Resolution on the facilitation of access to shore leave and transit of seafarers

The Ad Hoc Tripartite Maritime Committee established by the ILO Governing Body pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 8 of the Seafarers’ Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185),

Having met in Geneva from 10 to 12 February 2016,

Having considered and adopted the proposed amendments to Annexes I, II and III of the Convention,

Recalls that the 91st and 94th (Maritime) Sessions of the International Labour Conference adopted resolutions concerning decent work for seafarers, which noted, inter alia, that access to shore facilities, shore leave and facilitation of transit are vital elements of seafarers’ general well-being and, therefore, to the realization of decent work for seafarers,

Recalls also that the core mandate of the Organization is to promote decent working and living conditions,

Appreciates the efforts of a number of countries to facilitate access to shore leave and the transit of seafarers across their sovereign borders,

Acknowledges that countries seek to secure their air, land, and sea borders,

Expresses concern at the difficulties that seafarers continue to experience in being able to enjoy shore leave and to transit to and from ships;

Calls for the harmonization of formalities and other procedures facilitating access to shore leave and welfare facilities in ports and the transit of seafarers to and from ships;

Calls upon countries to implement measures to facilitate the transit of seafarers to and from their ships and shore leave; and

Further calls upon the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to request the Director-General to remain seized of this issue, including through engagement with other UN specialized agencies.