



# GLOBAL FORUM ON THE MLC, 2006

CURRENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

15 – 17 DECEMBER 2020

🕒 3 DAYS, 9 HRS



## BACKGROUND

About 90 per cent of global trade is moved by maritime transport thanks to the work of the world's seafarers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely disrupted the functioning of shipping and affected the work of nearly 2 million seafarers worldwide. Numerous governments and seafarers' and ship owners' organizations have turned to the International Labour Office (ILO) for guidance on how best to address the complexities of the current crisis in light of the provisions of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006), as amended.

In the [ILO Information Note](#) on maritime labour issues and Covid 19 (10 July 2020), several issues have been examined by referring to the work of the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Conventions and Recommendations and the Special Tripartite Committee of the MLC, 2006, as well as the guidance published by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Both the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) have been very active since the beginning of this crisis to support seafarers and shipowners worldwide, to find concrete solutions to existing challenges caused by Covid pandemic and provide advice to their members.

The ILO has repeatedly called upon Governments to adopt necessary measures to consider seafarers as key workers and to exempt them from travel restrictions during this crisis.

More recently, in the [UN Joint Statement on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020](#) it was reiterated the urgency to put in place measures for ship operators worldwide to conduct required crew changes. Lastly, on [5<sup>th</sup> October 2020](#), the OHCHR, the UN Global Compact and the UN Working Group on Business Rights have encouraged all relevant business enterprises to joining forces with other actors to address the current humanitarian crisis in the shipping industry.

In relation to the recent Covid 19 developments, it is timely to reflect on the MLC, 2006 Amendments 2014, 2016 and 2018 and their relevance during the pandemic.

In spite of the unprecedented social dialogue between seafarers and shipowners organizations and the institutional cooperation at international level, significant challenges as crew changes, short leave, medical care on shore and others, are still critical issues.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The Global Forum is a three – day global learning event that aims to provide a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to analyse and discuss the recent developments and the future perspectives in the context of the MLC, 2006 and the impact of Covid 19 on the maritime sector.

More specifically, the Global Forum will open a dialogue focused on the key aspects related to the implementation of the MLC, 2006 Amendments (2014, 2016 and 2018) and their relevance in the aftermath of the COVID – 19.

The e - learning event will offer a well-structured update on technical issues and an interactive platform for an open discussion facilitated by international experts on case studies and good practices.

## **CONTENTS & STRUCTURE**

The MLC, 2006 has proved to be a strong and practical instrument that has supported both seafarers and ship owners during the pandemic.

Many countries are still facing particular challenges in the context of the COVID -19 and it is important to understand how the MLC, 2006 can respond to them.

More specifically, the three- day Global Forum will be an opportunity to update knowledge and to facilitate a better understanding of the following topics:

- Taking stock of the 2014, 2016 and 2018 Amendments implementing challenges;
- Assessing the evolving situation of specific issues affecting seafarers and shipowners worldwide due to the impact of COVID-19: Crew change; Seafarers' welfare (physical and mental health, short leave), access to internet connectivity;
- Enforcing MLC, 2006: good practices and challenges (role of Port State control; role of Committee of Experts; role of ITF Inspectors).

The programme is designed to engage participants in immersive debate to discuss the tough challenges. Throughout the programme, innovative digital solutions will allow the participants to step back from their daily professional life and reflect on recent case studies.

The e learning programme will be interactive and participatory and will be structured as follows:

- Webinars on the three main topics with the involvement of international experts;
- Interactive discussions on case studies;
- Group work and discussion, facilitated by e – coaches;
- Presentation of key findings;
- Wrap up.

## **TARGET GROUP**

Seafarers' and shipowners' representatives; officials from Ministries of Labour, Ministries of Transport and other relevant maritime competent and regulatory authorities, maritime inspectors, ships' officers and ships operators; officials from UN agencies and EU responsible for maritime related programmes.

## **CERTIFICATION**

On completion of the Global Forum, participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

## **COST**

The cost of the participation is € 450.

A limited number of partial fellowships are available to qualified candidates coming from eligible countries.