



Governing Body

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Institutional Section

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Report of the Director-General

Third Supplementary Report: Maintenance of the Philippines on the list of Members which fully meet the minimum requirements concerning processes and procedures for the issue of seafarers' identity documents

1. The Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185) aims at facilitating access to shore leave, transfer and transit for seafarers while enhancing security in ports and borders through the use of a secure and internationally recognized document.
2. Article 5 of Convention No. 185 establishes minimum requirements 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 This review is complementary to the work conducted by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and

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.

Recommendations to supervise the implementation of Convention No. 185 on the basis of the reports submitted by ratifying Member States under article 22 of the ILO Constitution.

3. 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 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 Review Group acts solely through electronic correspondence and takes decisions on the basis of consensus.
4. The annexes to Convention No. 185 were amended in 2016 with a view to 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. The amendments entered into force on 8 June 2017.
5. In 2020, after review of the relevant documentation by the Review Group in accordance with the Arrangements, the Governing Body approved the inclusion of the Philippines on the list of Members which fully meet the minimum requirements referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Convention.²
6. In accordance with Article 5, paragraph 4, of the Convention, the Philippines carried out the second independent evaluation of the administration of its system for issuing SIDs, and provided the Office, in June 2025, with the documentation required under section 32 of the Arrangements in order to have its name maintained on the List. The Office concluded that the consultant chosen by the Government to carry out the evaluation possessed the necessary competence and independence, that the 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 an SID issued under the Convention. This assessment and conclusion was presented to the Review Group by the Office.
7. The members of the Review Group who considered the documentation were: Mr Amos Kuje (Nigeria), Chairperson; Mr Matthieu Piron (France); Mr Tjitso Westra (Shipowners); and Mr Fabrizio Barcellona (Seafarers).³ The Review Group, after revising the summary of the second independent evaluation and the documents provided by the Philippines and verifying that they meet the appropriate standards of independence and reliability, endorsed the country's continued compliance with Convention No. 185 and recommended that the Philippines be maintained on the list of Members which fully meet the minimum requirements concerning processes and procedures for the issue of SIDs. The Review Group's report was transmitted to the Office by the Chairperson on 21 October 2025.

² GB.340/INS/18/5.

³ Appointed by the Governing Body at its 340th Session, October–November 2020. Mr Piron was designated by the Government of France to replace Ms Catherine Rodolphe-Mérot who retired since then.

► Draft decision

8. **Noting the positive conclusions of the second 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 the maintenance of the Philippines on the list of Members which fully meet the minimum requirements referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Convention, as amended in 2016.**