



**TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON MACHINE READABLE
TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (TAG/MRTD)**

TWENTIETH MEETING

Montréal, 7 to 9 September 2011

Agenda Item 3: Activities of the ICBWG

Agenda Item 3.4: Report of the ICBWG

**IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKING GROUP (ICBWG)
REPORT TO THE TAG**

(Presented by the ICBWG)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This paper is intended to summarize the ongoing work of the ICBWG since TAG/19, and the planned future activities of the ICBWG. The working paper seeks endorsement of the ICBWG's planned activities and strategic direction.

2. ONGOING WORK OF THE ICBWG SINCE TAG/19

2.1 Since TAG/19, the ICBWG has met four times: Poland (March 2010); Ireland (September 2010); New Zealand (February 2011) and Canada (September 2011).

2.2 The ICBWG has developed its draft Business Plan 2011 to 2012 as an interim document while ICAO determines the strategic direction of the MRTD programme. The strategy that drives the Group, and the outputs and activities that contribute towards achieving its six outcomes, are largely unchanged. The Plan locates the ICBWG's work within the existing strategic and operational context of ICAO and its MRTD programme. The interim plan is the subject of TAG/MRTD/20-WP/13.

2.3 The Guide for Assessing Security for Handling and Issuance of Travel Documents (Part 1), and the accompanying Assessment Template (Part 2) have been finalized and widely distributed since TAG/19. The Guide provides information on best practice, and a means to assess States' current policy/operational environment in relation to travel document issuance.

2.4 ICBWG has provided expertise on joint missions with IOM and OSCE, to Haiti and Tajikistan respectively. On both missions, the Guide was utilized with excellent results, and positive

feedback has been received. Part 2 of the Guide has been translated into Russian by OSCE, and IOM has plans to translate it into Spanish.

2.5 In Kuala Lumpur, the ICBWG Chairperson conducted a practical workshop on the Guide as Part of the Bali Process. The workshop included a session on how to undertake a self assessment using Part 2. The Guide was well received.

2.6 The Guide is intended as a living document, and the areas to be updated have been identified, including the use of citizenship registers, and managing applications via the online channel.

2.7 One of the key tasks identified by the ICBWG is to establish and capture the current status of states in relation to travel document issuance, and the use of travel documents at borders. The Group continued to research and capture this information, specifically in relation to non-MRP issuing states and states that are issuing non-compliant MRPs. ICBWG and NTWG are currently maintaining complementary lists (MRP and eMRP respectively) and will continue to liaise regarding content.

2.8 An ICBWG sub-group on non-compliance was formed prior to the Dublin meeting, and has been proactively identifying and contacting states known to be issuing MRPs that do not comply with Doc 9303 specifications. The ICAO Secretariat has sent letters directly to states indicating aspects of non-compliance (including graphics). These letters have been signed by the ICAO Secretary General. For further information refer to TAG/MRTD/20-WP/10.

2.9 The ICBWG completed a Doc. 9303 compliance assessment of the Nepal MRP, at the request of the Nepalese government. An ICBWG sub-group has also assessed the Myanmar MRP as an initial case study for the development of a compliance spreadsheet based on Doc. 9303 criteria (assessed against mandatory and optional features).

2.10 The ICBWG continued its contribution to ICAO Regional Seminars, with members attending and presenting in Mozambique and other ICAO regional events. The ICBWG is also working with the Secretariat to ensure greater contribution to the development of themes, and delivery of presentations and workshops, at the annual MRTD Symposium.

2.11 A number of ICBWG Members have contributed content to the New Technologies Working Group's Identity Management draft paper. It is expected that the Working Group will continue assisting with this important work.

2.12 A large number of MRP-issuing states currently do not issue machine-readable UN Convention Travel Documents (e.g. Refugee Travel Documents and Certificates of Identity). The ICBWG undertook analysis for the UN High Commission for Refugees in relation to Doc 9303 compliance for convention travel documents, assessing schedules in the Conventions that would ideally change to align with Doc 9303. The analysis also covered some of the issues faced by UNCTD authorities. Analysis included determining how States might approach personalizing convention documents using their travel document issuing authority's issuing systems and technologies. In this scenario, entitlement decisions would remain with the state's authority for refugees.

3. NEW WORK FOR THE ICBWG

3.1 The ICBWG has continued more detailed work with the UNHCR regarding the move towards issuing Doc 9303 compliant UNCTDs. It is unlikely that Conventions will be changed to incorporate schedules that are aligned with Doc 9303. This will not, however, prohibit states from issuing compliant UNCTDs, though there are technical, legislative and policy considerations for each State. Refer to TAG/MRTD/20-WP/11.

3.2 Following the success of presentations and discussions on procurement at the ICAO Regional Seminar in Mozambique, the ICAO Secretariat approached ICBWG to investigate developing guidance material related to improving knowledge and capability in the area of procurement. A collaborative approach with the ICAO Procurement Section, Technical Co-operation Bureau is proposed. Refer to TAG/MRTD/20-WP/14.

3.3 The Secretariat has requested the compilation of a contact list for passport and border control authorities throughout the world, and this work is currently underway. The list is intended to assist the Secretariat to distribute MRTD-related material and questionnaires to targeted offices and/or individuals. The work is currently underway.

3.4 The ICBWG is considering the possibility of extending proactive identification of non-compliance to eMRTDs. This would involve states (as is the case with MRPs currently) who issue suspected or confirmed non-compliant eMRPs.

3.5 A sub-group was formed prior to the Dublin meeting to investigate the possibility of ICAO running or endorsing a certification scheme for passport compliance. The sub-group has been working through the detail and technical complexity of such a scheme. The high level concept, which is presented for the TAG/MRTD's endorsement, is the subject of TAG/MRTD/20-WP/11.

3.6 An ICBWG representative participated in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) Experts Working Group Meeting on Forensic Document Examination Capacity Training Programme & Identity Related Crime and Forensics (May 2011). The purpose of the UNODC Meeting was to plan and define roles and resources for the development of a vocational training curriculum on travel document forensic examination and electronic/digital evidence.

3.7 The ICBWG Chairperson contributed discussions with the Secretariat regarding a long-term strategy for the MRTD Programme.

4. FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE ICBWG

4.1 In order to achieve clarity around the role and function of the ICBWG, the ICBWG will be working closely with the ICAO Secretariat in the future to develop:

- a) a clear position regarding the direction and role of the ICBWG, in light of ICAO's strategic vision for the MRTD programme;
- b) a 2012 to 2015 business plan based on the direction of the MRTD programme; and
- c) clear guidance with regard to the role of international and regional organizations and private suppliers within the ICBWG, and on ICAO and/or joint missions.

4.2 The ICBWG wishes to draw TAG/MRTD's attention to the approaching November 2015 deadline for all non-MRPs to be out of circulation. The communication of this date, and the implications for states, is a key consideration for the ICBWG. The effective and timely dissemination of such messages and information requires high level support from the ICAO Secretariat. Refer to TAG/MRTD/20-WP/9.

4.3 The ICBWG will continue to make a contribution to the ICAO MRTD Symposium and Regional Seminars and NTWG work on the subject of "Evidence of Identity".

4.4 Pending TAG/MRTD approval, ICBWG will continue to work on the development of an MRTD certification programme.

5. ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD

5.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

- a) note the activities and outputs of the ICBWG to date and the approach it has taken;
and
- b) approve in principle the ICBWG's ongoing work.

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