



NINETEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General

Third Supplementary Report

Developments in relation to the drafting of an international instrument on shipbreaking/ship recycling

Addendum

1. In relevant developments since the printing of document GB.297/19/3, the ILO participated, through the Office, in the 55th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MPEC) which was held from 9 to 13 October 2006. The contributions of the Office, including in the Working Group on Ship Recycling, led to the amending of the draft Convention to bring it more into line with the approach reflected in international labour standards, guidelines and codes of practice relating to the priority to be given to the elimination of a hazard or risk over other ways of handling the hazard or risk. Other significant discrepancies remain pending for further discussion.
2. In another recent development, on 6 October 2006, the Executive Director of the Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Sector wrote to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, expressing continuing concern at the lack of compatibility between provisions of the draft Convention and ILO standards, and seeking a clear understanding between the organizations regarding the status of the inputs of the ILO and the processes by which unresolved issues could be addressed. By letter-reply of 26 October 2006, the Director of the Marine Environment Division (MED) of the IMO affirmed the desire of his organization to continue cooperation with the ILO in areas of mutual concern on the matter of ship recycling, including in the process involving the draft Convention. Noting that “there are naturally different views on how to proceed with regard to articles, technical regulations and associated guidelines”, the reply underscored “the need to work together for a workable and well-balanced international convention to address the issue of ship recycling in a holistic way”.

Geneva, 14 November 2006.