

No. 13580

**FRANCE
and
GABON**

**Convention on the movement of persons. Signed at Paris on
12 February 1974**

Authentic text: French.

Registered by France on 10 October 1974.

**FRANCE
et
GABON**

**Convention sur la circulation des personnes. Signée à Paris
le 12 février 1974**

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistrée par la France le 10 octobre 1974.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONVENTION¹ ON THE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC

The Government of the French Republic, on the one hand, and the Government of the Gabonese Republic, on the other hand, desiring to establish, in the common interest, regulations relating to the movement of persons between the two countries, have agreed on the following provisions:

Article I. In order to enter the territory of the Gabonese Republic, French nationals, whatever their country of residence, must be in possession of a national identity card or a passport whose validity has not expired or has expired less than five years previously and of the compulsory international vaccination certificates required by the legislation in force in the Gabonese Republic and must provide a guarantee of repatriation.

Article II. In order to enter the territory of the French Republic, Gabonese nationals, whatever their country of residence, must be in possession of a national identity card, a travel identity card or a passport whose validity has not expired or has expired less than five years previously and of the compulsory international vaccination certificates required by the legislation in force in the French Republic and must provide a guarantee of repatriation.

Article III. Each of the Contracting Parties shall readmit to its territory any holder of one of the valid or expired documents referred to in articles I and II of this Convention which has been issued by it.

Article IV. Any of the following four documents shall constitute a guarantee of repatriation:

(1) An individual and non-transferable circular or return travel ticket, valid for one year, in respect of transit or stays not exceeding three months.

(2) A receipt for a deposit, issued by the Deposit and Consignments Office in Paris in respect of French nationals and by the General Treasury of Gabon in respect of Gabonese nationals.

The uniform rate for such deposits shall be 120,000 francs CFA or 2,400 French francs and may be altered by an exchange of letters between the two Governments in the event of an appreciable variation in the cost of travel.

(3) A statement from a banking establishment recognized by the State of origin guaranteeing the repatriation of the person concerned if he should be unable to bear the cost of repatriation himself.

(4) A certificate of residence stamped by the mayor's office, guaranteeing repatriation of the person concerned if he should be unable to bear the cost of repatriation himself.

¹ Came into force on 1 April 1974, i.e., the first day of the second month following the date of its signature, in accordance with article VII.

Article V. The following persons shall not be required to provide a guarantee of repatriation:

- (1) civilian and military officials, officers and employees of the public institutions of each State and their families when they have a mission order or travel warrant;
- (2) members of Parliament and statesmen of the two countries;
- (3) diplomatic and consular officials;
- (4) students and trainees and their families when they have been designated by their Government and are travelling from one State to the other in order to receive training and have a certificate of exemption from payment of a deposit, issued by the authorities of their country;
- (5) seamen under the circumstances defined in article VI below.

Article VI. Nationals of each Party wishing to engage in paid professional activity in the territory of the other Party must also, in order to be admitted to the territory of that Party, prove that they are in possession of:

- (1) A medical certificate issued:

In respect of entry into France, by the competent French Consul, after an examination by a physician approved by the Consul, in agreement with the Gabonese health authorities; the certificate shall be issued in accordance with the regulations concerning the entry of workers into France.

In respect of entry into Gabon, by the competent Gabonese Consul, after an examination by a physician approved by the Consul, in agreement with the French health authorities; the certificate shall be issued in accordance with the regulations concerning the entry of workers into Gabon.

Such certificates shall be drawn up within the two months preceding the date of departure.

- (2) A written contract of employment bearing the stamp of the Ministry of Labour:

On presentation of their seaman's book and the required vaccination certificates, Gabonese seamen shall be authorized to enter France and French seamen shall be authorized to enter Gabon if they are in possession of one of the following:

- a letter attesting to permanent employment by a shipping company;
- a formal contract of employment;
- a letter guaranteeing their immediate embarkation on a specified ship, from a shipping company or a shipowner established in one of the two signatory countries.

Arrangements for such a situation may be made through the issuance of a requisition for passage drawn up by the competent maritime authority.

Gabonese seamen debarking in France and French seamen debarking in Gabon for any reason other than disciplinary or penal shall be free to remain in either of the two countries for a period of one month from the day after their debarkation, as duly recorded in their seaman's book by the competent authority. If that period has expired, or if the date of debarkation has not been recorded in the book, the seaman may be repatriated at any time by the competent authorities of the country of debarkation, at the expense of his most recent employer.

Article VII. This Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date of its signature. It is concluded for one year from the date of its entry into force. It shall be renewed by tacit agreement each year, unless

denounced by one of the two Parties; notice of such denunciation shall be given to the other Party three months before the expiry of the annual term.

DONE, at Paris on 12 February 1974, in two original copies in the French language.

For the Government of the French Republic:

[Signed]

JEAN-FRANÇOIS DENIAU

Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Gabonese Republic:

[Signed]

GEORGES RAWIRI

Minister of State, Delegate at the Office of the President of the Republic,
for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation
