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ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

ECONOMIC COMMISSION

**DRAFT TEXT FOR THE REPORT
ON
AGENDA ITEM 52**

The attached material on Agenda Item 52 is submitted for consideration by the Economic Commission.

Agenda Item 52: Facilitation

52.1 At its second meeting, the Commission considered developments in the Facilitation (FAL) and Machine Readable Travel Document (MRTD) Programmes since the last Assembly on the basis of a report by the Council presented in WP/72. In addition, six papers were submitted by States and Observers: WPs/136, 253, 254, 257, 286 and 287.

52.2 WP/72 described the work accomplished by the Facilitation Panel (FALP) and its working groups during the 2008-2010 triennium. It also described the activities undertaken under the MRTD Programme, and the continuing need to provide additional assistance to States. The paper presented a plan addressed at assisting Member States in implementing the provisions of Annex 9 — *Facilitation*, and proposed additional means by which these States might continue to enhance travel document security.

52.3 The Commission expressed its support of the proposals set out in the working paper and agreed that:

- a) the FAL Programme should enhance the worldwide implementation of Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) relating to advance passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) data exchange programmes, inadmissible persons and deportees, as well as the work of national and airport FAL programmes;
- b) the MRTD Programme should expand its work to cover relevant identity management issues, including the development of guidance material on breeder documents, and continue to assist States on MRTD-related issues, particularly with regard to the issuance of biometric passports (ePassports); and
- c) the Secretariat should carry out the activities described in a) and b) above, depending on available resources, primarily through regional seminars, symposia and workshops conducted on a cost-recovery basis, as well as increased cooperation with relevant international organizations and the publication of theme-specific guidance material.

52.4 The Commission also agreed that the Council and Member States should continue their work in protecting the integrity of passports as a matter of high priority. It strongly supported ICAO's role as the global leader in developing travel document standards.

52.5 In WP/136, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) informed the Commission that, under the umbrella of its Security and Facilitation Enhancement (S.A.F.E.) strategy, the Organization had been examining the case for eVisas. The eVisa system has demonstrated considerable advantages from the perspectives of both security and facilitation. The concept, already being implemented by a few States and under consideration by an increasing number of others, was in danger of fragmentation and security gaps because of the absence of global standards and specifications.

52.6 The Commission supported UNWTO's proposal that ICAO should explore with international partners the development of global standards and specifications for eVisas as a matter of

priority. It also supported a suggestion that this work be undertaken through the establishment of a public/private partnership.

52.7 Malaysia presented an information paper on the implementation of the Secure Freight Programme Pilot Project (WP/257), an initiative it has undertaken together with the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Malaysia Airports (KLIA) and a number of other participants involved in shipping air cargo. The trial stage commenced in May 2010, with the goal of implementing a National Secure Freight Programme.

52.8 China, in information paper WP/254, described the progress that the State has made since the 36th Assembly in implementing ICAO-compliant electronic MRTDs, including its participation in the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD), in accordance with the relevant SARPs of Annex 9 — *Facilitation*.

52.9 The Republic of Korea, in information paper WP/287, introduced its Congestion Relief System and the automatic immigration service, “u-Immigration System,” that it has developed to enhance the facilitation of passengers at airports. These systems have greatly contributed to reducing the time required for relevant departure/entry formalities and procedures, as well as ensuring smooth and stable operations at Incheon International Airport.

52.10 WP/253 (information paper), presented by IATA, reported on progress made by IATA’s Passenger Facilitation Working Group (PFWG) in developing an International Traveller Scheme (ITS) that aims to bring national, bilateral and multilateral registered traveller schemes together under one overall programme.

52.11 In an information paper (WP/286), IATA described the approach that has been adopted by its PFWG to harmonize passenger data through the adoption of a common or universal passenger data set. The standardization of data collection and transmission would improve the quality of data that governments receive for security and other law enforcement purposes.

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