

**61ST CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION**

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**AGENDA ITEM 5: AVIATION SECURITY AND
FACILITATION**

**DEVELOPMENTS PERTAINING TO THE INTERNATIONAL
CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) TRAVELLER
IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMME (TRIP) STRATEGY**

(Presented by the ICAO Secretariat)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

This Information Paper outlines recent developments under ICAO TRIP, building on the outcomes of the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly and Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on TRIP.

It highlights progress in digital identity, including ICAO Digital Travel Credentials, biometrics, passenger data systems and trust frameworks, and emphasizes the importance of interoperability, capacity building and coordination in enabling secure and seamless travel.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO TRIP Strategy, endorsed by the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly for the 2026–2028 triennium, establishes a comprehensive framework for secure traveller identification, encompassing evidence of identity, machine readable travel documents, document issuance and control, inspection systems and interoperable applications. These interconnected elements form the foundation of a trusted global identity ecosystem that supports both aviation security and facilitation and enables seamless passenger movement across borders.

2. ICAO TRIP STRATEGY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 The ongoing transformation of aviation is driven by digitalization, automation and data-driven processes aimed at enhancing safety, security, efficiency and sustainability. In this context, ICAO TRIP acts as a key enabler by ensuring that identity management systems evolve in parallel with technological innovation and support seamless passenger journeys.

2.2 Through its work, ICAO TRIP is supporting the transition from traditional document-based processes to integrated digital systems. These systems enable seamless passenger journeys by facilitating automated border clearance, enabling pre-arrival risk assessment and supporting interoperable identity verification across jurisdictions.

2.3 A central focus of current ICAO TRIP activities is the ICAO Digital Travel Credential (DTC), which represents a digitalized form of the passport and is a key enabler of more seamless and efficient travel processes. This innovation enables travellers to securely share verified identity data with border authorities prior to travel, allowing for earlier decision-making and more efficient border clearance. In line with the Assembly's emphasis on digitalization and innovation, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on TRIP reaffirmed the strategic priority of ICAO DTCs and agreed to prioritize the development of a standardized and secure transmission protocol for the ICAO DTC Virtual Component, building upon the existing ICAO electronic Machine Readable Travel Document (eMRTD) trust framework. This work reflects growing interest from States and industry in trusted digital credentials and aims to ensure that future implementations remain globally interoperable, secure and aligned with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and specifications.

2.4 Advances in biometric technologies are further transforming the travel experience. The development and refinement of standards for facial recognition and biometric data encoding are supporting the deployment of automated border control systems, which enhance both security and facilitation. These systems enable reliable identity verification with minimal human intervention, improving throughput and reducing congestion, thereby contributing to seamless passenger processing.

2.5 Recognizing emerging technological risks and future challenges, TAG/TRIP supported preparatory work to facilitate the long-term transition of eMRTDs to post-quantum cryptography. This forward-looking initiative addresses the implications of quantum computing and is intended to ensure the long-term resilience, integrity and durability of travel document security systems, while enabling States to plan and implement this transition in a structured, coordinated and sustainable manner.

2.6 The increasing use of passenger data systems, including Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record data, has become an essential component of modern border systems management. ICAO continues to support States in implementing these capabilities through partnerships such as the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme. The expansion of these systems enables risk-based processing, strengthens security measures and contributes to more efficient passenger flows.

2.7 The ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) plays a critical role in maintaining global trust in travel documents and digital identity systems. By facilitating the exchange of cryptographic information used to verify electronic travel documents, the ICAO PKD ensures that documents issued by one State can be reliably authenticated by another. Continued growth in participation and the expansion of the ICAO

PKD services are supporting broader adoption of digital credentials and enhancing global interoperability, which are essential for seamless travel.

2.8 Additional innovations include the ongoing development of new travel document formats and enhancements to ICAO Doc 9303, *Machine Readable Travel Documents*. These efforts aim to ensure that machine readable travel documents and associated systems remain responsive to technological change while preserving interoperability, which remains fundamental to seamless cross-border travel.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING AND GLOBAL IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Capacity building remains a central component of ICAO TRIP and is essential for achieving the full benefits of Smart Skies. Through the work of TAG/TRIP and the Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG), ICAO continues to develop guidance materials, training programmes and implementation tools that support States in strengthening their identity management systems.

3.2 These activities are aligned with the *No Country Left Behind* Strategic Goal and aim to ensure that all States, regardless of their level of development, can implement TRIP-related SARPs.

3.3 ICBWG is currently working on the development and revision of ICAO guidance material covering evidence of identity, document issuance and control, border management practices and DTCs. In addition, TAG/TRIP supported the development of proposals for new and revised Annex 9 — *Facilitation* SARPs related to ICAO DTCs and Digital Travel Authorizations to promote global interoperability for digital travel tools supporting contactless passenger processing.

4. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

4.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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