

ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP/MRTD) Seminar

Kish Island, Islamic Republic of Iran, 9-11 May 2016

Talking points

*His Excellency the Honourable Mr. Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, Minister of the Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished representatives and guests,*

- **It is with great pleasure that I address you all today. I welcome the opportunity to engage with you all as we continue to work together to defeat the growing terrorist threat to the Middle East and to other regions of the world.**
- **We are well aware that any vulnerability in travel-identification systems, travel-document security, or the security of document issuance can facilitate the movement of terrorists and other criminals across borders. The numerous recent terrorist attacks have confirmed the tragic consequences that can be the result if terrorists succeed in slipping undetected across borders. We therefore consider secure and effective identification management to be of the utmost importance.**
- **Security Council resolution 2178 — adopted in September 2014 — calls on Member States to prevent entry or transit through their territories of “foreign terrorist fighters.” It also calls on States to implement effective border controls and controls on the issuance of identity papers and travel documents.**
- **The resolution further encourages States to employ evidence-based traveller-risk assessment and screening procedures, calling on them to require airlines to utilize advance passenger information, or “API”, systems.**
- **Currently, only some 50+ Member States have an API system in place, and approximately half of those actually use it. This needs to change.**
- **Member States are also encouraged to maximize the benefits of API by strengthening coordination and inter-agency information exchange, both domestically and with counterparts in other States. National law**

enforcement and security agencies should actively transmit relevant information that may be of use in identifying FTFs or potential FTFs.

- **CTED has a very close working relationship with ICAO as the lead agency responsible for the development of international standards and recommended practices relating to travel documents.**
- **We fully support the importance attached by ICAO to promoting and supporting States' issuance of machine-readable travel documents (MRTDs) as an essential component of efforts to prevent the movement of terrorists across borders – as well as the effective implementation and use of API.**
- **We are aware of the need for States to further enhance the integrity of their passport-issuance processes and ensure robust identification-management processes in order to prevent exploitation by terrorists.**
- **In the absence of appropriate safeguards in the traveller identity-management process, the security of the travel document is seriously compromised.**
- **We therefore fully support the ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (TRIP) Strategy, which aims to assist States to comply with their international obligations under the relevant Council resolutions, and fully supports the Strategy's aims to develop a holistic and systematic model for traveller-identification management to ensure that all States have the capacity to verify the identity of individuals prior to the issuance of secure travel documents compliant with international standards.**
- **Given that many Member States require technical assistance to strengthen their counter-terrorism infrastructure, we continue to work closely with our partners, especially ICAO, to facilitate assistance delivery.**
- **We look forward to continuing our close cooperation with you to encourage Member States to subscribe to the TRIP Strategy; to ensure the availability of appropriate technical assistance; and to help develop States' capacities in this area.**
- **I encourage all Member States present today to intensify your efforts, in accordance with the relevant Council resolutions, to develop and implement a robust identification-management system to safeguard the integrity of machine-readable travel documents.**
- **I wish you all a fruitful seminar and look forward very much to hearing your ideas and proposals.**

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)

Thank you.