

Long Distance Advisory Council  
Manuela Iglesias

Your letter from  
**n/a**  
Your reference  
**n/a**  
My reference  
**n/a**  
Date  
**May 20, 2024**

Subject  
**My participation**

Dear participants,

Much to my disappointment and contrary to my earlier promise, for personal reasons I cannot participate in your meeting of May 23<sup>rd</sup> for which I apologize. I had planned to inform you briefly on a few international developments in the area of decent working and living conditions for fishers. In short, these developments concerned (a) the definition of fishing capacity, discussed in the Joint FAO/ILO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters, 5th session, and (b) the adoption of guidelines for medical examination of fishers by the ILO/IMO Meeting of experts.

The FAO/ILO/IMO working group recommends States, when regulating fishing capacity, to ensure that measures taken do not have a detrimental effect on the working and living conditions of fishers (for example on accommodation) and consider using net tonnage (NT), instead of gross tonnage (GT), as one of the factor determining the fishing capacity of a fishing vessel. The meeting further adopted recommendations on child labour, forced labour, abandonment, treatment of fisheries observers. For a full outcome of the meetings, please see the attached draft recommendations.

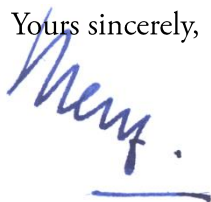
The ILO/IMO meeting of experts, as said, adopted guidelines for the medical examination of fishers. The ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (C188), prescribes that ratifying States adopt laws, regulations or other measures providing for (a) the nature of medical examinations, (b) the form and content of medical certificates, (c) the issue of medical certificates by qualified examiners, (d) the frequency of medical certificates and the period of validity of medical certificates, (e) the right of second opinion, (f) other relevant requirements, and for fishers working on a fishing vessel of 24 metres in length and over, or on a vessel which normally remains at sea for more than three days (g) additional specified requirements. The revised text of the IMO International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F)

contains similar requirements. In 2011 an ILO/IMO meeting of experts adopted guidelines for medical examination of seafarers in which fishers were no longer included. As a result, the guidelines no longer took into account the working conditions of fishers. This made the adoption of separate guidelines for fishers necessary. Please find the now adopted guidelines attached to this letter. The guidelines will later this year be adopted by the governing bodies of both the ILO and IMO.

I participated in these two meetings as spokesperson for the employers.

Please be informed that I will retire on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Merv", with a horizontal line underneath it.