**INFORMATION PAPER**

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

## NINETEENTH MEETING

## Montréal, 7 to 9 December 2009

**Agenda Item 3:     Activities of the ICBWG**
**Agenda Item 3.5:   ICBWG Outcome 4**

### ICBWG OUTCOME 4: ICAO HAS UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON STATES' IN RELATION TO TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND BORDER CONTROL

(Presented by the Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group
(ICBWG))

## 1.    INTRODUCTION

1.1        The formation of the ICBWG was approved at the eighteenth meeting of the ICAO Technical Advisory Group on Machine-readable Travel Documents (TAG/MRTD) in May 2008.

1.2        At the first meeting of the ICBWG held in Montreal in the fall of 2008, the ICBWG agreed in it's 2009/2011 Business Plan to focus its attention on six outcomes that contribute directly to ICAO's Strategic Result B2: Enhanced Compliance with facilitation standards concerning border crossing, including those related to MRTDs.

1.3        Outcome 4 is aimed at ensuring that ICAO has up-to-date information on States' status in relation to travel documents and border control.

## 2.    CURRENT SITUATION

2.1        ICBWG members developed two (2) separate tools aimed at assessing the capacity of ICAO Member states in relation to:

- their current capacity to issue ICAO Compliant MRTDs and eMRTDs through a secure issuance process; and
- the effectiveness of Border Control systems and processes that meet international standards and/or best practices.

2.2             These tools are referred to as the Travel Document Assessment Matrix and the    Border Control Systems and Processes Assessment Matrix.

2.2.1           *Travel Document Assessment Matrix*

                The *Travel Document Assessment Matrix* is designed to provide ICBWG with an overview on each state's status and capacity to issue MRTD and eMRTDs.  Approximately 20 data elements are evaluated including compliance with Annex 9 standards and Document 9303 specifications related to document security as well as best practices related to the travel document issuance process. …

2.2.2           *Border Control Systems and Processes Assessment Matrix*

                The *Border Control Systems and Processes Matrix* has been developed to allow the objective assessment of *Standard Operating Procedures*; *Border Control Systems*; and *hardware* used at ports of entries of the countries being assessed.  The criteria's used to assess the three (3) areas mentioned have been identified by using some of the specifications of contained in Doc 9303 and by internationally recognized best practices.

2.3             Each country specific questionnaire is then automatically rolled up into a master matrix visually depicting the current situation through a colour coded chart (Green – Yellow – Red).  The assessment is by no means a scientific assessment but rather an indicator of the current state of travel documents and the Border control systems and processes used in the country.

3.      **NEXT STEPS**

3.1             With both assessment tools being completed, the ICBWG will now focus its attention at finding the most efficient mechanism to complete the questionnaires.

3.2             The ICBWG is cognizant of the importance of using these assessment tools as ***indicators only*** of the current situation in the member states and wants to ensure the findings resulting from these assessments will only be used within the ICBWG in the views of reaching the ICBWG strategic outcomes.

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