



FIFTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Further developments in relation to the drafting of an international instrument on shipbreaking/ship recycling: Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping: Third Session

1. At its 298th Session, the Governing Body had before it a document recalling developments in relation to the drafting of an international instrument on ship recycling within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and on the convening of a third meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Ship Scrapping.¹ Noting the developments and subject to the decision to be taken by the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee at its 56th Session (MEPC 56), the Governing Body authorized the Office to host the Third Meeting of the Joint Working Group, with terms of reference to be agreed.²
2. While details on the developments in drafting the IMO Convention on ship recycling are reported to this session of the Governing Body in a supplementary report of the Director-General,³ the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues is asked to review developments in the convening of the Third Meeting of the Joint Working Group and to decide on action to be taken.
3. In July 2007, the IMO held a lengthy and constructive exchange at MEPC 56 on the utility of having a third meeting of the Joint Working Group and approved the holding of a third meeting of the Working Group, to be hosted by the ILO.⁴ The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP8, 27 November–1 December 2006) already stated (in decision VIII/12) its belief that a third meeting of the JWG should be held.

¹ GB.298/STM/7/1.

² GB.298/PV, para. 263.

³ GB.300/20/2. For earlier reports on the drafting of this Convention, see GB.297/19/3; GB.297/PV, paras 261–265.

⁴ JWG 1 was held in February 2005 at IMO, London; JWG 2 was held in December 2005 at the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (SBC), Geneva.

4. As the ILO would be hosting the third meeting of the JWG, it is for the ILO to determine the final agenda of the meeting in consultation with the secretariats of the other two organizations, taking into account the wishes of MEPC 56 and the recommendations of the second meeting of the JWG.
5. At its 56th Session in July 2007, the MEPC, after deciding that the existing terms of reference of the JWG⁵ should not be changed, suggested that the third meeting of the JWG focus on only two items within the existing terms of reference at its third meeting: (1) joint technical cooperation projects; and (2) interim measures to be taken pending entry into force of the Convention. Previously, in December 2005, the second meeting of the JWG had proposed the following items for possible consideration by a future JWG: (1) the issue of abandonment of ships; (2) pre-cleaning of ships; (3) elaboration of environmental sound management (ESM); (4) ship recycling fund(s); (5) health and safety; (6) the proposed new IMO instrument; and (7) interim measures to be taken pending entry into force of the new IMO instrument.
6. If the two items proposed by the IMO are accepted for the agenda, discussion of an item on technical cooperation from the ILO side would be brief given the limited technical cooperation projects currently in operation.⁶ The further item proposed by the IMO on interim measures pending entry into force of an IMO Convention on ship recycling may serve as a framework for the JWG to discuss ongoing coordination of various activities among the three organizations pending entry into force of the IMO Convention on the subject.⁷
7. Another potential agenda item considered in the MEPC discussion was to address existing safety and environmental conditions in the industry. While not included in the IMO proposals for the third meeting of the JWG, this subject could be considered relevant to the existing Guidelines of the three organizations and to inter-institutional coordination and may be worthy of further consultations among the secretariats.
8. While the IMO prefers to hold the third meeting in 2008, the exact timing will be difficult to schedule due to various other meetings of the organizations concerned.
9. ***In view of the decision of the Governing Body to authorize the Office to host the Third Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Ship Scrapping,⁸ and taking into consideration the various proposals for an agenda of a third meeting, the Committee may wish to recommend to the Governing Body to request the Director-General to:***
 - (a) ***proceed, in consultation with the constituents, to discuss and, if possible, agree on an agenda and date for the meeting with the IMO and Basel Convention secretariats; and***

⁵ The three organizations agreed on the terms of reference in 2005. See Annex I and GB.298/STM/5.

⁶ Only the ILO–UNDP–Government of Bangladesh project currently exists. http://www.undp.org.bd/projects/proj_detail.php?pid=53.

⁷ If a proposal to accept alternative arrangements with non-State parties is accepted in the draft Convention, there may be a longer period before receiving the necessary ratifications for entry into force of the IMO Convention.

⁸ GB.298/PV, para. 263, p. 50.

(b) report to the Committee on the outcome of those discussions at its next session in March 2008.

Geneva, 11 October 2007.

Point for decision: Paragraph 9.

Appendix

Terms of reference for the joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group¹

1. Consider the respective work programmes of the pertinent bodies of ILO, IMO and the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention on the issue of ship scrapping in order to avoid duplication of work and overlapping of roles, responsibilities and competencies between the three Organizations, and identify further needs;

2. Facilitate the exchange of views between the three organizations in order to ensure a coordinated approach to all the relevant aspects of ship scrapping;

3. Undertake a comprehensive initial examination of the:

- (a) Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of the Full and Partial Dismantling of Ships, adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Basel Convention at its sixth meeting;
- (b) IMO Guidelines on Ship Recycling, adopted by resolution A.962(23); and
- (c) Safety and Health in Shipbreaking: Guidelines for Asian countries and Turkey, developed by ILO,

with a view to identifying any possible gap, overlap, or ambiguities;

4. Consider mechanisms jointly to promote the implementation of the relevant Guidelines on Ship Scrapping;

5. Monitor progress of any jointly organized technical cooperation activities; and

6. Submit its reports, recommendations and any other relevant information on the above or other pertinent matters to bodies of IMO, ILO and the Basel Convention, as appropriate.

¹ As published in UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/CRP.2.