



FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Development of a Joint FAO/ILO/IMO
Code and Voluntary Guidelines on Safety
and Health on Fishing Vessels**

1. For several years, the Office has been working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to revise three existing joint FAO/ILO/IMO publications concerning safety of fishermen (fishers) and fishing vessels.
2. In March 1997, the 268th Session of the Governing Body of the ILO decided that the Tripartite Meeting on Safety and Health in the Fishing Industry would be included in the programme of sectoral meetings for the 1998-99 biennium. That Meeting, which was held in December 1999, concluded, inter alia, that the ILO should participate in the revision of the Code Part B and, following consultation with the IMO, should take a leading role in revising Code Part A. The Office has prepared several chapters of the revised publications and has participated in the relevant IMO working groups and correspondence groups. This work has taken place over a period of roughly four years.
3. The new draft Fishing Vessel Safety Code, Parts A and B, and the Voluntary Guidelines resulting from this collaboration, were submitted to the 47th Session of the IMO's Subcommittee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels Safety (London, 13-17 September 2004). The Subcommittee, inter alia, agreed to submit the draft revised code and guidelines to the 79th Session of the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee (London, 1-10 December 2004) for approval and for subsequent forwarding to the FAO and the ILO for concurrent approval. At that Session, the Maritime Safety Committee approved the revised Code and Voluntary Guidelines and instructed the IMO Secretariat to forward them to the FAO and the ILO for concurrent approval, as appropriate.
4. Accordingly, the documents are being placed before the appropriate FAO body and the Governing Body of the ILO for approval.
5. Given that these three documents are over 500 pages in length in each language, they are not, for reasons of economy, being distributed to each member of the Governing Body. However, printed copies will be provided for review in the meeting room of the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues. Electronic versions have also been placed on the Sectoral Activities Department's web site, under "Fishing Activities".

6. *The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may wish to recommend to the Governing Body that it approve, for publication by the IMO:*

- (a) the FAO/ILO/IMO Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, Part A, Safety and Health Practice for Skippers and Crews, 2005;***
- (b) the FAO/ILO/IMO Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, Part B, Safety and Health Requirements for the Construction and Equipment of Fishing Vessels, 2005; and***
- (c) the FAO/ILO/IMO Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels, 2005.***

Geneva, 25 January 2005.

Point for decision: Paragraph 6.