



A1/P/5.02 (NV.1)

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization presents his compliments to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway.

He has the honour to refer to the decision by the Council of the Organization, at its twenty-first extraordinary session, endorsed by the Assembly at its twenty-second regular session by resolution A.906 (22), to convene a diplomatic conference to consider the adoption of a draft protocol of 2002 to amend the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea, 1974. Pursuant to this decision an International Conference on the Revision of the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea, 1974 will be convened at the Headquarters of the International Maritime Organization, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR, United Kingdom.

The Secretary-General has the honour to invite Governments to be represented at the Conference. **The Conference is being convened from 21 October to 1 November 2002, back-to-back with the eighty-fifth session of the Legal Committee. Arrangements are being made for the Conference and the Committee to be held in conjunction with each other.**

The opening session of the Conference will be at 11 a.m. **on Monday, 21 October 2002.** An informal meeting of Heads of Delegations will be held at 10 a.m. on that day.

The provisional agenda of the Conference (document LEG/CONF.13/1) and the provisional Rules of Procedure of the Conference (document LEG/CONF.13/2) are enclosed herewith.

The Conference is to consider and adopt a protocol of 2002 to the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea, 1974.

The Conference will use as the basis of its discussions the draft of the above-mentioned protocol, which is enclosed herewith as document LEG/CONF.13/3.

Other documentation for the Conference will be circulated in due course.

Governments are invited to communicate any comments, observations or suggestions on the draft protocol to the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General would be most grateful to receive such comments or suggestions as soon as possible and, in any case, not later than 28 June 2002. Comments, observations and suggestions which reach the Secretary-General by that date will be circulated to the Governments and organizations invited to the Conference for their consideration.

Governments are requested kindly to inform the Secretary-General of the names of representatives, alternates and other persons designated by Governments to attend the Conference. Credentials will be required for the representatives of Governments and for alternates, if any. Credentials are to be issued by the Head of State, the Head of Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or any other person or authority specifically authorized for that purpose by any of them. Where credentials are issued by a person other than any of the State officials mentioned above, such credentials should expressly state that authorization to issue the credentials has been conferred upon the person issuing the credentials by one of the above-mentioned State officials.

Credentials should be communicated to the Secretary-General in advance of the opening of the Conference, and preferably not later than 14 October 2002.

To assist Governments in issuing the necessary authorization to the representatives and other Members of their delegations to the Conference, the Secretariat has prepared the attached models for the respective communications. These models are intended solely to assist Governments in the preparation of their respective instruments and thereby facilitate the work of the Conference. They are not intended in any way to replace the form required by the law or practice of the States concerned. However, it would be greatly appreciated if, in issuing credentials, Governments would endeavour to adhere as far as possible to the models with respect to the information to be provided. Facsimile communications shall be regarded as provisional and will, therefore, need to be confirmed by the appropriate instruments in due form as soon as possible.

23 April 2002



(a)

Model Letter of Credentials

To be signed by the **Head of State, Head of Government,  
or Minister for Foreign Affairs**

Sir,

I, .....  
**(full name)**

..... of .....  
**(title)** **(name of State)**

have appointed .....  
**(full name(s) and title(s))**

as the Representative(s) of .....  
**(name of State)**

to the International Conference on the Revision of the Athens Convention relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea, 1974, to be held in London from 21 October to 1 November 2002 and have also designated:

.....  
**(full name(s) and title(s) of Alternate(s))**

as Alternate Representative(s) to the same Conference.

The said .....  
**(name(s) of Representative(s) and Alternate(s))**

is (are) authorized fully to take part in the Conference, to transact all such matters as appertain to its work, and to vote with other Representatives in accordance with the agreed procedures.

The delegation of ..... will be  
**(name of State)**

assisted in its mission by .....  
**(full name(s) and title(s) of Adviser(s))**

..... as adviser(s).

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

.....  
**(signature)**

.....  
**(full name and title)**

The Secretary-General  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR