



International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

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

NINETEENTH MEETING

Montréal, 7 to 9 December 2009

Agenda Item 2: Activities of the NTWG

Agenda Item 2.1: Report of the NTWG

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:

- a) the ongoing work of the NTWG since TAG-MRTD/18;
- b) new Work items of the NTWG;
- c) the future activities of the NTWG.

2. ONGOING WORK OF THE NTWG SINCE TAG-MRTD/18

2.1 Since TAG-MRTD/18 in May 2008, the NTWG has met on three occasions in Bern, Brussels and Sydney. Participation continues to be strong with 40-50 individuals and 12-15 countries represented at each meeting. Members of the NTWG have also participated in the plenary meetings of ISO SC17/WG3 in Beijing and the ISO/WG3 meeting in the Abu Dhabi.

2.2 For this meeting of the TAG-MRTD, the NTWG will present 11 Working Papers (WP) and submits an additional 3 Information Papers (IP) for consideration.

2.3 The Logical Data Structure (LDS) is one of the four pillars of global interoperability and as discussed at the time of its approval in 2004, the NTWG is reviewing the LDS with the view to completing this work by 2012. WP/2 presents an update on key issues related to the evolution of the Logical Data Structure (LDS) and the current state of this work.

2.4 Some time ago, it was agreed at the TAG that the NTWG would publish a Supplement that is to be read in conjunction with the Doc 9303 specifications. The Supplement is meant to provide clarification to the specifications and as previously agreed is published twice yearly. The latest edition of the Supplement (7th Edition) is available from the ICAO MRTD web site (www.icao.int/mrtd). The next version of the Supplement (v8) is under active development and will be posted in early 2010. WP/5 makes recommendations on the integration of information in supplement into a revised edition of Doc 9303. Additional information is available in IP/2.

2.5 Similarly, the NTWG continues to improve and develop the approach to ePassport security, another of the four pillars of interoperability. WP/4 provides the latest information on the development of Supplemental Access Control and recommends the introduction of PACE (Passport Authenticated Connection Establishment) in addition to Basic Access Control (BAC). IP/1 also provides information on patent issues related to the use of PACE.

2.6 At TAG-MRTD/17, the NTWG was authorized to develop guidelines for assessing security standards related to the handling and issuance of travel documents. With the creation of the Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG) at TAG-MRTD/18, the work has been transferred to that group.

2.7 At TAG-MRTD/18, the NTWG reported on the transliteration of Arabic characters for use in the Machine-Readable Zone. The results of the work to date and recommendations on going forward are found in WP/6.

2.8 The development of specifications for what has previously been referred to as “electronic visas” continues as one of the key activities of the NTWG. WP/7 outlines a new approach the NTWG is suggesting in this area under the rubric of Electronic Border Clearances.

2.9 Notwithstanding the fact that ICAO Doc 9303 Part 3 has been published, several member States have raised the issue of the placement of essential information on ID-1 size cards. WP/8 addresses this issue and some of the possible solutions.

2.10 The NTWG continues to liaise with the G-8 Roma-Lyons group on security and migration issues. This has resulted in a number of initiatives of mutual benefit:

- a) A survey was undertaken to determine the extent to which countries are reading ePassports at their borders. The results of that survey are found in WP/9.
- b) A survey was undertaken to determine the state of readiness for the introduction of mandatory MRTDs in April 2010. The results of that survey are found in IP/3.

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

- a) The NTWG continues to provide technical support for the ICAO Public Key Directory.
- b) Passport testing methodologies continue to be an area where much work has taken place.

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-MRTD/17.

3.2 The issue of developing standards, specifications or best practices around so-called breeder documents such as birth certificates has been identified as a key initiative in dealing with fraud and impersonation. WP/3 outlines the work done to date and the proposed next steps.

3.3 The issue of machine-assisted security verification is one that the NTWG has been studied on and off for several years without coming to any specific conclusions. WP/10 presents the current state of this research and an approach to developing a specification for this security feature.

3.4 While Doc 9303 has been updated to reflect the latest specifications for MRTDs, it has become apparent that there is a myriad of approaches to the format of Temporary and Emergency passports. The NTWG has undertaken to review this issue and the work to date is summarized in WP/11.

4. FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE NTWG

4.1 The NTWG will next meet in 2010 in Bangkok in March 2010, and again in Japan in October 2010. 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:

- a) continue the ongoing work outlined in paragraph 2 and 3 above;
- b) 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;
- c) develop a comprehensive approach to the policy and process issues that arise from the use of advanced technologies in MRTDs.

5. ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD

5.1 The NTWG invites the TAG/MRTD to:

- a) note the work of the NTWG to date and the approach it has taken;
- b) approve in principle the future direction and activities of the NTWG as outlined in paragraph 4, above.

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