



COUNCIL
96th session
Agenda item 10

C 96/10/Add.1
16 June 2006
Original: ENGLISH

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document reports on the outcome of the fifty-sixth session of the Technical Co-operation Committee
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 61
<i>Related documents:</i>	TC 56/12 and C 96/10

INTRODUCTION

1 The Technical Co-operation Committee (TCC) held its fifty-sixth session from 13 to 15 June 2005 under the chairmanship of Mr. Ben Owusu-Mensah (Ghana). The report of the session is contained in document TC 56/12. The main conclusions, decisions and recommendations of the Committee are summarized below.

WORK OF OTHER BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

2 The Committee was informed of the outcome of MEPC 54 regarding the need for feedback on the impact of the IMO's technical co-operation programmes as far as the vision and priority objectives of the MEPC were concerned. In this regard, the Committee noted that, at its next session in June 2007, it would be considering the methodology and themes for the next Impact Assessment Exercise (IAE) which should take place in 2008 and the Committee could consider the inclusion of marine environment protection issues.

3 The Committee took note of Assembly resolution A.970(24) on the Strategic Plan for the Organization (for the six-year period 2006 to 2011) as well as resolution A.971(24) on the high-level action plan of the Organization and priorities for the 2006-2007 biennium.

4 The Committee was informed of the work of other bodies, in particular Assembly resolutions A.970(24) and A.971(24) on the Strategic Plan and the high-level Action Plan respectively and the actions requested of the Committee in this regard.

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.

5 The Committee agreed to consider, at its fifty-seventh session, its planned outputs for the 2008-2009 biennium.

6 In considering the outcome of the twenty-fourth regular session of the Assembly with respect to the Strategic Plan and the high-level action plan for the Organization, the Committee agreed to:

- .1 set aside sufficient time, at its future sessions, to consider the high-level actions and their associated priorities, in order to ensure that they both accurately and concisely described its planned activities;
- .2 report progress towards fulfilling the Organization's aims and objectives using the framework of the high-level actions and planned biennial outputs when reporting on its work to the Assembly at its twenty-fifth regular session;
- .3 ensure when considering proposals for new work programme items that the issues to be addressed were those which fell within the scope of the Strategic Plan; and
- .4 review its guidelines for the Organization and method of its work and, as appropriate, that of its subsidiary bodies, in order to require that submissions for new work programme items included an indication of how they related to the scope of the Strategic Plan.

INTEGRATED TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

Biennial report on 2004-2005

7 The Committee received a biennial report on the status of ITCP implementation for the period 2004-2005, which reflected the information on programme outputs, in-kind support and financial resource delivery.

8 The Committee was informed about the Maritime Security "Train-the-Trainer" programme, launched in September 2004 to train instructors using IMO model courses for Ship, Company and Port Facility Security Officers (IMO Model Courses 3.19, 3.20 and 3.21 respectively). The Committee noted with interest the successful delivery of the "Train-the-Trainer" programme and suggested that this and other cost-sharing methodologies should be considered by the Secretariat in the implementation of other ITCP programmes.

9 The Committee appreciated the clarity and thoroughness of the documentation, notably the structured, well-presented analysis of the ITCP results, which reflected the considerable achievement of assisting developing regions to strengthen their capacities to meet international maritime norms and standards.

10 One of the key outcomes during the biennium was the delivery of US\$27million, an increase of US\$1.5 million over the previous biennium and the highest level achieved to-date under the ITCP, marking a sharp increase in expenditure of 89.5% between 1999 and 2005. Outputs included 107 national courses, seminars and workshops and a further 117 regional courses, resulting in the training of some 7,367 participants world-wide, an increase of around 1,000 over the results of the previous biennium.

11 The Committee appreciated the sustained increase in the volume of assistance delivered over the period in question and, more especially, to see that it confirmed a trend that had been sustained over the previous six years.

12 It was agreed to capture the performance indicators required under the Organization's Strategic Plan in future biennial reports on the ITCP, with a view to assisting the Council in establishing targets and linking the work of TCC to the wider strategic framework of IMO.

13 The Committee took note of the information contained in the biennial report, notably the in-kind contributions which were received from donor countries and organizations to facilitate the implementation of seminars and workshops, and requested the Secretariat to consider using the "Train-the-Trainer" methodology in other ITCP programmes.

14 The Committee also took note, with appreciation, of the sustained increase in financial delivery against activities implemented through the Secretariat and thanked the donors and recipients for their commitment to the ITCP and requested them, if possible, to maintain and increase their financial and in-kind support.

Linkage of the ITCP to the 2005 World Summit outcome and the achievement of relevant Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

15 The delegations of Angola and South Africa introduced documents on "Achieving Millennium Development Goals through the ITCP" and "Defining Maritime Poverty", respectively. The Secretariat also introduced the report of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted by the UN General Assembly as resolution A/RES/60/1.

16 The Committee noted that IMO's partnership arrangements for technical co-operation, human resource development and capacity-building programmes, as well as the strengthening of the maritime administrations and infrastructures of developing countries, including the implementation of the report of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan, were relevant and in line with commitments of the 2005 World Summit outcome.

17 The Secretary-General recalled that the maritime needs of Africa had been identified by the Assembly, under resolution A.986(24) on "The Importance and Funding of Technical Co-operation as a Means to Support the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals", as requiring special emphasis. Assistance to the Africa region was one of the key elements of this year's theme for World Maritime Day, namely, "Technical Co-operation: IMO's response to the 2005 World Summit".

18 The Committee further noted that IMO had aligned its ITCP delivery in Africa with the NEPAD-related programmes within its area of mandate including the development of SAR facilities along the African coast which was also among the priorities of IMO. The two papers formed a sound basis for the Committee's future deliberations on how to link the ITCP with the MDGs and to develop criteria for assessing maritime activity and resource capacity.

19 In line with the Organization's continuing commitment to Africa, the Secretary-General announced, in his opening speech to TC 56, his decision to transfer an additional sum of up to US\$800,000 from the un-programmed reserves of the Technical Co-operation Fund to support maritime capacity-building activities in the continent.

20 The Secretary-General informed the Committee about IMO's involvement in relevant activities at the United Nations, including his participation at the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), chaired by the Secretary-General of the UN, and the Directors of the Technical Co-operation and Administrative Divisions' participation at the CEB's High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM), respectively.

The Organization was following closely the ongoing UN reform process aimed at enhancing system-wide coherence and effectiveness and, in this regard, the Secretary-General drew the Committee's attention to paragraphs 168 and 169 of the annex to document TC 56/3/3 ("System-wide coherence") and to document C 96/14(a) ("Relations with the United Nations and the specialized agencies"), which was to be considered by the Council at its forthcoming ninety-sixth session. Furthermore, the Secretary-General drew the Committee's attention to the eight MDGs and, in particular, number 7 ("Ensure environmental sustainability") and number 8 ("Develop a global partnership for development"), both of which were particularly relevant to the mandate and activities of IMO.

21 The Committee noted the information provided in documents TC 56/3/1, TC 56/3/2 and TC 56/3/3 which clearly highlighted the need to demonstrate the conceptual linkage between the goals of the ITCP and the MDGs and expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Angola and South Africa.

22 The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a consolidated paper on the basis of the documents submitted by Angola, South Africa and other sources including a document submitted by the Secretariat on the 2005 World Summit Outcome (TC 56/3/3) in consultation with these and other interested delegations, to be considered by an intersessional working group in February 2007, the output of which would be submitted to the fifty-seventh session of TCC in June 2007.

FINANCING THE ITCP

Technical Co-operation Fund: Biennial report on the 2004-2005 programme

23 The Committee noted the results of the activities implemented in 2004-2005 with financing from the TC Fund, as contained in the biennial report for the period 2004-2005, relating to the programme of allocations approved by TCC and the Council in June 2003 to support activities of the ITCP for 2004-2005.

24 It was noted that the biennial reports on the ITCP and TC Fund, respectively, involved duplication of information, and that the data should be presented under a single combined report. The Committee agreed that an appropriate revision of the Rules of Operation of the TC Fund with respect to the further streamlining of reporting practices should be submitted by the Secretariat to TC 57, for subsequent approval by the Council.

Mechanism to ensure the long-term sustainable financing of the ITCP (resolution A.986(24))

25 The Committee had before it a document summarizing key milestones in the Organization's consideration of the issue of long-term sustainable financing of the ITCP, including Assembly resolutions A.873(20) and A.986(24), and the adoption by TCC at its fifty-fifth session of a five-point strategy for resource mobilization.

26 The current principal sources of funding available for the implementation of ITCP activities was provided as background information to the document submitted by the Secretariat. The document sets out three principal “options” for establishing a mechanism to ensure the long-term sustainable financing of the ITCP in accordance with operative paragraph 5 of resolution A.986(24).

27 The Committee discussed in detail the range of options for securing a measurable and reliable source of financing. While the Printing - TC Fund nexus provided a platform for core funding of the ITCP, additional mechanisms were needed to reduce the shortfall of resources.

28 The Committee examined various measures including: the establishment of a TC supplementary assessment to be resourced through the regular budget; the establishment of a voluntary supplementary TC Fund to encourage donors to make voluntary funding commitments; and the maintenance of present arrangements for the replenishment of the TC Fund and voluntary contributions through bilateral and multilateral trust funds and other sources.

29 Other factors were also considered in light of the auxiliary role they could play in the establishment of a sustainable finance mechanism. The importance of in-kind contributions was widely acknowledged, and the multiplier effect of TCDC activities was particularly commended as a source of inter-regional collaboration in the maritime sector. One delegation introduced a new proposal based on the introduction of a modest fee for those vessels and companies utilizing IMO numbers.

30 “Option C” emerged as a preferred mechanism to be considered as a foundation for developing a package of measures, to be implemented as a dynamic concept and adapted so as to strengthen the existing partnerships and multilateral trust funds already in place.

31 The Committee took note of information paper TC 56/INF. 3 entitled “Funding for United Nations Development Co-operation - Challenges and Options”, published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (UNDESA), and information paper TC 56/INF.4, a copy of the report of the UN Secretary-General on Funding options and modalities for financing operational activities for development of the UN system.

32 The Committee requested the Secretariat to submit an appropriate revised proposal, based on a modified Option C, to TC 57 for consideration, with a view to making a final recommendation to the Council.

Voluntary Trust Funds

33 The Committee was updated on the status of voluntary trust funds and on cash contributions made to the ITCP activities since the Secretariat’s report to TC 55 held in June 2005 and up to 31 May 2006. Four new donors had contributed to the International Maritime Security Trust Fund, while no funds had yet been received for the newly established International Ship Recycling Trust Fund.

34 The Committee was informed of two recent donations to the International SAR Fund, bringing the total capital in that fund to US\$65,482, as at 9 June 2006.

35 Four bilateral trust funds were in operation to provide financial support for the ITCP delivery. Since the Secretariat's report to TC 55, and as at 31 May 2006, ten donors had contributed a total of some US\$2,058,000 to the ITCP and to the Tsunami Maritime Relief Fund. In addition, the delegation of South Africa had pledged US\$15,000 for the International Maritime Security Trust Fund.

36 The Committee noted the status of voluntary trust funds and the cash contributions made since TC 55, and expressed its appreciation to all the donors who had made cash contributions to the multilateral and bilateral technical co-operation trust funds and/or directly to ITCP activities. The Committee also urged IMO Member States, international and regional organizations and the maritime industry to make financial contributions to the ITCP.

PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

37 The Committee was informed of the status of the IMO Regional Co-ordination scheme and on the progress made towards achieving the objective of decentralizing the implementation of the ITCP through the Regional Co-ordination scheme in Africa and through partnership arrangements with regional organizations and institutions in other regions.

38 The Committee was updated on: the progress made with regard to the renewal of the three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed between IMO and the Governments of Kenya, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire for the establishment of IMO Regional Presence offices for Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa (Anglophone and Francophone) respectively, which had expired on 31 December 2005 and which had been extended for a further period of two years i.e. up to 31 December 2007.

39 The Committee noted with appreciation the activities of the Regional Co-ordinators in Africa and in the Philippines who had all carried out needs assessment and/or advisory missions and represented IMO at various regional and subregional meetings.

40 The Committee noted a significant increase in the number of partnership MoUs developed since TC 55 and that, to date, there were 35 partnership arrangements in operation. Twenty-one of them had been made with developing countries and 14 with international and regional organizations. Of the 35 partnership arrangements, seven partnership agreements had been developed since TC 55 with the Governments of Australia, Canada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Venezuela and with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as well as the non-governmental industry organization INTERFERRY.

41 The Committee noted that partnership arrangements for technical co-operation and delivery had continued to function successfully and that the decision of TCC to decentralize further the delivery of technical co-operation activities had increased the volume of work delegated to existing partnership arrangements with regional organizations and to the Regional Co-ordinators.

42 The Committee also recorded its appreciation to all the host countries of the IMO Regional Presence offices, to all partners who were, or had been, involved in regional co-ordination and delivery, as well as to donors for their financial contributions and support and urged IMO's development partners to continue to collaborate and assist IMO in the implementation of ITCP activities.

VOLUNTARY IMO MEMBER STATE AUDIT SCHEME

43 The Secretary-General outlined in his opening speech three areas on which he would appreciate receiving favourable responses from Member States. He emphasized that the capacity-building aspect of the Scheme was very important and would cover assistance in preparing for the audit; identifying obstacles to completing the audit; and addressing audit findings and recommendations. The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation to Egypt, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom for contributing to the ITCP Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme programme and urged other Member States to make similar contributions.

44 The Committee noted its appreciation to Member States for hosting training courses for auditors, contributing to the “Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme” programme and to the Swedish Maritime Administration for donating US\$30,000 towards the programme, and urged other Member States, organizations and industry to make further contributions to the ITCP to support the “Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme” programme.

45 The Committee noted information provided on the implementation of the global ITCP programme “Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme” and its future activities, but noted that it was too early in the roll-out to gauge the effect the Scheme might have on the TC Fund.

PROGRAMME ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE MARITIME SECTOR

46 The programme for the Integration of Women in the Maritime Sector (IWMS) continued to support short-term fellowships for women and the establishment of formal regional associations for women in the maritime industry.

47 The Committee noted that initial discussions had taken place with a view to establishing a formal association in the West and Central Africa subregion for professional women in the port sector, and that priority had been given to Africa in the allocation of short-term fellowships in 2004 and in 2005, when the region received 60% of the fellowships allocated.

48 The importance was noted of the IWMS programme in the implementation of MDG 3 “Promote gender equality and empower women”.

49 The Committee expressed support for the programme implemented by the Secretariat and the results achieved to date, and requested that this programme be maintained. The Committee also commended the Secretariat on initiatives such as the participation in TCC of woman graduates, trained through the ITCP at the International Maritime Law Institute.

50 The Committee took note of the report on the implementation activities undertaken under the IWMS from January to December 2005.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FELLOWSHIPS

World Maritime University

51 The Committee considered the 2005 annual report of the Board of Governors and the budget of the World Maritime University for 2005, submitted to the Council under agenda items 12(a) and 12(b).

52 The Committee noted that the annual report highlighted the continuation of remarkable progress made by the University on a broad front, especially in areas such as academic development, international recognition and collaboration, research and consultancy, student enrolment, and the continuing expansion of the global network of WMU graduates.

IMO International Maritime Law Institute

53 The Committee noted the annual report of the Governing Board of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute for the periods 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, focusing on the academic operations of the Institute, submitted to the Council under agenda item 13(a).

54 The Committee was advised of the Institute's financial operations for the academic years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008, as well as a report from the External Auditor on the audit for the year ended 31 August 2005, presented to the Council for its approval under agenda item 13(b).

IMO International Maritime Academy

55 The Committee was invited to take note of the Academy's academic programme for the year 2005-2006, the majority of which were funded by the Government of Italy and the Province of Trieste. The Committee noted IMO's donation in 2005 amounting to €105,292.

56 The delegation of Italy informed the Committee that the Academy was in the final stages of an internal re-organization aimed at modifying its current juridical status from a "consortium" to that of a "foundation", after which, it would have a new legal framework with the direct and institutional involvement of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ACCESS TO IMO INSTRUMENTS IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT

57 The Committee considered a report on the feedback of the questionnaire analyses obtained by the Secretariat on the extent to which developing countries were making use of the scheme for free access to IMO texts and any difficulties they might have encountered.

58 The Committee recalled that both the fifty-fifth and ninety-fourth sessions of the Committee and Council respectively (documents TC 55/9 and C 94/3(e)/3) in June 2005, had decided that the scheme should be maintained for another year and requested the Secretariat to undertake a survey, within the ambit of the ITCP, to assess the impact of the scheme on developing countries and to assess how the scheme might be utilized more extensively and effectively.

59 The Committee recommended that the Secretariat should re-examine the method by which free access to IMO texts in electronic format was operated with a view to improving user-friendliness and avoiding duplication and report on the results to TC 57.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2007

60 The Committee re-elected Mr. Ben Owusu-Mensah (Ghana) as Chairman for 2006 by acclamation. The Committee re-elected Mr. Fikret Hakguden (Turkey) as Vice-Chairman for 2006, also by acclamation.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COUNCIL

61 The Council is invited to:

- .1 note that the delivery of the ITCP during the 2004-2005 biennium was the highest recorded, both in terms of volume and of delivery rate;
- .2 note that the Committee agreed to further consider the linkage between the ITCP and the Millennium Development Goals at an intersessional working group to be convened in London and expressed its appreciation to the delegation of South Africa for its offer to host the meeting;
- .3 endorse the decision of the Committee to consider further the issue of securing the long-term financing of the ITCP on the basis of maintaining the Printing - TC Fund nexus, as supplemented by bilateral and multilateral funding, partnerships and enhanced fund-generating modalities;
- .4 note the successful completion of the survey on the extent to which developing countries are making use of the scheme to provide free access to IMO instruments in electronic format and endorse the recommendation that the Secretariat should re-examine the method by which free access to IMO texts in electronic format is operated with a view to improving user-friendliness and avoiding duplication;
- .5 endorse the recommendation that Member States and the donor community be encouraged to provide the maritime administrations of developing countries with computer hardware to enable them to benefit from access to IMO texts in electronic format; and
- .6 consider document C 96/10/Add.1 on the report of the fifty-sixth session of the Technical Co-operation Committee and, in accordance with article 21(b) of the IMO Convention, transmit the report, with its comments and recommendations, to the twenty-fifth session of the Assembly.