



FAL/12-WP/114
31/3/04

FACILITATION (FAL) DIVISION — TWELFTH SESSION

Cairo, Egypt, 22 March to 2 April 2004

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE 2 TO THE PLENARY
ON AGENDA ITEM 2.2**

Agenda Item 2: Facilitation and security of travel documents and border control formalities
2.2: Biometrics

2.2.1 In WP/4 the Secretariat presented a summary of the work undertaken in ICAO since 1997, through the Technical Advisory Group on Machine Readable Travel Documents (TAG/MRTD), to develop specifications for incorporating biometrics in machine readable travel documents, and the progress of this work which has culminated in a four-part recommendation, adopted by the Air Transport Committee of the Council in May 2003 and now known as the “ICAO Blueprint”. The paper proposed a new Recommended Practice and three new Standards based on the Blueprint, for consideration by the Division.

2.2.2 To elaborate on the information in the Secretariat paper the Chairman of the New Technologies Working Group of the TAG/MRTD presented an overview of the technical reports which had been produced to provide States with preliminary guidance on selection of interoperable biometrics, storage of data in a contactless integrated circuit (chip) and securing of that data by means of a modified public key infrastructure (PKI).

2.2.3 IATA presented an overview of the objectives and progress to date of the “Simplifying Passenger Travel” (SPT) project as outlined in WP/87.

2.2.4 In WP/66 the United States outlined its own legislative and technical developments related to biometrics in travel documents. Member States were encouraged to participate in the work of the TAG/MRTD and to seek regional or international assistance with any operational or logistic problems they might have with their machine readable passport systems. With respect to the legislative requirement that States in the Visa Waiver Program begin issuing biometric-enabled passports by October 2004, the delegation announced that it is now likely that this deadline will be postponed, perhaps as long as two years.

2.2.5 In WP/63 the United States summarized the results of research into the effects of ageing on the performance of facial recognition systems.

2.2.6 In WP/83 the Airports Council International (ACI) expressed its support for the work of ICAO, the proposed new SARPs on adoption of biometrics, and the ICAO Blueprint, and announced the establishment of a biometrics task force in ACI to consider the application of biometrics for identity confirmation and access control in restricted/prohibited areas in airports. ACI also recommended that member States be urged to introduce automated travel document and biometrics reading systems in international airports.

2.2.7 In considering the Secretariat’s proposals, the Division expressed appreciation for the work accomplished on the new biometric specifications and called upon ICAO to translate the technical reports and web site material so that all countries might be able to apply the new measures. Some doubts and concerns were expressed about the fact that the technologies involved are evolving, about the limited number of technology providers and the status of patents, about the compatibility ratings of the different biometrics (face, finger(s) and iris(es)) and about the lack of specific data on the costs of implementing the new specifications. The need of developing States for technical assistance to establish and maintain new systems was also recognized. On the other hand many delegations expressed support for new measures to increase security and to protect the integrity of passports. It was pointed out that, in evaluating the costs of such measures, the present costs emanating from document fraud and associated problems should be considered.

2.2.8 Overall, the Division recognized the importance of interoperability, though the consensus seemed to be that to adopt Standards in Annex 9 related to specific biometrics and technologies would be premature. A Recommended Practice would be acceptable.

2.2.9 After a lengthy debate the Division adopted the following recommendation, which amplifies the Recommended Practice 3.9 proposed by the Secretariat with informative statements about the selection of certain biometrics and their storage in a contactless integrated circuit.

Recommendation A/ XX—

Adopt the following new Recommended Practice:

- 3.9 **Recommended Practice.**¹ *Contracting States should incorporate biometric data in their machine readable passports, visas and other official travel documents, using one or more optional data storage technologies to supplement the machine readable zone, as specified in Doc 9303, Machine Readable Travel Documents. The required data stored on the integrated circuit chip is the same as that printed on the data page, that is, the data contained in the machine-readable zone plus the digitized photographic image. Fingerprint image(s) and/or iris image(s) are optional biometrics for Contracting States wishing to supplement the facial image with another biometric in the passport. Contracting States incorporating biometric data in their Machine Readable Passports are to store the data in a contactless integrated circuit complying with ISO/IEC 14443 and programmed according to the Logical Data Structure as specified by ICAO.*

2.2.10 The Division also noted IP/18 submitted by Republic of Korea on the introduction of Korea Biometrics Association (KBA), IP/24 by France on the implementation of biometric techniques on French airports as well as IP/2 by ECAC on Biometrics.

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