



Human Rights Council**Fifty-sixth session**

18 June–12 July 2024

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council
on 11 July 2024****56/18. Promoting and protecting the enjoyment of human rights by seafarers***The Human Rights Council,**Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,*Recalling* that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea sets out a general legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out,*Recalling also* the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, which states that considering the global nature of the shipping industry, seafarers need special protection, as well as other relevant instruments of the International Labour Organization and the International Maritime Organization,*Acknowledging* the pivotal role of seafarers in the global shipping industry, which transports around 90 per cent of world trade essential to the normal functioning of society, thus contributing to the realization of human rights,*Recognizing* the human rights, as well as labour rights, of seafarers, including the right to freedom of association and the effective recognition of collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, as well as a safe and secure workplace, fair terms of employment, decent working and living conditions on-board ships, health protection, medical care, welfare measures and other forms of social protection,*Mindful* of the challenging working and living conditions at sea that could pose risks to seafarers', including women seafarers', enjoyment of human rights, safety and well-being, and expressing grave concern over crisis situations, such as public health emergencies and unlawful acts, according to international law, against the safety of maritime navigation, that may aggravate those risks,*Noting* the risk to seafarers assigned to vessels destined for high-risk areas, as well as the risk of reprisal if such assignments are declined,*Noting also* the initiatives taken by the International Labour Organization and the International Maritime Organization to promote safe and decent living and working conditions for seafarers;

1. *Acknowledges* the obligation of States parties to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, to cooperate with each other for the purpose of ensuring the effective implementation and enforcement of the Convention;
2. *Calls upon* States parties, shipowners' representatives and seafarers' representatives to enhance the enforcement of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, to ensure safe and decent living and working conditions for all seafarers;
3. *Calls upon* States and other relevant shipping industry stakeholders to promote and protect effectively the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by seafarers, including their right to life, right to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work, including safe and healthy working conditions, and right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;
4. *Urges* shipping industry stakeholders to respect the right of seafarers to the opportunity to gain their living by work that they freely choose or accept, including decisions on whether to sail or continue sailing in high-risk areas, and that the realization of this right should not negatively affect a seafarer's employment competitiveness or future deployment;
5. *Urges* States to continue efforts to eliminate all forms of forced or compulsory labour in the shipping industry;
6. *Urges* all States Members of the United Nations to designate seafarers and other marine personnel as key workers, in line with General Assembly resolution 75/17 of 1 December 2020, on international cooperation to address challenges faced by seafarers as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic to support global supply chains;
7. *Encourages* States, consistent with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to ensure that business enterprises in the global maritime industry uphold the principle of corporate responsibility to respect human rights;
8. *Encourages* business enterprises in the global maritime industry to meet their responsibility to respect human rights, including by instituting a human rights due diligence process to identify, prevent, mitigate and enable remediation for any adverse human rights impacts of business operations;
9. *Urges* all stakeholders to step up efforts to advance gender equality and empowerment in the shipping industry by, among other things, capacity-building, collecting disaggregated data and promoting equitable hiring practices;
10. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to institute policies, measures and programmes to prevent effectively violence and harassment, including sexual harassment and assault, bullying and all forms of discrimination on-board vessels, in order to foster an environment where all seafarers, including women seafarers, are safe and their rights respected;
11. *Encourages* all shipping industry stakeholders to meaningfully celebrate the Day of the Seafarer every year on 25 June;
12. *Urges* stronger collaboration between States, shipowners' representatives, seafarers' representatives, the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Organization, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders to uphold and protect the rights and dignity of all seafarers all over the world;
13. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective mandates, to pay attention to the issue of promoting and protecting the enjoyment of human rights by seafarers.

36th meeting
11 July 2024

[Adopted without a vote.]