



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

### **SEVENTEENTH MEETING**

Montréal, 20 to 22 March 2007

**Agenda Item 1: Development of Specifications for MRTDs**

**Agenda Item 1.2: Updates on 2nd Edition, doc. 9303, Part 2**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF AN E-VISAS TECHNICAL REPORT BY THE NTWG**

Presented by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 A work item to address the issue of electronic visas, including database, card, and chip visa methods was approved as part of the NTWG workplan by TAG 15. It was acknowledged that States and member organisations needed to identify common MRTD compliance issues that may emerge as States begin to put in place electronic visas that may use MRTD biometric technology in common with the e-passport. It was agreed that standardisation may be required in order to ensure interoperability with standards work on e-passports.

1.2 A draft Technical Report detailing progress of work by the NTWG and providing a summary of the types of electronic visas currently under consideration and the issues involved at that time was presented to TAG 16 with a request for authority to continue the on-going development work of an e-visas technical report. This request was approved as a part of the continuing workplan of the NTWG by TAG 16.

1.3 Since TAG 16 there has been a further study of technical options available for e-visas for evaluation by the NTWG. In addition, the possible means of collection, and the technologies for storage and verification of biometrics identifiers that might be used with types of e-visas has been further investigated resulting in a variety of technical assessments and opinions. The key requirement for the technical report is to respect and build on interoperability provided by existing ICAO standards and technology for machine readable visas and other travel documents. This information, including future evaluation of a field trial of specific e-visas technology, remains under ongoing review by the NTWG in order to inform the content of a comprehensive e-visas technical report. The report will focus on optimum technical options for standards for secure and interoperable use of electronic data collected for entry clearance purposes in order to provide speedy and facilitated check-in, border clearance and identity verification of persons whilst having due regard to access rights, safeguarding of data and personal privacy.

1.4 The NTWG is, as a part of the study of technical options available for e-visas, reviewing all technical options, including that of a chip in visa sticker option. However, at the present stage of the review, in advance of an e-visas technical report, the NTWG is not able to specify any globally interoperable biometric technology for use on visas. The NTWG, at this point of the study, proposes that the use of a contactless integrated circuit to increase data capacity of a machine readable visa (MRV-A or MRV-B) be not currently permitted because of a risk of interference with the readability of any eMRP into which an eMRV might be placed, or of other eMRVs in the same passport booklet. This is being reported separately to the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TAG with a request for corresponding amendment to ICAO Doc 9303 Part 2, Third Edition.

## 2. ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD

2.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

- a) approve continuation of the on-going development of the e-visas technical report being carried out by the NTW

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