



## FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Report of the Joint ILO/IMO/Basel  
Convention Working Group on  
Ship Scrapping**  
(London, 15-17 February 2005)

1. At its 291st Session (November 2004), the Governing Body authorized the holding of the first session of the Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping, with a composition of ten ILO (five Employer and five Worker) representatives, five Basel Convention (BC) representatives and five IMO representatives. The first session of the Joint Working Group (JWG) was held at IMO headquarters in London from 15 to 17 February 2005. Copies of the full report<sup>1</sup> of the first session of the JWG are available upon request (in English only) and it will be submitted to the 53rd Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee and to the 4th Session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.
2. The JWG considered the current work programmes of the pertinent bodies of the respective organizations on the issue of ship scrapping. Issues dealt with included: the possible development of mandatory requirements; a reporting system for ships destined for recycling; the development of a “single list” of potentially hazardous materials on board; the issue of the abandonment of ships on land or in port; the promotion of the implementation of the guidelines on ship scrapping; and technical cooperation activities.
3. The JWG began a comprehensive initial examination of the relevant IMO, ILO and BC guidelines on ship scrapping with a view to identifying any possible gaps, overlaps or ambiguities, based on a comparison of the main issues addressed in each of the guidelines. Further work on this item would continue on an inter-sessional basis.
4. The implementation of the guidelines was seen as being of paramount importance for the minimization of the environmental and occupational safety and health hazards related to ship recycling and the improvement of the protection of human health and the environment at ship recycling facilities. Translation of each of the guidelines into the working languages of the main ship-scrapping States was essential. Ship-scrapping States were invited to

<sup>1</sup> Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping, first session, agenda item 8, Report of the Working Group, ILO/IMO/BC WG1/8, 18 Feb. 2005.

make point-of-contact details publicly available for the competent authorities responsible for ship scrapping.

5. It was recognized that joint technical cooperation activities could further promote the various guidelines and the three organizations were requested to consider a global technical cooperation programme on ship scrapping.
6. The JWG noted that the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 52) had in principle agreed to the establishment of an International Ship Recycling Fund to promote the safe and environmentally sound management of ship recycling through IMO's technical cooperation activities.
7. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention in Geneva has offered to host the second session of the JWG, either in December 2005 or January 2006. Among the additional items to be discussed will be: possible roles of concerned States (such as flag States, port States and recycling States) in the context of occupational safety and health, environmentally sound management and prior informed consent as related to ship scrapping.
8. In view of the above, and in line with past practice for such joint working groups, the Governing Body may wish to consider nominating up to five Employer representatives and five Worker representatives at no cost to the Office.
9. ***The Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may wish to take note of the first session of the Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group and to recommend that the Governing Body:***
  - (a) ***authorize the holding of a second session of the Joint ILO-IMO-Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping in Geneva in late 2005 or early 2006, with a composition of ten ILO (five Employer and five Worker) representatives, five BC 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.***

Geneva, 7 March 2005.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 9.