

**Commit AOS-USA to Work for the Ratification of ILO Maritime Labour  
Convention 2006, & Establish Standing Committee  
Proposed by: Merchant Marine Committee**

WHEREAS on February 23, 2006 the 94<sup>th</sup> Maritime Session of the International Labour Organization, in Geneva, Switzerland and adopted the new Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 by a vote of 314 for, with no votes against and four abstentions; the vote showed overwhelming support by delegates from more than 100 countries representing seafarers, shipowners and governments.

WHEREAS The new Convention clearly sets out, in plain language, a seafarers' "bill of rights" while allowing a sufficient degree of national discretion to deliver those rights with transparency and accountability. The Convention also contains provisions allowing it to keep in step with the needs of the industry, and help secure universal application and enforcement.

**WHEREAS the new Convention consolidates and updates 68 existing ILO maritime Conventions and Recommendations adopted since 1920; sets minimum requirements for seafarers to work on a ship and contains provisions on conditions of employment, hours of work and rest, accommodation, recreational facilities, food and catering, health protection, medical care, welfare and social security protection.**

WHEREAS the new Convention becomes the "fourth pillar" of international maritime regulatory regime, at the side of the three key IMO Conventions, namely the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Convention (STCW) and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The Convention will come into force after it has been ratified by 30 ILO member States with a total share of at least 33 per cent of world gross tonnage.

WHEREAS new Convention is supported by maritime labor and professional organizations such as the U.S. Council of Master Mariners, the International Transportation Workers' Federation, the International Christian Maritime Association

WHEREAS the new Convention was endorsed by the former president of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees who called on the Apostleship of the Sea to "encourage and urge all the member States who have voted this Convention to ensure that it is now ratified and properly implemented worldwide;"

THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Apostleship of the Sea of the United States America (AOS-USA), during its 2008 Annual Conference at the MITAGS Center in Linthicum, Maryland welcomes the adoption of the new Maritime Labour Convention 2006; AND

RESOLVED, that AOS-USA will network with maritime organizations such as CAMM, ITF and ICMA which support the ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006, and work to have this convention ratified by the United States Senate, and have the United States a signatory to this convention.