



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

SEVENTEENTH MEETING

Montréal, 20 to 22 March 2007

Agenda Item 3: Universal implementation of the MRTDs

**ICAO SECRETARIAT UPDATES AND
REPORT ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO UIMRTD**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

1. ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

1.1 Since TAG-MRTD/16, the Security and Facilitation Branch has changed its structure. Two new Sections have been created: the Specifications and Guidance Material (SGM), and the Coordinated Assistance and Development (CAD), to replace the Facilitation and Aviation Security Sections.

1.2 The SGM Section is responsible for Annexes 9 (Facilitation) and 17 (Security), and all guidance manuals, including Doc 9303. Ms. Mary McMunn retired in December 2006. The new Chief of the SGM Section is Mr. Dominique Antonini.

1.3 The CAD Section provides direct technical assistance to help States correct their aviation security deficiencies and to promote capacity building and development in aviation security.

2. ICAO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

2.1 ICAO works to achieve its vision of safe, secure and sustainable development of civil aviation through cooperation amongst its member States. To implement this vision, the Organization has established the following Strategic Objectives for the period 2005-2010:

- a) Safety - Enhance global civil aviation safety
- b) Security - Enhance global civil aviation security
- c) Environmental Protection - Minimize the adverse effect of global civil aviation on the environment

- d) Efficiency - Enhance the efficiency of aviation operations
- e) Continuity - Maintain the continuity of aviation operations
- f) Rule of Law - Strengthen law governing international civil aviation

2.2 The work of the Secretariat on MRTDs falls under strategic objective B: Security - Enhance global civil aviation security. In this sense, the work of the TAG as a Secretariat Study Group, should aim at enhancing the security of global civil aviation through the following measures:

2.3 Identify and monitor existing types of security threats to civil aviation and develop and implement an effective global and relevant response to emerging threats.

2.4 Ensure the timely implementation of ICAO provisions by continuously monitoring the progress toward compliance by States.

2.5 Conduct aviation security audits to identify deficiencies and encourage their resolution by States.

2.6 Develop, adopt and promote new or amended measures to improve security for air travellers worldwide while promoting efficient border crossing procedures.

2.7 Develop and maintain aviation security training packages and e-learning.

2.8 Encourage the exchange of information between States to promote mutual confidence in the level of aviation security between States.

2.9 Assist States in the training of all categories of personnel involved in implementing aviation security measures and strategies and, where appropriate, the certification of such personnel.

2.10 Assist States in addressing security related deficiencies through the aviation security mechanism and technical cooperation programmes.

2.11 The work and the procedures approved by the TAG during this meeting should be in line with these measures, to successfully assist the Secretariat in achieving the relevant Strategic Objective.

3. **UNIVERSAL IMPLEMENTATION OF MRTDs**

3.1 Under the Universal Implementation of MRTDs Programme, the Secretariat has organized and implemented the following activities:

3.1.1 Provided assistance missions:

3.1.1.1 In November 2005, the Secretariat organized and executed a successful mission to assist the Government of Colombia to educate and promote MRTD standards among all the authorities concerned through a seminar, and to assist the passport authorities conform to ICAO MRTD standards and implement their Machine Readable Passports project. For this, the Secretariat benefited from the assistance from the Government of Ecuador, who seconded the government employee who was in charge of the implementation of their MRP project.

3.1.1.2 In December 2005, the Secretariat organized and executed a successful mission to assist the Government of Brazil to educate and promote MRTD standards among all the authorities concerned, and to assist the passport authorities conform to ICAO MRTD standards and implement their Machine Readable Passports project, and set the basis for issuing ePassports. For this, the Secretariat benefited from the assistance from the Government of Portugal, who seconded a government employee with vast experience in the issuance of MRPs, and who was working in the development of their ePassport.

3.1.1.3 Provided assistance to over 40 States on the interpretation, understanding and implementing MRTD standards and specifications.

3.1.1.4 Established, developed and implemented the ICAO PKD, as set out in the “ICAO Blueprint”.

3.1.1.5 Established strategic relationships to promote and implement MRTD standards and specifications with other organizations, such as the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC), the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

3.1.1.6 Successfully organized two MRTD symposia, with exhibitions, at ICAO headquarters and one AVSEC-FAL workshop with emphasis on MRTDs in the Dominican Republic for the Latin American Region.

3.1.1.7 One regional MRTD symposium with an exhibition is planned for Europe and some Mediterranean African States (65 States in total), in conjunction with OSCE, in July of this year. Similar symposia for the Latin American and Caribbean region and the African/ middle East region are planned for the 2007-2008 period.

3.1.1.8 In 2006, the Secretariat launched an MRTD specialized magazine, which is issued twice a year and distributed globally in print and electronic versions. Over 20,000 copies of each issue have been distributed. Also, the Secretariat has prepared and published articles on MRTDs in other international publications.

3.1.1.9 Finally, the Secretariat has launched and updated a dedicated web site to make available and distribute latest information and documentation on the MRTD Programme (<http://mrtd.icao.int>).

4. ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD

4.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

- a) note the organizational changes in the Secretariat, the ICAO Strategic Objective related to MRTDs and the required close coordination between the Secretariat, the TAG and its working group to achieve this objective; and
- b) note the work of the Secretariat in implementing the UIMRTD.