



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 1.3 Report of the Document Content and Format Working Group

REPORT OF THE DOCUMENT CONTENT AND FORMAT WORKING GROUP

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Document Content and Format Working Group is pleased to report its work since TAG-MRTD/16. DCFWG acknowledges the input and continuing support of ISO WG3.

2. MEETINGS

2.1. The DCFWG has held three meetings since TAG-MRTD/16.

2.1.1. *Warszawa, Poland – 24 - 25 October 2005* Hosted by PWPW.

Work on the new Part 3 of 9303 was the main focus of the meeting. A division into two volumes in line with Part 1 was carried out and basic outlines agreed. A draft was presented by ISO WG3/TF2 and the group edited and amended the draft. A separate glossary was drafted. Decisions were taken in respect to contact chips, barcodes, diction and spelling of certain unclear areas.

2.1.2. *Ottawa, Canada – 15 - 17 February* Jointly hosted by Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadian Banknote.

The previous meeting resulted in a revised draft of Part 3 of 9303 dated Dec. 20, 2005. It was the basis for a further revision, as the final draft was scheduled for submission to the Secretariat at the end of March 2006. Further editorial work was carried out. The glossary was compiled and ready to be either published as a separate part or kept within Part 3. Some questions concerning volume 2 were prepared for submission to NTWG, where technical advice was sought.

Additionally, a number of miscellaneous topics were discussed, such as an update on

steganography or the question whether standards for breeder documents should be developed.

2.1.3. *Tokyo, Japan – 19 – 21 September 2006* Hosted by National Printing Bureau of Japan.

A main topic was Doc. 9303 Part 2. Part 2 is the last of the previous generation of 9303 Documents. The 3rd edition contains some matters that are no longer ICAO policy. DCFWG suggested and elaborated amendments by page replacement/caveat, as are proposed in a separate Working Paper to TAG 17.

Another topic was the proposed formulation of ICAO policy on issuance of a three-letter code, especially with regards to organisations and institutions requesting such that are no States in the conventional sense. A wording is suggested in a separate Working Paper to TAG 17.

In the light of the disestablishment of EPWG and enlarged scope of work of NTWG, DCFWG discussed its future and came to the conclusion that the style of meetings should change. The proposal is listed under point 4.

3. **FUTURE OF DCFWG**

3.1 A discussion was initiated by the chair about a structural reorganisation of the DCFWG work. There has been a close cooperation between DCFWG and ISO WG3/TF2 for the major task of the working group, which was the amendment of Document 9303. This work has been accomplished. Part 1 has recently been published, for Part 2 suggestions for a slight amendment were elaborated during the last DCFWG meeting and Part 3 was submitted to ICAO as per deadline.

3.2 Hence, the core of DCFWG's work, namely the integration of Technical Reports into 9303 is accomplished. However, specifications will continually need amendment and future development will have to be incorporated into 9303. Additionally, work in different areas such as procedures, strategy and control of international travel remains pending. DCFWG proposes to continue work by a different working mechanism with the target to increase efficiency and target orientation.

3.3 A pool of dedicated experts remains at the disposal of the MRTD-ICAO Secretary as an Advisory Board. Upon notice and on behalf of the Secretary, these experts form smaller ad-hoc working groups or task forces to fulfil dedicated tasks and submit input from their field of experience. ICAO has hence the possibility to use the existing high potential of specialists without financial obligation for ICAO. A DCFWG member may take a coordinating function between the Secretariat and the experts. When a full revision of 9303 is planned, DCFWG can meet again in a bigger forum on a regular basis.

4. **ACTION**

4.1. The following working papers are being submitted:

- 4.1.1. Report of DCFWG
- 4.1.2. WP 9303 Part 2 – Amendments
- 4.1.3. WP 9303 Part 3
- 4.1.4. WP on the issuance of three-letter codes

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

- 5.1. The TAG/MRTD is invited to note and approve this report.

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