



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

SEVENTEENTH MEETING

Montréal, 20 to 22 March 2007

Agenda Item : 1. Development of Specifications for MRTDs

Agenda Item : 1.3 Report of the Document Content and Format Working Group

ISSUANCE OF THREE-LETTER CODES

(Presented by the Document Content and Format Working Group (DCFWG))

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In the recent past the ICAO Secretariat was requested by entities which are not considered as States and which are using or wanting to use documents for international travel purposes to issue a three-letter code to them in order to enable the machine readability of their documents. This arose the question of who should be entitled to issue travel documents under Doc. 9303. A recent example is the Caribbean Development Bank, which requested ICAO to issue them a three-letter-code. DCFWG was requested by the Secretariat to formulate a response.

2. PROPOSED WORDING

"The existence of a three letter code as per ISO 3166-1 issued to a geographical entity or organisation does not indicate the right to issue a travel document. The right to issue travel documents is restricted to those States, Territories, or Special Administrative Regions, the United Nations and other Issuing Authorities recognised under international law and maintaining diplomatic relations that have been or may be identified by ICAO.

Under these circumstances, ICAO will not issue a three letter travel document code to an organisation such as the Caribbean Development Bank."

3. ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD

3.1. The TAG/MRTD is invited to consider and approve the above wording for the three-letter code issuance policy of ICAO.

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