International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

TAG-MRTD/16
WP/11
13/9/05
English only

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON
MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Sixteenth Meeting

(Montreal, 26 to 28 September 2005)

Agenda Item 2:   Implementation of e-passports
Agenda Item 2.1: Progress and issues

PROPOSAL FOR A TECHNICAL REPORT ON
AUTOMATED BORDER CONTROL SYSTEMS

(Presented by the New Technologies Working Group)

1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   Before the tragic event of 9/11, ICAO was looking for new ways to cope with the rapid growth in international air travel experienced in the latter part of the 20th century and the forecast for the early part of the 21st century.

1.2   ICAO recognized that great pressures were placed on carriers, control authorities and airport operators to facilitate a rapid and efficient clearance process of passengers through international gateways.

1.3   The strategy to improve facilitation and expedite low-risk travelers through (automated) inspection controls while achieving a high level of compliance was already set out in WP/12, presented during TAG-MRTD/11.

1.4   Due to the impact of several international terrorism actions and the heavy workload of the introduction of an e-passport, the NTWG postponed activities to work on a solution on improvement of facilitation for border control.

1.5   Today the international movement of passengers is still growing and (air)port operators, control authorities and carriers are seeking for new ways to process passengers with minimum intrusion

into individual privacy but, at the same time ensuring that security of border controls and the threat of international crime and terrorism is totally maintained.

1.6   It is acknowledged that the vast majority of passengers are low risk, often frequent travelers who pose no risk to the integrity of States' immigration controls. It is these passengers that automated border clearance facilities should target and facilitate, since they represent an important percentage of the users of airport facilities.

1.7   With the introduction of the ICAO standards for e-passports, many States are implementing or considering to implement the necessary infrastructure, to issue e-passports in the near future.

1.8   It is recognized that the e-passport could be the mean to facilitate Automated Border Control, since at least one of the by ICAO selected biometric features, the face, is stored on an electronic medium.

1.9   One of the aims of ICAO with the introduction of biometric identifiers in travel documents was to facilitate at the same time Automated Border Control schemes.

1.10   Since the first ICAO compliant e-passport will be soon issued by member States, the time has come to look again seriously into the possibilities of setting up Automated Border Control schemes, in the context of today where security, privacy and confidentiality play an important role.

2.   **SUGGESTED GUIDANCE**

2.1   A number of States have already recognized the benefits of an Automated Border Control system and have introduced this technology at their airports.

2.2   The introduction of the e-passport makes it possible that the same token (e-passport) can be used at many different gateways, since this travel document meets international standards set by ICAO/ISO. Therefore one of the most important aims of ICAO is followed because systems become global interoperable.

2.3   Today's Automated Border Control systems are mainly set up by airport operators or carriers. Governments and in particular immigration authorities should take the lead to integrate ABC systems into their current processes.

2.4   To assist member States to set up ABC systems at control points in there own country, ICAO should deliver guidance to the States by realizing a technical report and make this report available to the States.

2.5   The technical report should at least contain guidance and information on the following subjects:

    a) Model to analyze the local situation at an air or seaport or a land border;

    b) Description of several applications;

    c) Technical outline;

d)   Several designs of ABC systems;

e)   Security and Safety procedures;

f)   Registration/Enrollment process;

g)   Vetting procedures;

h)   Models of an Application form;

i)   Concept of Operation;

j)   Use of e-passport as the token;

k)   Alert or Warnings procedures national and international; and

l)   List of contacts in countries with an ABC system.

2.6   The technical report should function as a blueprint for States that would like to introduce an Automated Border Control system.

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

3.1   The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

a)   consider this proposal for writing a Technical Report on Automated Border Control systems provided;

b)   consider if this is a task of the TAG/MRTD since several international organizations are setting up initiatives to improve the use of such systems; and

c)   endorse this proposal, if consideration leads to a firm "yes," and give the NTWG the task/assignment to start to work on a Technical Report for Automated Border Control systems.

— END —