

**Resolution Concerning Maritime Labor Issues and the COVID-19 Pandemic  
340<sup>th</sup> Session of the ILO Governing Body**

**Explanation of Position  
U.S. Government**

The United States is pleased to join consensus on this important resolution, recognizing the dire situation faced by many seafarers around the world today as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Early on in the pandemic the United States designated seafarers as “key workers” making clear our thoughts on the importance of these vital workers.

We have been a strong voice advocating that States take decisive action to facilitate crew rotations, and we have supported similar resolutions in the International Maritime Organization and the United Nations General Assembly. We have worked tirelessly to that end, and have successfully facilitated numerous crew changes and repatriations of seafarers in this difficult period. The United States also has ensured access to emergency medical care, consistent with our international obligations, to address the serious impacts of COVID on the seafarer community, while at the same time taking into account the legitimate health concerns of coastal states.

We interpret the term “multinational and national enterprises” to have the same scope as “business enterprises” in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. We note that this non-binding resolution does not impose legal obligations on States and, as such, it does not impute obligations from the Maritime Labor Convention, 2006, to States that have not ratified it. Nevertheless, it is our hope that in drawing the world’s attention to the plight of so many seafarers, this resolution can help spur efforts to assist them.