

OEWG-IV/6: Abandonment of ships on land or in ports

The Open-ended Working Group,

Recalling decision VII/27 on the abandonment of ships on land or in ports,

Recognizing the concern expressed by a number of Parties related to the abandonment of ships on land or in ports,

Concerned that the abandonment of ships on land or in ports could have effects on human health and the environment,

Recognizing the many legal and practical issues raised by the abandonment of ships on land or in ports,

Noting with appreciation the information provided by some Parties pursuant to decision VII/27,

1. *Invites* Parties, other States, ship owners and other stakeholders to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 October 2005, responses to the questionnaire contained in the annex to the present decision regarding the abandonment of ships on land or in ports;

2. *Directs* the Secretariat to compile the information received in response to the questionnaire for submission to the Joint Working Group of the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the Basel Convention on ship scrapping at its second session and to the Open-ended Working Group at its fifth session;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to consult the secretariats of the International Labour Organization and of the International Maritime Organization on this issue;

4. *Invites* Parties to pursue appropriate means of investigation in providing any relevant information on abandoned ships found in their territory in order to gain a better understanding of the obstacles, difficulties and potential solutions.

Annex

Questionnaire regarding the abandonment of ships on land or in ports

1. Please provide any factual information that you may have on ships that have been abandoned on land or in port, including information on:

(a) The nature of the ships in question (e.g., fishing boats, tankers, trawlers etc., including gross tonnage if known);

(b) Their location;

(c) The date of abandonment;

(d) Whether they are domestically or internationally owned and any information including name of the ship, flag of the ship, ownership, insurer, etc., where available;

(e) The reason for their abandonment if known, e.g., accident, cost avoidance, etc.;

(f) The potential risk to human health or the environment by such abandoned ships, if any;

(g) Steps that have been taken to mitigate the effects, if any, of such abandoned ships on human health and the environment, and the main obstacles or difficulties faced in taking such steps;

(h) Efforts made to address the problem or to seek legal solutions and any obstacles encountered.

2. What domestic or regional rules, if any, apply to ships that have been abandoned on land or in ports? If legislation exists, please provide copies or relevant excerpts of such legislation.