



Subject: "Guinea-Bissau Ratifies the Maritime Labour Convention".

Ref.: ILO Press Release 10 July 2024

1. On 10 June 2024, the International Labour Office (ILO) received the instrument of ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006), by Guinea-Bissau and hence placing Guinea Bissau as the 108th Member State of the ILO to have ratified the Convention. The MLC, 2006 will enter into force for Guinea-Bissau on 10 June 2025, that is one year after its ratification

2. As per ILO official Press Release the MLC, 2006, an innovative and comprehensive instrument often known as "the seafarers' bill of rights", is the fourth pillar of the international regulatory regime for the maritime sector, alongside three Conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), namely the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping (STCW).

3. The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, (MLC, 2006), was adopted by the 94th (Maritime) Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) on 23 February 2006. This Convention revises and consolidates 37 existing Conventions and the related Recommendations. The MLC, 2006, uses a new format with some updating, where necessary, to reflect modern conditions and language. In this manner, it sets out, in a single instrument, the right of the world's 1.5 million seafarers to decent conditions of work in almost every aspect of their working and living conditions, including minimum age, employment agreements, hours of work and rest, payment of wages, paid annual leave, repatriation, on board medical care, the use of recruitment and placement services, accommodation, food and catering, health and safety protection and accident prevention, and complaint procedures for seafarers.

4. The Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry strongly advocates the MLC ratification and implementation, which is expected to further contribute to the efficient operation of the international ships registry by achieving added value among others for the following segments: improved working and living conditions for seafarers, verifiable compliance with basic minimum employment and social requirements, a more secure and responsible maritime workforce, seafarers better informed of their rights and remedies, improved supervision at all levels: the ship, the company, the flag state, the port state, and the ILO, wider powers of enforcement on all ships, improved quality of shipping services, a level playing field to help ensure fair competition and to marginalize substandard operations, providing assistance to ensure that ships are operated safely and securely with few problems and few delays in ports, convention spells out in one place and clear language seafarers' basic employment rights, seafarers better informed of their rights and of remedies available and improved enforcement of minimum working and living conditions.

Page 1 of 2



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INTERNATIONAL SHIPS REGISTRY OF GUINEA-BISSAU

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

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Page 2 of 2

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