



## ICMA Standing Delegation to the ILO – 2018 Report

In 2017, ICMA Trustees appointed Douglas Stevenson (chair), Jaakko LASSIO (vice-chair), and Domingo Gonzalez-Joyanes to a three-year term on the ICMA Standing Delegation to the ILO in accordance with the ILO Standing Delegation Terms of Reference.

The ICMA Standing Delegation to the ILO coordinated by email its representation at ILO meetings in 2018. In 2018 one maritime meeting was scheduled.

The Special Tripartite Committee met April 23-27 in Geneva. ICMA participated in the meeting. The main topic of the meeting was to consider amendments to the MLC, 2006 that would require paying seafarers' wages while they are held captive by pirates. ICMA supported amendments to the MLC, 2006 that would require shipowners to continue paying seafarers' wages and entitlements while they are held captive by pirates.

The committee also exchanged information on how the MLC, 2006 is implemented by countries that have ratified it. ICMA shared information gleaned from the Seamen's Church Institute's 2017 shore leave survey which revealed that 9.5% of the seafarers were denied shore leave in United States during the survey week. Of the 9.5% of the seafarers denied shore leave, 73% were denied shore leave because they did not possess a valid visa, and 78% of those seafarers were serving on vessels registered in countries where the MLC, 2006 was in force. The MLC, 2006 requires shipowners to pay the costs of seafarers' visas. There can be several reasons why seafarers do not have U.S. visas, including the policy of one country that interprets the requirement to apply only to visas needed to join a vessel. Many seafarers reported that their ship's owner would not pay for the visa. No seafarers who had applied for a visa reported that they had been denied a visa by the United States.

The Special Tripartite Committee agreed to amending the MLC, 2006 to require shipowners to pay seafarers' wages and entitlements while the seafarers are held captive by pirates. The amendments were approved by the International Labour Conference on 5 June 2018 and are expected to come into force in 2020.

The Special Tripartite Committee will meet again in three years.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas B. Stevenson  
Chair, ICMA Standing Delegation to the ILO