

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON
MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

Fifteenth Meeting

(Montreal, 17 to 21 May 2004)

Agenda Item 2: Report of the Document Content and Format Working Group (DCFWD)

Agenda Item 2.3: Quality control and accountability

**ENHANCING COMMUNICATION OF LOST/STOLEN
PASSPORT INFORMATION**

(Presented by the Document Content and Format Working Group (DCFWD))

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Lost/Stolen passports are recognized as an increasingly threat to the integrity and security of the international travel document system. One key to the detection of lost/stolen passports is the rapid communication of the theft.

1.2 The existing INTERPOL data base is fed by, and in turn feeds the national law enforcement bodies, which in many cases do not communicate with passport or visa issuing agencies.

1.3 Notification of lost/stolen documents by States is voluntary.

1.4 ICAO Assembly Resolution A33-19, "International cooperation in protecting the security and integrity of passports" contains the following resolving clauses:

"The Assembly:

1. Urges Contracting States to intensify their efforts to safeguard the security and integrity of their passports, to protect their passports against passport fraud, and to assist one another in these matters; and

2. Requests the Council to continue the work being undertaken to enhance the effectiveness of controls on passport fraud, including the possible preparation of necessary SARPs and guidance material, to assist Contracting States in maintaining the integrity and security of their passports and other travel documents."

2. **IMPLEMENTATION**

2.1 As suggested in paragraph 2) above, it would seem that a logical first step would be the preparation of a Standard concerning lost/stolen passports.

2.2 Accordingly, the following wording is suggested for a Standard:

“Member States shall notify INTERPOL whenever they are made aware of lost/stolen passports. This includes lost/stolen individual passports as well as theft of unpersonalized blank passport books. Such notification should have as a minimum the date of theft if known, the passport number(s), the book inventory number(s) if different from the passport number, and the type and size of passport.”

2.3 Additionally, it is important that, once notified, INTERPOL disseminate the information to concerned authorities. INTERPOL should add to its list of Lost/Stolen passport information all national passport and visa issuing departments.

2.4 ICAO should also be added to the INTERPOL notification list, and in turn ICAO should add a hot link for INTERPOL information or post a separate list of recent INTERPOL Lost/Stolen document alerts.

3. **ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD**

3.1 The TAG/MRTD is requested to:

- a) recommend adoption of the suggested Standard into Annex 9;
- b) contact INTERPOL to request inclusion on their lost/stolen passport notification list; and
- c) provide INTERPOL with contact information for as many passport and visa issuing agencies as is available.