



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

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

Montréal, 5 to 8 May 2008

Agenda Item 1: Activities of the NTWG

Agenda Item 1.1 Report of the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)

REPORT OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES WORKING GROUP (NTWG)

Presented by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This paper is intended to summarize:

1.1.1 The ongoing work of the NTWG since TAG/17;

1.1.2 New work items of the NTWG;

1.1.3 The future activities of the NTWG.

2. ONGOING WORK OF THE NTWG SINCE TAG/17

2.1 Since TAG/17 in March 2007, the NTWG has met on two occasions in Singapore and Christchurch, New Zealand. Members of the NTWG have also participated in the plenary meetings of ISO SC17/WG3 in Berlin and the ISO/ WG3 meeting in the Republic of Korea.

2.2 Although the work related to the ePassports specification is complete, the NTWG has a number of ongoing issues that remain under active consideration. Some time ago, it was agreed at the TAG that the NTWG would publish a Supplement that is to be read in conjunction with the specifications. The Supplement is meant to provide clarification to the specifications and as previously agreed, is published twice yearly. The latest edition of the Supplement is available from the ICAO MRTD web site (www.icao.int/mrtd).

2.3 At the last TAG meeting, the NTWG presented a draft technical report on how e-MRTDs could be used to facilitate passenger travel. WP/3 now presents the final version of that report with the expectation that any future work in this area will fall under one of the proposed new working groups.

2.4 At TAG 17, the NTWG was authorized to develop guidelines for assessing security standards related to the handling and issuance of travel documents. WP/4 presents an update on the work completed to date and the future direction of the report.

2.5 WP/6 provides the latest information on the development Basic Access Control (BAC)/Extended Access Control (EAC).

2.6 The final version of guidance to border control authorities on the handling of ePassports that fail to read is presented as WP/8.

2.7 The current status of ePassport test methodologies is to be found in WP/9.

2.8 At the last TAG meeting, the NTWG proposed to modify the photo standards on the basis of lessons learned and best practices. The new proposed photo standards are found in WP/10.

2.9 **The NTWG has also produced two information papers.**

2.9.1 IP/1 provides information on the future development of the logical data structure and security framework.

2.9.2 To keep abreast of developments in technology related to MRTD, the NTWG issued a Request for Information (RFI) to the vendor community. The specifics of this triennial exercise are outlined in IP/ 2.

2.10 **The NTWG continues to participate in a number of ongoing activities that have not necessarily resulted in the submission of a Working or Information Paper:**

2.10.1 The INTERPOL Lost and Stolen database continues to be a file of interest to all member States.

2.10.2 The NTWG has continued its close working relationship with several organizations including the IATA Simplified Passenger Travel (SPT) initiative.

2.10.3 The NTWG continues to liaise with the G-8 Roma-Lyons group on security and migration issues.

2.10.4 The development of specifications for electronic visas continues as one of the key activities of the NTWG. The NTWG hopes to finalize the work in this area for presentation at the next meeting of the TAG.

2.10.5 The NTWG continues to provide technical support for the ICAO Public Key Directory.

3. **NEW WORK ACTIVITIES**

3.1 In addition to the ongoing work of the NTWG, a number of new work items have been

identified since TAG 17.

3.2 The Secretariat requested that work be undertaken to develop an approach for the transliteration of Arabic characters. After consultation among several members States, it was agreed that the NTWG would act as a sounding board for this work and provide any assistance that may be required. The results of the work to date are found in WP/2.

3.3 In cooperation with the G8 Roma-Lyon group, the NTWG will develop an assessment of the current use of ePassports in border processing. WP/5 provides additional information on this initiative.

3.4 Notwithstanding the fact that ICAO Doc 9303 Part 3 is about to be published, several member States have raised the issue of the placement of essential information on ID-1 size cards. WP/7 addresses this issue and some of the possible solutions.

3.5 WP/11 provides an update on the Informative Annex on Security for MRTDs.

3.6 Although not necessarily a new activity, WP/12 deals with the strategic focus of the NTWG.

3.7 WP/13 raises issues that have come to the attention of the NTWG with regard to the universal implementation of MRTDs and photographs.

4. FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE NTWG

4.1 The NTWG will next meet in September 2008 in Bern, Switzerland and again in early 2009. Generally, the NTWG will continue its reviews of technologies, their application and the role of MRTDs in facilitating international travel. Specifically, the NTWG intends to undertake the following:

4.2 Continue the ongoing work outlined in paragraph 2 and 3 above.

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

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

5. ACTION BY TAG/MRTD

5.1 The NTWG invites the TAG-MRTD to:

- a) Note the work of the NTWG to date and the approach it has taken;
- b) Approve in principle the future direction and activities of the NTWG as outlined in paragraph 4, above.