



## Fifth meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee established under Article XIII of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended

Geneva, 7–11 April 2025

### ► Resolution on Recognizing Seafarers as Key Workers

The Special Tripartite Committee (STC) established under Article XIII of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006),

Having met in Geneva from 7 to 11 April 2025 for the Fifth Meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee,

Recalling resolution 75/17 on “International cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to support global supply chains”, adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 1 December 2020,

Recalling also resolution 56/18 on “Promoting and protecting the enjoyment of human rights by seafarers”, adopted by the Human Rights Council on 11 July 2024,

Taking into consideration the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, ensuring decent working and living conditions for all seafarers,

Recalling resolution A.1160(32) on “Comprehensive action to address seafarers’ challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic”, adopted by the IMO Assembly, on 15 December 2021,

Reiterating the numerous statements by other UN and UN system organizations emphasizing, inter alia, the need to designate seafarers as “key workers” and ensure their access to medical care and facilitation of travel, thus preserving their welfare and rights,

Noting that the ILO’s Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) emphasized that the concept of force majeure should not be used to prolong non-compliance with the MLC, 2006, and other international labour standards for any longer than is absolutely necessary,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> General observation adopted in 2020 on matters arising from the application of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, (MLC, 2006) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recalling the essential role of seafarers in maintaining global supply chains and ensuring the continuous and uninterrupted movement of goods, energy, food, and medical supplies, which is even more critical in times of global crisis,

Acknowledging the challenges faced by seafarers during the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, which highlight the necessity of safeguarding their rights and well-being,

1. Calls upon ILO Members to effect the early implementation of Guideline B2.5.2 – Key workers, and designate and recognize seafarers as key workers and take appropriate measures to facilitate their safe movement when travelling in connection with their employment or work, including, but not limited to, access to shore leave, repatriation, crew changes and medical care ashore.
2. Reaffirms the commitment of the tripartite constituents of the ILO to advocate for the well-being and rights of seafarers, promoting initiatives that recognize their indispensable contributions to global maritime commerce, including giving full effect in the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, to the right of seafarers to safe movement when embarking or disembarking a vessel, including access to shore leave, repatriation, crew changes and when necessary, access to shore-based medical treatment.
3. Requests the Office to support early implementation of Guideline B2.5.2 – Key workers.