



Governing Body

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Institutional Section

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Report of the Director-General

Fifth Supplementary Report: Inclusion of the Philippines in the list to be established under Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185)

1. Article 5 of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185), establishes minimum requirements, for the protection of security and seafarers' rights, concerning the processes and procedures of ratifying Members for the issuance of seafarers' identity documents (SIDs). These requirements are set out, together with recommended procedures and practices, in Annex III to the Convention. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 5, each ratifying Member is to carry out an independent evaluation of the administration of its system for issuing SIDs at least every five years. Under paragraphs 6 and 7 of that Article, the Governing Body, acting on the basis of all relevant information in accordance with arrangements made by it, approves a list (referred to below as "the List"), which is to be available to all Members of the Organization, containing the names of Members which fully meet the minimum requirements referred to above. Accordingly, in 2005 the Governing Body adopted the

Arrangements concerning the list of Members which fully meet the minimum requirements concerning processes and procedures for the issue of SIDs.¹

2. In order to be included on the List under these Arrangements, ratifying Members must provide the Office with: a statement in electronic form outlining the national processes and procedures for issuing SIDs; a copy of the report on their first independent evaluation carried out under paragraph 4 of Article 5; and a specimen of the SID issued by them. The normal procedure is for the Office to examine the dossier, having recourse to necessary expertise, and to invite comments from the shipowners' and seafarers' organizations in the countries concerned. The Office then forwards the dossier to a Review Group, composed of four members appointed by the Governing Body, of which two represent ratifying countries, one is nominated by the international organization of shipowners and one is nominated by the international organization of seafarers. The dossier consists of the documentation provided by the Member concerned, a copy of the opinion of the Office's expert and other relevant material, any relevant comments and statements received, and the Office's assessment of the adequacy of the independent evaluation report, as well as the Office's conclusions as to whether or not the Member concerned fully meets the minimum requirements. The Review Group acts solely through electronic correspondence and takes decisions on the basis of consensus.
3. Only one ratifying country, the Russian Federation, was included by the Governing Body on the List.² This decision was taken before the adoption of amendments³ to the Annexes of Convention No. 185. The amendments, which entered into force on 8 June 2017, aim at aligning the technical requirements of the Convention with the more modern standards adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In particular, they change the biometric in the SID from a fingerprint template in a two-dimensional barcode to a facial image stored in a contactless chip as defined by ICAO Doc 9303.
4. Following the adoption of the amendments, the Philippines is the first country that has formally requested to be included on the List and has provided the Office with the required comprehensive documentation. After inviting comments from the shipowners' and seafarers' organizations in the Philippines, the Office carefully reviewed the documentation provided, including the specimen SID, for compliance with each of the mandatory requirements in Annex III to the Convention. The Office concluded that the consultant chosen by the Government to carry out the evaluation required by Article 5, paragraph 4, of the Convention possessed the necessary competence and independence, that the independent evaluation report and other documents showed that the processes and procedures of the Philippines fully satisfied the minimum requirements set out in Annex III to the Convention and that, in all material respects, the sample SID fully met the mandatory requirements for a SID issued under Convention No. 185. This assessment and conclusion was presented to the Review Group by the Office.
5. The members of the Review Group who considered the documentation were: Mr Amos Kuje (Nigeria), Chairperson; Ms Catherine Rodolphe-Mérot (France); Mr Tjitso Westra

¹ ILO, *Seafarers Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185): Arrangements Concerning the List of Members which Fully Meet the Minimum Requirements concerning Processes and Procedures for the Issue of Seafarers Identity Documents*, Geneva, 2005.

² GB.324/INS/7/2.

³ ILO, *Record of Proceedings, Provisional Record No. 3-2A*, International Labour Conference, 105th Session, 2016.

(Shipowners); and Mr Fabrizio Barcellona (Seafarers). The Review Group's report was transmitted to the Office by the Chairperson on 16 November 2020. The Chairperson noted that the elements presented by the Member, the Philippines, were very clear, well documented and complete. Each point had been studied and explained in regard to the requirements of the Convention. He also noted that the conclusion of the Office was very clear and confirmed the findings of the independent evaluation report presented by the Member. In conclusion, the Review Group recommended that the Philippines should be considered as fully meeting the minimum requirements concerning processes and procedures for the issuance of SIDs.

▶ Draft decision

- 6. Noting the positive conclusions of the independent evaluation report submitted by the Philippines in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 4, of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185), the Office's assessment and the report of the Review Group established in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention, the Governing Body approved by correspondence the inclusion of the Philippines as the first ratifying Member to be listed as fully meeting the minimum requirements referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Convention, as amended in 2016.**