FACILITATION PANEL (FALP)

(Third Meeting, Montreal, 12 to 16 February 2001)

Agenda Item 3:   **General revision of Annex 9 – Chapters 2 and 3**
Agenda Item 4:   **Other matters**

FURTHER WORK ON STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES
RELATED TO FACILITATION OF PASSENGERS

(Presented by the Secretary)

1.   Members of the Panel may recall that during the Second Meeting the Secretary reviewed the evolution of facilitation objectives and strategy as a result of technological progress over the past 25 years (FALP/2-WP/6). While this review was presented in the context of the Panel's discussion of the modernization of cargo facilitation, many of the concepts could be applied to passenger facilitation development as well. In particular, the use of computers and information technology in inspection procedures, management of inspection based on risk assessment, and the availability of global communications facilities are all factors to be taken into account.

2.   On the basis of this analysis the following objectives and strategies are proposed as the foundation for the updating of passenger facilitation provisions in Annex 9.

 a)   **Objective**. Meet goals for the maximum time required for inbound and outbound clearance.

   Strategies   -   Use risk analysis in targeting high-risk passengers for intensive examination.
   -   Receive and process electronically transmitted passenger information in advance.
   -   Develop information technology systems to replace manual data collection procedures.
   -   Coordinate inspection procedures of the immigration and customs authorities.

 b)   **Objective**. Achieve global interoperability among States' inspection systems.

   Strategies   -   Standardize information requirements and formats of documents required for clearance.
   -   Promote communications between clearance systems of States.

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    c)   **Objective**. Raise the level of confidence in the security of travel documents and inspection procedures.

    Strategies - Promote the issuance of machine readable travel documents and the deployment of reading equipment and systems to verify the authenticity of such documents and confirm the identity of the holders.
- Support initiatives to improve inspection procedures for better security and efficiency.
- Support measures established by public authorities to deter illegal migration, with respect to both originating traffic and transit traffic.

3.   After reviewing existing Annex 9 SARPs (including proposed revisions in FALP3-WPs/5 and 6) with these objectives and strategies in mind, the Secretariat has identified a number of gaps which could appropriately be filled by new SARPs and/or guidance material.

4.   It is recommended that new Recommended Practices be adopted to address:

    a)   the use of machine readers and other technology in the examination of passports and other travel documents at airports (adopted as a B-type recommendation by FAL/11); and

    b)   the collection of a standardized set of data elements when the State has a requirement to record arrivals and departures (see FALP/3-WP/11).

5.   In addition, the expert advice of immigration advisers is needed in future work to develop consensus on issues such as:

    a)   the role of outbound "passport control" in the deterrence of illegal migration and use of fraudulent travel documents;

    b)   the concept of risk management as it may apply to immigration procedures;

    c)   the concept of pre-arrival acceptance (as applicable to automated, self-service clearance systems in development);

    d)   more extensive communications between States in immigration matters, particularly for solving problems related to inadmissible persons; and

    e)   accessible facilities for the issuance of necessary transit visas.

6.   **ACTION BY THE PANEL**

    6.1   The Panel is invited to consider the recommendations and issues outlined in this paper and advise the Secretariat of its views.

    6.2   Panel members are also invited to suggest any other issues which may be added to the above list.

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