

**RESOLUTION A.639(16)**

*Adopted on 19 October 1989  
Agenda item 14*

**UNDESIRABILITY OF HIV SCREENING OF  
CREWS AND PASSENGERS OF SHIPS**

THE ASSEMBLY,

HAVING CONSIDERED the general purposes of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965, as amended, and in particular article III thereof,

NOTING Standard 2.1 thereof concerning documents required by public authorities,

TAKING NOTE of ILO resolution No. III concerning the health of seafarers with particular reference to AIDS, adopted by the seventy-fourth (Maritime) Session of the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation on 8 October 1987,

BEING CONCERNED about the increase in the number of countries that require certificates to testify that the bearer is not infected with the AIDS virus,

BEING OF THE OPINION that HIV screening of crews and passengers of ships by public authorities would seriously impede or even prevent the embarkation and disembarkation of ships' crews and passengers,

ALSO TAKING NOTE of the recommendation of the WHO consultation on international travel and the human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) stating that HIV screening of international travellers:

- would be extraordinarily difficult to implement,
- would not be able under any circumstances to prevent the introduction and spread of HIV infection,
- would divert resources away from educational programmes on AIDS and measures to protect the blood supply from HIV contamination, and
- at best, and at great cost, would retard only briefly the spread of HIV globally or with respect to any particular country,

CONSIDERING WHO resolution 40.26 on the prevention and control of AIDS, which reiterated that information and education on the modes of transmission, as well as the availability and use of safe blood and blood products, and sterile practices in invasive procedures, are still the only measures available that can limit the further spread of AIDS,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendations made by the Facilitation Committee at its eighteenth session,

1. RECOMMENDS Member Governments to refrain from introducing HIV screening of crews and passengers of ships; and
2. URGES Member Governments that have already introduced HIV screening of passengers and crews of ships to reconsider the relevant measures with a view to repealing them.