WORKING PAPER

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

NINETEENTH MEETING

Montréal, 7 to 9 December 2009

Agenda Item 3:   **Activities of the ICBWG**
Agenda Item 3.1:   **Report of the ICBWG**

REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKING GROUP (ICBWG)

(Presented by the Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group
(ICBWG))

1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   This paper is intended to summarise:

   a)   the ongoing work of the ICBWG since TAG-MRTD/18;

   b)   future activities of the ICBWG.

2.   **ONGOING WORK OF THE ICBWG SINCE TAG-MRTD/18**

2.1   Since TAG-MRTD/18 in May 2008 the ICBWG has met three times: Montreal (October 2008); Portugal (March 2009); and Cape Verde (September 2009).

2.2   The ICBWG have established a SharePoint site as part of the ICAO Secure Portal, and actively use the site as a working group tool. The ICBWG also has an ICAO email address (icbwg@icao.int) as a central point of contact.

2.3   The ICBWG revised the Draft Terms of Reference approved at TAG-MRTD/18. WP/13 provides the final draft for TAG consideration and endorsement.

2.4   A List of Experts to undertake ICBWG projects and activities will continue to be updated and utilised by the Group.

2.5   The ICBWG undertook an Environmental Scan prior to the first meeting in order to inform working group members of current trends, issues, and opportunities for contribution in the field of travel documents worldwide. The Scan was a cornerstone documents for the development of the ICBWG Business Plan.

2.6   The ICBWG has developed its Draft ICBWG Business Plan 2009-2011. This Business Plan outlines the ICBWG's work programme for 2009-2011. It includes the strategy that drives the Group, and the outputs and activities that contribute towards achieving its six outcomes. The Plan locates the ICBWG's work within the strategic and operational context of ICAO and its MRTD program. The Draft Plan is the subject of WP/14, and will be finalised following feedback and endorsement from the TAG.

2.7   One of the key tasks identified by the ICBWG is to establish and capture the current status of States in relation travel document issuance, and the use of travel documents at borders. The Group has developed surveys and matrices to research and capture this information. The matrices can be used to ascertain the potential for ICBWG involvement or assistance in a particular State. For further information see IP/4.

2.8   A major piece of ongoing work is the Guide for Assessing Security for Handling and Issuance of Travel Documents (Part 1), and the accompanying Assessment Template (Part 2). This work item was transferred from the NTWG at TAG-MRTD/18. The Guide provides information on best practice, and a means to assess States' current policy/operational environment in relation to travel document issuance. The ICBWG and sub-group have developed the Guide to a final draft stage, which is submitted for TAG consideration in WP/15.

2.9   Promotional material on the Public Key Directory (PKD) was drafted by a member of the ICBWG, and has been endorsed by the PKD board. The key purpose of the material was to: 1) raise awareness of the PKD; and 2) highlight the importance validating certificates at the border, in order for States' to realise their investment in ePassports.

2.10   The ICBWG compiled Country Status Reports for eight States that were either not issuing MRTDs, or were known to be issuing non-compliant MRTDs. The Group is currently compiling additional status reports on eight more non-MRTD issuing States, with a view to establishing how the ICBWG might provide assistance.

2.11   The development of a scoring matrix to evaluate and prioritise States that need assistance is ongoing. This matrix will form the basis of a transparent approach to selecting States most in need of ICBWG assistance.

2.12   The Group is undertaking ongoing research work on the reasons for eMRTD non-compliance. The information is sourced directly from States' travel document issuing authorities, and reports from border authorities reading ePassports. Where possible, this work will also record factors at the border affecting ePassport reading.

3.   **NEW WORK FOR THE ICBWG**

3.1   State's represented on the ICBWG have drafted a letter to the Secretariat requesting that some funds from MRTD events are channelled back into the ICBWG and MRTD projects. In particular, the Group is looking for funds to enable the ICBWG to undertake pre-project assessments and scoping visits in States that request assistance from the Group.

3.2   The Group has completed project documents for the Kiribati Assistance Project, following an initial scoping study by the ICAO and IOM. Options for funding a project that focuses on implementing an MRTD issuance system are currently being canvassed.

3.3   A concept paper that outlines a wider methodology for capacity building projects is currently under development. This piece of work maps out considerations for ICBWG and MRTD projects in a more holistic manner; the scope includes travel documents, border control, civil registration and breeder documents.

3.4   A proposal for ICBWG involvement in the UN Convention Travel Documents Project is being developed. A number of the Group's members have volunteered to assist in this project, once the scope of ICBWG's involvement has been agreed.

3.5   The establishment of a fund to undertake assessments is a critical short-term need for the ICBWG. A project proposal is currently under development outlining the methods the ICBWG may use to try and secure a 'fighting fund' for undertaking assessments and scoping studies at the inception of projects.

4.   **FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE ICBWG**

4.1   As the ICBWG has worked through the practical considerations of the working group, some issues have been highlighted and require resolution. These include the following:

> a) co-ordinating communications across the MRTD programme continues to create challenges;
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> b) working group members have contributed a significant amount of time and resources to develop ICBWG guidance material – however, sourcing funding for the ICBWG to undertake assistance and capacity building work remains a key issue.

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

> a) develop clear guidance regarding the ICBWG's role in ICAO MRTD projects;
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> b) develop clear guidance with regard to the role of Non-Government Organisations and private suppliers – particularly with regard to contractual relationships;
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> c) incorporate ICAO strategic training principles into the ICBWG Business Plan, so the Group can focus on targeted training, using the appropriate methodology.

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;

    b) approve in principle the ICBWG's ongoing work.

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