TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON
MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

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

REPORT OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES WORKING GROUP (NTWG)

Presented by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG)

1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   This paper is intended to summarize:

1.1.1   The ongoing work of the (NTWG) since TAG/16

1.1.2   New Work items of the NTWG

1.1.3   The future activities of the NTWG
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2.   **ONGOING WORK OF THE NTWG SINCE TAG/16**

2.1   Since TAG/16 in September 2005, the NTWG has met on three occasions in Italy, Canada and Portugal. Members of the NTWG have also participated in the Plenary meetings of ISO SC17 in South Africa and France and attended the ISO WG3 meeting in Germany.

2.2   There are now 36 countries issuing approximately 50 million e-Passports annually. While most of the work related to e-Passports is complete, the NTWG has a number of ongoing issues that remain under active consideration.

2.3   Also as a result of the publication of e-Passports specifications in 2006, the NTWG undertook a review of its Terms of Reference. The result of this review are presented in WP/2.

2.4   With the publication of Doc 9303 Part 1 Volume 2, most of the technical reports in circulation for some time have been withdrawn. It was long ago recognized however that the technical reports contained valuable information on how and why various options were selected and on the inter-relationships among the various elements of the specifications. WP/16 introduces a paper entitled MRTDs: History, Interoperability and Implementation.

2.5   Some time ago, it was agreed at the TAG that the NTWG would publish a Supplement that was meant to be read in conjunction with the specifications. The Supplement is meant to provide clarification to the specifications and as previously agreed, will be published twice yearly. WP/6 provides additional information on this and earlier versions of the Supplement.

2.6   As many States have now had the opportunity to implement the ICAO photo standards, the NTWG has had the opportunity to modify the standards on the basis of lessons learned and best practices. The new proposed photo standards are found in WP/9.

2.7   As discussed at previous meetings of the TAG, several member states have expressed an interest in exploring the option of developing a hybrid passport book/passport card. WP/10 outlines the NTWG's recommendations and conclusions.

2.8   WP/15 describes the work plan for the development of test methodologies for ePassports.

2.9   To keep abreast of developments in technology related to MRTD, the NTWG will issue a Request for Information (RFI) to the vendor community. The specifics of this triennial exercise are outlined in WP/12.

2.10   As requested at TAG-14 in May 2003, WP/17 outlines a suggested approach to the development of guidance for Member States looking to facilitate passenger travel through the use of e-Passports.

2.11   The development of specifications for electronic visas continues as one of the key activities of the NTWG. WP/14 provides an update on the work to date.

2.12   The development of specifications is a lengthy exercise requiring many years of effort. Recognizing this, and having completed the first e-Passport specification, the NTWG will now examine possible specifications for the next generation of e-Passport. WP/11 provides information currently undertaken in the European Union and in Singapore on the development of Extended Access Control while WP/7 explores issues related to the next version of the of Logical Data Structure.

2.13   At the request of the Secretariat, the NTWG has created a sub-working group to contribute to the overall communications strategy and develop key messages for the use of ICAO and Member States. WP/5 outlines the work done to date.

2.14   The NTWG has also contributed to the development of the Public Key Directory (PKD) and the revisions of Parts 2 and 3 of ICAO Doc 9303 which will be discussed under separate agenda items. The revisions to Parts 2 and 3 are found in WP/8 and WP/13

2.15   The NTWG continues to participate in specific activities that have not necessarily resulted in the submission of a Working or Information Paper:

2.15.1   The INTERPOL Lost and Stolen database continues to be a file of interest to all members.

2.15.2   The NTWG has continued its close working relationship with several organization including the IATA Simplified Passenger Travel (SPT).

2.15.3   The NTWG continues to liaise with the G-8 Roma-Lyons group on security.

3.   **NEW WORK ACTIVITIES**

3.1   In addition to the ongoing work of the NTWG, a number of new work items have been identified since TAG 16.

3.2   As the e-Passport constitutes a new application of technology, The NTWG feels it necessary to provide advice to Member States on appropriate actions in the event an e-Passport cannot be read. WP/4 provides guidance on processing travellers presenting e-Passports that fail to read.

3.3   For some time ICAO has emphasized the importance of Member States having secure passport processes in addition to having secure passport books. As a result of feedback received from the ICAO Symposium and other conferences, the NTWG will develop a Security Assessment Tool that will allow Member States to measure the levels of risk associated with the various elements of passport issuance. WP/19 provides an outline of the proposed guide.

3.4   As well, the NTWG proposes to develop guidance for Member States on temporary or emergency passports. The work on this item has yet to begin and will be reported on at a future meeting of the TAG.

4.   **FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE NTWG**

4.1   The NTWG will next meet in September 2007 in Singapore and then as required. 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:

4.1.1   continue the ongoing work outlined in paragraph 2 and 3 above;

4.1.2   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; and

4.1.3   develop a comprehensive approach to the policy and process issues that arise from the use of advanced technologies in MRTDs.

5.   **ACTION**

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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WP #	Working Paper/Information Paper - Subject	Author
20	Activities of the NTWG	G. McDonald
2	Revised Terms of Reference	D. Philp
16	Interoperability Implementation	B. Wing
6	Supplement	B. Kefauver
9	Photo Standards	U. Seidel
10	Hybrid Travel Documents	L. Lark (Singapore)
15	Test Methodology	J. Shaw
17	Guidelines for e-MRTD and FAL	S. Broekhaar
14	E-Visas	C. Stevens
11	Extended Access Control	T. Kinneging
7	LDS	B. Kefauver
12	RFI	D. Philp
5	Communication Strategy	R. Chalmers
4	Guidance – Chip Failure	R. Chalmers
19	Security assessment for TD issuance	L. Crone
3	PKI/PKD	R. Martin
8	Doc 9303 Part 2 – Vol. 1	C. Chatwin
13	Doc 9303 Part 3	C. Chatwin