



## SIXTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Other questions****Joint ILO/WHO Meeting on the Revision of the International Medical Guide for Ships (IMGS) (Geneva, 25–26 July 2007)**

1. At its 299th Session (June 2007) the Governing Body approved the composition and agenda of the Joint ILO/WHO Meeting on the Revision of the International Medical Guide for Ships (Geneva, 25–26 July 2007). The Meeting examined the draft third edition of the IMGS with a view to approving its production by the WHO as a joint WHO/IMO/ILO publication. It was also agreed that the results of the Meeting would be reported to the present session of the Governing Body.
2. As decided by the Governing Body, the Meeting was attended by three competent medical specialists (nautical doctors) nominated by the WHO and three representatives nominated by each of the Shipowners' and Seafarers' groups of the Joint Maritime Commission. The Chairperson was Mr Nebojsa Nicolic (Croatia).
3. The report of the Meeting is available from the secretariat, as well as the list of participants. The Meeting adopted the third edition of the IMGS with the agreement that a number of amendments to the report would be made by the WHO prior to the publication of the IMGS, expected in the last quarter of 2007.
4. The Meeting noted that the IMGS was an important document for seafarers' safety and health aboard ships and was often a critical life-saving tool. Twenty years had elapsed between the second and third editions, and this had been an extremely unsatisfactory situation. It therefore strongly felt the need to provide more reliable procedures for future revisions. The Meeting called on the Governing Body of the ILO to request the Director-General of the ILO, and the Director-General of the WHO respectively to confer, in consultation with the constituents concerned and taking into account established practices between the two organizations, with the view to proposing an appropriate mechanism to review on a five-year basis and revise as appropriate the IMGS, including the establishment of a viable fund to support this process.

**5. The Committee may wish to recommend to the Governing Body:**

- (i) to note the report of the Joint ILO/WHO Meeting on the Revision of the International Medical Guide for Ships and the publication of the IMGS by the WHO as a Joint WHO/IMO/ILO publication; and**
- (ii) to request the Office to confer with the WHO, in consultation with the constituents concerned and taking into account established practices between the two organizations, with the view to proposing an appropriate mechanism to review on a five-year basis and revising as appropriate the International Medical Guide for Ships, as well as assessing the financial implications to support this process.**

Geneva, 20 September 2007.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 5.