



## FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Invitation by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to the ILO to participate in the development of safety standards for small fishing vessels: Further developments**

1. At its 295th Session (March 2006), the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues (STM) considered document GB.295/STM/6/2, "Invitation by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to the ILO to participate in the development of safety standards for small fishing vessels". That document informed the Committee that the IMO Secretary-General had written to the Director-General to invite the ILO to participate in the development of safety standards for small fishing vessels. In paragraph 6, the Office had proposed that it respond positively to participate in the correspondence group and related IMO meetings concerning the development of the standards, and that it report back to the STM on the progress in developing these standards. It further suggested that the Office would present a proposal, at a future session of the STM, on how the tripartite constituents might wish to contribute to the outcome of the proposed new standards following the discussion of the proposed Convention and proposed Recommendation concerning work in the fishing sector at the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference in 2007, but before the final consideration of the new small fishing vessels standards by the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) or Sub-Committee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels Safety (SLF) in 2008 or 2009. The Committee took note of the letter and recommended that the Governing Body approve the proposals by the Office. During the discussion leading to this decision, the Employers' spokesperson said that the ILO delegation to the meetings referred to in paragraph 6 should be composed of representatives nominated by the groups, and that this tripartite delegation should be involved in the development of safety standards for small fishing vessels from the very beginning of the process.
2. In keeping with the decision taken by the Governing Body at its 295th Session (March 2006), the Office participated in the 49th Session of the International Maritime Organization's SLF 49 (London, 24-28 July 2006), which had on its agenda an item concerning "Safety of small fishing vessels". Bearing in mind the views expressed by the Employers' spokesperson during the discussion of this issue by the STM in March 2006, in advance of the meeting, the Office approached the Employers' group and the Workers' group on the issue of their representation at SLF 49 at no cost to the Office. The Employers were not able to provide a participant and the Workers did not require such a

participant, as the ICFTU was already represented at the meeting by virtue of the ICFTU's observer status at the IMO.

3. During SLF 49, the representative from the ILO informed the Committee of the Governing Body's decision and said that the ILO looked forward to future participation by both workers and employers in this work. He further advised that in June 2007, the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference would hold a third discussion of a proposed Convention and Recommendation on work in the fishing sector, and that a related report and questionnaire had been sent to all member States, with replies due in September. He drew attention to those questions concerning naval architecture that were within the expertise of the SLF delegates.
4. As envisaged, SLF 49 established a Working Group on Safety of Small Fishing Vessels, which discussed a number of changes to the draft document. The Sub-Committee, when considering the report of the Working Group, noted that the group, being mindful of the draft proposed Convention and Recommendation on work in the fishing sector, had recognized that the draft safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels should be revisited in order to ensure consistency. The Sub-Committee, inter alia, agreed with the proposal of the group that the name of the proposed publication be changed to "Safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels".
5. SLF 49 agreed to establish another correspondence group on safety of small fishing vessels, under the coordination of South Africa, with the following terms of reference:
  - (1) to finalize the draft safety recommendations, taking into account Part 2 of the Working Group's report from SLF 49; and
  - (2) to submit the report to SLF 50.
6. The report of the Working Group, and the relevant parts of the report of SLF 49, are being provided to the Employers' and Workers' groups of the Governing Body and, on request, to ILO member States. The plan of the work of the new correspondence group has been posted on its web site at: <http://www.sigling.is/pages/406>. Among other things, it establishes internal deadlines for submission of work to the correspondence group and proposed dates for informal meetings of the group.
7. ***Bearing in mind the decision of the Governing Body at its 295th Session (March 2006), and the decisions taken by the related IMO body (SLF 49) to establish a new correspondence group to submit its report to SLF 50 (London, 30 April-4 May 2007), the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may wish to invite the Governing Body to:***
  - (i) *authorize the continued participation by the Office in the development of safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels;*
  - (ii) *invite the Employers' and Workers' groups of the ILO each to nominate a representative to participate, at no cost to the Office, in the work of the correspondence group and in the ILO delegation to the 50th Session of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels Safety in 2007;*

*(iii) request the Office to continue to report to the Committee on any new developments concerning this work.*

Geneva, 9 October 2006.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 7.