



**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

**TRANSLITERATION RULES FOR COUNTRIES
WITH NON-LATIN NATIONAL SCRIPT
ARABIC**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Secretariat, through the TAG/MRTD working groups, has traditionally been active in following up transliteration issues and developing guidance for countries who desire to transliterate their national script into scripts that conform to the rules of Doc 9303 for entries in the Visual Inspection Zone (VIZ) and the Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) of Machine Readable Travel Documents.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1 The TAG working groups has developed transliteration tables that have been incorporated into Doc 9303 and that give useful and sufficient guidance for many countries, in particular for those with national scripts in the Latin and Cyrillic family.

2.2 These general rules become more and more important as countries with scripts outside the Latin and Cyrillic family of scripts start to implement MRTDs.

2.3 Recently, Interpol has contacted ICAO Secretariat bringing up to date on the difficulties they, and States, worldwide are experiencing regarding the different ways same Arabic words and names are spelled in Latin characters.

2.4 In this sense, Interpol suggested the Secretariat to lead a project to develop and establish a transliteration list for Arabic language to be included in Doc 9303, for its worldwide implementation.

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

3.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

- a) approve the proposal for developing a transliteration list for Arabic language to be included in Doc 9303; and
- b) propose experts names to form a task force group that will be in charge of this project.

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