

Convention 147**CONVENTION CONCERNING MINIMUM STANDARDS IN MERCHANT SHIPS**

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,
Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office and having met in its Sixty-second Session on 13 October 1976,
and

Recalling the provisions of the Seafarers' Engagement (Foreign Vessels) Recommendation, 1958, and of the Social Conditions and Safety (Seafarers) Recommendation, 1958, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to substandard vessels, particularly those registered under flags of convenience, which is the fifth item on the agenda of the session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention,

adopts this twenty-ninth day of October of the year one thousand nine hundred and seventy-six the following Convention, which may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976:

Article 1

1. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, this Convention applies to every sea-going ship, whether publicly or privately owned, which is engaged in the transport of cargo or passengers for the purpose of trade or is employed for any other commercial purpose.

2. National laws or regulations shall determine when ships are to be regarded as sea-going ships for the purpose of this Convention.

3. This Convention applies to sea-going tugs.

4. This Convention does not apply to—

- (a) ships primarily propelled by sail, whether or not they are fitted with auxiliary engines;
- (b) ships engaged in fishing or in whaling or in similar pursuits;
- (c) small vessels and vessels such as oil rigs and drilling platforms when not engaged in navigation, the decision as to which vessels are covered by this subparagraph to be taken by the competent authority in each country in consultation with the most representative organisations of shipowners and seafarers.

5. Nothing in this Convention shall be deemed to extend the scope of the Conventions referred to in the Appendix to this Convention or of the provisions contained therein.

Article 2

Each Member which ratifies this Convention undertakes—

- (a) to have laws or regulations laying down, for ships registered in its territory—
 - (i) safety standards, including standards of competency, hours of work and manning, so as to ensure the safety of life on board ship;
 - (ii) appropriate social security measures; and