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國際運輸勞連

International Transport Workers' Federation  
Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte  
Fédération Internationale des ouvriers du transport  
Internationella transportarbetarefederationen  
Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation  
Международная федерация транспортников  
الاتحاد الدولي لعمال النقل

To all ITF Affiliates organising Seafarers

## ITF E-Circular No. 197/S/2020

Our ref: S/FB/SY/ss

15 June 2020

Dear Friends

### RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SHIPOWNER AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION, (MLC) 2006

We write to you regarding the rights of seafarers under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), as amended, and the responsibilities of different stakeholders in fulfilling them.

This is particularly relevant now given that employment contracts are in many cases coming to an end after having been extended on more than one occasion. We know from your feedback, and from all the calls for help that ITF Seafarers Support is dealing with, that thousands of seafarers are tired and exhausted, and either desperate to get home to families, or to be able to travel to sign on to their ship for the next salary payment.

You are aware from our previous communications of the work we have undertaken with the international shipowners, and various other institutions, to collaboratively lobby for seafarers to be designated as key workers, and for national travel restrictions to be lifted. Whilst this has had some success, and seafarers are in some instances now able to travel, much more needs to be done by Governments around the world.

The attached guide has been produced by Nautilus (**Annex 1**) and it sets out seafarers rights under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), as amended. The guide sets out the different responsibilities of the shipowners, the flag state, the port state, the important role for trade unions, and the financial security that the ship must have in place.

We think this guide will be useful for affiliates. However in addition we have also produced a more simplified version of this briefing which may be more suitable for individual seafarers (**Annex 2**) which you can share with your members.

The ITF recommends that if any seafarer is in doubt about their employment rights, they should check with their own union and/or the ITF for further advice.

Meanwhile, please continue to provide us with any information you have available at national level, particularly in relation to seafarers ability to sign off ships and finally return home.

In solidarity

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fabrizio Barcellona'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Fabrizio' written in a more compact, stylized manner and the last name 'Barcellona' written in a more extended, flowing script.

Fabrizio Barcellona