Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues   **STM**

FOR DECISION

FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Maritime matters

Report of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission
(Geneva, 12–13 February 2009)

1. The Joint Maritime Commission's Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers met in Geneva on 12 and 13 February 2009 in accordance with a decision taken by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office at its 303rd Session (November 2008).

2. Six Shipowner representatives, accompanied by five advisers, and six Seafarer representatives, accompanied by seven advisers attended the meeting. The report of the meeting and the list of participants are attached. [1]

3. The Subcommittee discussed whether a revision of the basic wage figure for able seafarers under the Seafarers' Wages, Hours of Work and the Manning of Ships Recommendation, 1996 (No. 187), was appropriate in the current economic climate since the global economic crisis had exacted a heavy toll on shipping with a disastrous impact on freight rates. Despite a long and successful track record in reaching agreement to update the minimum wage, the Subcommittee could not reach agreement on updating the minimum wage figure. The wage figure should therefore remain at the final increment agreed to in 2006, i.e. US$545, effective at the end of 2008.

4. Both groups expressed regret that agreement could not be reached on a new wage figure and their secretariats agreed to continue discussions with a view to reaching common ground on the issue.

5. *The Committee may wish to recommend that the Governing Body:*

    (a) *take note of the report of the Subcommittee on Wages of Seafarers of the Joint Maritime Commission, including the positions expressed by the two groups in the light of the situation in the industry; and*

[1] SJMC/2009/6.

    (b) ***request the Office to consult with the secretariats of the Shipowners' and Seafarers' groups with a view to convening, at the appropriate time, another meeting of the Subcommittee.***

Geneva, 21 September 2009.

Point for decision: Paragraph 5.