Report of Torremolinos Ministerial Conference on Fishing Vessel Safety and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

21st October – 23rd October 2019
Torremolinos, Spain

ITF delegation

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Background

Fishing vessels load its cargo at sea and unload at port that defers from loading and unloading of commercial shipping. Enhancing safety of fishing vessels is one of priorities in the international shipping, but also for the global food supply chain.

The 1993 Torremolinos Protocol requires the safety of fishing vessels taking into account the nature of difference design and operations. In the 2000s, IMO began reviewing the options available to tackle the lack of sufficient ratifications to bring this treaty into force. In 2012, a new agreement, the Cape Town Agreement was adopted.

While there are endeavours to establish regal framework, in field, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is a great threat to safe operation on board, securing sustainable marine resources and environmental soundness.

The Conference was organised aiming more countries to ratify the Cape Town Agreement and tackling IUU fishing.
Outcomes of the meeting

21st October 2019

Promoting Ratification of the Cape Town Agreement

1. The benefits of implementing a mandatory safety regime for fishing vessels and the urgent need to address IUU fishing activities were considered.

2. 48 States signing Torremolinos Declaration on the Cape Town Agreement committing themselves to work toward ratification and entry into force in 2023 were followed.

3. The Cook Islands and Sao Tome and Principe became the latest States to ratify the Cape Town Agreement on fishing vessel safety.

22nd October 2019

Combatting the IUU Fishing

1. A series of panels took during which the participants exchanged views on areas of improvement related to fishing vessel safety, ensuring decent working conditions, reducing marine pollution, better protection of polar waters, expanding enforcement measures to combat IUU fishing and reducing risks for search and rescue services.

Luz Baz represented the ITF on ILO panel on Working Conditions and the Cape Town Agreement

23rd October 2019

Adoption of resolution/Torremolinos Statement

1. The Conference adopted the Torremolinos Statement on the Cape Town Agreement of 2012, relating to fishing vessel safety, and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

2. The ITF delegation made sure in the drafting group that most of provisions regarding working and living conditions of fishers.

3. The ITF delegation also made sure preventing human trafficking and abuse remain in the text of adopted resolution in the group.

Action to be taken

The ITF affiliates are encouraged to lobby their national governments to ratify the Cape Town Agreement as soon as possible.