



CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON
STANDARDS OF TRAINING,
CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING
FOR SEAFARERS, 1978
Agenda item 8

STCW/CONF.2/6
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**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
AND RELATED MATTERS**

Draft Conference resolutions

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document contains 13 draft Conference resolutions approved by STW 41
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	5
<i>High-level action:</i>	5.2
<i>Planned output:</i>	5.2.2.1
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 2
<i>Related document:</i>	STW 41/16, annex 4

1 The Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping, at its forty-first session (11 to 15 January 2010), approved 13 draft resolutions, as set out in the annex, for consideration by the Conference with a view to adoption.

Action requested of the Conference

2 The Conference is invited to consider the attached draft resolutions with a view to adoption.

ANNEX**DRAFT CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS****Resolution [1]****Transitional provisions and early implementation**

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code),

[HAVING AGREED to include regulation I/15 on Transitional provisions, which allows for an interval of five years, or until the time of the next revalidation of certificate(s) of competency after the amendments have entered into force, whichever is later, before Parties will be required to issue, recognize and endorse certificates in accordance with the amendments adopted by the Conference,]

RECOGNIZING that, in order to achieve full compliance by [date of entry into force plus five years] [or] [the time of next revalidation of certificate(s) of competency after the amendments have entered into force, whichever is earlier], it is necessary for Parties to promptly begin taking appropriate measures to implement the STCW Convention and Code in their national training, certification and administration systems,

BEING CONCERNED that difficulties, which may arise in connection with the implementation of the requirements of the STCW Convention and Code, could undermine the objective of introducing the highest practicable standards of competence at the earliest possible time,

1. URGES each Party to keep the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization informed of progress made in respect of the transitional provisions of regulation I/15 under its national system to implement the requirements of the amendments to the STCW Convention and Code, adopted by the Conference, as well as any difficulties encountered in this regard;
2. FURTHER URGES each Party to take appropriate steps for early implementation of the amendments to the STCW Convention and Code adopted by the Conference;
3. INVITES the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization, in order to promote the introduction of the highest practicable standards of competence as soon as possible, to monitor progress toward implementation of the STCW Convention and Code by all Parties, with the aim of encouraging an orderly transition and anticipating complications, which could otherwise undermine full and effective implementation.

Resolution [2]

**Verification of certificates
of competency and endorsements**

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended,

RECOGNIZING the importance of adequate education and training for, and experience acquired by, all seafarers,

RECOGNIZING ALSO the need for all ships to be manned and operated by properly trained and certified seafarers,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that the verification of certificates of competency and endorsements issued to seafarers is essential also from the point of view of preventing unlawful practices associated with the issuance of such certificates as well as to supporting port State control activities,

RECOMMENDS that Administrations take appropriate steps to:

- .1 establish electronic databases to assist in verifying the authenticity and validity of certificates of competency and endorsements they issue; and
- .2 respond appropriately and in a timely manner to any request from other Administrations for verification of the authenticity and validity of certificates of competency and endorsements.

Resolution [3]

**Standards of training and certification
and ships' manning levels**

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code),

RECOGNIZING the importance of adequate education and training for, and experience acquired by, all seafarers,

RECOGNIZING ALSO the need for all ships to be manned and operated by properly trained and certified seafarers,

NOTING that the STCW Convention and Code establish standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers,

1. REAFFIRMS that the STCW Convention and Code are instruments concerned with standards of training and certification and do not determine ships' manning levels;
2. REAFFIRMS ALSO that any decision relating to ships' manning levels is the responsibility of the Administrations and shipowners concerned taking into account the principles of safe manning* adopted by the International Maritime Organization.

* Refers to resolution A.890(21), as amended on Principles of safe manning, adopted by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization on 25 November 1999.

Resolution [4]

**Promotion of technical knowledge, skills
and professionalism of seafarers**

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code),

NOTING with concern the reported and anticipated shortage of qualified officers to effectively man and operate ships engaged in international trade,

APPRECIATING that the overall effectiveness of selection, training and certification processes can only be evaluated through the skills, abilities and competence exhibited by seafarers during the course of their service on board ship,

RECOMMENDS that Administrations make arrangements to ensure that shipping companies:

- .1 establish criteria and processes for the selection of seafarers exhibiting the highest practicable standards of technical knowledge, skills and professionalism;
- .2 monitor the standards exhibited by ships' personnel in the performance of their duties;
- .3 encourage all officers serving on their ships to participate actively in the training of junior personnel;
- .4 monitor carefully and review frequently the progress made by junior personnel in the acquisition of knowledge and skills during their service on board ship;
- .5 provide refresher and updating training at suitable intervals, as may be required; and
- .6 take all appropriate measures to instil pride in the maritime profession and encourage the creation of a safety culture and environmental conscience among all those who serve on their ships.

Resolution [5]

**Development of guidelines to implement international standards
of medical fitness for seafarers**

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code),

RECOGNIZING the importance of the overall medical fitness of masters and ships' crews to the safety of life and property at sea and the protection of the marine environment,

TAKING COGNIZANCE OF the international standards of medical fitness for seafarers included in the STCW Convention and Code and the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006,

INVITES the International Maritime Organization, in co-operation with the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization, to develop guidelines to implement the aforementioned standards.

Resolution [6]

**Revision of model courses published by the
International Maritime Organization**

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code),

RECOGNIZING the significant contribution made to seafarers' training and certification through model courses, validated and published by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), providing core curricula based on the minimum requirements of the STCW Convention and Code,

APPRECIATING that the aforementioned model courses have assisted many training institutions to improve the quality of the training they provide and have been used to improve procedures for assessing competency,

DESIRING to achieve greater uniformity in the application of the training and assessment provisions of the STCW Convention and Code,

INVITES:

- .1 IMO to take steps to revise and update those model courses, which provide guidance on the implementation of the training and assessment provisions of the STCW Convention and Code; and
- .2 Governments and international organizations to provide funding for, and otherwise assist in, the revision and updating of such model courses.

Resolution [7]

Promotion of technical co-operation

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code),

RECOGNIZING the importance of adequate education and training for, and experience acquired by, all seafarers,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that, in some cases, there may be limited facilities for providing specialized training programmes and obtaining the required experience, particularly in developing countries,

BELIEVING that the promotion of technical co-operation will assist countries lacking adequate expertise or facilities in providing proper training and experience to implement the STCW Convention and Code,

1. STRONGLY URGES Parties to provide, or arrange to provide, in co-operation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), assistance to those States, which have difficulty in meeting the revised requirements of the STCW Convention and Code and which request such assistance;
2. INVITES IMO to intensify its endeavours to provide States with the assistance they may require and to make adequate provision for that purpose within its technical co-operation programme.

Resolution [8]

Measures to ensure the competency of masters and officers on ships operating in polar waters

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code),

NOTING that, as a result of the increase in maritime traffic in polar waters, several accidents have occurred there in recent years,

NOTING FURTHER the remoteness and the singular hydrographic, oceanographic, meteorological and glaciological characteristics of polar waters, to the extent that search and rescue, care and evacuation of persons and addressing the consequences of pollution entail considerable operational and logistical problems,

RECOGNIZING that the operation of ships sailing in polar waters calls for specific education, training, experience and related qualifications for masters and officers on board such ships,

RECOGNIZING ALSO the efforts made by governments to train masters and officers through courses dedicated to this particular class of navigation,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER both the *Guidelines for ships operating in polar waters*¹ and the need for mandatory training requirements when the Polar Code under development by the International Maritime Organization is adopted,

RECOMMENDS that governments adopt measures conducive to ensuring that masters and officers of ships, which operate in polar waters, have appropriate training and experience, so that they are able to:

- .1 plan voyages to polar waters, taking into account glaciological, hydrographic, oceanographic and meteorological factors;
- .2 navigate safely in polar waters, in particular in restricted ice-covered areas under adverse conditions of wind and visibility; and
- .3 supervise and ensure compliance with the requirements deriving from intergovernmental agreements and with those relating to safety of life at sea and protection of the marine environment.

¹ Refer to resolution A.1024(26) – Guidelines for ships operating in polar waters, adopted by the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization on 2 December 2009.

Resolution [9]

Attracting new entrants to, and retaining seafarers in, the maritime profession

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code),

BEING AWARE that more than 90% of world trade is carried by sea and that the shipping industry operates safely, securely, efficiently and in an environmentally-sound manner,

RECOGNIZING the vital service seafarers provide to shipping, an industry that contributes significantly to global and sustainable development and prosperity,

RECOGNIZING ALSO the need for today's increasingly sophisticated ships to be entrusted to seafarers who are competent in all respects to operate them in a safe, secure, efficient and environmentally-sound manner,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that any discriminative legislation adopted and practices enacted have the potential to discourage young people from joining the profession and serving seafarers from remaining in it,

NOTING with concern the reported and anticipated shortage of qualified officers to effectively man and operate ships,

NOTING ALSO with appreciation the "Go to Sea!" campaign launched, in November 2008, by the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, in co-operation with the International Labour Organization, BIMCO, International Chamber of Shipping, International Shipping Federation, INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO and the International Transport Workers' Federation,

APPRECIATING the overall efforts of the shipping industry to promote among young persons a career at sea,

RECOMMENDS that Administrations, shipping companies, shipowner, ship manager and seafarer organizations and any other entities concerned do their utmost to promote among young persons a career at sea and to retain existing seafarers within the industry by:

- .1 engendering a more favourable public perception, in particular among young people, of the maritime industry;
- .2 promoting a greater awareness and knowledge among young people of the opportunities offered by a career at sea;

- .3 improving the quality of life at sea by bringing it more closely in line with the career alternatives available ashore and by enhancing the facilities provided on board ships, including accessing the Internet;
- .4 encouraging all officers serving on their ships to participate actively in the training and mentoring of junior personnel during their service on board ship;
- .5 encouraging the provision of adequate accommodation for trainees on new buildings; and
- .6 taking all appropriate measures to instil pride in the maritime profession and encourage the creation of a safety culture and environmental conscience among all those who serve on their ships.

Resolution [10]

Accommodation for trainees

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code),

NOTING with concern the reported and anticipated shortage of qualified officers to effectively man and operate ships engaged in international trade,

RECOGNIZING the need for today's increasingly sophisticated ships to be entrusted to seafarers who are competent in all respects to operate them in a safe, secure, efficient and environmentally-sound manner,

RECOGNIZING ALSO that minimum mandatory seagoing service forms part of the requirements prescribed in the STCW Convention and Code for operational level and support level certification,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that the lack of adequate accommodation for trainees on board ships constitutes a significant impediment to properly training them and subsequently retaining them at sea, thus adding to the aforementioned shortage,

URGES shipowners, ship managers and shipping companies to provide suitable accommodation for trainees on board their ships both existing and new.

Resolution [11]

**Promotion of the participation of women
in the maritime industry**

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended,

NOTING the Long- and Medium-Term Plans for the Integration of Women in the Maritime Sector developed by the International Maritime Organization,

EXPRESSING SUPPORT for the latter's aims to promote the training of women in the maritime sector,

CONSIDERING HIGHLY DESIRABLE that both men and women have equal access opportunities to maritime training and to employment on board ship,

INVITES Governments:

- .1 to give special consideration to securing equal access by men and women in all sectors of the maritime industry; and
- .2 to highlight the role of women in the seafaring profession and to promote their greater participation in maritime training and at all levels in the maritime industry.

Resolution [12]

Future amendments and review of the STCW Convention and Code

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code),

NOTING that rapidly evolving technology and training methodologies require a consistent approach towards reviewing, amending and updating the STCW Convention and Code,

NOTING FURTHER, however, that frequent amendments to the STCW Convention and Code may be problematic to Maritime Administrations, shipowners, maritime training and education institutions and/or seafarers and should, therefore, be avoided,

1. RECOMMENDS that significant and extensive amendments to the STCW Convention and Code should preferably be developed and adopted on a five-yearly cycle basis;
2. RECOMMENDS FURTHER that a comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code should be carried out every ten years to address any inconsistencies identified in the interim; and to ensure that they are up to date with emerging technologies.

Resolution [13]

Contribution of the International Labour Organization

THE 2010 MANILA CONFERENCE,

HAVING ADOPTED amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 and to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, as amended (STCW Convention and Code),

RECOGNIZING the role, competence and expertise of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on matters relating to the occupational safety and health of seafarers,

RECOGNIZING ALSO the significant benefit to the achievement of the objective of the International Maritime Organization and the shipping industry from the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC 2006), once in force and implemented,

1. EXPRESSES its appreciation for the contribution made by ILO during the development of the aforementioned amendments to the STCW Convention and Code; and
2. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS to Governments, which have not yet done so, to promptly ratify the MLC 2006 to enable its expeditious entry into force and, thereafter, to ensure its wide and effective implementation.
