International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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

TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

Montréal, May 2014

Agenda Item 3: Activities of the ICBWG

Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG) Update

(Presented by Chair, ICBWG)

1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   This paper summarises the work of the ICBWG since TAG/21, and outlines the planned future activities of the ICBWG. The paper asks the TAG to note the work of ICBWG and seeks endorsement of the group's planned activities and direction.

2.   **CURRENT STATUS**

2.1   Since TAG/21, the ICBWG has met three times: Tanzania (May 2013), Botswana (November 2013) and The Netherlands (March 2014).

2.2   The working group has taken the opportunity to hold meetings in States that may benefit from ICBWG knowledge and expertise. The group has endeavoured to undertake additional capacity building workshops, discussions and presentations in both Tanzania and Botswana. The ICBWG sees real benefit in this approach, and proposes to continue – possibly alternating between a conventional ICBWG meeting, and one which involves the provision of additional advisory/capacity building assistance in the host nation.

2.3   The ICBWG has developed a new Business Plan which provides an outcome-focussed document that aligns with the new TRIP mandate (WP/26).

2.4   The Guide for Assessing Security for Handling and Issuance of Travel Documents (Part 1), and the accompanying Assessment Template (Part 2) is under review, and a number of changes are proposed (WP/13). The Guide provides information on best practice, and a means to assess States' current policy/operational environment in relation to travel document issuance.

2.5   An ICBWG sub-group on non-compliance has been proactively identifying and contacting States known to be issuing MRTDs that do not comply with Doc. 9303 specifications. ICBWG has been working with the Secretariat to officially notify States of particular non-compliance issues in writing. The sub-group is also monitoring the use of 2D bar-codes (WP/17).

2.6   ICBWG Chair and members contributed to the development of the TRIP strategy, and representatives from a number of ICBWG member States supported the Strategy at the General Assembly.

2.7   The ICBWG continued its contribution to ICAO Regional Seminars, with members attending and presenting in Sint Maartin, Burkina Faso and Uzbekistan.

2.8   A number of ICBWG members have continued to contribute to the NTWG's Evidence of Identification Guidance (WP/2), and it is expected that the Group will lead the ongoing development this important work.

2.9   The Group has developed a 2-page fact sheet for MRTDs, which is presented in WP/24.

2.10   The ICBWG worked in conjunction with UNHCR to develop guidance material for the issuance of Doc. 9303 compliant machine-readable Convention Travel Documents (CTDs). The Guidance for CTDs is now finalised and available on the ICAO and UNHCR website. The ICBWG sub-group on CTDs is now shifting focus towards supporting States in the implementation of MRCTDs (WP/21).

2.11   The ICBWG has continued to develop the Doc. 9303 Compliance scheme, as agreed at TAG 20. The revised working paper introduces additional detail, and clarifies information and queries raised at TAG 21. The ICBWG needs clear commitment to the scheme from ICAO, as well as the provision of administrative resource estimated to be 0.5 of and FTE (WP/16) The ICBWG will also require the support of the NTWG, with regard to the development of test standards. ICBWG will revisit its matrix, which was developed to assess the more subjective elements of compliance (e.g. datapage layout and security features).

2.12   The ICBWG previously developed a first draft of high-level guidance material for States on Regional Visas and the use of Advanced Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) information. However, the Secretariat voiced some concern regarding the scope of the work as agreed at TAG 20 and 21; and in particular with the possible duplication of existing API/PNR guidance. A proposed revision of the scope of the guidance involves more focus on regional Schengen-type border arrangements. The guidance is intended to complement existing information, such as ICAO's Guidelines on API (HLCAS-WP/2).

2.13   Following the success of presentations and discussions on procurement at the ICAO Regional Seminars and Symposiums, the ICAO Secretariat approached ICBWG to investigate developing guidance material related to improving knowledge and capability in the area of procurement. ICBWG has developed draft procurement guidance (WP25). The targeted piece of guidance is intended to complement other strategic work such as the ePassports roadmap.

2.14   The ICBWG continues to explore whether or how to continue the IF4TD site, which holds shared information about various' States' travel documents. The legacy IF4TD website has been migrated to the ICAO Sharepoint site, and renamed IFTBC (ICAO Forum for Travel Documents and Border Control). Some States have supported the continuation of the site – however keeping the content up to date has proved challenging in the past, as States themselves need to be committed to keeping the information current. The Secretariat noted that AVSEC run a similar site for States, and it has been

suggested that the site could fall under their administration. The ICBWG will continue to work with the Secretariat on this item (WP/19).

3.   NEW WORK FOR THE ICBWG

3.1   The ICBWG proposes to produce guidance material for States on the circulation of specimen travel documents. The guidance is in early draft form, and is discussed in WP/18.

3.2   Canada has developed a phased approach to try and encourage countries issuing ePassports (or planning to) to be active in PKD and read the passports. It is clear that a better understanding of why countries are not reading ePassports is needed. New Zealand, Ireland and Canada are supporting this work, and ICBWG can make a contribution.

3.3   The ICBWG is considering a work item related to the issuance of national passports to non-citizens, which has been identified as an emerging issue for border and immigration authorities.

3.4   The ICAO assistance project in the Sahel includes the development of training material. The ICBWG will provide material and expertise as required.

4.   FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE ICBWG

4.1   In order to achieve clarity around the role and function of the ICBWG, the Group will be working closely with the Secretariat in the coming months to review the current Terms of Reference which will hopefully clarify the direction and role of the ICBWG within the TRIP.

4.2   The ICBWG will continue to make a contribution to the ICAO MRTD Symposium and Regional Seminars, the NTWG work on Evidence of Identity, and the development of the strategic direction of ICAO's MRTD-related programmes.

4.3   Pending ICAO support, ICBWG will continue to work on the development of an MRTD compliance programme and work with the NTWG to agree on the necessary test specifications.

4.4   The Group will continue with the review of the Guide for Assessing the Security and Handling of the Issuance of Travel Documents.

4.5   ICBWG will also develop Guidance in a range of areas, including the procurement, circulation of specimens, regional visas, and also assist with the development of the ePassport roadmap.

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 the ICBWG's ongoing work programme subject to it aligning with a revised terms of reference

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