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

Fifteenth Meeting

(Montreal, 17 to 21 May 2004)

Agenda Item 3:   **Report of the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)**

REPORT OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES WORKING GROUP

(Presented by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG))

1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   This paper is intended to summarize:

   a)   the TAG/MRTD recommendations resulting from the 14th meeting of the TAG that resulted in follow-up by the NTWG;

   b)   the ongoing work of the NTWG since TAG/14; and

   c)   the future work and recommendations of the NTWG.

2.   **FOLLOW-UP TO TAG-MRTD/14 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1   At TAG/14, the NTWG was requested to:

   a)   continue its general reviews of technologies, their application and the role of MRTDs in facilitating international travel. This is outlined in paragraph 3, below;

   b)   continue the ongoing work of the NTWG. This is outlined in paragraph 3, below.

   c)   in cooperation with border control authorities, outline the functional requirements for an integrated automated border clearance system. This item has been deferred and will form part of the NTWG's work plan leading up to TAG/16; and

   d)   examine the uses of steganography in MRTDs. This item has been deferred and will form part of the NTWG's work plan leading up to TAG/16.

(3 pages)

3.   **ONGOING WORK OF THE NTWG SINCE TAG/14**

3.1   Since TAG/14 in May 2003, the NTWG has met on four occasions in London, Glasgow, Amsterdam and Montreal. Members of the NTWG have also participated in the Plenary meeting of ISO SC17 in Singapore and attended the ISO WG3 meeting in Munich.

3.2   The NTWG has continued its close working relationship with several organizations. The chairman of the NTWG participated in IATA Simplified Passenger Travel (SPT) meetings, the activities to the G-8 Roma-Lyons Group on Security, and Intergraf.

3.3   The NTWG has undertaken a comprehensive review of the technical specifications required for Member States to issue e-Passports. This includes:

> a) WP/4 which outlines the use of public key infrastructure (PKI) to secure data written to a chip;
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> b) WP/10, a compilation of frequently asked questions on PKI;
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> c) WP/5 which updates the earlier technical report on the deployment of biometrics in MRTDs and includes the technical report on contactless chips; and
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> d) WP/14 which updates the earlier technical report on the development of the Logical Data Structure (LDS).

3.4   WP/24 provides an update on the successful resolution of patent issues related to the use of Iris biometrics.

3.5   Several Member States have expressed an interest in exploring the option of developing a hybrid passport book/passport card. WP/20 outlines the work accomplished to date.

3.6   In cooperation with the DCFWG, the NTWG is recommending that e-Passports be clearly identified as such with the placing of an appropriate logo on the front cover of travel documents. WP/XX deals with this issue and member States are asked to express a preference from the sample logos provided.

3.7   WP/25 provides an update on the initiative to share lost and stolen passport information and the role of INTERPOL.

3.8   The issue of electronic visas has been discussed at previous meetings of the TAG. WP/9 provides an update on the work to date and provides the outline of a future technical report.

3.9   WP/26 provides a progress report on initiatives to use machine-verifiable feature to augment the security of MRTDs.

4.   **FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE NTWG**

4.1   The NTWG will likely meet on 3 or 4 additional occasions prior to TAG/16. Generally, the NTWG will continue its reviews of technologies, their application and the role of MRTDs in facilitating international travel. Specifically, the NTWG intends to undertake the following:

> a) continue the ongoing work outlined in paragraph 3 above;

b) continue the ongoing work of developing technical reports in all areas authorized by the TAG and subsequently developing these into specifications for eventual incorporation to Doc 9303;

c) develop a comprehensive approach to the policy and process issues that arise from the use of advanced technologies in MRTDs; and

d) explore the use of Steganography in MRTDs.

5. ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD

5.1 The NTWG invites the TAG/MRTD to:

a) note the work of the NTWG to date and the approach it has taken; and

b) approve in principle the future direction and activities of the NTWG as outlined in paragraph 4, above.

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