ICAO TRIP

REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM

BUILDING **FUTURE RESILIENCE**:
THE ROLE OF **SEAMLESS**
AND **CONTACTLESS** TRAVEL

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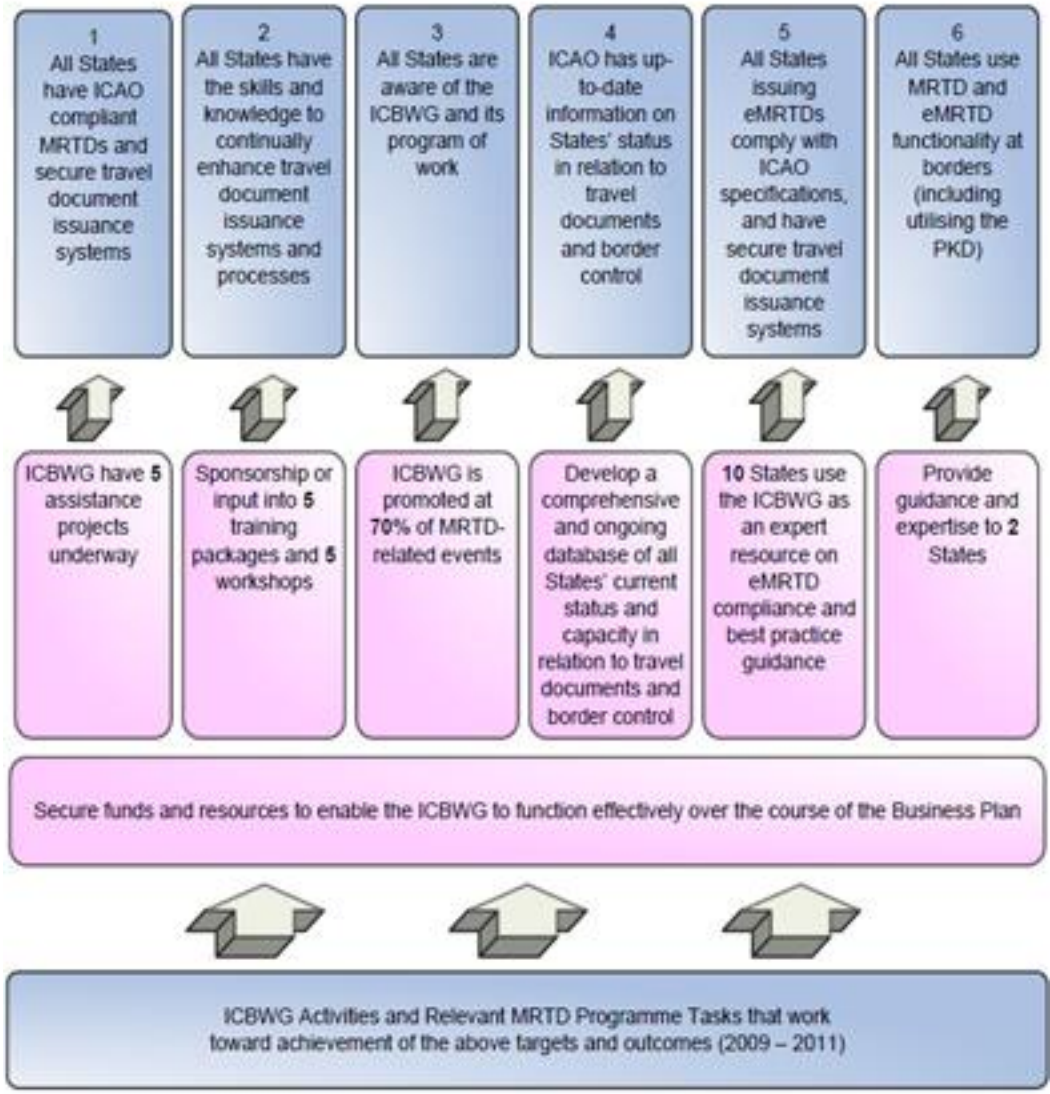
How it started

A bit of history

- October 2008: 1st meeting of the ICAO Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group
- 2009-2011 Business plan – outcome 1 : “All states have ICAO compliant MRTDs […]”
- 2009-2011 Business plan – outcome 5 : “All states issuing eMRTDs comply with ICAO specifications […]”
- ICBWG monitoring passport readability and interoperability issues
- 9 national passports identified
- contacted states to seek clarification and offer guidance



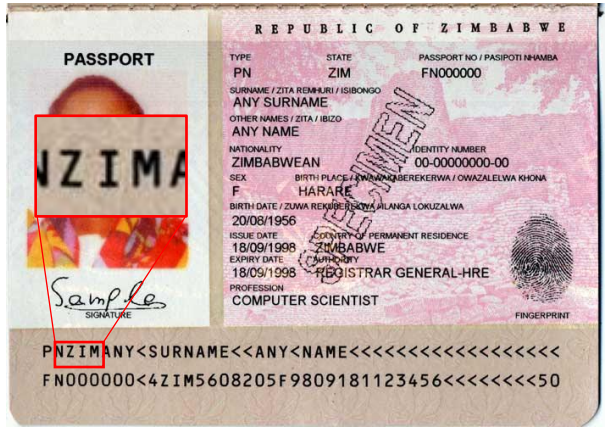
Non-compliance

What is it, why is it important ?

- deviation from the specifications set out in ICAO Doc 9303;
- incorrect formatting of the visible information zone or of the machine-readable zone (MRZ);
- incorrect formatting/construction of data stored in the chip;
- security issues : wrong formatted MRZ => ambiguous / wrong database search results at the border;
- incorrect electronic data undermine the trust in the chip and can lead to validation issues;
- facilitation issues : reading problems lead to delays for passengers.

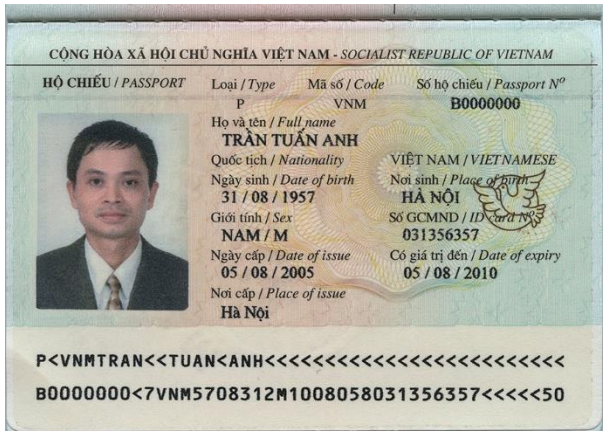
Some earlier cases

from older passport versions



Wrong country code

Following letter, state requested assessment of its passport

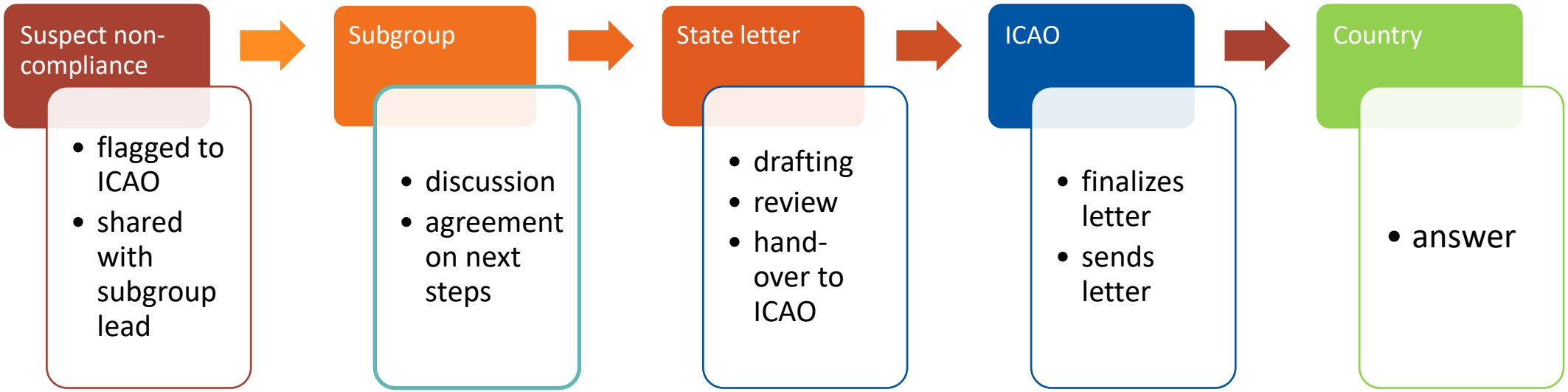


Name representation VIZ ⇔ MRZ

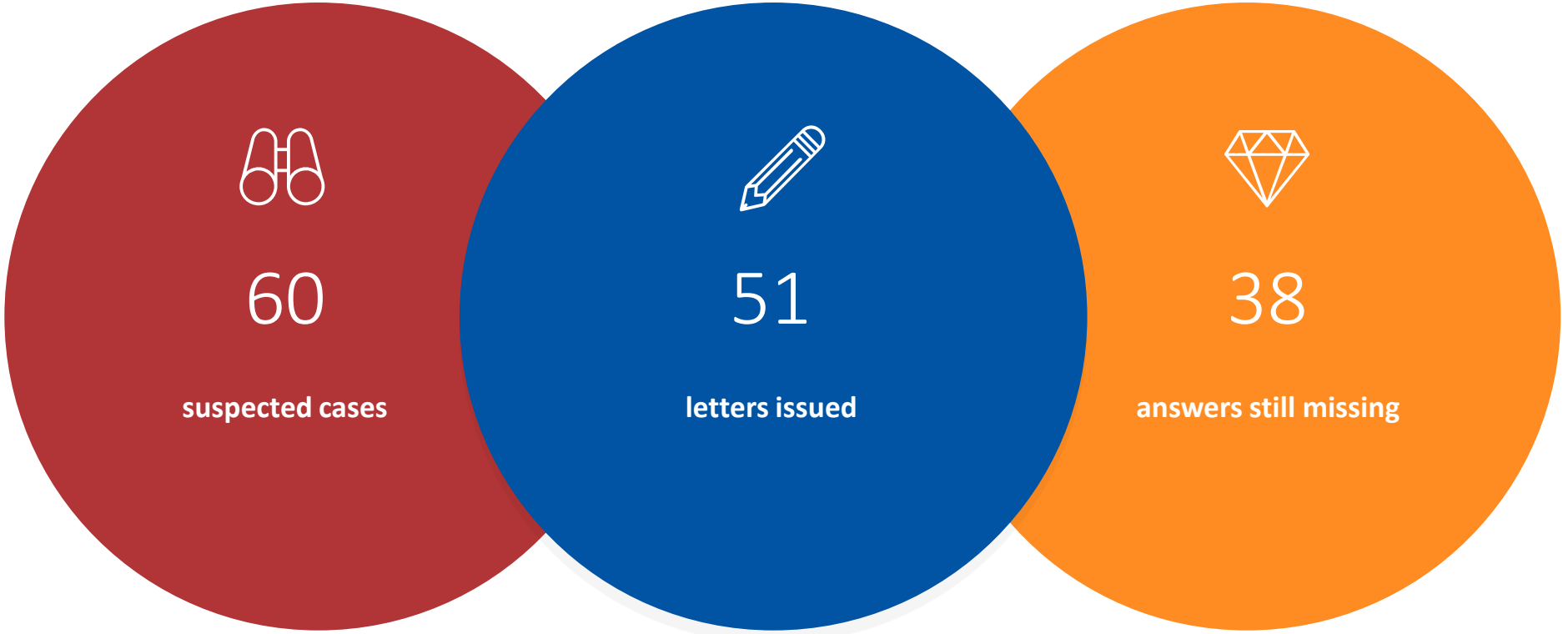
The VIZ shows a single name field but the MRZ displayed the name as if separate fields were used

Passport number too long (11 digits) and mismatch with MRZ

Process


Suspect non-compliance
• flagged to ICAO
• shared with subgroup lead
Subgroup
• discussion
• agreement on next steps
State letter
• drafting
• review
• hand-over to ICAO
ICAO
• finalizes letter
• sends letter
Country
• answer

Activity since start



This year's activity

Case 1: passport of country A uses a single name field in the VIZ, representation in the MRZ is correct

⇒ this passport is compliant, no letter to be sent

Case 2: country B uses a separate field for the middle name and does not write it in the MRZ

⇒ this passport is not compliant, the middle name is part of the secondary identifier and must be written following the given name, a letter has been drafted and will be sent

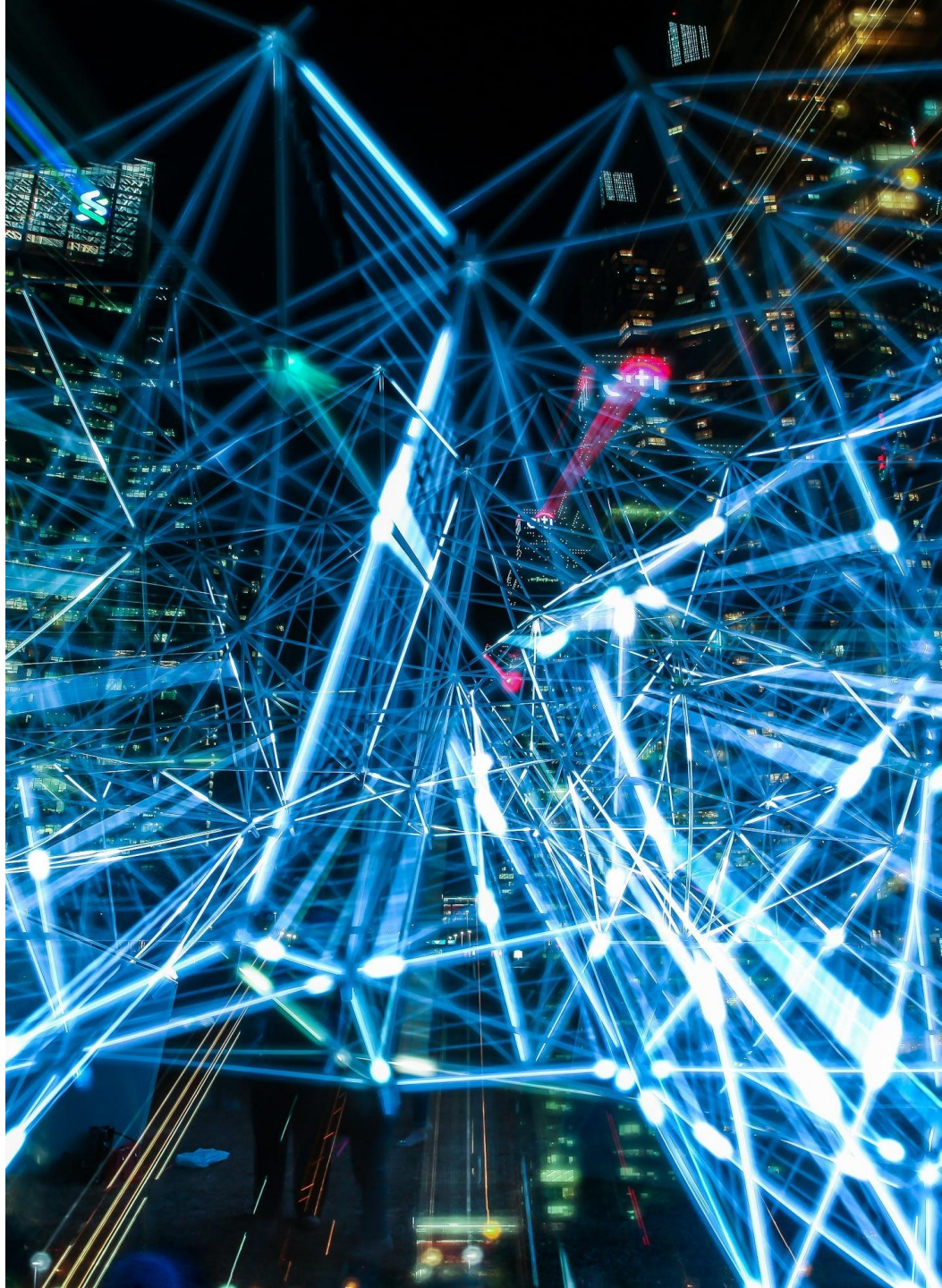
Case 3: country C has removed the signature of the holder from its newest passport

⇒ this passport is not compliant, the signature/usual mark is a mandatory data element => letter will be drafted and sent

The future

addressing new challenges

- addressing non-conformity in e-passports;
- monitoring the implementation of the latest changes:
    - new standardized two-letter document types => 01.01.2026
    - changes in the encoding of face and fingerprint images
    - end-of-life of one access mechanism



Thank You

ICAO