IOM AND VERIFICATION SERVICES

With immigration and visa fraud an ever-present challenge, States continue to look to IOM to improve migration management through the provision of efficient and cost-effective international migration services to include neutral, factual, accurate and objective verification services.

Both the IOM Constitution and the IOM Member State Strategy recognize the need for IOM to provide operational assistance to States on migration matters, to include verification services. With more than 400 offices in over 150 countries, IOM is the ideal fraud detection partner for States, complete with the integrity, skills, experience, local knowledge, corporate governance and geographic coverage required.

IOM fills gaps where States may have no fraud detection capacity in a country. With its broad global footprint, IOM is able to leverage its local knowledge and network, and to operate where poor telecommunications may make remote verifications unfeasible or where verification-related travel may be too costly, time-consuming and/or a security risk.

IOM's verification levels differ, depending particularly on immigration risk factors, such as economic circumstances, other push/pull factors and ease of obtaining counterfeit or genuinely issued but fraudulently obtained documents. Various verification approaches and techniques are used by IOM to verify a document and/or applicant claim in accordance with training tools and guidance provided by the integrity and fraud detection counterparts of client States. Standard approaches include, but are not limited to the following: Remote, paper-based, In-Person or Site visits.

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OUR OBJECTIVE

TO COUNTER FRAUD IN SUPPORT OF LEGAL MIGRATION BY ACCURATELY AND OBJECTIVELY VERIFYING VISA APPLICANTS' DOCUMENTS AND/OR CLAIMS ON BEHALF OF MEMBER STATES.

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International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Remote: IOM conducts telephone checks when considered reliable, as well as Internet searches using reliable on-line database resources and on-line social media.

Paper-Based: IOM formally contacts host government agencies, employers, registration boards, schools, unions and the like, to cross reference and seek official, signed declarations as to the authenticity of a particular document.

In-Person: IOM conducts interviews with applicants, their friends, family, sponsors and employers, based on templates and specific questions provided by States to ensure objectivity.

Site Visits: IOM visits issuing authorities (e.g. registry offices, employers, banks, passport offices) to check registers, databases and/or original applications for documents to verify the authenticity of a document and/or claim. IOM also conducts site visits and speaks with third party sources to verify claims and establish domiciles, workplaces, relationships and the like.

IOM is committed to verification services which are processed in timely manner in compliance with the contractual response times required by States. In equal measure, IOM's verification services are conducted in confidence. All digital service request data is both encrypted and password protected and shared only on a 'need to know' basis with relevant IOM verification officers in compliance with IOM's Data Protection Principles and the privacy laws of client States.

IOM's larger verification programs, with dedicated staff, are generally funded on a 'project' basis, whereby all core staff and operating costs are reimbursed. Other smaller IOM verification programs are funded on a 'fee for service' basis, whereby there is a set fee per document to be verified, with all pre-approved direct operational costs reimbursed. Alternatively, States may charge visa applicants a fee to have their visa related documentation and/or claims verified by IOM.

Complementary to verification services, IOM also operates the Document Examination Support Center (DESC) in Bangkok, Thailand. DESC provides support to States in travel document examination as a tool to combat irregular migration, including migrant smuggling and trafficking, facilitated by the fraudulent use of travel documents. For more details about DESC, please refer to the DESC Info sheet.

The types of documents IOM may be asked to verify include, but are not limited to the following:

- Reports of Birth	- Property Registrations
- Birth Certificates	- Proof of Residence
- Marriage Certificates	- Employment References
- Divorce Certificates	- Employment History
- Nationality Certificates	- Reference Checks
- Adoption Certificates	- Patents
- Custody Certificates	- Resumes
- Civil Status Registrations	- Trade Qualifications
- Identification Cards	- Financial Due Diligence Checks
- Passports	- Income Tax Payment Receipts
- Business Names	- Academic Qualifications
- Business Registrations	- Academic Records
- Business Licenses	- Academic Diplomas
- Business Intelligence	- Bank Statements

For further information, please contact:

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