



COUNCIL
89th session
Agenda item 7(a)

C 89/7(a)
16 August 2002
Original: ENGLISH

CONSIDERATION OF:

(a) Reports of the Technical Co-operation Committee

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides a summary of the outcome of the fifty-first session of the Technical Co-operation Committee (13 June 2002), the report of which is available as document TC 51/11

Action to be taken: The Council is invited to consider the report of the Committee on its fifty-first session and, in accordance with Article 21 (b) of the Convention, to transmit it with its comments and recommendations to the Assembly.

Related documents: TC 51/11

1 The Technical Co-operation Committee (TCC) held its fifty-first session on Thursday, 13 June 2002 under the Chairmanship of Captain Moin Ahmed (Bangladesh).

Secretary-General's Opening Statement

2 The Secretary-General, in welcoming the participants, reported on the Change Management Programme (CMP) within the Organization launched in March 2002. The Secretary-General informed the Committee about the technical co-operation aspects of the Programme and the Council's decision regarding the Organization's TC activities, which addressed both the consolidation of the TC management activity and the integration of the TC financial management system. With regard to the technical co-operation aspects, he reported that a range of options was currently being considered for implementation.

3 In his opening statement, the Secretary-General also said that measures to assist Governments in strengthening maritime and port security had begun through a global technical co-operation Programme on capacity building for maritime security, with funding of £1.5 million from IMO's Technical Co-operation Fund. He referred to the proposals that would go forward to the Conference for the adoption of amendments to SOLAS 74 to enhance maritime security. He also reported that he had received some indication of interest in the establishment of a maritime security trust fund for the continued provision of technical assistance on maritime and port security.

4 The Secretary-General informed the Committee about the work of the two Task Groups on WMU Funding and WMU Governance. He referred to the possibilities being explored for

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

securing regular annual contributions to fellowships and the WMU's core budget, and he thanked the current donors for the generous donations received by the University.

5 With regard to the pilot scheme on regional co-ordination, the Secretary-General reported on the successful first phase and, as decided by the Committee, on its continuation during the current biennium and its possible expansion to the developing regions.

6 In concluding, the Secretary-General reported on the encouraging developments regarding financial contributions to the implementation of the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme. In this regard, the Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to donors for the further financial contributions and to other donors for partnerships and valuable in-kind support to TC activities.

Adoption of the agenda

7 The Committee adopted the agenda as it appeared in document, TC 51/1..

Work of Other Bodies

8 The Committee noted the information provided in several documents with regard to the work of other bodies, such as, the Assembly, the Council, the various IMO Committees and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), as well as other external events hosted by Member States.

9 The Committee had also noted the draft Assembly resolution on Acceptance and Implementation of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, which had been approved by MSC and by the Assembly, and related to providing technical assistance for the provision and co-ordination of SAR services to States requesting assistance.

Technical Assistance Aspects of Maritime Security

10 The Committee noted with appreciation the Secretariat's rapid response to the technical co-operation aspects of maritime security and the launching of a global Maritime/Ports Security Programme early in 2002, the objectives, activities and schedules of which were provided in document C 88/10/1.

11 The Committee discussion highlighted the urgent need to build awareness of maritime security and to train maritime and port personnel on security issues. It also acknowledged Member States' willingness to host workshops and the need for countries to invest in maritime/ports security infrastructure to achieve effective implementation of the regulatory regime being developed by IMO.

12 The Chairman acknowledged that the issue of maritime security would be on the Committee's agenda for the foreseeable future and he noted that the discussion had shown that the Committee was fully prepared to contribute positively to IMO's work on the issue.

13 The Committee noted the information and updates provided under this agenda item and encouraged all development partners to contribute financial, human and/or in-kind resources for the ITCP's current and future activities on maritime and port security.

14 The Committee also concurred with the views of the Council, which, at its eighty-eighth session, had taken note of the encouraging response to the comments made by the Secretary-General concerning the possible establishment of a maritime security trust fund; that it is within the Secretary-General's authority to establish such a trust fund; and that the Council would support its establishment, should the Secretary-General determine it to be a feasible and appropriate means of ensuring that future assistance can be delivered for effective compliance with IMO's emerging regulatory regime.

Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme

15 Under this agenda item, the Committee considered two sub-items concerning: (a) the Annual Report of the ITCP for 2001; and (b) a report on the current status of ITCP implementation.

(a) Annual Report on 2001

16 The Committee noted that the format of the annual report (document TC 51/4/1) had been modified to provide an improved analysis – both quantitative and qualitative – of the traditional financial data on resources and expenditure and, of the ITCP outputs actually delivered during 2001.

17 The Director TCD, summarized the substantive results recorded during the year noting that **145 advisory missions** had been carried out; **7 packages of model primary or secondary legislation** had been developed; **116 courses, seminars and workshops** had been held at the national, regional and global levels; and that these activities had resulted in **the training of almost 3,000 persons**. The Director, TCD, then highlighted a few special achievements, underlining that the data presented demonstrated the significant level of assistance provided by IMO during only one year of the ITCP covering the period 2000-2001.

18 Regarding the financial elements of the annual report, the Committee noted that expenditure levels had risen to almost US\$9.7 million, representing a significant rise of 15% over the previous year and marking the highest expenditure level recorded by IMO during the last ten years. The Director, TCD, also summarized other financial aspects of the annual report, notably the ITCP's funding profile for 2001, expenditure by regional and global components, as well as expenditure distribution by discipline. The aggregate delivery rate for 2001 had been 50%, falling by a marginal 1% over 2000, largely as a consequence of a 17% rise in available resources.

19 The Director, TCD, referred the Committee to document TC 51/INF.2, which, for the first time, had provided data on the personnel engaged through the ITCP during 2001. This additional information was noted with appreciation, as it allowed the Committee to track the increased use of regional expertise.

20 The Committee concluded its consideration of this sub-item by:

- .1 taking note, with appreciation, of the information provided in the Annual Report on 2001;
- .2 requesting the Secretariat to continue reporting in a similar manner in the future;

- .3 taking note of the steps already taken by the Secretariat to improve delivery and looking forward to the results of the further related measures to be introduced through the Change Management Programme;
- .4 requesting the Secretariat to submit to the Committee's fifty-second session its analysis of external constraints on the delivery of technical assistance activities and possible remedial action; and
- .5 thanking the many donors, recipients, partner organizations, institutions and Governments for their commitment to the ITCP, and urging them to maintain and, if possible, increase their financial and in-kind support.

(b) Status report

21 The Committee took note of the information provided in document TC 51/4 on the ongoing status of implementation of the ITCP components.

Regional Co-ordination and Delivery

22 Under this agenda item the Committee considered two topics, namely regional co-ordination of technical co-operation delivery and electronic access to IMO publications

(a) Regional co-ordination of technical co-operation delivery

23 The Committee was presented with a status report on the delivery of technical assistance through the IMO regional presence in Africa as well as through IMO's regional and national partners.

24 Having previously approved the scheme's continuation and extension during the current biennium, the Committee noted the renewal of the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between IMO and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Kenya for the regional presence offices in Africa, and the initial consultations by the Secretariat for the extension of similar modalities to other regions.

25 With respect to partnerships with regional and national institutions, the Committee was advised of joint activities and co-operation that had been successfully undertaken with many Organizations and partners throughout the Asia and Pacific region, in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in the Arab and Mediterranean region.

26 The Committee also took note of the information provided in document TC 51/INF.3 "Partnership for Progress: Status of Technical Assistance Activities Provided by Member States and Scope for Co-ordination and Linkage with the ITCP" submitted by the delegation of Singapore.

27 The Committee endorsed the proposal of the Secretariat to decentralize further the implementation of the ITCP through the Regional Co-ordinator scheme and partnership arrangements with regional organizations and national Governments and institutions.

(b) Access to IMO instruments in electronic format

28 The Committee considered document TC 51/6/1 submitted by the Governments of Argentina, Germany and Ghana, regarding a proposal for greater public access to IMO instruments through information technology.

29 The Director, AD addressed the Committee under the agenda item, and highlighted important related issues, such as the Organization's intellectual assets of copyright and the current very effective distribution system for IMO's publications and related services. He also drew attention to relevant financial factors, such as the role that the Organization's publications sales revenue plays towards supporting Secretariat costs, as well as in the funding of the Technical Co-operation Fund and hence the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme. He advised that the membership should consider whether and to what extent a change in policy or practice towards the sales of publications would adversely impact on the wider financial picture.

30 While noting the support of Member States for the proposal of the sponsors, the Committee expressed the wish for an in-depth and careful study of this subject because of the potential impact on the Organization's finances. The Secretariat was accordingly requested to provide further information on the technicalities and the consequences of making certain IMO publications available free on the website on an experimental basis. The Committee therefore decided to defer further consideration of the subject to its fifty-second session.¹

Institutional Development and Fellowships

(a) World Maritime University

31 The Secretary-General updated the Committee on the outcome of the most recent Board of Governors meeting and on the University's progress in 2001. He reminded the Committee that the University still faced some serious financial challenges with regard to its long-term existence and development, and he urged Member States to continue to support the University, whose popularity continued unabated with demand for vacancies far outstripping its capacity.

32 The Committee noted the information provided in the documents.

(b) IMO International Maritime Law Institute

33 The Secretary-General informed the Committee that the Institute continued to thrive with a total of 251 graduates from 91 States and territories, and he noted that, thanks to generous contributions to the Institute's operational fund and the donation of fellowships, the Institute was able to raise sufficient income to cover its budget for the academic year 2001/2002. The Institute's financial statements for the financial year ended 31 August 2001 had received an unqualified opinion from the External Auditors.

34 The Committee duly noted the information provided in the documents.

¹ The Council will consider this subject under agenda item 16 of its 89th session.

(c) IMO International Maritime Academy

35 The Director of the Academy, Dr. Pietro Marin, informed the Committee of the courses held in 2001, the Academy's programme for 2002, ongoing projects in several developing regions and the planned launch of electronic tools to help trainers and instructors in developing presentations.

36 The Committee welcomed the Academy's initiative to put its work on the Internet, and took note of the information provided.

(d) Fellowships and other training activities

37 The Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the training activities administered by IMO, from the award of ad-hoc fellowships to the development, translation and delivery of IMO model courses.

Rules of Procedure and Methods of Work of the Committee

(a) Proposed changes to the Committee's Guidelines

38 The Committee approved modifications to the "Guidelines on methods and organization of work of the Technical Co-operation Committee", as set out in the annex to document TC 51/11.

39 The Committee decided to defer to its 52nd session consideration of the "Rules of Procedure for the Technical Co-operation Committee", which may also merit some adjustment.

(b) Allocation of additional time to the Committee's sessions

40 The Committee considered the Secretary-General's proposals and options set out in document C 88/8 with regard to the allocation of additional time to the Committee's sessions.

41 Taking into account the time constraints it had experienced recently, the Committee recognised that it would be desirable for it to be given its own meeting time allocation of sufficient duration to carry out its functions. Having examined carefully the Secretary-General's proposals, the Committee recommended that:

- .1 *for the current biennium*: no change to its remaining session for 2002 (TC 52), and the holding of a two day stand-alone session (TC 53), to be held back-to-back with a workshop on partnership-building, before the Council's June 2003 session²; and
- .2 *for the 2004-2005 biennium*: whilst there was general preference for the holding of two stand-alone sessions of three days each, one to be held in 2004 (TC 54) and the other in 2005 (TC 55), this option could be discussed further at the Committee's fifty-second session, as the Council need only decide this question

² The combined events would have to be held before the Council's June 2003 session so that the Committee can relay to that Council session its recommendations on the allocation of TC Fund resources to the ITCP for 2004-2005.

when it considers the Organization's work programme and budget for the next biennium at its June 2003 session.

42 In concluding this sub-item, the Committee requested its Chairman to relay to the Council at its 88th session, the preferred options outlined above.³

Any Other Business

43 The Committee took note with appreciation of the information presented by the representative of Japan in document TC 50/INF.2 (deferred from the Committee's 50th session) on technical co-operation activities implemented by Japan.

Agenda items that could not be considered

44 Due to the reduction in time available to the Committee, the following agenda items could not be discussed at this session and were deferred for consideration at the fifty-second session: agenda item 5 - Resource Mobilization; and agenda item 7 - IMO Women-in-development Programme.

Action requested of the Council

45 The Council is invited to:

- .1 note the rapid development of a global capacity building programme on maritime security and the preparation of a related training package to be delivered through regional workshops during 2002-2003, in response to operative paragraph 5 of resolution A.924(22);
- .2 note the Committee's concurrence with the views of the Council regarding the possible establishment, by the Secretary-General, of a maritime security trust fund should he determine it to be a feasible and appropriate means of ensuring that future assistance can be delivered for effective compliance with IMO's emerging regulatory regime on maritime security;
- .3 note the new format of the Annual Reports on the ITCP, which was endorsed by the Committee as an instrument that provided an improved analysis not only of the financial aspects of the programme but, equally importantly, of the work actually accomplished;
- .4 note, in this context, the Committee's concern over delivery rates, and its appreciation of the steps already taken by the Secretariat to improve delivery and the additional related measures to be introduced through the Change Management Programme;

³ Having heard the report from the Chairman of the Committee, the Council decided as follows: (a) to approve the Committee's recommendation for the current biennium (see document C 88/D, paragraph 8.4); and (b) to note the Committee's general preference for the biennium 2004 – 2005 (see document C 88/D, paragraph 8.5) which will be discussed further at the Committee's 52nd session and the Council's 89th session.

- .5 note the Committee's endorsement of the decentralization of the implementation of the ITCP through IMO's regional co-ordinators scheme and partnership arrangements with regional organizations and national Governments and institutions;
- .6 note the Committee's initial consideration of proposals to launch a pilot test making IMO publications available at no cost on the Internet, its decision to continue examining this matter at its fifty-second session in the light of information provided by the Secretariat on the potential consequences of the proposal, and its intention to then submit recommendations to the Council;
- .7 note the Committee's approval of modifications to the "Guidelines on Methods and Organization of Work of the Technical Co-operation Committee", the full modified text of which is annexed to document TC 51/11;
- .8 approve the Committee's recommendation for the holding of a stand-alone two-day session (TC 53) to be held back-to-back with a workshop on partnership-building, prior to the Council's June 2003 session;*
- .9 note that the Committee's general preference for the holding of two stand-alone sessions of three days each, one to be held in 2004 and the other in 2005, will be discussed further at the Committee's fifty-second session;*
- .10 note the report of the Committee on its fifty-first session and make such comments and give such advice to the Committee as it deems appropriate; and
- .11 transmit the report of the Committee's fifty-first session, with its comments and recommendations, to the twenty-third session of the Assembly, in accordance with Article 21(b) of the IMO Convention.

* See footnote no. 3.