



FAL/12-WP/113
31/3/04

FACILITATION (FAL) DIVISION — TWELFTH SESSION

Cairo, Egypt, 22 March to 2 April 2004

**REPORT OF DIVISION TO THE PLENARY
ON AGENDA ITEM 1**

Agenda Item 1: Developments since the Eleventh Session of the Division**1.1 Introduction to ICAO and overview of the Facilitation Programme**

1.1.1 Following a presentation by the Secretariat of the structure of ICAO, the relationship of the FAL Programme *vis-à-vis* with other sections within the Air Transport Bureau and the work programme of the Facilitation Section, the Division considered, and took note of, WP/19, presented by the Secretariat. The paper described the work of the Facilitation Panel since its establishment in 1996, following the Eleventh Session of the Division (FAL/12). The paper highlighted the work accomplished by the Panel, which has primarily resulted in the adoption of Amendments 17 and 18 of Annex 9.

1.1.2 The Division also took note of the work accomplished by the Technical Advisory Group on Machine Readable Travel Documents (TAG/MRTD) in the years following FAL/11, presented in WP/20. The Secretariat described the main achievements of the TAG/MRTD, including the harmonization of the various Parts of Doc 9303, the revision of Doc 9303 to assimilate new technologies into the specifications, specifically those relating to document security, its work on the deployment of biometric technologies into MRTDs and technologies related to this matter and the setting up of a dedicated web site on the MRTD Programme which contains, amongst other things, downloadable technical reports on the ICAO biometric blueprint.

1.1.3 Responding to a query on the availability of the language versions of the above-mentioned technical reports, the Secretariat pointed out that these mapped out the direction that the TAG/MRTD was looking into with regard to technologies to be used for future specifications, and that these reports were subject to frequent changes. Nevertheless, she assured the Division that, subject to availability of resources, translated summary versions of the technical reports would be made available.

1.1.4 In presenting WP/9, the Secretariat indicated that the idea behind the attached questionnaire was to supplement the information available to ICAO on the issuance, by States, of Machine Readable Passports and other MRTDs. The Division urged States attending the meeting to complete the questionnaire.

1.1.5 The Division considered WP/21 presented by the Secretariat which identified those provisions of Annex 9 which relate most directly to security of the civil aviation system and which correlate to the individual provisions of Annex 17. These provisions address the following subjects: facilitation and security; industry-government cooperation; controls on aircraft, baggage, people, people in transit, persons travelling under administrative proceeding, goods (air cargo), air cargo consignments in transit; secure storage of baggage; customs controls on people; security of flights carrying persons under administrative proceedings; crew identification; and clearance of security equipment. Other provisions in Annex 9 which contribute substantially to security although they do not correlate directly to provisions of Annex 17 relate to information management and document security.

1.2 The Division accordingly adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation B/xx —

It is recommended that member States in setting up, conducting and evaluating the effectiveness of their aviation security programmes, take into account the relevant objectives, Standards and Recommended Practices of Annex 9.

1.3 The Division considered WP/82 presented by the East African Community States (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) which stressed an urgent need for concerted international effort to address the "Travel Advisory" issue because an increasing number of States issue unilateral travel warnings and advisories which impact negatively on tourist recipient States. The paper suggested that a recommendation embodying procedures for the adoption of travel advisories and warnings should be

adopted, incorporating principles of international cooperation, acts of good faith, accuracy, legitimacy and consistency, jurisdiction, purpose or specificity, non-discrimination and review mechanism.

1.4 The Division supported the establishment of a non-discriminatory mechanism that would monitor the travel advisory. In addition, a proposal was made to develop common criteria which could be included as a guidance material in the Facilitation manual.

1.5 In WP/24, the World Tourism Organization identified a number of continuing concerns relating to Travel Advisories. That organization is taking a broad view of the issue of Travel Advisories, in view of their critical and substantive impact on developing countries in particular.

1.6 In examining the recommendation proposed for adoption, some Delegations expressed concerns with a requirement to consult States identified in Travel Advisories, before issuing or significantly amending the advisory while others felt that prior consultations were crucial. With regard to expiry dates on Travel Advisories, the Division felt that there may be a need to differentiate between advisories on health issues and those on security.

1.7 While recognizing the right and duty of sovereign States to protect their own citizens, the Division adopted the following recommendation:

Recommendation B/xx —

Contracting States, when issuing or significantly amending any Travel Advisory which cautions against travel to specified countries or regions thereof; should,

- a) when time permits, inform other States, including both those issuing and those identified in Travel Advisories, with a view to mitigating the impact of the Advisory and ensuring to the extent possible consistency in the criteria for issuing the Advisory and consistency in the form and content of the Advisory;
- b) ensure that the Travel Advisory is specific in terms of both geography and nature of threat, and is expressed in terms which are objective, clear and transparent; and
- c) place an expiry date only regarding health issues on the Travel Advisory and/or ensure that a mechanism is in place for continuous review of the Travel Advisory prior to that date.

1.8 The Division considered WP/25 presented by WTO which highlighted the importance of symbiosis between aviation and tourism, particularly in the facilitation field. The Division endorsed the concept of extended commonality and interoperability of security and facilitation measures between aviation and tourism and the need for enhanced cooperation on security and facilitation matters between aviation and tourism.

1.9 The Division also had at its disposal IP/30 submitted by the United States on the Introduction of the U.S. visitor and immigrant status indicator technology (U.S. VISIT) programme, and IP/1 submitted by ECAC on developments in facilitation within the European Civil Aviation Conference.