

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON
MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

Fifteenth Meeting

(Montreal, 17 to 21 May 2004)

Agenda Item 5: Country reports by members and observers

SEAFARERS' IDENTITY DOCUMENT CONVENTION, 2003 (NO.185)

(Presented by the International Labour Office (ILO))

1. When it adopted the Seafarers' Identity Document Convention (No. 185) in June 2003, the International Labour Conference also adopted a resolution calling for the development of a globally interoperable biometric template in conformity with the provisions of the Convention. This Convention revised an earlier ILO Convention concerning Seafarers' Identity, 1958 (No.108). Concerns about the security of the documents issued under the previous Convention had arisen following the 11 September 2001 events, and the ILO decided to respond to requests from Member States to improve seafarers' identification globally.
2. Since the adoption of the Convention, the International Labour Office has held, on the issue of biometric template, two informal meetings of technical specialists, in which ICAO and ISO were represented or informed of their outcome. It has also proceeded to develop specifications for the interoperable biometric template through the preparation of the appropriate technical reports. The Governing Body of the ILO, in November 2003, approved a plan which would lead to the adoption of the technical specifications for the interoperable biometric template mentioned above and subsequently to the full implementation of the Convention.
3. In accordance with the above mentioned plan, the International Labour Office submitted to the Governing Body of the ILO at its 289th Session (11-26 March 2004) a paper accompanied by draft technical reports which called for a decision on the selection of the type of fingerprint biometric template, i.e. either "pattern" or "minutiae" based. After considerable discussions, the Governing Body decided that a "minutiae-based" method would be selected and endorsed the technical report ILO SID-0002 which has now been finalized.
4. This technical report, at present available only in English, is available in electronic form on the TAG-MRTD website and hard copies will be made available to interested delegates during this session of TAG-MRTD.
5. The Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 2003 (no.185) requires that documents issued under the Convention comply with ICAO Doc 9303 Part 3 (2nd edition, 2002) or Part 1 (5th edition, 2003).
6. The ILO would like to express its appreciation for the continuing cooperation of ICAO and its Secretariat on this issue. It requests ICAO TAG/MRTD to take note of the progress achieved with regards to the Seafarers' Identity Document Convention, 2003 (No. 185) in so far as it embodies the relevant ICAO

TAG-MRTD/15
WP/21

-2-

standards. It also requests ICAO TAG/MRTD to note the technical report ILO SID-0002 and to recommend any action as it may consider appropriate.

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