



MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
81st session
Agenda item 23

MSC 81/23/9
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WORK PROGRAMME

Proposal to revise the International Convention of Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969

Submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

SUMMARY

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| <i>Executive summary:</i> | This document proposes the revision of the technical regulations for calculation of gross and net tonnages as well as included areas which affect the mentioned calculations |
| <i>Action to be taken:</i> | Paragraph 12 |
| <i>Related document:</i> | ITC 1969 |

Introduction

1 Recognizing that the establishment of a universal system of tonnage measurement for ships engaged on international voyages should constitute an important contribution to maritime transport, a Conference was held in London from 27 May to 23 June 1969, upon the invitation of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, for the purpose of drawing up an International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships.

2 The above-mentioned Conference prepared and opened for signature and accession the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969. As a result, majority of Member States have acceded to the ITC 69 so far.

3 The Conference adopted three Recommendations arising from its deliberations. These Recommendations were related to:

- .1 Acceptance of the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969.
- .2 Uses of gross and net tonnages.
- .3 Uniform interpretation of definitions of terms.

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Need or Compelling need

4 The International Tonnage Measurement Convention does not cover all types of ships, for example open-top container carriers.

5 Gross Tonnage is a basic determining source for many conventions such as SOLAS Convention and STCW Convention and it directly affects the safety of navigation and safety of ships.

6 Definition and formulation weaknesses of gross tonnage in the International Tonnage Measurement Convention have caused some problems, i.e. some of its regulations permit the shipowners to reduce the GT below 500 to escape from complying with relevant rules and regulations.

7 Due to different interpretations of those regulations in the International Tonnage Measurement Convention by member States, there are some ships with the same size under different flags having different GT and NT.

Benefits that would accrue from proposal

8 In the view of Iran, revision of the International Tonnage Measurement Convention will assist to establish a universal system of tonnage measurement for ships engaged on international voyages.

9 Iran is of the opinion that revision of the calculation regulations of the International Tonnage Measurement Convention will provide member States with the real figures of GT and NT with due regard to the size of ships.

Priority and target completion date

10 Whereas the International Tonnage Measurement Convention directly affects the safety of ships and the revision of the calculation regulations in the Convention will improve the safety of ships and safety of navigation, the assignment of highest priority to the revision of the ITC 69 is requested with the target completion date of 2007.

Identification of Committee/subsidiary body(ies) essential to complete the work

11 The revision of the International Tonnage Measurement Convention falls within the scope of the SLF Sub-Committee.

Action requested of the Committee

12 The Committee is invited to include the new high-priority item titled: "Revision of the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships 1969" to the work programme of the Sub-Committee on Stability, Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels Safety. It is recommended that this item be referred to the next session of the SLF Sub-Committee for further consideration and possible timely revision of the Convention.