



FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Update on the ILO's participation in the development by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of safety recommendations for small fishing vessels

1. At its 298th Session (March 2007), a representative of the Office, in an oral presentation to the Committee, recalled that, at its 297th Session, the Governing Body, inter alia, had invited Governments and the Employers' and Workers' groups each to nominate a representative to participate, at no cost to the ILO, in the work of the related IMO 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 (30 April–4 May 2007) (SLF 50).¹ The Committee took note of the oral report. The Governing Body, when considering the report of the STM, took note of this, and, under its agenda item 17, "Composition and agenda of standing bodies and meetings",² appointed a Worker representative, Mr Peter Sand Mortensen (Denmark) and an Employer representative, Mr James Hudson (United Kingdom) to participate in the tripartite delegation. The Government group did not appoint a representative.³
2. The ILO delegation, consisting of a representative of the Office and the appointed Employer and Worker representatives, participated in the SLF 50. At its 49th Session, the SLF had, inter alia, established the correspondence group to finalize the draft safety recommendations. During the debate at the SLF 50 on the report of that correspondence group and other matters, the ILO delegation, inter alia, noted that it would be important to ensure that the safety recommendations were consistent with the ILO Convention and Recommendation on work in the fishing sector should such instruments be adopted by the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2007.
3. The SLF 50 subsequently established a Working Group on Safety of Small Fishing Vessels, under the chairmanship of Captain Nigel Campbell of South Africa. The Working Group was instructed, inter alia, taking into account comments made and decisions taken in plenary, to:

¹ See GB.298/12(Rev.), paras 101–102.

² See GB.298/17, para. 29.

³ See GB.298/PV, paras 263–264, 319.

- (a) prepare modifications to the draft safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels, so that the consolidated text of the draft safety recommendations [could] be prepared by the secretariat immediately after the session for relevant subcommittees and Member Governments to consider and comment on as appropriate;
 - (b) prepare a draft justification for the extension of the scope of the current work programme, concerning the development of guidelines for the implementation of the above safety recommendations; and
 - (c) consider whether it [was] necessary to re-establish the correspondence group and, if so, prepare draft terms of reference for consideration by the subcommittee.
4. The ILO delegation participated in the Working Group. The SLF subsequently considered and endorsed the Working Group's report. Two actions by the SLF 50 may be considered of particular interest to the ILO.⁴
 - (a) The SLF agreed, as recommended by the Working Group, to establish a new correspondence group, under the coordination of South Africa, and, inter alia, instructed it, taking into account the pending adoption of the ILO Convention and Recommendation concerning work in fishing, to examine the text of the draft safety recommendations to ensure consistency.⁵
 - (b) The SLF agreed in principle to a recommendation by the Working Group to expand the work on the fishing safety issue to include the development of guidelines to assist in implementation of not only the safety recommendations but also the FAO/ILO/IMO Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, 2005, and the FAO/ILO/IMO Voluntary Guidelines, 2005.⁶
5. The report of the correspondence group and of the comments by other IMO bodies, noted above, will be submitted to the 51st Session of the SLF, which is expected to meet in mid-2008. It would be appropriate for the ILO to participate in the work of the correspondence group, particularly bearing in mind that the proposed terms of reference include the examination of the draft safety recommendations for possible conflict with the new ILO Work in Fishing Convention. It may also be appropriate for an ILO delegation to participate in the SLF 51.
6. ***Bearing in mind the information provided above, in particular the recommendations in paragraph 5, the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues may wish to invite the Governing Body to:***

⁴ Copies of the report of the Working Group and of the SLF 50 will be made available, on request, by the Office.

⁵ The correspondence group will use its web site to exchange and disseminate information and papers during the period between the SLF 50 and SLF 51. It may also meet, if necessary, on an informal basis in early 2008. Furthermore, relevant chapters of the draft safety recommendations will also be reviewed by various IMO technical subcommittees (e.g., the subcommittee responsible for navigation issues) and by an IMO working group concerned with the "human element".

⁶ At the time of writing of the present STM document, the recommendations of the SLF had not yet been considered by the SLF's parent body, the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), which was to meet in its 83rd Session in October 2007. The Office, if requested, will report on the decision taken by the MSC 83 concerning this recommendation. If the recommendation is adopted, it is envisaged that the ILO would be invited to participate in this work.

- (i) authorize the continued participation by the ILO in the development of safety recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length and undecked fishing vessels, and participation by an ILO tripartite delegation to the next (51st) Session of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels' Safety;*
- (ii) subject to the decision taken with regard to (i) above, invite the nomination of one representative each from the Governments, Employers and Workers to participate, at no cost to the Office, in the work of the correspondence group and in the ILO delegation to the 51st Session of the IMO's Sub-Committee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels' Safety in 2008;*
- (iii) request the Office to continue to report to the Committee on any new developments concerning this work.*

Geneva, 20 September 2007.

Point for decision: Paragraph 6.