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MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE  
85th session  
Agenda item 16

MSC 85/16  
17 October 2008  
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## ROLE OF THE HUMAN ELEMENT

### ILO proposal for inter-secretariat consultations on the possible common areas of the human element to be discussed by ILO and IMO

#### Note by the Secretariat

#### SUMMARY

<b><i>Executive summary:</i></b>	This document provides information on the request received from the International Labour Office to hold inter-secretariat consultations regarding the possible common areas of the human element to be discussed by ILO and IMO
<b><i>Strategic direction:</i></b>	12.2
<b><i>High-level action:</i></b>	12.2.1
<b><i>Planned output:</i></b>	12.2.1.1 and 12.2.1.2
<b><i>Action to be taken:</i></b>	Paragraph 4
<b><i>Related documents:</i></b>	MEPC 56/17/9, MEPC 56/23 and MSC 83/28

#### Background

1 The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its fifty-sixth session (9 to 13 July 2007) and the Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-third session (3 to 12 October 2007) considered the request from ILO (MEPC 56/17/9) to establish a Joint IMO/ILO Working Group on the Human Element with the following terms of reference:

- .1 to make recommendations and provide advice to relevant Committees and other bodies of both Organizations, as well as to their Secretariats; and
- .2 to enable them properly to address the human element in shipping when they are preparing or reviewing legal or technical texts or proposals on matters within the competence of both Organizations, including seafarer training; hours of work and rest; manning levels; seafarer fatigue; career and skill development and opportunities for seafarers' employment.

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2 The request from ILO was considered, in detail, by the Joint MSC/MEPC Working Group on Human Element established at MEPC 56. Accordingly, the Committees agreed that:

- .1 the Joint MSC/MEPC Working Group on Human Element should continue its work in accordance with the Organization's Strategy to address the Human Element (MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.4);
- .2 there was no compelling need to establish a joint ILO/IMO working group at this stage to address issues relating to seafarers' training; hours of work and rest; manning levels; seafarers' fatigue; career and skill development, as these were already being addressed by the STW Sub-Committee on a regular basis; and
- .3 it was not appropriate to establish the proposed joint ILO/IMO working group with such wide and open-ended terms of reference and that, in future, when preparing or reviewing other technical texts or proposals on matters within the technical competence of both Organizations, if considered necessary, to establish an *ad hoc* Joint ILO/IMO working group on a case-by-case basis with specific terms of reference to properly address the human element on a tripartite basis.

### **ILO proposal**

3 Recently, ILO has suggested that the Secretariats of IMO and ILO should hold inter-secretariat consultations on the possible common areas of the human element which could be discussed by ILO and IMO and a possible mechanism for such discussions. The outcome of such consultations should be provided to MSC and MEPC as the basis for further consideration at their future sessions.

### **Action requested of the Committee**

4 The Committee is invited to note the above information and take action as appropriate.

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