Report of 4th meeting of the Joint FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on IUU fishing and related matters
23rd October – 25th October 2019
Torremolinos, Spain

ITF delegation

Accredited Permanent Rep. - Branko Berlan
ILO Workers Rep. – Rosen Karavatchev
ILO Workers Rep. - Juan Manuel Trujillo
Observer – Luz Baz
Observer – Petr Osichansky

Background

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing not only threatens the sustainability of marine food resources but also safety of personnel onboard fishing vessels. The circumstance becomes severe and leads physical confrontations resulting acute damage of persons, ships and fishing gears. Moreover, such actions can deteriorate marine environment.

Outcomes of the meeting

1. The ITF delegation actively participated in the debate and made it clear that working and labour conditions of fishers should be improved in order to successfully combat the IUU Fishing and prevent human trafficking and abuse of human rights.

2. The Joint Working Group (JWG) recommended that FAO, ILO and IMO work together on the proposals following:
   - Responsibilities of flag States on the high seas under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
   - Lessons learned from the ILO SEA Fisheries project¹ and SEA Forum;

¹The Project aims to reduce human trafficking in the fishing sector by strengthening coordination and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of existing national and regional level anti-trafficking efforts in South East Asia.
- Outcome of the EU social partners’ initiative to produce Guidelines for decent recruitment, placement and posting of migrant fishers;
- JWG recommended that the work of ILO and IMO regarding abandonment and fair treatment of seafarers be extended to include fishers;
- JWG asked that FAO consider how to promote fisheries observer safety globally through the most appropriate process;
- JWG recommended that the FAO/ILO/IMO Secretariats, WMU, WFU, IMLI, ILO International Training Centre and others jointly determine the scope and content of a potential integrated capacity-building and technical cooperation programme on IUU fishing and promotion of international instruments relevant to fishing;
- The ILO Secretariat provided summary on their project for campaign for the ratification and implementation of the ILO Convention 188, *Work in Fishing Convention, 2007* and is looking forward for the ITF support as appropriate.

**Action to be taken**

The ITF affiliates are encouraged to disseminate the progress in tackling IUU fishing at high-level international forum. It is also important to lobby national government to ratify the ILO Convention 188 *Work in Fishing Convention, 2007*. 