

**ILO Tripartite Seminar for South American Countries
On the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
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Opening Remarks

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to return to Argentina and to meet with my South American colleagues. I have had many good visits and important meetings here over the last few years. It is also very good to see both many familiar and many new faces. I am especially pleased to have the opportunity to meet and work again with Mr Tomada, the last Chairperson of the ILO Governing Body, who attended the Conference in that capacity when this important new Convention, the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 was adopted. I also welcome the opportunity to work again with colleagues in the Argentinean delegation and all the delegations from South American. Everyone who attended worked diligently to ensure the success of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 [...]

It is indeed very fitting that this International Seminar should be organized, as an important Tripartite regional event, by the Government of Argentina. This Government made a significant contribution in the preparation of the *Maritime Labour Convention, 2006*, particularly in its support for seafarers' rights.

I will have the opportunity to speak to you again today about this Convention. I would like to begin this Seminar by emphasizing the importance of tripartite dialogue and international cooperation in the next steps to bring it into force and

to have it effectively implemented in as many countries as possible. In this respect, this Seminar and other future seminars are very valuable: they bring together people with common interests and facing similar challenges. I note that the discussions will begin with the country reports.

I am very much looking forward to hearing them. In this discussion this afternoon, and in the discussions tomorrow on key areas of the Convention, I hope to see a real exchange of experiences and views on how best to implement the Convention. Information can be shared on difficulties that may have been encountered on particular provisions or aspects of the Convention as countries begin the work needed to ratify and implement the Convention. The Convention has many tools to help to address these difficulties. Some countries may already have found solutions, which could be useful also for other countries. I encourage participants to view the Office and the social partners and each other as a resource that can provide information and help to develop solutions to enable countries to move forward.

My colleagues and I from the International Labour Office will be listening to you carefully over the next two days. We will do our best to provide any information or material that may be needed.

Thank you