**WORKING PAPER**

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (TAG-MRTD)

## SEVENTEENTH MEETING

Montreal, 20 to 22 March 2007

**Agenda item 2:     Implementation of ePassports**
**Agenda item 2.2: Report of the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)**

## REVIEW OF THE NTWG TERMS OF REFERENCE

Presented by the new Technologies Working Group (NTWG)

1**.**          **INTRODUCTION**

1.1          The NTWG Terms of Reference were last reviewed by the TAG/MRTD IN 1998.  Given the timeframe and changes in the operational environment surrounding the working groups supporting the TAG/MRTD, the NTWG agreed in Kingston Canada 11-14 September 2006 to review and update its terms of reference.  This working paper seeks the approval of the ICAO/TAG-MRTD for revised terms of reference.

2**.**          **BACKGROUND**

2.1          The original terms of reference for the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG) were set out in the report of the seventh meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Machine Readable Travel Documents (TAG/MRTD 7) in 1993.  Since the initial terms of reference were approved they have been reviewed and updated only once.  This occurred in 1997/98 and new terms of reference were approved at TAG/MRTD 10 in February 1998 (attached in the Appendix).

2.2          Since 1998 the focus of the NTWG has been principally driven by regular strategic reviews, endorsed by the TAG/MRTD, which have informed the working group's programme of work.  In recent years the focus has been on the development of specifications to support the introduction of the e-Passport and associated border control mechanisms.  This work has by necessity been technically oriented and has also resulted in a significant growth in working group member participation from both government and the vendor community representing International Standards Organisation (ISO).  During this period of substantive activity and achievement the concept of technically focused sub-groups or "Task-Forces" has evolved.  The formation of an, often time bound, Task-Force to tackle an issue or more commonly to develop a draft area of specification has proved to be a particularly effective strategy to ensure that the NTWG has delivered outcomes in a timely manner. Currently there are five Task Forces remaining in

operation, TF1 New Technologies, TF2 Harmonisation, TF3 Application Issues, TF4 e-Passport Test Methodologies and TF5 PKI.

2.3         There has also been a change to the operational environment surrounding the working groups supporting the TAG/MRTD.  The ICAO Secretariat has assumed responsibility for education; promotion and publicity formally the principal activity of the Education and Promotion Working Group (EPWG) that has been disbanded.  An NTWG Communications sub-group has recently been formed to support the Secretariat in this area of work.  The NTWG has fundamentally completed work related to the first versions of e-Passport specifications and the Document Content and Format Working Group (DCFWG) has completed its work in relation to these specifications.  Additionally ISO/IEC JTC1 SC17 WG3 the ISO Working Group responsible for support and liaison with the ICAO Secretariat have indicated a preference, which is supported by NTWG, to directly manage the harmonisation and formatting of specifications and standards directly with the ICAO Secretariat through NTWG Task-Force 2.  As this work is currently the fundamental role of DCFWG the future requirement for this Working Group needs to be considered by the TAG/MRTD.

2.4         The development of ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) by the ICAO Secretariat with support and guidance from NTWG is a new and ongoing initiative that will be managed by a board of representatives from participating ICAO member States.  It is clear that this board will require ongoing support from the Working Group to ensure that the future processes for validation of e-MRTDs is managed in an appropriate policy and technical environment.

2.5         In recent years the NTWG has been primarily focused on issues related to the development, use and promotion of electronic travel documents.  While much of the detailed work has be of a technical nature there have been a significant number of strategic/policy issues considered and resolved by the group (e.g. face as the mandatory biometric and contact less IC as the storage medium). The recent trend has been for the detailed technical work to be, most often, carried out by the ISO delegate lead task forces and the policy issues that either drive or result from technical elements have been addressed by the NTWG. In reality the title of "New Technologies" working group is a misnomer as its gambit has evolved far beyond this narrow description.  While the working group accepts that the title may be misleading the NTWG name has been recognised, as almost a "brand name" internationally and therefore, on balance recommends that this well known title for the group be retained.

2.6         Given the factors outlined above it is proposed that the TAG/MRTD consider a new Terms of Reference for the group as set out below;

3.            **PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

3.1            **Title**

3.1.1         The Working Group shall retain the existing title of New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)

3.2            **Function**

3.2.1         Develop strategy, policy, specifications and guidance material in relation to the manufacture, security, testing, issuance, deployment and globally interoperable use of MRTDs in both physical and electronic form.

3.2.2         Develop strategy, policy, specifications and guidance material in relation to global data

sharing/exchange for the purpose of holder identification, document validation and secure border control

3.2.3        Conduct ongoing research into technology suitable for deployment in MRTDs, issuance and border control environments, and information sharing initiatives.

3.2.4        Support the Secretariat in ensuring ICAO DOC 9303 is current and relevant in a changing environment.

3.2.5        Provide communications and outreach support to the ICAO Secretariat.  Through a Communications sub-group the NTWG will support the Secretariat by:

> a) assisting in the development and maintenance of an effective MRTD related communications strategy;
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> b) preparing media oriented information material on topical issues;
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> c) providing or identifying sources of expert advice to assist the Secretariat in responding to questions from ICAO member States;
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> d) promoting specifications, standards and ICAO mandates and initiatives;
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> e) developing material and identifying speakers to support organised outreach and educational activity;
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> f) preparing and or identifying material for publication on the ICAO MRTD Website; and
>
> g) assisting in the development and maintenance of relationships with organisations that have similar or compatible objectives.

It is expected that the Secretariat will routinely consult with the Communications Sub-group on all communication issues relating to the MRTD programme.

3.2.6        Provide support to the ICAO PKD Board.

3.2.7        Other initiatives as directed by the ICAO Secretariat or TAG/MRTD.


4.        **RELATIONSHIPS**

4.1        The NTWG will report to the ICAO Secretariat via the TAG/MRTD.  In undertaking it role the NTWG will work closely with the Secretariat (particularly in relation to communications), ISO and other organisations with a similar or compatible mandate. It will be critical that the relationships between all of the interested parties are well managed to ensure the working groups continued success.


5.        **MEMBERSHIP**

5.1        Participation in the NTWG is extended to government employees of TAG/MRTD

member States.  Observer and or Advisor status for government employees of ICAO member States, the Chair of ISO SC17 WG3, Task Force Leaders and representatives from interest groups such as IATA and Interpol is at the discretion of the Chairperson. It is envisaged that over time the structure, size and operation of the working group is likely to need to evolve to meet future demands.  For this reason the manner of operation, structure and size of the group will also be at the discretion of the Chairperson.

6.         **MEETINGS**

6.1        Regular meetings will be held to ensure the NTWG work programme is completed in a timely manner.  Where possible, the location of meetings will rotate among member States however the timing and location of meetings will be at the discretion of the Chairperson.  A minimum of four member States constitutes a quorum.

7.         **CHAIRPERSON**

7.1        The NTWG members, subject to endorsement by the TAG/MRTD, select the Chair of the NTWG.

8.         **ACTION BY TAG/MRTD**

8.1        The NTWG invites the TAG/MRTD to approve the new Terms of Reference outlined above.

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**APPENDIX**

**EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF TAG-MRTD/10 (1998)**

1.3          *New Technologies Working Group*

. . . .

1.3.2          The TAG approved the new terms of reference for the NTWG, as outlined in WP/2.

   a)          The NTWG is responsible for the research, analysis and reporting on new technologies available today and in the future which could be utilized to facilitate automated identity verification by linking travel documents to their rightful holders and enable document authentication through the inclusion of machine readable verification features, including various document data storage technologies.

   b)          The NTWG will consider all technologies which could be utilized as part of an MRTD in any format and will act as a forum for presentations on candidate technologies. In addition, the NTWG will seek input with respect to machine authentication and security features for documents.

   c)          The NTWG will propose additional or revised specifications to Doc 9303, as required, to assimilate such new technologies.

   d)          The NTWG will maintain close co-operation and liaison with other working groups of the TAG/MRTD program and with other organizations having similar mandates, in particular WG3.

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