on the World Tourism Organization Conference on Analysing Tourism in the Global Economy: Applications of the Tourism Satellite Account (2005) and that the ILO is invited to lead a session on “Monitoring labour markets in the tourism sector”.*

(b) Composition of the Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping

42. The Committee had before it a paper on the composition of the Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping.⁷

43. Mr. Zellhoefer strongly supported inclusion in the Joint Working Group of Workers’ and Employers’ representatives as ILO nominees. The Working Group could become an important forum to discuss the export of redundant ships for scrapping. An amendment to the Basel Convention had been adopted in 1995 to ban the export of hazardous wastes to developing countries without prior informed consent of the receiving country. Hazardous substances, such as asbestos, PCBs, toxic paints and fuel residues, could be found in the structures of old ships being sent for scrapping. Now that 2,200 single-hull oil tankers were due to be scrapped, the need for this Working Group could not be more timely. Some 163 members of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention recently decided that ships being sent for disposal could be considered waste, that ship-breaking must be performed in an environmentally sound manner, and that the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes should be minimized. Since that obligation would create a new demand for “green” ship recycling in industrialized countries, the ILO needed to ensure that core labour standards and workers’ rights were also part of the development plan.

44. Ms. Sasso Mazzufferi also approved the point for decision and noted that, although it was clearly stated that the participation of the Employer and Worker nominees was at no cost to the Office, that should not become a general rule, but rather should be viewed as an exception in that particular case.

45. The representative of the Government of Japan recalled that the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention had legal and technical difficulties with ship dismantling and had sought interagency consultations to help overcome their concerns. The Government of Japan would participate in the Joint Working Group as one of the IMO-nominated member States and it fully supported Employers’ and Workers’ participation.

46. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues recommends that the Governing Body:*

(a) *authorize the holding of the Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping in London from 15 to 17 February 2005, with a composition of ten ILO (five Employer and five Worker) representatives, five Basel Convention representatives and five IMO representatives; and*

(b) *request the Director-General to communicate its decision to the Executive-Secretary of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization.*

⁷ GB.291/STM/5/2.

(c) Report on the Tripartite Meeting on the Future of Work and Quality in the Information Society: The Media, Culture, Graphical Sector
(Geneva, 18-22 October 2004)

47. Mr. Jennings provided a preliminary report on the Tripartite Meeting on the Future of Work and Quality in the Information Society: The Media, Culture, Graphical Sector, held in October 2004. Alongside Employers' and Workers' representatives (20 each), Government representatives from 29 countries had participated. Women accounted for only 23 per cent of the participants. The meeting had concluded that the ILO should be fully engaged both in the run-up to, as well as during the next session of, the World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis, November 2005). It had also adopted conclusions on issues such as employment, quality, safety and health, contractual status and social dialogue. It had asked the Office to promote timely social dialogue among the social partners and capacity building for employers' and workers' organizations in the sector, especially in developing countries and economies in transition. It had also requested the ILO to work on issues such as the employment relationship, the promotion of social responsibility and a code of practice on safety conditions for the employment of child performers, and to identify statistical sources and indicators relevant to the sector. The Office was currently examining how those requests could be integrated into ongoing programmes. The participants' overall assessment of the meeting had been very positive.
48. Ms. Sasso Mazzufferi expressed her pleasure at having chaired the meeting and commended the Office on the good organization. Cooperation between the Workers' and Employers' groups had been excellent. The conclusions were of interest for the future and could be accepted by the Employers' group, who were satisfied with the preparation, as well as with the result of the meeting.
49. Mr. Zellhoefer noted that a more detailed discussion would take place at the Committee's next session in March 2005, when the *Note on the Proceedings* would be available.
50. The Committee took note of the oral report.

(d) Update on the development of the joint FAO/IMO/ILO code and voluntary guidelines on safety and health on fishing vessels

51. Mr. Jennings reminded the Committee of the decision of the Tripartite Meeting on Safety and Health in the Fishing Industry (1999) that the ILO should participate in the revision of three joint publications (a two-part code of safety for fishermen and fishing vessels and a set of voluntary guidelines for small fishing vessels). The Office had prepared several chapters of the revised text and had participated in the relevant IMO working and correspondence groups. The revision was now nearing completion and would be submitted to the IMO Maritime Safety Committee in December 2004. As the draft standard on fishing referred to the code in the proposed Recommendation, it would also be taken into account in the forthcoming Tripartite Meeting of Experts on the Fishing Sector (December 2004). A final draft would be presented to the Committee at its next session in March 2005.
52. Mr. Zellhoefer looked forward to seeing the draft in March, as it could be interesting in the context of the second discussion of the fishing standard at the 93rd Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2005.
53. Ms. Sasso Mazzufferi agreed.

54. The Committee took note of the oral report.

Geneva, 12 November 2004.

Points for decision: Paragraph 17;
Paragraph 29;
Paragraph 37;
Paragraph 41;
Paragraph 46.