



BRICS Seafarers

Gente do Mar dos BRICS

Моряки БРИКС

ब्रिक्स नाविक

金砖国家海员

Final Resolution

Panel 2

Joint Defense of Seafarers' Rights Amid Sanctions, Trade Conflicts, and Global Tensions

Salvador, August 8, 2025

The representatives of seafarers' trade unions from BRICS countries, gathered at the "BRICS Seafarers" Forum, adopt the following Resolution on the Protection of Seafarers' Rights amid Sanctions and Trade Conflicts, considering that:

1. Seafarers are civilian workers who ensure the continuity of international maritime transport and must not be subject to retaliation or exclusion due to political, diplomatic, or trade sanctions imposed on their home countries;
2. Unilateral sanctions, workers blacklisting by nationality, and financial restrictions have disrupted the careers, mobility, wages, insurance, and welfare rights of thousands of seafarers from BRICS countries;
3. Trade and tax wars increasingly affect the maritime industry, leading to unpredictable employment conditions, reflagging of vessels, attacks on public fleets, and reduced investment in national shipping;
4. Maritime unions play a crucial role in defending seafarers' rights and dignity, especially in times of geopolitical instability, by providing legal support, collective voice, and international solidarity;
5. BRICS seafarers must coordinate their response and representation in international bodies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the relevant Global Union Federations;

Resolve:

Art. 1 – To denounce the negative impact of international sanctions and financial embargoes on seafarers and their families, especially when they restrict access to salaries, banking, visas, or crew changes, in violation of international labor and human rights standards.

Art. 2 – To call on ILO and IMO to adopt specific measures to protect seafarers from being collateral victims of geopolitical conflicts, ensuring they are treated as protected civilians under international law, regardless of the flag or ownership of the vessel.

Art. 3 – To promote a coordinated BRICS Seafarers' representation at:

- The **ILO Special Tripartite Committee of the MLC**, to demand guarantees for seafarers from sanctioned or blockaded countries, including repatriation and payment of their wages;
- The **IMO Legal Committee**, to call for non-discrimination and universal access to crew welfare and maritime services;

- The **relevant Global Union Federations**, to ensure that all BRICS maritime unions have an equal voice and access to solidarity mechanisms.

Art. 4 – To urge BRICS governments to:

- Ensure legal, diplomatic, and financial protection for their seafarers abroad, including in countries applying unilateral sanctions;
- Resist attempts to deregulate public shipping policies under pressure from trade wars or global corporations;
- Promote tax justice and defend national fiscal autonomy in the face of extraterritorial financial constraints imposed on countries, national fleets and maritime workers.

Art. 5 – To mandate the BRICS Seafarers Forum to create a permanent **Crisis Response and Solidarity Mechanism**, to:

- Monitor and document any violations affecting BRICS seafarers under sanctions or in conflict zones;
- Support legal and humanitarian assistance when maritime workers face retaliation, blacklisting, or denial of rights;
- Issue joint statements and coordinated campaigns with global federations in defense of affected maritime workers.

Art. 6 – To reaffirm the essential role of maritime unions in defending sovereignty, decent work, and international solidarity, and to strengthen their cooperation in multilateral forums as a pillar of resistance against economic aggression and labor marginalization.

Proposed by:

CONTTMAF Brazil

SUR Russia

NUSI India

KPI Indonesia

IMMS Iran