International Civil Aviation Organization

INFORMATION PAPER

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

TWENTY-FIRST MEETING

Montréal, 10 to 12 October 2012

Agenda Item 2: Activities of the NTWG

ePassports and Biometrics

(Presented by NTWG)

1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   Based on a study, a matrix has been prepared identifying those States and economies issuing electronic machine readable passports (provided in a world view and by region); biometrics used with the ePassports; estimated number of ePassports in circulation; issuing authorities participating in the ICAO PKD; States using Automated Border Control (ABC) systems supported by the use of ePassports, and States using biometrics as a border management tool.

1.2   Information is presented to provide a more comprehensive picture of ePassport issuance and the use of biometrics in border management. This product is derived from open source research gathered from publicly available mediums and by interviews. Information is based on the best available data from all open sources as of November 2012.

1.3   Information is subject to change, more often than not, increasing the number of issuing and border management authorities employing ePassport and biometric technologies.

2.   **STATE OF PLAY**

2.1   101 States and economies issue ePassports.

2.2   34 Issuing Authorities participate in the ICAO PKD.

2.3   It is estimated that 489,522,100 ePassports have been issued and it is estimated that there are 483,929,100 ePassports in circulation.

2.4   The 34 Issuing Authorities participating in the ICAO PKD issued 74.04% of this figure.

2.5   47 States and economies use only the bearer's face as the stored biometric.

2.6   54 States use the face and fingerprints as the stored biometircs.

2.7   10 States currently using the face image only plan to begin including fingerprint images.

2.8   23 States currently use an Automated Border Control (ABC) system with the ePassport as the required token.

2.9   57 States and economies use biometrics as part of their border management process.

2.10   There are several States that characterize their passports as ePassports but they are not in compliance with one or more ICAO specifications. Because of this, their issuance number has not been counted in the estimated number of ePassports having been issued or in circulation.

3.   **CONCLUSION**

3.1   The TAG-MRTD is invited to review the associated matrix and note the state of play of ePassports and Biometrics.