



Credentials and notification for IOPC Funds Meetings

The situation as regards both the requirements for and the form and content of credentials and notifications is considerably more complicated for meetings of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds)^{<1>} than for other similar organisations, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as a result of the practice of holding meetings of several IOPC Funds' bodies during the same week. Whilst organisations are only required to submit notifications, most States will have to submit a combination of credentials and notifications depending on their status with respect to the bodies meeting during a particular week, as set out in the following table:

	Credentials	Notifications
1992 Fund Assembly	1992 Fund Member States	States and organisations with observer status
1992 Fund Executive Committee	Members of the 1992 Fund Executive Committee	Other 1992 Fund Member States, Other States and organisations with observer status
1992 Fund Working Groups		1992 Fund Member States, States and organisations with observer status
Supplementary Fund Assembly	Supplementary Fund Member States	Other 1992 Fund Member States, Other States and organisations with observer status
1971 Fund Administrative Council		Former 1971 Fund Member States, States and organisations with observer status

This circular gives detailed guidance in respect of the form and content of credentials and notifications, which was endorsed by the 1992 Fund Assembly at its March 2005 session and revised at its October 2006, June 2007, October 2010 and March 2011 sessions. The texts of model credentials contained in the Annex were also endorsed by the 1992 Fund Assembly, which noted at its March 2005 session that the model credentials were intended solely to assist Governments in the preparation of the instruments and that they were not intended, in any way, to replace the form of instruments required by laws or practices of individual States (document 92FUND/A/ES.9/28, paragraphs 24.2 and 24.3 and document 92FUND/A.11/35, paragraphs 8.4 and 8.8).

At its March 2005 session, the 1992 Fund Assembly decided that a Credentials Committee should be established at each session of the Assembly to examine the credentials of 1992 Fund Member States for sessions of the Assembly and, when the Executive Committee is held in conjunction with a session of the Assembly, also for that Committee. The Assembly also decided that, should the Executive Committee hold sessions that were not in conjunction with an Assembly session, the Executive Committee should establish its own Credentials Committee (Rules 10 and 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and Rule (iv) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee).

^{<1>} ie, the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund 1971 (1971 Fund), the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund 1992 (1992 Fund) and the International Oil Pollution Compensation Supplementary Fund (Supplementary Fund)

Form and content of credentials and notifications

Formal requirement as regards credentials

As provided in Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the 1992 Fund Assembly and of the Rules of Procedure of the Supplementary Fund Assembly, the credentials shall be issued:

(a) by the Head of State, the Head of Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Ambassador or High Commissioner either accredited to the country where the Headquarters of the IOPC Funds are located or where a session takes place,

or

(b) by an appropriate authority as determined by the Government and communicated to the Director. If the credentials are issued by such an authority, the text should make it clear who has given the authority to issue credentials and where such authority is a person who is not a Government employee, such authorisation shall be communicated to the Director in advance of the opening day of the Assembly.

A person who is properly authorised to issue credentials is entitled to issue original credentials nominating a particular representative to participate in meetings of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies for a specific calendar year.

The credentials should be addressed to the Director of the IOPC Funds (not, as has sometimes been the case in the past, to the Secretary-General of IMO) in the form of an original signed letter, a telefax thereof or a scanned copy of the original credentials transmitted from a recognised e-mail address. Credentials transmitted by telefax or e-mail will be accepted as valid for all meetings of the governing bodies, irrespective of whether voting is taking place or not. There is no requirement for a telefax or e-mail to be accompanied by an original signed letter or *Note verbale* from the State's Embassy or High Commission in London certifying the authenticity of the telefax or e-mail. Should the Director have any concerns as to the authenticity of any credentials received by telefax or e-mail, he will attempt to corroborate them to the extent possible and bring this to the attention of the Credentials Committee.

The credentials should be issued in one of the official languages of the IOPC Funds (English, French or Spanish) or, if in any other language, be accompanied by a certified translation into one of these languages. The certified translation:

- must bear the name, position and organisation of the person certifying the translation and be signed and dated or be stamped, dated and initialled; and
- may be provided by that Member State's Ministry for Foreign Affairs or by its diplomatic representative in London or by one of the delegates whose names were listed in the credentials or by IMO's Translation Section.

Substantive content of credentials

The credentials should indicate clearly the meeting or meetings to which they pertain. This could be done in several ways, for example:

The 15th session of the 1992 Fund Assembly, the 6th session of the Supplementary Fund Assembly and the 49th session of the 1992 Fund Executive Committee, held from 18-22 October 2010

or

The meetings held by the bodies of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds during the week of 18-22 October 2010

There is no need for credentials to state that they give the person or persons mentioned therein as representative(s) or alternate(s) the right to take part in the meeting(s) and vote as such rights are considered to be implied.

At least one person must be nominated as representative. Alternate(s) may also be nominated. Persons who are only adviser(s) are not entitled to exercise the right to vote.

It is important that any changes in the composition of a delegation after the issue of the original or additional credentials (for example by the inclusion of further persons) are certified in the form of new or additional credentials, since otherwise any persons not mentioned in the credentials would not be entitled to vote.

Notifications

Notifications should indicate the meeting(s) to which they pertain and the person(s) who will represent the State or Organisation in question. As regards States, it should be signed by a Government or Embassy/High Commission official and be printed on official paper, as appropriate.

Notifications should be addressed to the Director of the IOPC Funds and should be issued in one of the official languages of the IOPC Funds (English, French or Spanish) or, if in any other language, be accompanied by a certified translation into one of these languages.

Formal credentials would be acceptable even if only notifications are required.

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ANNEX

MODEL LETTER OF CREDENTIALS

Alternative 1

To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government, Minister for Foreign Affairs,
the Ambassador or High Commissioner

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have appointed:

.....
(full name(s) and title(s))

as Representative(s) of to the.....with full
(name of State) (meetings and dates to be identified)
authority to take part in the meeting(s) and to transact all such matters as may appertain to the work of this
(these) meeting(s) in accordance with the agreed procedures.

I have also the honour to designate

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

as Alternate Representative(s) and

.....
(full name(s) and title(s) of Adviser(s))

as Adviser(s) to compose the remainder of the delegation of
(name of State)

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

.....
(signature)

.....
(full name and title)

The Director
International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds
Portland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5PN

MODEL LETTER OF CREDENTIALS

Alternative 2

To be signed by a person authorised by the Government to issue credentials

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have been authorised

by of
(full name and title) (name of State)

to issue credentials in respect of the Representative(s) of my Government to the
(meetings and dates to be identified)
and to designate the other members of the delegation ofto the meeting(s).
(name of State)

Acting upon this authority, I have the honour to inform you that

.....
(full name(s) and title(s))

has (have) been appointed as the Representative(s) of to the meeting(s) and is (are)
(name of State)
fully authorised to take part in the meeting(s) and to transact all such matters as may appertain to the work of
this (these) meeting(s) in accordance with agreed procedures.

I have also the honour to designate

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

as Alternate Representative(s) and

.....
(full name(s) and title(s) of Adviser(s))

as Adviser(s) to compose the remainder of the delegation of
(name of State)

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

.....
(signature)

.....
(full name and title)

The Director
International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds
Portland House
Bressenden Place
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