



**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 1.5: G8 Project on Use of e-Passports in Border Processing

G8 PROJECT ON USE OF E-PASSPORTS IN BORDER PROCESSING

Presented by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the G8 Lyon/Roma Anti-Crime and Terrorism Group meeting in February 2008, a project called 'Use of e-Passports in Border Processing' was recommended by the Migration Experts Sub-Group (MESG) and approved by the G8 Heads of Delegations.

1.2 The project objective is to compile and analyze the initiatives implemented (and those planned for implementation) by G8 and ICAO NTWG member States to incorporate e-Passport functionality as part of their border control functions. Deliverables would include a table compiling the initiatives, and a paper on lessons learned and best practices. Analysis will focus mainly on the following aspects:

- Current state of implementation of e-passport reader technology;
- How the data and biometry contained in the e-Passport chip are being used;
- Methods for obtaining and sharing the e-Passport security certificates;
- Challenges linked to interoperability of technology and travel documents;
- Security improvements and challenges; and
- Facilitation improvements and challenges.

1.3 The project was presented to the NTWG in Christchurch, New Zealand, to request participation of NTWG members in answering the survey once developed, and also to ensure coordination with other NTWG initiatives related to passport readers. The NTWG agreed to support the G8 States in this initiative.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The number of States issuing e-Passports is increasing steadily: more than 40 States are currently issuing e-Passports, which correspond to more than 50% of all passports being issued worldwide. This represents a great enhancement in national and international security as (1) it improves integrity of passports by the need to match the information contained in the chip to the one printed in the document and to the physical characteristics of the holders; and (2) enables machine assisted verification of biometric and biographical information to confirm the identity of travellers.

2.2 To secure these improvements, it is critical that border agents or automated border control systems read the e-Passport chip to verify the authenticity of the data. Many countries have invested significantly in the development of their e-Passports, but only a few have integrated the reading of e-Passports to their border processes.

2.3 The aim of the G8 project 'Use of e-Passports in Border Processing' is to collect information on the border initiatives already implemented (and those planned) to help other countries in the deployment of their own border program using e-Passports. It is also expected that sharing the lessons learned will encourage others to implement similar measures, maximizing the use of e-Passports and improving border security.

2.4 The outcomes of this G8 project will be referred to ICAO, in particular to the NTWG and the Universal Implementation of Machine Readable Travel Document (UIMRTD) Working Group for their use.

3. PROJECT TIMELINES

3.1 A survey to G8 Member States and NTWG Members was developed. It will be distributed to G8 Member States and posted on the NTWG website for completion

3.2 The plan is that a first draft of the analysis be presented to the MESG at the November 2008 meeting.

4. ACTION BY THE TAG

4.1 The NTWG invites the TAG/MRTD:

- a) to recognize the national and international security enhancements brought by reading e-Passports at the border; and
- b) to encourage the participation of NTWG members in this G8 Lyon/Roma-led project by requesting NTWG Member States respond to the survey.