The purpose of the meeting held at the ILO was to revise and update the 2003 ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in ports. The Code itself was very long and rather prescriptive and technical. This made it difficult to contribute to the revision exercise. Nevertheless, the Employers saw this as an opportunity to introduce changes that take major developments in the field of OSH into account, necessitating a revision of the current code.

While the Employers felt that the original Code contained many technical details and seemed very prescriptive, given the time limit they were unable to make major changes and emphasised the need for the implementation of the Code to consider the country context and circumstances for it to be useful and effective.

The meeting of experts went better than expected and the Group under the leadership of Mr Paul Mackay from Business New Zealand, was able to complete its work on time. The Employers’ Group consisted of many experts from the field who brought their technical expertise and knowledge which was instrumental in revising such a technical document.
The tripartite meeting approved the Code and it will be available in English, French and Spanish.

The ILO Meeting of Experts was held from 21-30 November 2016 in Geneva.