



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

TWENTIETH MEETING

Montréal, 7 to 9 September 2011

Agenda Item 5: Other

GUIDANCE MATERIAL ON E-BORDERS AND ELECTRONIC TRAVEL CLEARANCES

(Presented by Paraguay)

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 At the ICAO 37th Assembly, a Working Paper on eBorders and electronic visas (eVisas) (“eVisas: a Pressing Need for Global Standards, Specifications and Interoperability”) was tabled by the UN World Tourism Organization, and was supported by a considerable number of ICAO Member States.

1.2 The proposal was, in essence, that ICAO should, building on the success of the MRTD programme, accept leadership in developing international specifications related to eBorders and eVisas, and exploit the potential of becoming a one-stop-shop for States requiring technical assistance in creating or upgrading their eBorder systems.

1.3 On 13 October 2010, the Government of Paraguay sent a request to ICAO to provide assistance in the development and implementation of eVisa and eBorders, based on the UN World Tourism Organization working paper referred to above.

1.4 Based on this and other similar requests put forward, the Secretariat proposed to the NTWG the inclusion of this work item to their list. The NTWG then requested further clarifications on the goals and scope of the work item proposed, which are reflected below.

2. PROPOSAL FOR A NEW WORK ITEM

2.1 The Government of Paraguay would like for the NTWG to consider developing guidance material for the development and implementation of eBorders and eVisas systems. This guidance material would greatly benefit several States that are currently considering the development and implementation of such systems.

2.2 The content of such guidance material should reflect the worldwide experience and lessons learned by States that are currently benefiting from these systems. Relying on the best practices in eBorders and eVisas, the scope of the Guidance Material should include, but would not be limited to, the following subjects:

2.2.1 The main principles of eBorders and the role of secure data exchange in enhancing both security and facilitation.

2.2.2 Options of adjusting the eBorders approach to the needs and risk profile of each specific State.

2.2.3 The options and main principles of eVisas issuing system where the applicant's details would be checked against a border intelligence watch list.

2.2.4 Modalities of extending eVisas to a real-time secure system between border control agencies, border checkpoints, airlines and law enforcement agencies to include Advance Passenger Information and advanced criminal intelligence applications.

2.2.5 Recommended practices to all eBorders systems, in order to increase harmonization and interoperability of such systems.

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

3.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to:

- a) approve the work item for the NTWG on developing Guidance Material for the Development and Implementation of eBorders and eVisas Systems.

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