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

TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

Montréal, 21 to 23 May 2014

Agenda Item 2 : Activities of the NTWG

REPORT OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES WORKING GROUP (NTWG)

(Presented by New Technology Working Group)

1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   This paper is intended to summarize the ongoing work of the NTWG since TAG/MRTD/21 and the future activities of the NTWG.

2.   **ONGOING WORK OF THE NTWG SINCE TAG/MRTD/21**

2.1   Since TAG/21 in December 2012, the NTWG has met on four occasions in Singapore, Berlin, Germany and Paris, France. Participation continues to be growing with over 50 individuals and 20 countries represented at the last meeting. Members of the NTWG continue to participate in meetings of the ISO SC17/WG3, Public Key Directory Board, the Implementation and Capacity Building Work Group, and the Facilitation Panel.

2.2   For this meeting of the TAG/MRTD, the NTWG will present for consideration thirteen Working papers (WPs) and 3 Information Papers (IP).

2.3`   The Evidence of Identification Guide is intended to be used by individuals engaged in the full spectrum of identity management. Specifically, employees of issuing, inspection, and immigration authorities as well as those engaged in other document entitlement activities such as the issuing of driving licenses, national identity cards and voter registration. The Guide is especially designed for those involved in vital records-related database activities such as birth, death, marriage, and divorce records; as well as other civil registry matters. WP/2 outlines a suggestion that ICAO would be served if the ICBWG take ownership of the Guide and use it in their mission of providing States sound guidance on establishing identity.

2.4   The NTWG has undertaken to revise and update ICAO Doc 9303. At present, specifications and guidance are to be found in a number of separate documents: the three parts of Doc 9303, a number of Technical Reports and the Supplements. The consolidation of Doc 9303 has been successful and has resulted in the final draft of the seventh edition. The current status is presented in WP/3.

2.5   As States worldwide continue to adopt Machine Readable Travel Documents and electronic MRTDs, the increased complexity and the rise in deviations to ICAO specifications have led to a need for reporting deviations from standards through a standardized mechanism. WP/4 discusses a standardized means for issuing States to communicate deviations in their travel documents.

2.6   WP/5 outlines an update to the technical report on Supplemental Access Control which includes measures that will complement the features of Password Authenticated Connection Establishment (PACE). It highlights an Optional ICAO protocol that will enable the eMRTD readers to verify that the eMRTD chip is genuine. The updated TR also defines a new Mapping for PACE.

2.7   The ePassport is a valuable and secure tool to confirm the identity of the individual presenting the document. The ePassport allows for rapid biometric comparisons, such as those used in automated passenger gates. This identity travel document reinforces travel security and facilitates passenger control. Those countries reading the digital signatures that validate the ePassport will improve management of their borders and facilitate travel. ICAO has tasked the NTWG to analyze the current version of the Logical Data Structure (LDS) and make recommendations towards possible revisions that support the business needs of border, immigration, and passport issuing authorities, industry and international organizations. The NTWG continues to explore modifications to the LDS. WP/6 outlines the work completed to date and the way forward.

2.8   The specifications for the electronic part of Machine Readable Travel Documents have been in place since 2004. Because of continued technology advancement, it is necessary to evaluate ICAO MRTD specifications from time to time to stay up to date, principally with respect to the cryptographic security features and PKI. WP/7 informs the TAG/MRTD on the work undertaken to evaluate the present LDS and PKI specifications and provides the needed updated specifications.

2.9   WP/8 describes the ongoing work within the NTWG and ISO SC17/WG3 to revise the test methodology for eMRTDs.

3.   WP/9 describes the ongoing work within the NTWG and ISO SC17/WG3 on new test methodologies for inspection systems using eMRTDs.

3.1   While DOC 9303 and its related technical reports supplied by ICAO may be downloaded for free from the ICAO website, the associated ISO/IEC test standards must be purchased. WP/10 outlines the efforts to make the distribution of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 17 MRTD test standards free of charge.

3.2   Recognizing that many immigration, border control and travel documents experts currently participate in the NTWG, the ICBWG, and the PKD Board, these expert groups have been leveraged to assist with the work of the FAL Panel. WP/11 highlights the proposed amendments to *Annex 9 Facilitation* based on the collaborative work of the NTWG, ICBWG and PKD Board.

3.3   Emergency travel documents are not covered by international standards and vary significantly in terms of their security and quality. Consequently, they may be a target for fraudulent use. IP/1 provides an update on NTWG's work on providing guidance on emergency travel documents.

3.4   In the course of restructuring DOC 9303, the NTWG has been asked to update the guidance material on Secure Production and Lost, Stolen and Revoked Travel Documents. WP/13 provides the proposed text for Chapters 4 and 6 of the restructured ICAO DOC 9303.

3.5   In Doc 9303 Part 1, "Captions" are defined as "Printed word or phrase to identify a data field." In Part 3, further guidance is provided stating "Captions may be in the official language of the Issuing State or working language of the issuing organization. WP/14 outlines a solution to the problem when the captions field has to accommodate for more languages than the space provides.

3.6   WP/14 provides insight on the current use and interpretation of the ICAO Doc 9303 specifications on "signatures or usual mark".

3.7   The introduction of new technologies is always a slow learning process. The use of new reading systems, new storage media, and new measures that are required to protect privacy and insure data integrity, must all be addressed. Issues, arising from implementation practices that come within the scope of Doc 9303 are being addressed in IP/2.

4.   **FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE NTWG**

4.1   The TAG MRTD, through its NTWG, issues an RFI every three years in order to keep abreast of new and improving technologies that may be used in machine-readable passports, visas and card-based travel documents. Interested parties are invited to attend the upcoming RFI presentations to be held here in Montreal July 21-25.

4.2   The NTWG will meet in November 2014 in Malaysia. The NTWG will continue its reviews of technologies, their application and the role of MRTDs in facilitating international travel and security. Specifically, the NTWG intends to undertake the following:

4.3   Continue the ongoing work outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

4.4   Continue the ongoing work of developing technical reports, in all areas, authorized by the TAG and subsequently developing these into specifications for eventual incorporation into Doc 9303.

4.5   Develop a comprehensive approach to the policy and process issues that arise from the use of advanced technologies in MRTDs and eMRTDs.

4.6   Develop specifications that enable states to leverage the full functionality of eMRTD's.

4.7   Develop guidance material to promote the use of eMRTDs beyond border control to the wider community involved in identity verification activities.

4.8   Develop guidance material to promote the real time secure validation of travel document data, among states and authorities.

4.9   Monitor and respond to the evolution of technology to ensure access control and PKI schemes continue to provide a secure infrastructure for eMRTDs and data validation.

5.   **ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD**

5.1   The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

   a) Note the work of the NTWG to date and the approach it has taken; and

   b) Endorse in principle the future direction and activities of the NTWG as outlined in paragraph 4, above.

— END —