

# INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION

## 44<sup>th</sup> Congress Singapore, 15 October 2018 Seafarers Section Conference

### REPORT

The Conference took place on Monday 15 October 2018.

#### **Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda**

The Conference **adopted** the agenda, as presented.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Election of Rapporteur, Scrutineers and Tellers**

Tomas Abrahamsson (Sweden) was elected Rapporteur.

Carlos Augusto Muller (Brazil) and Raul Sengo (Mozambique) were elected Scrutineers.

Lena Dyring (Norway) and Amar Singh Thakur (India) were elected Tellers.

#### **Agenda Item 3: Congress Theme Document**

The **General Secretary** gave a verbal update on the Congress Theme Document, which focused on the Section's priorities. During a discussion from the floor, the following points were raised:

- Preparing a model CBA and educating seafarers on automation was important;
- The aim was to be aware of the risks and find potential solutions;
- How automation could affect seafarers employment, however, it would be unlikely to have an impact on significant numbers of seafarers in the near future; and
- IMO were assessing and scoping the impact automation would have on regulations.

Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry and Jens-Uwe Schroder-Hinrichs, World Maritime University (WMU) gave a presentation on Automation in Transport. During the discussion from the floor, the following points were raised:

- As a movement, it was important to work collectively;
- Even with automation, there would still be a demand for seafarers;
- Automation was a product of the tech companies;
- Due to security threats and safety regulations, it was very unlikely that fully automated vessels would exist except in certain domestic trades;
- Upskilling and training was key for the future and there needed to be clarity on who would pay;
- Shipping was one of the most exposed to innovation and technology;
- Early engagement with governments was crucial;

- No automation without negotiation was important, but there was also a need to support those unions with little or no leverage;
- Technology could facilitate more opportunities for women seafarers;
- Automation would require a higher level of computer skills;
- WMU were preparing trainers teaching at national academies to include education in their curriculum in order to ensure the correct skill set; and
- There was a need for clarity when developing policies around automation.

The WMU posed two live poll questions to the Conference, following their presentation, the results of which are as follows:

1. Do you believe your members will be affected by automation and technology in their jobs in the coming years?	
a. No	1%
b. Yes, but in the far future	33%
c. Yes, it is coming very soon	34%
d. Yes, our members jobs have already changed	31%

2. How would you like to see Unions involved in the process?	
a. There is nothing that unions can gain from getting involved	2%
b. Be proactive early and discuss with the political decision makers	31%
c. Focus on re-training and education to develop skills for new jobs	53%
d. Focus on state aid and subsidies to reduce impact on workers	7%
e. Carry out further studies to provide good arguments	9%

The Conference **adopted** the Congress Theme Document, as presented.

#### Agenda Item 4: Work Programme

The **Maritime Coordinator** and the **Seafarers Section Assistant Secretary** provided a presentation on the work programme priorities for 2019 – 2023. The Conference had a lengthy discussion, in particular on cabotage and national jobs for national seafarers in national waters and continental shelves. The Conference **noted** that this work was underway and formed part of the work programme of the FOC Campaign and would be discussed further at the Joint Seafarers and Dockers Conference, 17 October.

The Conference **adopted** the section related priorities for 2019-2023, as presented.

#### Agenda Item 5: Motions

The Conference considered the following motions referred by the Resolutions Committee:

##### Motion 7: Facilitating global Visa Policies for Seafarers

The Conference adopted the motion, as presented.

##### Motion 11: Seafarers' Rights

The Conference adopted the motion, as presented.

## Motion 16: Mediterranean – Sea of Convenience

The Conference adopted the motion, as presented.

## Motion 9: Protecting Seafarers’ Rights – Promoting global Solidarity – Ensuring effective Implementation of Mexico City Policy

The Conference **noted** that following the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee to submit motion 9 to the next relevant conference or meeting after Congress, with a process post–Congress to be agreed between the relevant parties in Singapore, there had been discussions between the Seafarers’ Section Chair and the affiliates who had been involved in proposing and amending Motion 9, with the following outcome:

The Seafarers’ Section Conference at the 44th Congress recommends the establishment of a working group to review the Mexico City Policy, including the national flag policy and cabotage policy, for endorsement by the Joint Seafarers and Dockers Conference at the 44th Congress.

The full terms of reference for the Working Group will be developed by the ITF Secretariat in consultation with the Joint Chairs, taking into account the views of the affiliates, and placed before the next Fair Practices Committee Steering Group for endorsement and any proposed changes to the Mexico City Policy are to be presented for adoption at the 45th Congress.

Based on the proposal presented the motion was **withdrawn** and would be incorporated in to the review of the Mexico City Policy.

## Motion 17: Promotional of bilateral relationships through the Interaction of national Trade Unions with the aim to represent the Interests of Trade Union Members

Based on the proposal presented for Motion 9, the motion was **withdrawn** and would be incorporated in to the review of the Mexico City Policy.

## Motion 21: On Cabotage

Based on the proposal presented for Motion 9, the motion was **withdrawn** and would be incorporated in to the review of the Mexico City Policy.

## Motion 32: Measures in support of national shipping

The Conference **noted** the sentiment of the motion and agreed with the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee that the motion would be remitted to the next Seafarers’ Section Conference post-congress.

## Motion 14: CGT Motion to ITF Congress

As this motion related to the FOC Campaign, the Conference **agreed** to remit this motion to the Joint Seafarers and Dockers on Wednesday 17 October 2018.

## Emergency Motion 5: Attack on Norwegian Seafarers’ jobs

The Conference **adopted** the motion, as presented.

## Agenda item 6: Elections

The following nominations were received from the floor and elected by acclamation:

Chair	Dave Heindel (SIU, North America)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair	Conrad Oca (AMOSUP, Philippines)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	Mark Dickinson (NI, United Kingdom)
Women Transport Workers' Representative	Lena Dyring (NSU, Norway)
Young Transport Workers' Representative	Dorotea Zec (SUC, Croatia)

The Conference **mandated** the Secretariat to confirm with the regional section affiliates their Section Regional Officers, as laid out in the documentation, and subsequently agreed the composition of the Seafarers Section Committee, attached as **Annex 1**.

## Agenda Item 7: Any other business

### Gold Awards

Due to time constraints the Conference agreed to cover this item at the Joint Seafarers and Dockers Section Conference on 17 October 2018.

**SEAFARERS' SECTION COMMITTEE**  
**As of 15 October 2018**

<b>Section Officers</b>	
Chair	David Heindel, SIU, USA
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair	Dr Conrad Oca, AMOSUP, Philippines
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	Mark Dickinson, NIUK, Great Britain
Women Transport Workers' Representative	Lena Dyring, NSU, Norway
Young Transport Workers' Representative	Dorotea Zec, SUC, Croatia
<b>Africa</b>	
Chair	Adewale Adeyanju, MWUN, Nigeria
Vice Chair	Innocent Gouanfo, SYNIMAC, Cameroon
Vice Chair	Stephen Owaki, SUK, Kenya
<b>Arab World</b>	
Chair	Nermin Al Sharif, GFLTU, Libya
Vice Chair	Seddik Berrama, FNTT/UGTA, Algeria
<b>Asia/Pacific</b>	
Chair	Yasumi Morita, JSU, Japan
Vice Chair (South East Asia)	Thomas Tay, SMOU, Singapore
Vice Chair (South Asia)	Abdulgani Serang, NUSI, India
Vice Chair (Pacific)	<i>Vacant</i>
<b>Europe (ETF Maritime Transport Section)</b>	
Chair	Agis Tselentis, PNO, Greece
Vice Chair	Jacek Cegielski, NSZZ, Poland
Vice Chair	Yuri Sukhorukov, SUR, Russia
Advisor	Mark Dickinson, NI, Great Britain
Advisor	Kenny Reinhold, SEKO, Sweden
Advisor	Francesco di Fiore, FIT-CISL, Italy
Advisor	Maya Schwiegershausen-Güth, Verdi, Germany
<b>Latin America/Caribbean</b>	
Chair	Severino Almeida, CONTTMAF, Brazil
Vice Chair	Horacio Dominguez, CJOMN, Argentina
Vice Chair	Julia Liliana Becerra, CCUOMM, Argentina
Vice Chair (Caribbean)	Michael Anisette, SWWTU, Trinidad & Tobago
<b>North America</b>	
Chair	James Given, SIU, Canada
Vice Chair	Mike Murphy, AMO, USA
Vice Chair	Marshal Ainley, MEBA, USA