



ASSEMBLY — 39TH SESSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 19: Facilitation and the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP)  
Strategy

INCLUSION OF PARENTS' DETAILS ON CHILDREN'S TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO  
ADDRESS CHILD TRAFFICKING

(Presented by South Africa)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Human trafficking is a major international issue which has been linked to poor travel documentation. The extent of this challenge is seen to be masking modern-day slavery. Mainly women and children are often enticed to leave their homes with false promises of better lives and ultimately become victims of exploitation and abuse.

This Paper presents the initiative taken by South Africa to include parents' particulars in children's passports to address the issue of child trafficking and recommends that this issue be referred to the Facilitation Panel (FALP) for consideration.

**Action:** The Assembly is invited to:

- a) note the initiative of South Africa to include parents' particulars in children's passports to address the issue of child trafficking; and
- b) agree that the issue of inclusion of parents' particulars in children's passports be included in the ICAO Plan of Action and be referred to the Facilitation Panel (FALP) for consideration.

<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	This working paper relates to Strategic Objective C — <i>Security and Facilitation</i> .
<i>Financial implications:</i>	Not applicable
<i>References:</i>	Not applicable

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Child sex tourism is prevalent in a number of countries. Women and girls from other countries are trafficked to South Africa for commercial sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and other jobs in the service sector. Occasionally, these women and girls are trafficked onward to other countries for sexual exploitation.

1.2 Human trafficking is a major international issue which has been linked to poor travel documentation. The extent of this challenge is seen to be masking modern-day slavery. Mainly women and children are often enticed to leave their homes with false promises of better lives and ultimately become victims of exploitation and abuse.

1.3 To address this challenge, South Africa introduced a strict requirement on children under the age of 18 years travelling to and from South Africa. Children under the age of 18 are required to have their full (unabridged) birth certificates when crossing the South African borders. This requirement has had its own challenges.

1.4 Some of the main challenges with this requirement are that the process of issuing unabridged birth certificate is cumbersome and some countries do not issue unabridged birth certificates.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 As a result of challenges highlighted above, the South African Government developed additional preventative measures through a system that allows the insertion of Parents' Particulars in Children's Passports. Details of both parents are printed in the children's passports. Parents whose particulars are printed on the child's passport are not required to carry a birth certificate when travelling with the child.

2.2 The inclusion of parents' particulars in children's travel documents will provide additional security measures for travelling children thereby reducing child trafficking. Movement of parents traveling with children at ports of entry will be facilitated more securely, thus contributing towards the combating of child trafficking.

2.3 As this practice is being introduced in South Africa, it provides a platform for Member States to closely monitor successes and creates opportunities for development of measures to enhance the facilitation of persons at ports of entry.

2.4 South Africa proposes that this new measure be included in the ICAO Plan of Action, as it will contribute significantly to improvements in efforts to combat child trafficking.

2.5 There is a need to have common commitment and joint efforts in addressing child trafficking whilst improving facilitation of passengers.

## 3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The adoption of this proposal would ensure that ICAO objectives are achieved thereby contributing to greater security and facilitation in the aviation sector.

3.2 South Africa therefore proposes that this issue be referred to the Facilitation Panel (FALP) for consideration.